good, 3 = no training. If he opts for a 'poor' hospital because he happens to know it is actually good, how will he fare later when he wants promotion elsewhere? Hospitals which have 'made the grade' may be tempted to sit back and do nothing more, while those which have not will have more difficulty in attracting new staff: which leads to more pressure, less time for teaching, a vicious circle, and a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In Stage 2, of course, all will come out right. The man from the College will quarter the country, apportioning credit without fear or favour, and a lot of hospitals will change their status upwards or downwards. But this will take time—not only the legwork but the sifting and comparing needed to determine criteria. In the meantime anyone who pays attention to the present list stands a fair chance of being misdirected. The fact is that the College does not know at present about the quality of training in the hospitals. It has no valid advice to give trainees. It should have kept quiet.

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[A meeting of the Visitors appointed by the Court of Electors under Bye-Law XXI9a and Regulation XXI.5 was held on 5 September, and a summary of the proceedings will appear in an early issue of *News and Notes*. It is intended to publish a revised list of accredited hospitals and units in the Spring of 1974. See also the Memorandum on Educational Programmes. p. 3]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

World Psychiatric Association

The Section of Epidemiology and Community Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association will be holding a conference in 1974 at the University of York. The subject is *Alternatives to the Mental Hospital* and the dates are 31 July–2 August 1974, inclusive. The number of participants has to be limited to 120. The cost, including accommodation, will be less than £25 per head. Accommodation is available for a limited number of guests.

Anyone interested in attending should write as soon as possible to Dr. Arthur Bowen, Bootham Park Hospital, York, YO3 7BY.

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry, Birmingham

The following open meetings will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, at 4 p.m.

9 November: 'The Progress of a Voluntary Children's Society over the last 20 years', Mr. K. E. Phipps.

7 December: 'The G.P. as Family Psychiatrist?', Professor D. A. Pond.

The Second International Balint Congress

The Congress will take place in the Palais des Congrès, Brussels, from 24–26 May 1974.

Further information: Dr. Moreau, 32 rue du Petit-Ry, B-1340 Ottignies, Belgium.

Conference with International Participation on Psychopathology

The Symposium, organized by the Czechoslovak Medical and Psychiatric Societies, will be held in Bratislava from 8–10 May 1974.

Further information: Secretariat of the Conference, Congress Office, Slovak Medical Society, Mickiewiczova 18, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

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