CORRESPONDENCE

ST AUGUSTINE'S HOSPITAL REPORT

DEAR SIR,

In Henry Rollin's utterly deplorable review of the St Augustine's Report (*News and Notes*, September 1976, pp 15–7), the most deplorable cut of all was the assertion that Dr Ankers 'comes out of this tragedy particularly badly'. This is simply not true. Dr Ankers' heroic and virtually lone struggle to expose the treatment of long-stay patients was entirely vindicated. People like Dr Ankers, whose compassion and sense of fair play make them pursue the truth with single-mindedness and perseverance, are not popular (or perfect), but it is rather sickening that Henry Rollin should, at this stage, challenge Dr Ankers' motives. I had hoped that the St Augustine's Report would create some contructive ripples throughout the mental hospital establishment, but judging by your reviewer's attitudes, such a hope is a very forlorn one.

TONY SMYTHE
Director

MIND (National Association for Mental Health),
22 Harley Street,
London W1N 2ED

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PSYCHIATRIST IN INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

DEAR SIR,

I am sure many people like myself who are in the 'in-charge' position in a unit welcomed this memorandum (*News and Notes*, September 1976, p 5).

My reason for writing is to suggest that the one item left out seems to me to be to take responsibility for advising and co-ordinating the spending of money allocated to the unit, particularly in the light of the current economic problems. The wording is not intended to be definitive in any way.

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Middlesex TW13 4ND

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

National Hospital for Nervous Diseases: Shorvon Memorial Lecture

Dr Desmond Kelly will deliver the Fifth Annual Shorvon Memorial Lecture on Monday, 29 November, at 5 pm in the Lecture Theatre at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London, WC1. Subject: The Limbic System and Emotion. Seat reservations may be made by application to the Secretary, Maida Vale Hospital, London W9 1TL. (Telephone 01-286 5172.)

The Open Way Trust

The Open Way Trust announces a Workshop on 'The Helping Professions Compare Notes', to be held at Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London, WC1, on Saturday, 4 December, from 10 am to 6 pm. The purpose is to bring together practitioners and responsible managers from the helping professions in order to explain their services, evaluate their problems, and improve their communications. Fee, inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, £10.00. Further details from The Open Way Trust, Flat 8A, 100 New Cavendish Street, London, W1.

King's Fund Centre

A day conference on 'Services for Mentally Handicapped Children' will be held at the Centre on Tuesday, 14 December, from 10 am to 4 pm. The aim is to consider the development of future services for mentally handicapped children and their families. There will be discussions on Mental Handicap, Paper No 10—*Services for Mentally Handicapped Children*, a copy of which will be sent in advance to each participant. Conference fee £4.00, inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Further details from the organizer, Mrs J. Rush, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF. (*Please note new address.*)

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry

The next open postgraduate meeting will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8QD, on Friday, 3 December, when Dr Christopher Ounsted of the Park Hospital for Children, Oxford, will speak on 'Quantative Human Ethology'. The meeting will begin at 4 pm, preceded by tea at 3.30.

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