Newcastle Regional Hospital Board

The Durham County Hospital, formerly an accident and emergency unit, has been closed for a year so that it can be altered for use as a short-stay psychiatric unit. When it re-opens it will have 60 beds and a large day centre with model kitchen, laundry and bathroom as well as occupational therapy facilities. The conversions will cost about £130,000 and will mean than Durham will have psychiatric treatment available for the first time in the city itself.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board

Work began in October on a new £45,000 psychiatric unit for the Halifax area, which will take about two years to complete. The unit will serve as a sister unit to the new psychiatric department recently opened at Halifax General Hospital and is the second part of the plan which, when complete, will give Halifax a comprehensive and self-sufficient mental illness service. The Northowram Psychiatric Unit, as it will be called, will work closely with the department in the General Hospital, and will consist of 90 beds, a day centre capable of handling 125 cases a day, and full diagnostic and rehabilitation treatment facilities. Until now the district has been heavily dependent on Storthes Hall and St. Luke's Hospitals in the Huddersfield area. It is intended that when the new unit opens this dependency will end.

Sheffield Regional Hospital Board

Loversall Hospital, which was officially opened in September, will provide a further 120 beds and other facilities for patients with mental illness in the Doncaster area (a population of 270,000) in addition to the 81 beds already existing at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Previously some patients have had to be treated at Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield.

The first day hospital in the Derby area, serving both the Pastures and Kingsway Hospitals, was officially opened in October. Thornhill Day Hospital, as it will be called, came into being as the result of the conversion of an existing building in the grounds of Kingsway Hospital, at a cost of £25,000. The building will eventually accommodate 60 patients.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Children and Young Persons Act, 1969

In view of the number of enquiries that have been made concerning witnesses' fees, the following extract from the B.M.A. Solicitor's report on the subject is reproduced:

On behalf of certain child psychiatrists, I have been consulted about questions of professional confidence, the legal duty (if any) to render a report, and the person to whom such reports should be forwarded. The 1971 Regulations follow the 1967 Regulations in referring to a 'written report made by a registered medical practitioner to a court in pursuance of a request . . . by a court'. This does not apply to a request by a local authority unless in a particular case the court in fact has asked the local authority as its agent to request a written report from the doctor concerned. Only in that event would these Regulations apply.

In other cases where the enquiry is initiated by the local authority without a previous request by the court the position is as follows:

(1) A general practitioner can and should negotiate a fee.
(2) A practitioner employed full-time in a public health service cannot as a general rule claim a fee.
(3) A practitioner who does part-time work in the public health service, e.g. a consultant child psychiatrist—may be able to negotiate a fee with the local authority, but this will depend on the terms of his contract and on whether he prepares the report in the course of his public health sessions.
(4) A full-time practitioner in the hospital service may negotiate a fee provided that circumstances fall under the new Category II.

The National Association for Mental Health

The National Association for Mental Health launched its MIND campaign at the beginning of the year with a call for action in the 1970s. It proclaimed that every citizen has the right to demand that mental health be given as high a priority as physical health: everyone suffering mental disorder the right to a life of human dignity with a home, a job and friends: every family with a mentally disabled member the right either to care for him at home with help and support of statutory and voluntary services, or an acceptable alternative: all whose profession is to care for the mentally disordered the right to proper working conditions in which to exercise their skills.

Since then it has been concerned to examine how far these aspirations are matched by the experience of patients and their families. It has published four MIND reports which have been widely noted. The first arose from the findings of the Farleigh Report and dealt with hospitals for the mentally handicapped; the second with psychiatric treatment facilities for adolescents; the third with stress at work; and the

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fourth with community services for the mentally ill. A fifth, on community services for the mentally handicapped, has recently been published. Four officers—Christopher Mayhew, the Chairman, Mary Applebey, the General Secretary, David Ennals, the Campaign Director, Charles Clark, a publisher who is Chairman of the Public Information Committee—spent periods in different psychiatric hospitals as patients the better to understand and interpret patients' attitudes and staff problems. Each shared individual findings with the hospitals concerned and a general statement was issued.

The MIND campaign is now the spearhead of the Association's work. It is supported by 82 Local Associations for Mental Health and 100 MIND campaign Committees.

The journal, *Mental Health*, which Dr. Hugh Freeman edited with conspicuous success and raised from the level of a house journal to a lively modern commentary for laymen on psychiatric matters, has changed its name to MIND and Mental Health.

Behind the active and serious Campaign is solid and continuing work to help all groups concerned with the mental health services. Short courses are held throughout the year. Those courses examining the role of the nurse in subnormality hospitals and those for hospital management committees in both psychiatric hospitals and hospitals for the mentally handicapped are perhaps of particular interest. The 1972 Annual Conference has been announced. Its subject, 'For Better for Worse', underlines the Association's recognition that a new turning point has been reached in the mental health services with new legislation now in force for community care services, and just round the corner for the general shape of management in the hospital service.

Membership of the Association and support for its MIND campaign from psychiatrists and all those working for the mentally disordered would be most welcome. Particulars from: The General Secretary, 39 Queen Anne Street, London, W1M OAJ. Telephone: 01-935-1272.

MARY APPLEBEY

World Health Organization

Professor T. A. Lambo, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, has been appointed Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization, Geneva, as from 1 October 1971. He will be responsible for the Divisions of Medical Education and Training, Health Promotion and Health Protection, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Professor Lambo graduated at Birmingham University in 1948. He became the first Professor of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1963 and became Dean of the Medical School of the University of Ibadan in 1966. He was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan in 1968.

Medical Research Council

The M.R.C. have appointed Dr. I. Steele Russell as Director of the Unit on Neural Mechanisms of Behaviour at University College, London. The Unit will study the role of the cerebral cortex in learning and memory, and will investigate the role of cellular mechanisms in these processes.

World Psychiatric Association Directory of World Psychiatry

The Directory contains a comprehensive list of countries showing the geography and population of each, with a description of their psychiatric services and a list of the names and addresses of all their mental hospitals and psychiatric teaching institutions. In addition, a list of their psychiatric journals is included.

Available at 50p (including postage) from: W. P. A. Secretariat, The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.5.

Society of Biological Psychiatry

The A. E. Bennett Research Awards of 1972

The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering two awards—one in basic and one in clinical science—for the purpose of stimulating research in biological psychiatry by 'young investigators'.

(1) These awards of $750 each for the two best research papers were made possible by the A. E. Bennett Neuropsychiatric Research Foundation. They are to be given to candidates who shall not have passed their thirty-fifth birthday in April, 1972. (2) Although research is not to be judged in comparison with the work of more mature or experienced investigators, special consideration shall be given to the independence of thought and originality of the investigation. (3) The candidate must be actively engaged in the research for which the award is sought. (4) The papers submitted to Awards Committee should describe work which has recently been finished *but not published*. The Society's journal, *Biological Psychiatry*, shall be given first rights to publication of the award winning papers. (5) The recipients will be invited to read their papers at the Society's annual meeting which will be held in Dallas, 28–30 April 1972. Formal presentation of the honoraria shall be made in person at the Society's banquet.

Please submit manuscript, in triplicate, in the conventional scientific form (10 to 30 pages) by 1 February 1972, to Dr. Sabit Gabay, Chairman, Committee on Research Awards, Veterans Administration Hospital, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401, U.S.A. A brief biographical sketch of the authors should also be included.

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