that may be supported, but at the same time it opens up opportunities for action and research concerned with development of services that might not otherwise be undertaken. Clearly, in the long term all basic advances may have an impact upon the health service, and even in the short term it is often difficult clearly to differentiate between basic and service orientated research: consequently the D.H.S.S. from time to time supports projects that might equally qualify for backing by the Medical Research Council, and vice versa.

The research can be divided into five main categories, and some examples in each category are given:

(i) *Addiction problems.* A programme of studies on addiction (jointly with the M.R.C.) accounts for the major part of the expenditure in this field. In addition, two special hostels for 'withdrawn' addicts, one in London and the other on the South Coast are currently being evaluated.

(ii) *Children and Adolescents.* Mention has already been made of two projects. Other work includes an evaluation of adolescent 'walk-in' centres.

(iii) *Psychiatry, general.* Research includes studies of the use of social work services by the mentally ill, and a series of studies concerned with psychiatric services in two London Boroughs.

(iv) *Psychiatry of the Aged.* These include an ongoing series of studies concerned with mental health problems in old age, a study in depth of a group of psychogeriatric patients, and a comparison of the treatment provided for such patients in a psychiatric and a non-psychiatric hospital.

(v) *Training.* Studies include an investigation of the recruitment and extended role of the psychiatric nurse, the training of special therapists for specific psychological treatments, and the accreditation and expectations of trainees in the field of psychiatry.

The Department also makes an allocation of about £1 million to the support of projects under the *Locally Organized Clinical Research Scheme.* Workers in the Health Services are free to apply for research support from this scheme, which is administered by Regional Hospital Boards with the help of scientific advice from local research committees. Locally organized research may cover any part of the N.H.S. field including mental illness.

Mention should also be made of the programme of research carried out at Broadmoor, Rampton and Moss Side by the Special Hospitals Research Unit.

In addition to the programme of research in mental illness, the Department is devoting a considerable proportion of its research and development funds to the study of mental handicap. Expenditure by the Department on research in mental handicap (as opposed to mental illness) is now running at about £180,000 annually. In the future it is expected that there will be a considerable increase in the resources devoted to research in both mental illness and mental handicap.

Department of Health and Social Security.

[An article by Professor J. M. Tanner dealing with the activities of the Mental Health Research Fund was published in the October *Supplement.* An article describing psychiatric research supported by the Medical Research Council will appear in a later issue.]

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH FUND

At a meeting of the Research Committee of the Mental Health Research Fund on 17 January 1972, four grants in aid of research were awarded to: Dr. P. F. Benson of Guy's Hospital—a one year extension of current grant to continue the study of ribosomal RNA cistrons in Down's syndrome. Dr. J. Bowlby of the Tavistock Clinic and Tavistock Institute of Human Relations—a two-year grant to study schizophrenic thought disorder. Dr. J. Reynell of the Wolfson Centre—a two-year grant to revise the Reynell Developmental Languages Scales. Dr. M. P. Richards of the Unit for Research on Medical Applications of Psychology, Cambridge, to study mother-infant interaction and its influence on the development of the child.

PROBLEMS OF PSYCHIATRY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A SEMINAR

Today, nearly two-thirds of the training posts in psychiatry in the U.K. are occupied by foreign or Commonwealth medical graduates, many of whom come from developing countries. Many, though by no means all, of these trainees will return to their homelands after completing their basic training here. If they return equipped with a Membership or a D.P.M. they will at once find themselves plunged into clinical work and confronted with practical problems of a kind and of a scale quite different to those they have encountered in our National Health Service.

The precise nature of these problems will differ in different societies; but three major features will probably always be present, namely (i) very large numbers of patients, (ii) scarcity of trained personnel, and (iii) a public opinion largely uninformed or misinformed about the nature of psychiatric illness. These and other local difficulties are currently being tackled in different ways by the psychiatrists who are pioneering the development of mental health care in each of the developing countries.

