a better understanding of the problems of alcoholism and of alcoholics. This task is being tackled from various angles. In addition to the conventional channels, e.g. publications, talks to widely varying audiences from school children and students to top industrial directors, conferences, the press, TV and radio, the Council has been instrumental in setting up ten Regional Councils with Information Centres. These Centres at Bristol, Coventry, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Hereford (part-time), Glasgow, Jersey, Liverpool and Southampton have helped over 7,000 alcoholics to gain sobriety, and their presence has also had the effect of co-ordinating the work of local agencies providing rehabilitation and after-care.

The success of a Regional Council is largely dependent on the enthusiasm and efficiency of its medical committee, whose task is to influence local medical opinion and help create adequate in-patient and out-patient facilities for those in need of medical attention. A good relationship with the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is another vital factor.

In his report on 'Clients of Alcoholism Information Centres', Dr. Griffith Edwards of the Addiction Research Unit, Institute of Psychiatry, had this to say:

'Besides their specific value in giving help to alcoholics, these Information Centres probably have a wider importance. They provide an interesting example of what must surely be the new trend in mental health, of the effort to reach out into the community rather than to sit back in the hospitals . . . There can be no doubt that Information Centres are reaching the alcoholic' (1).

Recognizing the importance of tackling the problems of alcoholism in industry, the Government has recently given a grant to enable the Council to employ an Industrial Consultant who is available to advise all sections of industry and commerce.

The Council is a voluntary organization, registered under the Charities Act of 1960, which exists 'to promote the prevention and diagnosis of alcoholism and treatment of those suffering therefrom', without making any judgement upon the consumption of alcohol per se and without advocating total abstinence as a general principle.

ELIZABETH M. KEYS,
Secretary.

REFERENCE

1. EDWARDS, G. (1967). 'Clients of Alcoholism Information Centres'. *British Medical Journal, iv,* 346–9.

ADVICE FOR CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS

The following advice has been received from the medical protection societies regarding child psychiatrists having cases referred to them from sources other than the family doctor:

'A child psychiatrist who sees a patient referred to a Child Guidance Clinic by parents, schools, etc., and who, whenever possible, notifies the child's general practitioner of the appointment, would not be considered to have infringed the ethical rule published by the B.M.A. in September 1970. The general practitioner should be notified of such referrals on every occasion in order that, in the interests of the patient, he may provide the psychiatrist with such material as may be relevant and necessary to the consultation. Any psychiatrist who in good faith accepts a patient referred to a Child Guidance Clinic from a source other than a general practitioner would not thereby be denied full protection and indemnity.'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

World Psychiatric Association and Royal College of Psychiatrists

An International Symposium on Schizophrenia, organized jointly by the Association and the College, will be held in London from 13 to 15 November 1972.

Further information from Dr. M. H. Lader, Symposium Adviser to the W.P.A., Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AZ.

The Queen's University of Belfast

The organization of the Second European Conference on Behaviour Modification is being undertaken by the Department of Mental Health on behalf of the European Association of Behaviour Therapy. The Conference will be held from 25–29 September 1972, at Wexford, Irish Republic.

Further details and application forms: Behavioural Engineering Association, c/o Department of Mental Health, Windsor House, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast BT9 7AB, Northern Ireland.

University of Bristol

The 7th Conference of the Association for the Psychiatric Study of Adolescents will take place at the University from 14–16 July 1972. The programme of the Conference will include several papers and a panel discussion covering aspects of adolescence, community treatment, hostels, community social work with adolescents and therapy in maximum security units.

Further details and application forms from Dr. M. Gay, 7 Brunswick Square, Bristol BS2 8PS.

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry, Birmingham

The following open postgraduate meetings will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, at 4 p.m.:

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125072302904 Published online by Cambridge University Press