THE HANDBOOK FOR INCEPTORS AND TRAINEES

DEAR SIR,

My old colleague and friend 'Ezra' has in his inimitable way slightly misunderstood me (*News and Notes*, February, p 6). This was not his fault as the 'Handbook' had not been published at that time.*

Perhaps I should explain something of its genesis, which started with a request from the B.M.A. for information to be included in their Careers Handbook. Each of the Specialist sections and the Group for the Psychiatry of Old Age supplied this, and it was also used at various Career Fairs at Medical Schools around the country. The Education Committee had been considering providing further information for junior trainees in Psychiatry who, before becoming Members of the College, do not receive copies of the *Journal* or *News and Notes*, unless they become Inceptors.

It was agreed it would be very useful to let them have information about the College and its activities as well as about examinations and criteria for approval of training, also anything else relevant but not always easily available to a trainee. As a pilot study I tried out an early draft on the trainees at Tooting Bec Hospital, who pointed out that there was nothing in it that could not be acquired in two or three years if one was of an inquiring and diligent temperament, but they regretted that it had not been available to them at the very start of their careers. It was confirmed that it might be of value to Consultants also when the hospital was visited by an approval team, each of the three leaving with a spare copy. Nevertheless, there are many deficiencies in the Handbook, for example there is an excellent reprint from *News and Notes* by Professor Max Hamilton on taking clinical examinations, but there is no equivalent section on the Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) papers. For this reason the Education Committee hopes that as many members of the College as possible will send comments and criticisms and suggestions for inclusion in a second edition of the Handbook, when one is called for, and a page is inserted at the end to suggest this. It is also hoped that this Handbook will encourage junior trainees to become Inceptors at the earliest possible moment and take an active part in all the College's activities. A further page at the end is available to enable them to apply to do this, if appropriate.

I am glad that 'Ezra' has given me the opportunity to clarify the situation, since it also gives me the chance to thank the many colleagues who have helped in its compilation.

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* *Handbook for Inceptors and Trainees in Psychiatry*, edited by Thomas Bewley for the Education Committee. £1.25 including postage. Headley Bros Ltd, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mexican Society of Biological Psychiatry and World Federation of Biological Psychiatry

A Joint Congress of the Mexican Society of Biological Psychiatry and the World Federation of Biological Psychiatry will be held in Cancun, Mexico, 20–24 June 1977. Details from the Secretariat, Mexican Society of Biological Psychiatry, Insurgentes Sur No. 3877, Mexico 22, D.F.

First Asian Congress of Psychiatry

The Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists announce that the First Asian Congress of Psychiatry will be held in Singapore, 14–20 October *1978*. The aim of the Congress is to concentrate on psychiatric problems in Asia and their overlap into those countries with a European style culture. Further information and an invitation to submit papers on themes which will be indicated will be published later. The Convenor of the Congress Committee is Dr R. A. Pargiter, G.P.O. Box 1188 M, Hobart 7001, Tasmania.

Canadian Foundation on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies

The Twelfth Annual Conference of the Canadian Foundation on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, under the title 'Futuraction '77', will be held in Winnipeg, 10–15 July 1977. Application forms and further details from the Conference Manager 'Futuraction '77', The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, 1580 Dublin Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A oL4, Canada.

Third International Congress on Rehabilitation in Psychiatry

The Third International Congress on Rehabilitation in Psychiatry will be held at The Regional Hospital, Örebro, Sweden, 13–15 September, *1978*. Preliminary programme and other information from the Congress Secretariat, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Department, The Regional Hospital, 700 04 Örebro Sweden.

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