IV. *Experimental enquiries in animals*

Effects of drugs on biogenic amines in the brain of the rat.

Investigation of the mechanism of colour change in the scrotum of the vervet monkey (jointly with Inveresk Research International).

V. *EEG studies*

Computer analysis of samples of overnight EEG in various psychiatric disorders.

EEG in psychiatric disorders of childhood (see Section II).

CORRESPONDENCE

NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

DEAR SIR,

I concur with much of what Dr. K. A. Day has stated in his letter (*News and Notes*, April 1974) prompted by the conference on the future role and responsibilities of the specialist in mental handicap, at which I had the privilege of being allowed to speak. As a specialist in mental handicap I would not claim that mental handicap is primarily a medical responsibility. But until relatively recently educationists did not want to know the severely subnormal child, who was 'excluded' from schools, and psychologists and social workers did not wish to work in the average hospital for the mentally handicapped. The mentally retarded were made a medical responsibility because other services lacked the willingness, ability and facilities to provide for them and relieved themselves of responsibility by consigning them to medical care. The very small number of doctors who have specialized in mental handicap can hardly be said reflect a burning desire of the medical profession to take over this problem.

Three or four aspects of mental handicap remain indisputably medical and call for sufficient expertise to warrant special practice, study, experience and research in this subject. The first is the question of the prevention of mental handicap, which must be an ultimate if ideal objective and can be achieved only through the application of medical science. Second is the need for medical assessment, not only of the child but of the adults in the community, many of whom are sooner or later referred to the hospital service. Thirdly, there is the management and treatment of those behaviour disorders in the mentally handicapped which are the barriers to their acceptance and successful adjustment in their homes, schools, work centres, hostels and the community. Fourthly can be added the correction and treatment of physical disability and infirmity.

The assessment of the mentally handicapped child may well be regarded as a paediatric prerogative, but most specialists in child health agree that it requires skills and knowledge additional to those of the general paediatrician. The assessment and psychiatric treatment of mentally handicapped children and adults might well be done by child and general psychiatrists, although in many centres these specialists are glad to use the criterion of an IQ below 70 as a justification for disclaiming any long-term responsibility for these patients.

The specialist in mental handicap and the hospital for the mentally handicapped accept those whom others reject because those others lack the understanding, ability and facilities to help this group of people. These specialists and these hospitals will continue to be needed for as long as they can offer a service which is not available elsewhere.

D. A. SPENCER.

Meanwood Park Hospital,
Leeds, LS6 4QB.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

University of Leeds, Department of Psychiatry

An intensive course for Part 2 of the M.R.C.Psych. will be held at the Department from 21 to 27 September 1974.

Instruction will be mainly by tutorials and practical clinical work with special reference to psychotherapy, general and child psychiatry. A reading list will be sent to those accepted; they will be expected to cover these before entering the Course.

The Course will be limited to 28 candidates. Fee is £40. Residential accommodation, if desired, will be available at extra cost.

Applicants should send a brief curriculum vitae, stating (if they wish) what they consider the weak points in their knowledge and experience and the topics on which they would like special help. Applications should be sent to Mrs. J. M. Brierly, Dept. of Psychiatry, 15 Hyde Terrace, Leeds, LS2 9LT (Tel.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125074299550 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Leeds 21431, Ext. 19). from whom further details of the Course may be obtained.

University of Oxford and Oxford Regional Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training

A ten day course in neurosciences for those preparing for the M.R.C.Psych. and D.P.M. will be held in the University Department of Human Anatomy from 15 to 25 September 1974.

Further information and details from the Director of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training, Old Radcliffe Observatory, The Medical School, 43 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

The Open University

A course designed for those working with the handicapped, entitled 'The Handicapped Person in the Community' will start in February 1975. Further information from Miss Diane Goldrei, Assistant Information Officer, The Open University, Walton Hall, Walton, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire.

Henderson Hospital: Training in Group Interaction

26 September to 28 November

A day release course on ten consecutive Thursdays to be run in conjunction with the staff of the hospital at the Henderson Training School, Henderson Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

Fees: £30 per person.

For professional staff working in psychiatric and allied fields with a responsibility for conducting group work in a therapeutic setting. The course will be conducted as a peer learning community which will be open to explore needs within the domains of group therapy methods, therapeutic community procedures and experiential techniques. Twenty-five places.

Further information from Dr. J. Stuart Whiteley, Henderson Hospital, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey.

International Practicum Behaviour Modification Workshop

This year's workshops will be held from 28 July to 1 August and from 4 to 8 August at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. They will be of a practical nature, and small classes of 20 or 30 people will remain with one speaker for each of the four day workshops.

Each workshop will be multi-disciplinary and will be of interest to teachers, social workers, nurses, psychologists, doctors and others. Speakers will be Dr. Luke Watson, Dr. Daniel O'Leary, Dr. Richard Fox, Dr. Tod Risley, all of whom are eminent in the Behaviour Modification field in the U.S.A.

Programme, further information and enrolment forms are available from Laurie McMahon (Behaviour Modification), South Glamorgan A.H.A. Training Service, 'Carville', The Avenue, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2LP.

International Congress of Social Psychiatry

The Fifth International Congress of Social Psychiatry will be held in Athens from 1 to 7 September 1974.

Further information from Dr. George Vassiliou, Organizing Chairman, Congress Secretariat, The Athenian Institute of Anthropos, 17, Yannarou Str.-Kalamaki, Palaiou, Faleron, Athens, Greece.

