

and will admit or discharge patients as appropriate', should surely read 'Thus he decides, in the case of informal patients, whether they be offered in-patient' out-patient or day care and will offer admission or decide on discharge'.

PETER BRUGGEN

*Adolescent Unit,
Hill End Hospital,
St Albans,
Herts, AL4 0RB*

THE WARLINGHAM PARK INQUIRY

DEAR SIR,

Dr Glaister's attempt to demonstrate that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds at Warlingham Park (*Bulletin*, August 1977) is weakened by a strange misunderstanding of statistical argument. He says that 'any *post-hoc* selection of periods to compare runs the risk of arbitrariness'. Agreed, but this selection also vitiates the logic of his null hypothesis. Since he chooses those years in which there have been few suicides to compare against the periods before and after, χ^2 of course shows that this

distribution could not arise by chance, but the calculation is redundant, since he has selected his distribution and *ipso facto* it is non-random.

If instead one works on the null hypothesis that there is no difference in the rate over time, and divides the period 1961 to 1975 into three-year blocks (to allow expected cells of sufficient size χ^2) the expected number of suicides for each block can be calculated from the total number and the population at risk for each year.

Even using the most generous assumption that suicide rate is more likely to be related to the admission rate than the total hospital population, the differences between the three-year blocks from 1961 to 1972 could arise by chance alone ($P > .05$). If years 1972-75 are included, the probability of the increase being a chance variation is less than .001. Only if there were criteria other than the suicide rate to determine Dr Glaister's division of these years into three periods would his analysis and inferences be valid.

ANTHONY J. COSTELLO

*Head Start Child Development Center,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213*

NEWS ITEMS

A PSYCHIATRIC CHARITABLE TRUST

Just over five years ago the first psychiatric charity to be formed since the inception of the National Health Service was created at Toft Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire, under the heading of The Society for the Investigation of Human Values. This Charitable Trust was established to fulfil two main purposes; the first was to carry out psychotherapy on a personal and individual basis; the second an educational one, providing regular seminars, lectures and courses on all aspects of human behaviour and human relationships. The Society is under the directorship of Dr W. V. Wadsworth who, until the founding of the Society by himself and his wife, was for the previous twenty years Superintendent of Cheadle Royal Hospital.

The Society has now been able to effect the purchase of the freehold of Toft Hall. Although the

great advantage of treating as many people as possible on an out-patient basis has throughout been recognized, it has become clear that the provision of a small number of beds would be desirable, and Toft Hall has now been registered as a Private Nursing Home capable of admitting up to fourteen residential patients.

One of the special features of the Centre is the psychotherapeutic facilities for married couples suffering from emotional disorders, arising from relational and communicational difficulties. The Centre also treats patients suffering from all types of psychoneurotic anxiety and depressive states, phobic and compulsive disorders, and patients with alcoholic problems not likely to suffer from withdrawal symptoms.

MEMBERSHIP EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists is holding its 15th Annual Congress in Singapore in October 1978, and it is intended also to hold the Clinical Section of the College's entry examination on 14, 15 and 16 October 1978. This examination will be open to psychiatrists in South East Asian countries who are in training or who have completed training, and leads to membership of the College.

The preliminary written sections can be taken in

part by correspondence and by special arrangements in the various countries of South East Asia. Inquiries are invited from interested psychiatrists regarding the form and content of the assessment procedure and the nature of any exemptions from sections of the examination, where applicable. Inquiries should be addressed to: The Chief Coordinating Secretary, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Parkville Psychiatric Unit, Private Bag 8, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Second World Congress of Biological Psychiatry

The Second World Congress of Biological Psychiatry will be held in Barcelona from 31 August to 6 September 1978. The preliminary programme is now available from the Scientific Committee and Secretariat, Casanova 141, Barcelona (11), Spain.

World Health Organization

An international symposium on Genetic Engineering: Scientific Developments and Practical Applications will be held in Milan from 29-31 March 1978. Further details from the Organizing Secretariat, Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Monte Napoleone 23, 2021, Milan, Italy.

Pakistan Psychiatric Society

The second conference of the Pakistan Psychiatric Society will be held in Lahore on 24-26 February 1978. There will be symposia on anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and drug-dependence, and a special session on the rehabilitation of the mentally ill in developing countries. Intending participants are requested to inform Dr I. A. K. Tareen, Fountain House, 37 Lower Mall, Lahore, Pakistan, from whom further details will be available shortly. Those wishing to present papers should send a brief summary.

Institute of Child Health

A one-week course in Child Psychiatry, in conjunction with members of the staff of the Hospital

for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will be held from 30 January-3 February 1978. Fee £30. Application forms obtainable from The Sub-Dean, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH. *Applications must be received by 23 December 1977.*

Institute of Family Psychiatry

A residential course in Family Psychiatry for Psychiatrists will be held at Hengrave Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, from 19-23 June 1978. Application forms from the Institute of Family Psychiatry, The Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3TF.

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

More information is now available about the 15th Annual Congress of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, to be held in Singapore from 15-20 October 1978, and briefly mentioned under 'Forthcoming Events' in *News and Notes*, March 1977. This is the College's first off-shore congress, and its scope has been widened by inviting all psychiatrists and allied professionals, particularly those in the South-East Asian Region. The theme will be 'Urbanization East and West—Psychiatry in Challenge'. Further details will be sent as they become available to those applying to Mr Mel Corfee, RANZCP Congress Secretariat, Box 2806AA, Melbourne 3000, Victoria, Australia.