CORRESPONDENCE

PSYCHIATRIC ASPECTS OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY DONOR

DEAR SIR,

At recent meetings of the Medical Executive of the Association of British Adoption and Fostering Agencies, various queries have been raised concerning families in which a child has been born after AID. Several of these families have subsequently wished to adopt a child.

I have found it difficult to obtain information about the psychiatric effects (if any) of AID, or on how the families cope with their children. I would be most grateful to hear from any reader who has had either clinical or research experience with this group. This information could be most useful in dealing with requests for advice sent to the Committee.

S. N. WOLKIND

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(Family Research Unit),
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London E1 2AD

THE MENTAL HANDICAP HOSPITAL TEAM

DEAR SIR,

I write as a psychologist who is also a Corresponding Associate of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and one who numbers many psychiatrists among his best friends and most valued colleagues. Nevertheless, I must quarrel with the claim in the Mental Deficiency Section's statement to Council published in your October issue (p 2) that 'Whilst it is true that the psychologist has a large part to play in training, the clinician must remain the co-ordinator of the clinical team to ensure that training principles do not take precedence over humanitarian values'. I know of no evidence to indicate, nor does my experience suggest, that psychologists are any less concerned with humanitarian values than psychiatrists.

If this statement had read '... take precedence over medical needs', the inference concerning co-ordination would have become more debatable but would have a sounder and more honest basis.

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ECUMENISM IN ACTION

DEAR SIR,

I regret to see that Dr Birley at his ecumenical service (*News & Notes*, October, p 7) failed to notice the solitary psychiatric nurse—standing far off, who would not so much as lift his eyes towards heaven: but smote upon his breast, saying 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'.

D. V. COAKLEY

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Woolton Park,
Liverpool L25 6DX

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Postgraduate Centre in Psychiatry, Morgannwg (Penyfai) Hospital

Lectures, tutorials and clinical demonstrations in psychological medicine and allied subjects are being held each Friday throughout the Spring Term 1977 between 21 January and 1 April (times to be notified later). The course is recognized under Section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968. Details on application to Dr Marshall W. Annear, Clinical Tutor and Area Postgraduate Organizer in Psychiatry, Morgannwg Hospital, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 4LN, Wales.

The Group Analytic Society

The first S. H. Foulkes Annual Lecture will be given by Dr Tom Main at The Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1 on Monday, 23 May 1977 at 8.30 pm. The subject will be 'The Therapeutic Community Concept: Variations and Vicissitudes'. Tickets (£1.00; students 50p) from the Secretary, Group Analytic Society, 1 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London, W1.

Second International Congress on Personal Construct Theory

This Congress, consisting of workshops, experiential sessions and open discussions on the implications of the ideas of George Kelly, will be held at Christ Church, Oxford, from 11–15 July, 1977. Details and booking forms from Dr D. Bannister, High Royds Hospital, Menston, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 6AQ.

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