phrenias" (plural!) with formal thought disorder, disturbances of affect and ambivalence as characteristic symptoms for this group of psychoses.

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Reference

BLEULER, E. (1975) *Lehrbuch der Psychiatrie*. 13. Aufl. neubearbeitet von M. Bleuler. Berlin: Springer.

Anorexia Nervosa: Drop-outs from Treatment

DEAR SIR,

In the *Journal*, September, 1985, **147**, 265–271, Szmukler *et al* state, "At this stage, it cannot be assumed that dropping out of treatment is necessarily associated with a poor eventual outcome. It is possible that significant benefit may be derived from only a few treatment sessions or that some patients who are making good progress feel that no further help is required." Is there not a third possibility, namely that, irrespective of eventual outcome, at the time of dropping out patients feel, rightly or wrongly, that they are deriving no material benefit from treatment?

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CORRECTION

The ***Correspondence*** running heading on page 581 (*Journal*, November 1985) should read *British Journal of Psychiatry*, (1985), **147**, 581–587.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Gloucester and the Beginnings of the RMPA

The French psychiatrist, Parchappe, who visited England in 1847, reported on another remarkable innovation at the Gloucester Lunatic Asylum, namely the creation of a small self-governing unit:

"This is quite an exceptional arrangement. The patients who work in the gardens occupy special quarters consisting of a kitchen-refectory with an open fire and a dormitory with 14 beds. The patients live here by themselves; the door is open directly to the gardens and is outside the asylum wall. They are supervised only by the head gardener who lives in a cottage at some distance. They go to bed at 8, get up when they like. They come and go freely just as they wish. If they wish to go into the town they have only to ask the gardener's permission. The establishment provides them with meat, bread and beer, and the gardener gives them fruit and vegetables; they do their own cooking and run their household for themselves.

The medical superintendent claims that no inconvenience of any kind has resulted from this peculiar arrangement, and this seems to show how very far one can go in introducing into institutions conditions as nearly as possible resembling those of ordinary life."

Reference

Journal of Mental Science (July 1961) Vol. **107**, No. 449, p. 613.

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