TELEVISION

Out of Mind (A *World in Action* programme shown on 26 April 1976.)

This 30-minute programme was part of the publicity to launch MIND's 'Home from Hospital' campaign. The message was that 40,000 of the 154,000 patients in mental hospitals, 'shouldn't be there' if they could find the right accommodation. In particular, viewers were asked to consider adopting one (or more?) of a sample of four patients. The first, Mac, a man of 74, had been in a mental handicap hospital for 52 years. He wanted 'a home of his own near a pub and a bowling green'. The second, Mary, had been in for 22 years. She was not visited by her son, for whose care she was deemed incapable. She wanted to be in a family. Two other patients suffering from mental illness came from Winwick. Edith had been depressed after 'losing her people', and had been in hospital for 26 years. Roy had been in a mere $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, the ast 18 months in the hospital's half-way house. Edith wanted a job and home. Roy, a bit of a loner, already had a job and wanted a flat of his own if possible.

The message was well put over, and in their interviews some of the patients' institutional handicaps were revealed. The programme then turned to what was going on outside hospital. We were given a glimpse of a much grimmer institution in Coventry: an appallingly bleak collection of huts, which made one realise that there are worse fates in 'the Community'. We were also given a glimpse of Camden's adult fostering officer—an admirable scheme, pioneered, I believe, by Croydon, but not applied elsewhere to anything like the extent it should be. Will other Boroughs please copy?

MIND is to be congratulated on this excellent programme and given every support in the follow-up period.

J. L. T. Birley

THE LONDON CLINIC OF PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

On 6 May 1926, Freud's 70th birthday, a man walked into a small room in 36 Gloucester Place, W1. It was just before eight o'clock in the morning and he was about to become the first patient of the London Clinic of Psycho-Analysis.

It had been only thirty years since the term 'psychoanalysis' had been introduced to the world by Sigmund Freud, and the modest few rooms in which the new venture was launched were the site of one of the first established clinics for treating patients by psychoanalysis. In that first year less than a dozen patients were treated. Today, in its fiftieth year, the London Clinic of Psycho-Analysis is internationally recognized for its work and has an annual average of 130 patients under treatment in its present home, 63 New Cavendish Street, W.1. The number of applicants who have had diagnostic interviews in the past fifty years now stands at 4455.

Patients are seen in the main building of the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, a mansion dating from 1780 and originally built for the Earl of Hardwick. Child patients are seen in a specially designed Children's Clinic in the basement, which was built up with the help of a generous donation.

Although psychoanalysis has, perhaps fortunately, never become 'fashionable' in this country as it did in America, the number of patients seeking treatment has grown consistently, despite the fact that to embark upon analysis on the Freudian principles to which the Clinic is dedicated involves a commitment to at least three years of 5×50-minute sessions a week.

The Clinic is a private institution but, by the generosity of the Department of Health and Social Security, is able to offer a small number of National Health Service vacancies. Other patients contribute towards the maintenance of the Clinic by paying what they can. No patient is ever turned away on grounds of poverty. Until quite recently, some patients were being treated for as little as 20p a session, compared with the average fee of psychoanalysts in private practice which is now several pounds per session. The Clinic's ability to take patients at purely nominal contributions is made possible only by the generosity of analysts who, in a 50-year old

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