

Production: National Society for Epilepsy. *Medical Adviser:* Jolyn Oxley. *Distribution and purchase:* Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. (Teaching package £60, including postage; all formats). *Hire:* Concord Films Council, 201 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich.

T. L. PILKINGTON
University of Leeds
(Convenor, Audio-Visual Group)

The Last Taboo: Mental Handicap and Death
(UK, 1986, 22 mins)

This video programme was written, directed and produced by Dr Lester Sireling and Dr Sheila Hollins, Section of the Psychiatry of Mental Handicap, St George's Hospital Medical School, London. It shows two people with mental handicap in a bereavement situation, and demonstrates how their changed behaviour is related to their grief. It emphasises the often disregarded fact that people with intellectual impairment have feelings just like everyone else, and

in life events of this kind due regard must be paid to helping them through their crises. It goes on to show this being done.

'The Last Taboo', claim the authors, "provides a valuable reminder to all who work with people with mental handicaps that lack of speech and awkward manner do not preclude emotions as sensitive as in the rest of us. Families and professionals can easily misinterpret grief reactions. The film shows how, once there is an understanding of grief, reactions become understandable and attitudes change." The film certainly achieves this aim.

Unfortunately it is technically not a very good film; the colour seems not to be properly balanced, the sound recording is spoiled by considerable background noise and there have been problems with editing. I think it a great pity that such splendid content is impaired by irritating technicalities.*

Available from the Department of Psychiatry, St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17 0RE, VHS or U-matic, for £25.00, including postage.

G. E. ROBERTS
University Hospital, Nottingham

*It is understood that this tape has now been re-recorded.

Forthcoming Events

A two day **Introductory Course in Family Psychiatry for Trainee Psychiatrists** will be held on 11 and 12 June 1987 at the Institute of Family Psychiatry, The Ipswich Hospital. Programmes and application forms: The Secretary, The Institute of Family Psychiatry, The Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3TF (telephone 0473 214811).

The **Annual Meeting of Teachers of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** will take place in Manchester on 5 June 1987. Further information: Dr J. Eminson, Jesson House, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester Road, Pendlebury, Manchester M27 1FG (telephone 061 793 8145).

Open Meetings on Therapeutic Work with the Mentally Handicapped are currently being held on the first Friday of each month from 1.00–2.20 p.m. at the Tavistock Clinic. Formal presentations of papers by experts in the field of mental handicap will be made, as well as discussions of therapeutic work in progress and other related topics of interest. Attendance is welcome from anyone working in this field. Information: Valerie Sinason, Child and Family Department, The Tavistock Clinic or Jon Stokes, Adult Department, The Tavistock Clinic, Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA (telephone 01 435 7111).

The College Group of **Liaison Psychiatry** will be holding a conference on 18–20 September 1987 at the St Edmond Hall, Oxford. There will be plenary sessions on major issues in liaison for general and child psychiatrists and also poster sessions and opportunities to discuss current clinical developments, research and teaching. It is expected that there will be enough accommodation for members to bring guests. The provisional programme will be available early in 1987. Further information: Deborah Hart, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

Nottingham Mental Illness Unit in conjunction with members of the West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy will be presenting a **Symposium on Creativity and Psychotherapy** at Mapperley Hospital on 7 March 1987 (10 a.m.–5 p.m.). Presenters will include Dr Anthony Storr, Dr Charles Rycroft, Mrs Shirley Wheeley, Dr Gerald Dickens and Dr Martin Davies. Chairpersons: Dr Mark Aveline and Dr John Harrington. Fee £18 (includes lunch). A selection of books will be available for purchase relating to the theme. Details: Mr Maurice Furlong, Mapperley Hospital, Porchester Road, Nottingham NG3 6AA (telephone 0602 608144, extension 379/210).

An **International Symposium on Dermatology and Psychiatry** will be held at the Psychiatric University Clinic, Vienna under the auspices of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) from 31 May–2 June 1987. Deadline for abstracts: 15 December 1986. Information: Secretariat, c/o Conference Management, PO Box 9, A-1095 Vienna, Austria.

The **World Psychiatric Association** will hold a Regional Symposium entitled 'Psychiatry in Primary Health Care' in Buenos Aires on 28–31 August 1987. The official languages will be Spanish and English; registration fee US\$100. Organising Secretariat: Ana Juan Congressos, Sarmiento 1562–4^E, (1042) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A multi-disciplinary conference on the **Psychiatric and Psycho-social Aspects of AIDS** will be held on 27 February 1987 at the Institute of Psychiatry, London. In the arrangements for this one day conference the Department of Health and Social Security is joining with the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, the Royal College of Nursing, the British Psychological Society and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. It is hoped that the British Association of Social Workers, the Association of Directors of Social Services, the Terrence Higgins Trust and SCODA will also participate. The programme will be announced shortly. Enquiries: Professor R. H. Cawley, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF.

The **1st Asean Congress of Psychiatry and Mental Health** will be held in Bangkok from 25–27 February 1987. Information: Secretariat, Nitichitawej Hospital, Phutthamonthon Sai 4, Bangkok 10170, Thailand.

The **Biological Council Co-ordinating Committee for Symposia on Drug Action** will be holding a symposium 'Excitatory Amino Acids in Health and Disease' on 13 and 14 April 1987 at the Royal Institution, London W1. The Organising Chairman is Professor D. Lodge. Application and registration forms: Yvonne Haseldine, Administrative Secretary to the Symposia, c/o Professor D. Lodge, Department of Physiology, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

The **5th World Congress of the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry (WADP)** entitled 'Body, Mind and Soul'—A holistic view of man, science and universe—will take place in the Fachhochschule Munich, Dachauerstrasse 98B, from 6–10 March 1987 at the same time as the 18th International Symposium of the German Academy for Psychoanalysis (DAP). Further information: Lehr und Forschungsinstitut der Deutschen Akademie für Psychoanalyse (DAP), Klenzstrasse 55, 8000 Munich 5, West Germany.

GASKELL

The Publications Section of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Edited by Alan Kerr and Philip Snaith

ISBN 0 902241 14 1 Pp 480 £17.50

This book presents a comprehensive selection of re-edited papers published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* during the last ten years, together with a number of specially commissioned reviews of current knowledge in schizophrenia. The subject is considered under seven sections: general and historical concepts; classification and phenomenology; organic aspects; genetic aspects; social aspects; treatment: and outcome.

Contemporary Issues in Schizophrenia, published February 1986, at £17.50 postage free. Orders with cheques should be sent to: Editorial Office, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.
