Dr. R. F. Hobson: 'Loneliness: the basic problem in psychotherapy'
8.15 p.m. Wednesday 13 March
West Hall, Royal Society of Medicine

Dr. J. P. Watson: 'Therapeutic community methods and District General Hospital psychiatry'
8.15 p.m. Wednesday 8 May
The Medical Society of London, 11 Chandos Street, W.1

Dr. A. Cooklin: 'Concept and practice of family therapy'
8.15 p.m. Wednesday 12 June
West Hall, Royal Society of Medicine

These meetings are open to all members of the College.

Executive Committee

In addition to the list published in *News and Notes*, April 1973, the following are members of the Executive Committee: Drs. R. W. Crocket, C. J. Lucas, W. Lawton Tonge.

DAY PATIENTS' EXPENSES

A Note from the D.H.S.S.

The following information has been received from the Department:

'The view of the Department of Health and Social Security is that payment of travelling expenses out of public funds to patients attending hospital either as day-patients or out-patients must be made on the basis of financial need, and that it would not be right as a matter of principle to use payment as an incentive to individual patients to attend regularly for treatment. The arrangements for payment of travelling expenses provide that day-patients who are in receipt of Supplementary Benefit—and no doubt such patients constitute a considerable proportion of the chronic mentally ill—automatically qualify for a refund of their fares under the Hospital Fares Schemes. The Supplementary Benefits Commission will also authorize refund of fares under the Hospital Fares Scheme to those not receiving Supplementary Benefit if payment is causing hardship.

'On the question of clothing, the Department has similarly taken the view that in general provision of clothing is not one of the functions of the National Health Service, although of course the Supplementary Benefits Commission is able in certain circumstances to make special payments for clothing to recipients of Supplementary Benefits.'

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