

John Plunkett, M.D.
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I am a psychiatrist and a psychoanalyst in practice just north of the District of Columbia, my major activity being forensic psychiatry. Over two years ago I was asked to undertake a study of psychiatric matters apparent in Jane Duchene's terminal condition. Her daughter, Mary Jane Duchene, engaged me in this work, in the course of which I was forwarded your report by Ms. Duchene.

Psychiatric study by no means ended with Jane Duchene's death. What appeared to be an unremarkable medical situation, a carcinoma with widespread metastases in an aging woman with diabetes mellitus and clear cut clinical evidence of an organic brain syndrome did not remain unremarkable.

There have been a near-incredible series of what may be called, loosely, psycho-social factors complicating Mrs. Duchene's terminal illnesses--and death. These "factors" involve medical, psychological, psychiatric, legal (in both civil and criminal forms) as well as fiscal matters. Because of these extraordinary aspects it remains essential I continue my participation in studying these matters.

I have read or seen a very large number of documents and records of various kinds over the past two years, Dr. Plunkett. I have access to personal and medical data on the late Jane Duchene going back to early in her personal history. Medical data relative to the diagnosis, treatment and general management of the patient concerning her adenocarcinoma, its metastases and clinical manifestations observed are in my records. These include United Hospital records, court depositions, etc. The treatment and clinical course of her diabetic condition is to a fair extent available from her doctor's records, hospital records and particularly from the records during her residence in the Wedgewood Health Care Center. You have some of these records now I understand.

It was from Wedgewood that she became your patient. It was from some connection after her death in Wedgewood that she became your embalmed patient. It was in Wedgewood that her "brittle" diabetes manifested to brittleness by not infrequent hypoglycemic reactions over the greater part of her life there. Some were quite severe in nature.

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