

The Times, Mon-25.10.04

**Thure von Uexkuell, doctor, was born on March 15, 1908. He died on September 29, 2004, aged 96.**

Thure von Uexkuell revolutionised the training of doctors in Germany and profoundly influenced its direction throughout Western Europe. He believed passionately that the cause of every human illness was to be sought in three locations — body, mind and environment.

And he insisted that every cure and alleviation owed as much to the interaction of doctor with patient as to medication or operation.

Almost singlehandedly, von Uexkuell caused sociology, psychology and psychosomatic medicine to be made compulsory subjects in every German medical school. He founded the medical faculties at two universities, Ulm and Aachen.

At the age of 84 he set up the Academy of Integrated Medicine in Stuttgart, which rapidly attracted leading scholars from across the globe. And he edited a standard textbook of psychosomatic medicine that included 110 authors, ran to 1,564 pages and had its sixth, revised edition published on his 95th birthday.

Dubbed the father of psychosomatic medicine in Germany, von Uexkuell insisted that there is no physical illness without a psychological component, and no psychiatric condition without a physical aspect. "The soul is as necessary to physical medicine," he wrote, "as is the body to psychiatry."