doctors, social workers, nurses, etc.? No football team manager would field a side drawn from different clubs which hadn't had some training sessions.]

Dr. H. H. Wolff chaired the group discussing special facilities for patients with personality disorders and neuroses. The needs of this large group of patients and fears for their neglect were aired. It was suggested that the proposed ten-bed annexe which might be provided as a special unit in a DGH was too small for the purpose and particularly too small to create a therapeutic community. The need to be able to admit to in-patient or day care in a crisis was stressed. Provision of adequate numbers of interview rooms for individual and group therapy was essential. Much of this session was concerned with the types of treatment to be provided, with a discussion on the need to expand training in psychotherapy not only for doctors but also for psychologists, social workers and nurses. The discussion paper provided for this syndicate gives an excellent review of HM(71)97 which contains departmental advice on the planning of the proposed district-based service.

The fourth syndicate, chaired by Dr. J. M. Roberts, had available to it a splendidly written and characteristically informative discussion paper by Professor J. K. Wing on 'Sheltered Environments for the Psychiatrically Handicapped'. This is, in effect, a review of recent research on accommodation needs for the adult mentally ill and a discussion of the problems involved in providing for these needs where no fully effective co-ordination exists between the agencies providing health and social services, and should be read in full. Wing's statement 'Since practically every problem arising in the "new long-stay" group contains both medical and social components, any separation into two professional and administrative hierarchies is likely to work against the interests of the patient/client. At the least, an independent committee structure and really effective multidisciplinary teams (including trained social workers) should be mandatory' could well be the text for the next conference. (Scottish papers please copy!)

The report of the group discussing this paper indicates concern with patients who do not fit neatly into present treatment trends—in particular the alcoholic and the offender dealt with by the courts, who do not receive psychiatric or social support. The need for careful observation of the effects of the DGH unit on the size of the 'new long-stay' population was agreed.

The conference was summed-up by Professor W. H. Trethowan, who considered that the meeting had helped to promote mutual understanding of College members and Departmental officials on the problems facing the mental health services. Reading the report of a conference which one didn't oneself attend can be a frustrating exercise—not infrequently relieved by pleasure at one's absence. This time it is not so—the meeting was clearly useful, the discussion papers excellent and the exercise worth repeating. Next time there may be a different guest list.

GERALD C. TIMBURY

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