Mentally Ill, the Butler Report, the Davies Committee Report, and the Children and Young Persons Acts.

At the end of the day, defects in the mental health services can only be remedied by political decisions. There will be no more money, no more training, no more research, no more community care, no more upgrading, no more District General Hospital psychiatric units, and no more backing for mental health workers unless they are demanded and fought for in Parliament, in local authorities, and in the NHS. This is why MIND services the All-Party Parliamentary Mental Health Group and is working closely with the Conservative Party's new working party on mental health and the Labour Party Mental Health Campaign. This is why we are encouraging our local associations to go in for more evaluation of existing services and themselves to be pressure groups on a local level as we are trying to be on a national level. We regard ourselves as a small but important part of what could become a mental health movement which we trust will receive the backing of all the professional associations and trade unions representing mental health workers, as well as other important bodies, such as the Community Health Councils and the wide variety of local and national organizations.

Our resources are pathetically small in seeking to develop the ambitious programme I have outlined. We would welcome the sympathy and support of the Royal College and its members and would welcome the opportunity to cooperate directly whenever this would seem helpful. Ultimately, we are very dependent on the expertise of psychiatrists and would like to be of assistance to them in securing wider and better informed public support in the developments and achievements of modern psychiatry.

CORRESPONDENCE

A MUSEUM OF PSYCHIATRY

DEAR SIR,

I imagine that few people would dispute the need for a Museum of Psychiatry, although there may be some argument as to where such a Museum should be situated. I write to support the idea that there could be no better place for its establishment than at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, where, in addition to the archives and other material mentioned by Patricia Allderidge, visitors would have the opportunity to see neatly compartmentalized and relatively unspoilt moving models of the various psychiatric dogmas of the past.

RICHARD F. ROCKSTRO

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Carstairs Junction,
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ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY THERAPY

DEAR SIR,

I would like to draw the attention of your readers to the newly formed interdisciplinary Association for Family Therapy. As you will know, interest in family therapy has developed rapidly in this country during the last few years, and many have felt the need to create a forum where practitioners from the various branches of the helping professions can meet, exchange ideas and begin to refine and develop new ways of working with the family as a group.

The Association is open to all professional workers who are involved in the practice and teaching of family therapy, or who have a research interest in the subject. The steering committee of the Association is hoping to arrange an inaugural conference in the Autumn. In the meantime, anyone who would like further details, together with a membership form, should write to Miss Di Johnson, 20 Ryder Street, Pontcanna, Cardiff (Membership Secretary).

Yours sincerely,

SUE WALROND-SKINNER

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