CORRESPONDENCE

WOMEN IN PSYCHIATRY

DEAR SIR,

I was interested in Dr. Dorothy Black's letter on this subject and dismayed by her final sentence. I do not think that psychiatry is unwelcoming to women. Thirty years' experience has given me the impression that women excel in psychiatry. I think it is a little unfair to call the specialty rigid. The difficulty is surely in accommodating part-timers, regardless of sex. The psychiatric patient relates to one person, and even when there is a whole-time team there are difficulties which do not arise in subjects such as general medicine and general surgery. To be somewhat facetious, one might make the counter-charge that it is the women who are somewhat rigid in demanding, in such a high proportion of cases, part-time appointments. More seriously, the constraints result from the patients' needs and not from the desires of either women, psychiatrists, or employing authorities. If this is forgotten we may make poor decisions.

E. A. BURKITT.

Memorial Hospital,
Darlington.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Richmond Fellowship

The Richmond Fellowship International Conference 1975, on *Half-Way Houses: The Future of Therapeutic Communities* will be held from 7 to 9 April at the University of London Union.

Further details and application forms from: Conference Secretary, The Richmond Fellowship, 8 Addison Road, London, W14 8DL.

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry, Birmingham

The following open meeting will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, at 4.00 p.m.

14 February: 'Behaviour modification with emotionally disturbed children', Mr. Barrie Brown.

Oxford Institute of Psychiatry

The following courses lasting one week will be held in the Spring, 1975:

A. Psychology with Behavioural Sciences (from 14 April)
B. Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology and Neurology (from 17 March)
C. Psychiatry (from 21 April)

Further details and application forms from: The Director of Studies, Oxford Institute of Psychiatry, 5 Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HG.

The Tavistock Clinic, in association with the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations and School of Family Psychiatry and Community Mental Health

An advanced Interdisciplinary Course in Consultation and Training in Community Mental Health will begin in October 1975.

Further details and application forms from: The Executive Officer (Training), School of Family Psychiatry and Community Mental Health, The Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London, NW3 5BA.

A CORRECTION

The review by Dr. John Gunn of the Howard League for Penal Reform pamphlet in the October *News and Notes* should have given the major title. This was *Ill Founded Premisses*, with the sub-title *The Logic of Penal Policy and the Prison Building Programme*. We apologize for this error, and it is hoped that undue inconvenience was not caused to those wishing to obtain the pamphlet.

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