and will admit or discharge patients as appropriate', should surely read 'Thus he decides, in the case of informal patients, whether they be offered in-patient' out-patient or day care and will offer admission or decide on discharge'.

PETER BRUGGEN

Adolescent Unit,
Hill End Hospital,
St Albans,
Herts, AL4 oRB

THE WARLINGHAM PARK INQUIRY

DEAR SIR,

Dr Glaister's attempt to demonstrate that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds at Warlingham Park (*Bulletin*, August 1977) is weakened by a strange misunderstanding of statistical argument. He says that 'any *post-hoc* selection of periods to compare runs the risk of arbitrariness'. Agreed, but this selection also vitiates the logic of his null hypothesis. Since he chooses those years in which there have been few suicides to compare against the periods before and after, χ^2 of course shows that this distribution could not arise by chance, but the calculation is redundant, since he has selected his distribution and *ipso facto* it is non-random.

If instead one works on the null hypothesis that there is no difference in the rate over time, and divides the period 1961 to 1975 into three-year blocks (to allow expected cells of sufficient size χ^2) the expected number of suicides for each block can be calculated from the total number and the population at risk for each year.

Even using the most generous assumption that suicide rate is more likely to be related to the admission rate than the total hospital population, the differences between the three-year blocks from 1961 to 1972 could arise by chance alone ($P > \cdot 05$). If years 1972–75 are included, the probability of the increase being a chance variation is less than $\cdot 001$. Only if there were criteria other than the suicide rate to determine Dr Glaister's division of these years into three periods would his analysis and inferences be valid.

ANTHONY J. COSTELLO

Head Start Child Development Center,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

NEWS ITEMS

A PSYCHIATRIC CHARITABLE TRUST

Just over five years ago the first psychiatric charity to be formed since the inception of the National Health Service was created at Toft Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire, under the heading of The Society for the Investigation of Human Values. This Charitable Trust was established to fulfil two main purposes; the first was to carry out psychotherapy on a personal and individual basis; the second an educational one, providing regular seminars, lectures and courses on all aspects of human behaviour and human relationships. The Society is under the directorship of Dr W. V. Wadsworth who, until the founding of the Society by himself and his wife, was for the previous twenty years Superintendent of Cheadle Royal Hospital.

The Society has now been able to effect the purchase of the freehold of Toft Hall. Although the great advantage of treating as many people as possible on an out-patient basis has throughout been recognized, it has become clear that the provision of a small number of beds would be desirable, and Toft Hall has now been registered as a Private Nursing Home capable of admitting up to fourteen residential patients.

One of the special features of the Centre is the psychotherapeutic facilities for married couples suffering from emotional disorders, arising from relational and communicational difficulties. The Centre also treats patients suffering from all types of psychoneurotic anxiety and depressive states, phobic and compulsive disorders, and patients with alcoholic problems not likely to suffer from withdrawal symptoms.

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