but I accept the writer's viewpoint that the burden might be diminished were there a confidential list of persons sympathetic to such an approach. I should be happy to have my name included on such a list if one were drawn up.

D.T. MACLAY

Central Clinic,
Hale Street,
Dudley, Worcs.

SURVEY OF PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE

DEAR SIR,

I would like to take advantage of your correspondence column to thank all those consultant psychiatrists in England and Wales who have already returned their copies of the questionnaire on Psychiatric Practice.

In 1963 Dr. Brian Cooper and I carried out, under the auspices of the R.M.P.A., a postal questionnaire survey of psychiatric practice in England and Wales (*Journal*, 1967, **113**, 625–36). In view of the many changes that have occurred in psychiatric treatment over the past eleven years and the changes in the working environment of many psychiatrists, it seemed worthwhile repeating the study to try and measure and report on these changes.

Our second study has had the support of the Research Committee of the College and has been funded by a small grant from the Welsh Office. Nearly 1200 questionnaires were sent out, and I have now heard from 70 per cent of those approached. I would like to take this opportunity to urge those who have not yet replied to return the questionnaire or, if they do not feel that it is applicable to them, to write to me letting me know the reasons why they are not completing it. The value of any survey is dependent on how wide a range of opinion it covers and I would like to ensure as high a response rate as possible

A. C. BROWN.

Welsh National School of Medicine,
Department of Psychological Medicine,
Heath Park,
Cardiff, CF4 4XN.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry, Birmingham

Open postgraduate meetings will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8QD, on Friday, 21 November, when Dr. A. R. Nicol of the Nuffield Child Psychiatry Unit, Newcastle upon Tyne, will speak on 'Some Aspects of Operational Research into Maladjustment in Schools'; and on Friday, 12 December, when Professor Sydney Brandon of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Leicester, will speak on 'Problems of Gender Identity'. The meetings commence at 4 pm., preceded by tea at 3.30.

University of Sheffield Department of Psychiatry

A one-day symposium on 'The Treatment of Depressive Illness' is to be held on Sunday, 23 November. Further information from Dr M. F. Hussain, Whitely Wood Clinic, Woofindin Road, Sheffield, S10 3TL. Telephone Sheffield 303901.

King's Fund Centre

The King's Fund Centre (King Edward's Hospital Fund for London) announces the following one-day conferences:

Wednesday, 19 November: 'Living in Hospital: The Social Needs of People in Long-term Care'; designed to consider the ideas put forward in the Fund's recently published book, *Living in Hospital.*

Wednesday, 3 December: 'Mental Handicap Conference—Lost Souls'; to concentrate on the organization of services for abnormal offenders whose persistent anti-social behaviour results in their appearance before criminal courts.

Applications for either conference to King's Fund Centre, 24 Nutford Place, London, W1H 6AN. *Early application is essential as numbers are limited.*

Postgraduate Course on Behavioural Therapy

This non-residential three-day course, to be held at the Institute of Psychiatry on 2–4 February 1976, is for psychiatrists with at least two years' clinical experience. It will include lectures, seminars and videotape demonstrations of the principles and practice of behavioural psychotherapy in adult patients with neurotic, marital and sexual problems. Fee £28. Applications, with curriculum vitae stating degrees and experience, to Dr I. M. Marks, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AF.

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American Psychopathological Association

The 66th Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association will be held on 4 and 5 March, 1976, at the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The topic is 'Psychopathology and Brain Dysfunction'. Further information from: Dr. Jonathan O. Cole, McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178, USA.

International Congress on Sexology

The Department of Sexology of the University of Quebec in Montreal, in collaboration with the Society for Scientific Study of Sex, is organizing an international congress on sexology in October 1976. Twenty-minute research papers may be offered; five-page summaries of such papers must be received before January 1976. Further information from: Professor Robert Gemme, Department of Sexology, University of Quebec in Montreal, DP. 8888, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3C 3P8.

Sixth World Congress of the World Psychiatric Association

The Sixth World Congress of the World Psychiatric Association, organized in collaboration with the American Psychiatric Association, will be held in Hawaii from 28 August to 3 September 1977. Further information will be published later but *early reservation of accommodation is essential.* Travel Consultants Limited, 1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A., are the travel agents for the Congress.

NEWS ITEMS

Reading List in Psychiatry

Readers, particularly those preparing for the M.R.C.Psych. Membership Examination, may like to be reminded that copies of the Third edition of the *Reading List in Psychiatry*, edited by R. E. Kendell and Andrew C. Smith, and produced under the aegis of the Clinical Tutors' Sub-Committee, are still available on application to The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PG. Prices (all including postage in the U.K.): 1 copy, 20p; 20 copies, £3.50; 50 copies, £7.50.

The Society for Psychotherapy: Award for an Original Contribution to Psychotherapy

The Society is a registered Charitable Trust set up for the promotion of psychotherapeutic knowledge and the encouragement of the study and practice of psychotherapy. In pursuance of this, the Society offers £100 (or £150 in case of joint authorship) for the best paper describing research, or an original contribution in the field of psychotherapy, excluding chemical or physical treatment. Material which has already been published is not eligible. Those submitting papers must be members of professional bodies concerned with psychotherapy or of recognized academic standing. The Society may publish papers of sufficient merit.

Papers should be sent by 1 May 1976, to the Secretary, The Society for Psychotherapy, 411 Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15.

The Society will consider giving support and financial help for relevant research projects.

London Mental Health Centre

The Drapers' Company, one of the major City of London Livery Companies, has donated £5,000 towards the cost of establishing an experimental mental health information and advice centre in London. The project, which will run for five years, is promoted by MIND (National Association for Mental Health) to encourage and demonstrate good practice in the prevention and treatment of mental disorders, to improve access to effective help for those who might avoid using statutory services and to improve public understanding of the causes and consequences of mental illness. The centre will also provide a forum for volunteers, community groups, professional workers and the public. The project has been prompted by the concern expressed, both by members of the public and by mental health workers, about the isolation experienced by those in emotional distress seeking help.

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