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The Edinburgh University Department of Psychiatry will hold a 3½-day Seminar, on 19–22 July 1972, designed especially for psychiatrists from overseas. Colleagues who have been involved with recent developments in psychiatry in India, Pakistan, Central and East Africa and the West Indies will describe their experiences, which will then be discussed in small groups and in plenary sessions of the Seminar. It is hoped that trainees from overseas—and also British trainees who are interested in their problems—will find it helpful to consider in advance the difficulties facing psychiatric practice in these countries and to study how these difficulties can be overcome.

Full information about the Seminar, and forms of application, can be obtained from Professor G. M. Carstairs, University Department of Psychiatry, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside Park, Edinburgh, EH10 5HF. G. M. CARSTAIRS.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Forensic Psychiatry Section

(Attention is specially drawn to the following item)

The Forensic Psychiatry Specialist Section of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, in association with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, has organized a one-day conference on 'Forensic Aspects of Drug Abuse' at Manor Hall, Bristol, on Friday, 14 April 1972. Further details are available from Dr. I. Pierce-James, Glenside Hospital, Bristol, BS16 1DD.

University of Liverpool

A Symposium on 'Recent Developments in Psychiatry' organized by the Department of Psychiatry in conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners is to be held from the 2–4 June 1972 at Burton Manor, Wirral, Cheshire. Speakers will include: Professor Max Hamilton; Dr. G. O'Gorman; Mr. C. G. Gathercole; Dr. J. Pollitt; Dr. T. A. Kerr; Dr. M. B. Shapiro; Dr. M. J. MacCulloch and Miss J. Sambrooks. Further particulars from Dr. R. P. Swinson, Lecturer in Psychiatry, University of Liverpool, 6, Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 3BX.

University of Oxford

The following lectures on 'Marriage and the Family', arranged by the Committee for Postgraduate Studies and Department of Psychiatry, will be given at the Warneford and Littlemore hospitals at 5 p.m.:

9 May —Dr. J. Dominian: Marital breakdown.

23 May— Dr. C. C. Harris: Changes in family structure and the care of the elderly.

13 June— Dr. J. G. Howells: The principles of family psychiatry.

Institute of Family Psychiatry

The Annual Introductory Seminars in Family Psychiatry will be held at the Ipswich Hospital, 26–30 June 1972. Further information from the Secretary, The Institute of Family Psychiatry, The Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich, IP1 3TF.

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry

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

28 April—Dr. James Partridge: Obesity in childhood.

19 May— Dr. Israel Kolvin: Phenomenology of the childhood psychoses.

Association of Psychiatrists in Training

The next meeting of the Association will be held in Newcastle upon Tyne at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 2 May, at the time of the Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

American Association for Child Care in Hospitals

The 7th Annual Conference with the theme 'Optimal Care' will be held, under the sponsorship of McGill University and Montreal Children's Hospital, in Montreal on 24–27 May 1972. Further information: Mrs. Carolyn L. Keleny, Montreal Children's Hospital, 2300 Tupper Street, Montreal 108, Quebec, Canada.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CLINICAL TUTORS

In September 1970 the Clinical Tutors of the R.M.P.A. held a three-day conference at Merton College, Oxford, which was generally agreed to be very successful.

Some of the papers presented have now been collected and published by the Clinical Tutors Sub-Committee under the editorship of David Watt and Brian Barraclough. The papers included are of good quality, short and to the point, and their subject-matter is of practical value to the work of the psychiatric tutor. For example, there is an essay by Helen Marshall about a Mental Hospital's Medical Library and how to organize it; one by Peter Brook and Gerald Russell on the critical state of junior medical staffing; and one by Michael Shepherd on a novel method of teaching clinical psychiatry.

Copies of this booklet are obtainable from Mrs. V. J. Kewell, M.R.C. Clinical Psychiatry Unit, Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, by sending 75p and a stamped addressed envelope 9 in. × 7 in.

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