sulting room with the social worker, the mother and father, and perhaps the child, and one got a delightful " slanging match " in which one got on to a great deal which helped in subsequent procedures.

In conclusion, although he might have used the word " deprecate " in referring to the case conference, he wished to emphasize the meaning he attached to the case conference. It was not the actual situation ; it was a description of it removed from actuality, but it was valuable and helped the team to work together. The team must work together and explain to one another what they had discovered, but the true cross-section was lower down, not in this somewhat exalted conception of the case conference.

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Major Miller for his paper, which was accorded by applause.

PAPER.—" Technique," by KATHLEEN M. TODD, M.B., D.P.M.

PAPER.—" The Future of Child Psychiatry," by MARGARET M. METHVEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.M.

I feel I ought to start by apologizing for my temerity in reading this paper after the two experts whom we have heard to-day, but as I have been rather closely connected with starting two clinics under two different local authorities, I have had the administrative problems and the difficulties in starting clinics brought very closely to my mind, and I feel strongly that the time has come when psychiatrists should clear their own minds, and be prepared to give an expression of their opinions on this controversial subject.

Local authorities, on the whole, are aware of the need for child guidance clinics, but they are only vaguely aware of the functions of such clinics ; they are not at all aware of the fundamental nature of the problems involved, and therefore they are not aware of the qualifications which those undertaking the work should hold. The one consideration ever present in their minds is finance, and in our proposals to them it is essential that we bear this in mind, and at least give the impression of being economical. If we ask them to employ the more highly-paid psychiatrist and not only the less highly-paid psychologist, we must be able and willing to prove that the community will not in the long run be the loser. It is time we made our views on this subject clear to local authorities in general, and I think this Association should take the lead. I am not going to attempt to give a detailed account of my own views on the subject, but I would like to stimulate some discussion. I do not propose to say very much on the question of the relative position and spheres of action of psychologists and psychiatrists because this was discussed very fully in the Child Psychiatry Sub-Committee yesterday. As a result of that meeting, we hope eventually to put a draft circular to the Council for its approval, prior to wide circulation—a circular which will emphasize that we believe that the problem is fundamentally a medical one, i.e. one of health and not of education, but it would take too long to enter upon this topic to-day. I think, of course, that a very great deal of the difficulties and trouble have come from the lack of adequate training and selection of personnel. Training must always be regarded as the corner-stone upon which all proposals should be built. Of the original team of psychiatric social worker, psychologist and psychiatrist, the social workers alone have a recognized training and are selected on a personality basis. The psychologists have now formed a professional association, and are striving to obtain some uniformity and a basic standard of training. But we are still tending to leave our training rather in the air, and I think it is time that we did express more definite views on that subject. I am sure this lack of adequate training and the number of psychiatrists practising without any real training at all are the chief factors contributing to the attitude of so many Educational Psychologists—that attitude which relegates the psychiatrist to the small back room, there to deal with the cases of poor prognosis which would otherwise waste the time and/or lessen the prestige of the lay psychologist.

How many of us have an inadequate knowledge of the normal in the behaviour of children ? How many Superintendents of mental hospitals who have never dealt with an adult out-patient are willing to diagnose and treat an emotionally disturbed child ? How many physicians with no psycho-pathological background will diagnose a potential schizophrenic ? (And, to leave our profession for a minute,

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