
Miscellany

Honours

At the 66th Council Meeting of the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan, Professor A.C.P. Sims was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians & Surgeons. This is the first time this honour has been bestowed upon a foreign psychiatrist. Professor Sims recently visited Pakistan as External Examiner for the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan, to examine for the Membership and Fellowship examinations which took place in Karachi and Rawal Pindi.

Professor Hugh Freeman, past Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, has been elected an Honorary Visiting Fellow at Green College, Oxford.

Action for libel: Dr D.C. Mawson (Plaintiff) and Pressdram Limited (Defendants)

Dr Mawson is a consultant forensic psychiatrist at Broadmoor Hospital and was formerly the Medical Director of Moss Side Special Hospital.

In the issue of 31 December 1993 of *Private Eye* magazine in the 'Doing the Rounds' column (page 12) the Defendants published an untrue account about the Plaintiff saying that he had been the former Director of Medical Services at Ashworth Special Hospital and that he had been sacked from that post in 1992 and that he had refused to co-operate with an Inquiry that had upheld allegations of mistreatment of patients by staff under his control. In publishing these untruths the Defendants implied that the Plaintiff was guilty of serious misconduct and thus not fit to work as a consultant at a special hospital and did not deserve the trust of his colleagues.

The allegations were entirely untrue and the implications wholly unfounded.

In recognition of these libels and the very real distress and harm caused to Dr Mawson by their publication the Defendants have paid substantial damages and legal costs.

Directory of Lithium Clinics

Lithium clinics have been established in a variety of settings for many years, yet there is no formal Directory. The Mood Disorders Programme, which is a collaborative venture between the foundation NHS Trust and the University of

Wolverhampton, is seeking to compile a Directory of Lithium Clinics, both in the UK and abroad. The information collected will be made available to participating clinics to stimulate information exchange. It is also hoped that interactive workshops may be developed within the group. For further information, please contact: Dr D.P. Srinivasan or Professor N.J. Birch at Mood Disorders Programme, St David's House, The Foundation NHS Trust, Wombourne WV5 8DU (Telephone 0902 326001; fax 0902 326335.)

Psychoanalytic therapy for older adults

The Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in the NHS is setting up a new section: Psychotherapy for Older Adults. It will foster professional relationships and the sharing of experience and ideas between psychoanalytic psychotherapists and others who work psychoanalytically with older people. The section will arrange open meetings with clinical and theoretic content and encourage and support informal links between health workers. It will also stimulate research and new ways of thinking in response to the demographic changes in the population and recent academic developments. The section hopes to arrange teaching seminars, supervision groups and the compilation of a bibliography. In order to join, please contact either the convenor, Dr Ruth Porter, 6 Raglan Street, London, NW5 3DA, or the secretary, Dr Jane Garner, Department of Old Age Psychiatry, Chase Farm Hospital, The Ridgeway, Enfield, EN2 8JL (telephone 081 366 9147).

New charity

A new charity, Obsessive Action, will be launched later this year for sufferers of obsessive compulsive and related disorders. The charity is planning to keep a database of mental health professionals who have a special interest in treating patients with OCD, so that their names may be given to enquirers. Interested psychiatrists are therefore invited to write to Dr David Veale and Professor Stuart Montgomery, 'Obsessive Action', The Flat, Longbourne, 11 Totteridge Common, London N20 8LR for a registration form to put their names on the database or to join the charity.