

always available for support facilities: and if it was always possible to meet the changing requirements of the profession both locally and on a national basis. I have absolutely no doubt that it will be quite impossible now or in the future to do so. Let us therefore struggle on with some understanding and respect for our differing problems and constraints and not assume that where things are not exactly to our liking the cause is to be found in unwarranted self-confidence in the officers of an employing Health Authority or irresponsibility on the part of clinicians.

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P.S.—Since drafting this letter I have been made aware of the Guidelines agreed by the Standing Joint Committee of the British Geriatric Society and the

Royal College of Psychiatrists. I was not previously aware of these and I wonder whether the Royal College has endorsed them and published them in a way that employing Health Authorities would be aware of?

I have also checked the third schedule of the Appointment of Consultant Regulations 1974 and have found the following ambiguous paragraph which I have referred to the Welsh Office for elucidation: Schedule 3, paragraph 11 'Where in the opinion of the Authority more than one appropriate body is appropriate in relation to the appointment to be considered, the Authority may, after consultation with the appropriate bodies, nominate to a Committee a further consultant in the speciality: Provided that no more than one additional member shall be nominated in respect of each appropriate body.' Clearly this is intended to mean the associated speciality, but that is not, unfortunately, what it says.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All Psychiatric Trainees in the South-East and South-West Thames Regions are invited to a **Trainees Day** on Wednesday, 18 July, at St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17. Further information from Dr Alison Hall or Dr Lester Sireling at St George's (telephone: 672 1024) or Dr Helena Waters at the Maudsley Hospital (telephone: 703 6833).

An **Intensive Neuroscience Course**, arranged by the Oxford Regional Committee for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training, will be held at Oxford University Department of Human Anatomy from 28-29 September. Residential accommodation (for which early application should be made) will be available for a limited number at Mansfield College. Fees: Residential £60; non-residential, but including lunch, £40. Enquiries to the Director of Post-graduate Medical Education and Training, The Medical School Offices, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU. Telephone: 0865 64711, ext. 7666.

Pharmacotherapy with Emotionally Disturbed Children is the title of the 4th Annual Symposium of the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents, to be held at the Skyline Hotel, Toronto, on 20 and 21 September. Further information from The Secretary, 1979 Thistletown Symposium, 51 Panorama Court, Rexdale, Toronto, Ontario M9V 4L8, Canada.

The next **Introductory Course in Personal Construct Psychotherapy** at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine will start on 8 October, for twenty Monday afternoons. The fee will be £50: £20 for postgraduate students. Applications to Dr Fay Fransella, Academic Department of Psychiatry, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

An **Introductory Course in Family Therapy** will be held in Edinburgh on Monday afternoons, over three terms beginning on 15 October. Further information and application forms from the Development Secretary, The Scottish Institute of Human Relations, 56 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QR.

A **Postgraduate Seminar on Current Trends in Psychiatric Treatment** will be held from 24-26 October. Further information and application forms from Dr T. G. Tennent, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton NN1 5DG.

An **International Symposium on Current Perspectives in Lithium prophylaxis** will be held in Vienna on 19 and 20 October. Further information from Dr Gerhard Lenz, Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik Wien, Währinger Gürtel 74-76, A - 1097, Vienna, Austria.

The **Ninth European Congress of Behaviour Therapy** will be held in Paris from 4-7 September. Details from the Secretariat, Centre de Sante Mentale, 152 Avenue de Wagram, 75017-Paris.