JUNE 1972

NEWS AND NOTES

Supplement to the

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

Published by authority of the Royal College of Psychiatrists ©

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

Opinion

THERE is a tendency nowadays for particular viewpoints about the genesis of psychiatric illness to be portrayed on one or other of the mass media. These rather superficially point an accusing look at families and achieve little beyond engendering guilt and unhappiness in the relatives of patients. Moreover, this tends to be done in such a way as to imply that these are the only approaches consistent with human concern and empathy, and the efforts of others are likely to be ignored or vilified. The form in which some of these programmes are presented is often disturbingly close to documentary, and the manner of their presentation is such as to appear to the ordinary person to be the voice of authority and solid experience. Clearly, different opinions should be allowed expression, but when complex problems are shown in this one-sided way there is a serious risk that the result will be distress and bewilderment among patients, their relatives and the community at large, and that patients in need of help will be discouraged from seeking it. A way must be found for those who have daily experience of these disorders, and who have studied them in depth, to be given adequate opportunities to present their views.

Recent Developments

The Appeals and Building Committee of the College, under the chairmanship of the President, Professor Sir Martin Roth, is engaged in launching a £2 million appeal with the aim of establishing a permanent home for the College together with an adequate Fund to finance its running costs. This is a formidable task, which must be achieved within the next few years. While it seems necessary for the building to be sited in London, this will in no way alter the policy of encouraging the Regions to participate in shaping the future identity of the College and of sustaining and reinforcing their long-standing traditions of educational and scientific activity. An article about the present home of the College appears on page 4.

Contents

The Royal College of Psychiatrists	1
Examination for the Membership: List of Successful Candidates	2
Scottish Division	3
Child Psychiatry Section	3
Chandos House	4
Report of Proceedings in Parliament	6
Proceedings of the Conference of Clinical Tutors	7
Drug Dependence and the National Health Service; by *T. H. Bewley*	8
Fifth World Congress of Psychiatry; by *H. R. Rollin*	9
The Problem of Dangerous Drivers: Council of Europe Resolution; by *F. A. Whitlock*	12
The National Council on Alcoholism	12
Advice for Child Psychiatrists	13
Forthcoming Events	13
Notices by the Honorary Librarian	15
Medals and Prizes	16

https://doi.org/10.1192/S000712507230276X Published online by Cambridge University Press