rooms, furnishing, cleaning and rent contribution. I make a few group interpretations, the voluntary visitors discuss the way the mothers are handling their children and the mothers have opportunities of identifying with the behaviour of the voluntary visitors in their good mothering techniques with their children. Much aggression is expressed at these large group meetings but also true sadness and respect; for example when Mr Burrows Peakin, who was their obstetrician, died, they all stood in his memory. In addition the mothers have one weekly meal provided by the charity in each of the houses so that they live as a big family together whilst catering for themselves and their children independently through the rest of the week.

My purpose in writing is to stress how easily these houses are run without a Warden, which saves both her salary and the accommodation she would occupy, so that ordinary four-bedroomed houses are suitable, provided there is a breakfast room behind the kitchen and the lavatory and bathroom are separate. Coin box telephones are essential.

A further point is that I have had no difficulties with the neighbours of my houses, as they are taken into my confidence when the house is bought and their feelings are respected. As they are ordinary houses in ordinary roads feelings of resentment and envy from either the neighbours or the girls do not seem to be aroused. Finally, if other doctors would wish to have further details and copies of my Annual Reports I would be more than willing to send them. I consider that I give one day of voluntary work each week to the running of this Trust, so that in these times of inflation this is a most economical way of housing homeless under-privileged people; in my view it would save the country several million pounds which are at present spent on the psychologically destructive experience of living in bed and breakfast accommodation.

JOSEPHINE M. LOMAX-SIMPSON.
*The Messenger House Trust,*
*17 Malcolm Road,*
*Wimbledon, SW19 4AS.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**MIND (National Association for Mental Health)**

A National Convention to discuss the Government's White Paper, *Better Services for the Mentally Ill*, will be held at Bedford College, Regents Park, London, N.W.1, on Saturday, 29 November, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applications, accompanied by the Convention fee of £3, should be sent to the Conference Secretary, MIND, 22 Harley Street, London, W1N 2ED.

**Alcoholism and Drug Dependence**

The Third International Conference on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, organized by the Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire Council on Alcoholism in conjunction with the Department of Psychiatry of Liverpool University, will be held at Liverpool University from 4–9 April 1976. Further information and registration forms are obtainable from Miss M. C. Smith, Conference Secretary, B15 The Temple, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 5RU.

**Institute of Family Psychiatry**

A course in Family Psychiatry for psychiatrists will be held at the Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich, from 28 June to 2 July 1976.

Application forms from the Institute of Family Psychiatry, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3TF.

**International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

The Annual Meeting of the British Section will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1, on Thursday, 4 December 1975, beginning at 9.30 a.m. (Registration 9.15 a.m.). There will be sessions on *Female Sexuality*, *The Atmosphere in the Labour Ward* and *The Role of the Obstetrician and Gynaecologist*. Conference fee (including lunch), £3.50.

Applications or inquiries to Dr L. Goldie, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, West London Hospital, London, W.6.

**Second Rochester International Conference on Schizophrenia**

The Second Rochester International Conference on Schizophrenia will be held at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York from 2–5 May 1976. The theme will be 'The Origin, Pathogenesis and Course of Schizophrenia and Related Disorders'. Further information on registration and fees is obtainable from Mrs Joyce Yutzy, Executive Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14642, USA.



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