SURVEY OF PSYCHIATRISTS CONCERNED WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The Department of Health and Social Security have agreed to provide financial support to enable the College to undertake a survey of psychiatrists who provide services for children and adolescents.

For some time the Child Psychiatry Section has been conscious of the lack of reliable information concerning psychiatrists practising in this field. Their actual number is uncertain and in the absence of a special study is likely to remain so owing to the multifarious ways in which they are still employed, even within the public sector. Also, although it is the policy of the College that Child Psychiatry should be the subject of specialized training, it is not known how far this has yet been achieved, and there is the additional problem of the overlap between this field and those of mental handicap, adult psychiatry and forensic psychiatry.

This state of ignorance is prejudicial to a rational discussion of manpower training and service issues and urgently needs to be remedied.

The proposal is for a postal survey by questionnaire of psychiatrists engaged in any work with children or adolescents (up to age 18) in England and Wales. These will be identified by prior enquiry of potential employing agencies and by circulation of the membership of the College. The questionnaires themselves will call for information as to type of employment, site and nature of the service provided, the pattern of activities outside this particular field, and for some indications of earlier training and experience. Findings and conclusions will be published, but data identifiable to individuals will be treated as confidential and will not be used for other purposes or disclosed to any individual or body.

Although it is realized that there have been several questionnaire enquiries from various sources in the past few years, the prompt response and co-operation of members in this present project will be greatly appreciated.

The survey is being organized by Dr. David Walk from the Department of Child Psychiatry, St. George's Hospital, London, SW17 0QT.

ANNUAL MEETING 1974

It is hoped to publish an account of the meeting in an early number of *News and Notes*. In the meantime, readers will be glad to know that mimeographed copies of the papers read at the plenary session held at the Tavistock Clinic on 8 July have been made available by the courtesy of Dr. R. Gosling. Applications for copies should be made to Miss M. M. Harborough, Tavistock Clinic, Belsize Lane, London, NW3 5BA.

PSYCHOTHERAPY SECTION

Will members please note that the date and place of the meeting announced for 10 December (p. 2, November issue) have had to be changed. The meeting will now take place on *Wednesday, 11 December* at 8.15 p.m. in Lecture Rooms 3 and 4, *The Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London, N.W.3*, when Dr. Anthony Ryle will give his paper on 'Psychotherapy Research: The Value and Limitations of the Repertory Grid'.

Further meetings will be held as follows, *at the same address and time:*

Wednesday, 8 January: Dr. M. Feldman—'The Body Image and Object Relations. An experimental approach with possible implications for the measurement of change'.

Wednesday 12 February: Dr. D. Malan and Professor J. Watson—'The Psychotherapy Research Project of the Menninger Foundation (1954–72)'. A discussion of the main report (*Bull. Menninger Clin.* 1972, 36, 3–275), the situational and predictor variables.

These meetings are open to all members of the College.

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