Tenth International Congress of Gerontology

The Congress will take place in Jerusalem, Israel, from 22 to 27 June 1975.

Further information from The Secretariat, P.O.B. 16271, Tel Aviv, Israel.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125074299550 Published online by Cambridge University Press

NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN

The Library is open to members between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Books are issued to borrowers during these hours.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

Library Lending Department Regulations

1. Books shall be lent to members within the United Kingdon and Eire who are not in arrears with their subscriptions.

2. No member may borrow from the Library more than three volumes at one time.

3. Books and journals are sent carriage paid from the Library, but members are responsible for the books from time they leave the Library until they are received back, and for the return postage.

4. Books damaged or lost while in possession of a member will be repaired at his expense or must be replaced by him.

5. A member shall be entitled to retain a book or periodical borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days (or longer by special arrangement), unless the book is required by another member, in which case it can be recalled by the Librarian at the expiration of fourteen days.

6. In the event of a member failing to return any book or periodical within seven days after receiving notice from the Librarian (on the expiration of the period referred to in Rule 5), the Library Committee shall be at liberty to purchase another copy, the cost to be charged to such member, who shall not be allowed to borrow another book until the sum thus expended shall have been paid.

7. All communications should be addressed to The Librarian, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London, W1M 9LE.

Journals

The following Journals are available:

Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica.
Acta Psiquiatrica y Psicologica de America Latina.
Actas Luso-Españolas de Neurologia y Psiquiatria.
American Journal of Mental Deficiency.
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.
American Journal of Psychiatry.
American Journal of Psychotherapy.
Annales Médico-Psychologiques.
Annali di Neurologia e Psichiatria.
Archiv für Psychiatrie und Nervenkrankheiten.
Archives of General Psychiatry.
Archives of Neurology.
Archivio di Psicologia, Neurologia, e Psichiatria.
Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria.
Australia and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry.
Bethlem-Maudsley Hospital Gazette.
Brain.
British Hospital and Social Services Journal.
British Journal of Addiction.
British Journal of Criminology.
British Journal of Geriatric Practice.
British Journal of Medical Psychology.
British Journal of Psychiatric Social Work.
British Journal of Psychiatry.
British Journal of Social Psychiatry.
British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology.
Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic.
Canada's Mental Health.
Canadian Psychiatric Association Journal.
Central African Journal of Medicine.
Clinical Trials Journal.
Comprehensive Psychiatry.
Czechoslovak Journal of Psychiatry.
Der Nervenarzt.
Digest of Neurology and Psychiatry.
Diseases of the Nervous System.
Excerpta Medica [*Psychiatry*].
German Medical Monthly.
Howard Journal of Penology and Crime Prevention.
Indian Journal of Psychiatry.
International Journal of Offender Therapy.
International Journal of Psychiatry.
International Journal of Psychoanalysis.
International Journal of Social Psychiatry.
Israel Annals of Psychiatry.
Jornal Brasilerio de Psiquiatria.
Journal of Abnormal Psychology.
Journal of American Academy of Child Psychiatry.
Journal of Analytical Psychology.
Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry.
Journal of the History of Behavioral Sciences.
Journal of Individual Psychology.
Journal of Mental Deficiency Research.
Journal of Mental Subnormality.
Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.
Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.
Journal of Neuropathology and Psychiatry [*Korsakov, Russian*].
Journal of Psychology.
Journal of Psychosomatic Research.
Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
Journal of the Royal College of Physicians.
Mental Health.
Mental Hygiene.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125074299550 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Nordisk Psykiatrisk Tiddsskift.
Pavlov Journal of Higher Nervous Activity [*Russian*].
Psychiatric Quarterly.
Psychiatry.
Psycho-Analytic Quarterly.
Psychological Abstracts.
Psychological Record.
Psychological Medicine.
Psychosomatic Medicine.
Psychosomatics.
Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol.
Revista del Hospital Psiquiatrica de la Habana [*Cuba*].
Revista de Neuro-Psiquiatria.
Revista de Psicoanalisis, Psiquiatrica y Psicologia.
Revista de Psicologia General y Aplicada.
Revista Psiquiatrica Peruana.
Revue de Médecine Psychosomatique.
Revue de Neuropsychiatrie Infantile.
Rivista di Neurologia.
Revista di Patologia Neurosa e Mentale.
Schweizer Archiv für Neurologie usw.
Social Psychiatry.
West Indian Medical Journal.
World Mental Health.

THE COLLEGE'S MEDALS AND PRIZES

Attention is specially drawn to the Medals and Prizes which are offered annually by the College. The conditions of award are set out fully in the Year-Book.

Gaskell Gold Medal and Prize

The examination for this prize is held in May of each year. In addition to a Gold Medal the award attached to the prize is £75. The prize has always been considered one of the foremost academic distinctions obtainable in clinical psychiatry, and Members of the College are asked to bring it to the notice of suitable candidates who may be eligible to compete.

An entrance fee of £3.15 is charged, returnable to bona-fide candidates. Entries must reach the Dean not later than 31 March in each year.

Bronze Medal and Prize

This prize is awarded annually for the best Dissertation submitted under conditions printed in the Year-book. Candidates are reminded that Dissertations must reach the Dean before 30 April in each year, and must not exceed 10,000 words in length.

Divisional Prizes

Papers certified as eligible for this competition must be forwarded to reach the Dean not later than 30 April in each year.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY HEADLEY BROTHERS LTD 109 KINGSWAY LONDON WC2B 6PX AND ASHFORD KENT

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125074299550 Published online by Cambridge University Press