

BOOK REVIEW

'Yet', A Story of Triumph over Childhood Separation, Trauma and Disability by Helen Parker-Drabble

Hardback, paperback, e-book. 322 pages
Animi Press
October 2025

This is a comprehensive story of a boy who developed tuberculosis of the hip when aged two and a half years old in 1936 and who had seven long hospital admissions before he was 21. Helen Parker-Drabble, the author, uses her experience as a counsellor to examine the psychological effects of these admissions that occurred during the privations of WW2. She describes the attitudes of the family members, the hospital staff and those involved in education and illustrates the story of her father as he coped with numerous difficulties. She describes how each challenge was met by him using the word 'yet' and how he dealt with each problem positively.

This book describes the procedures undergone and their innate brutality in startling detail made worse by personal experiences. Tuberculosis of the hip is, thankfully, now an unusual problem in developed countries and the use of long periods of bed rest, plaster spicas, Thomas splints, treatment of discharging sinus and various surgical operations are rarely needed. However, this story illustrates what chronically ill children were expected to tolerate and accept and gives us important messages about the management of the many children who require recurrent hospital admissions these days.

The book has been well written and beautifully illustrated and describes the early life of a man whom one can only admire by the way he overcame his difficulties.

Michael Whitfield
October 2025

Published online at www.bshh.org.uk.