

Correspondence

To:
The Correspondence Editor,
Behavioural Psychotherapy

Dear Sir,

I would like to appeal through you to all readers. As most of them are aware, 'Behavioural Psychotherapy' is about to become an enlarged and prestigious magazine. As such, it demands from its readers that they shake off the usual lethargy and apathy that prevails when it comes to writing lively and important correspondence.

As a professional magazine the journal offers the opportunity for an exchange of ideas and exposure to many different viewpoints. I only hope readers will overcome lassitude, inhibition and writer's cramp and use the correspondence columns as an arena for debate and argument that complements the more formal vehicle of the written paper.

I trust, therefore, that as correspondence editor, you will do everything in your power to promote a lively and vigorous correspondence. I hope, too, that readers will take advantage of this great opportunity to buy international fame and immortality for the price of a second-class stamp.

Yours enthusiastically,
'Hopeful from Hopton'

Dear Sir,

I wish to draw your readers' attention to a deplorable trend on the part of Conference Organisers to charge a fee to members who are asked to present papers. Having presented such papers to several previous B.A.B.P. meetings and thereby being exempted from the conference fee, I was surprised to find that at the recent World Behaviour Therapy Conference in Jerusalem I was expected to pay a fee of 140 U.S. dollars in order to present my paper.

Do Conference Organisers put such little value on research that they expect research workers to pay for the privilege of hearing their own voices? The implications of paying money to enable a paper to be presented are far reaching: they affect the standards of such meetings in addition to questioning the ethics and value of them.

If research workers refused these pecuniary terms the principle of negative reinforcement would soon resolve this.

Yours sincerely,
R. S. Stern,
Consultant Psychiatrist,
Springfield Hospital