

attendance, the centre is expected to receive 1000 clients in its first year. Activities such as this are laudable although it remains a sad truth that there are persistent tensions between agencies and international organisations which stand only to harm this work. Torture, organised state violence, enforced exile and displacement are all too common, affecting millions of people in the modern world. There is an urgent need for the limited resources available to be used cooperatively to best advantage. Failure to do this only serves to support the damage of the torturer. We must all learn to work together more effectively and in this spirit the activities of RCT are very welcome.

STUART TURNER,

*Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist,
University College & Middlesex School of Medicine,
London W1N 8AA*

Pyramids of Light and Other Stories – The Arts and Mental Health. By Lee Corner. 1992. Pp 64. £5.00 (including postage). Available from Sam Perkins, Planning & Communications Unit, Yorkshire & Humberside Arts, 21 Bond Street, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF13 1AX.

What can mental health care learn from the arts? This publication attempts not only to answer the question but also to show the positive impact each may have on the other.

The author illustrates that art, in all forms, through its immediacy can enrich patients by:

improving self confidence, developing new skills, acting as a vehicle through which they may articulate the meaning of their lives, but perhaps most importantly by simply providing a pleasurable experience. Equally mental health care settings are places where, increasingly, artists wish to work, finding they offer considerable professional fulfilment.

Overall the booklet provides an excellent combination of the descriptive (examining work currently taking place) and the practical (how to set up a project in a mental health setting). The author entertains, as she informs, describing a diversity of projects ranging from a novel form of dance – Jabadaoing, to Batiq and Buns. The work described comes predominantly from Yorkshire and Humberside with a project study from New York comparing American practices with those in the United Kingdom. Several chapters give good advice on organising and arranging projects including the importance of seeking funding, accurate costings, evaluation and estimating time scales. Extremely useful Appendices of publications in the field and addresses of relevant organisations are provided.

Increasing interest in the role of art in mental health care makes this booklet timely. Although designed primarily for NHS managers it provides a well laid out readable guide for all professionals wishing to involve themselves in this field.

DENISE COIA

*Consultant Psychiatrist
Florence Street Day Hospital,
Glasgow G5 0YX*

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Forthcoming events

Epidemiology in Psychiatry and Mental Health: new international perspectives, Congress of the International Federation of Psychiatric Epidemiology, will be held in Lisbon from 14–17 April 1993. Further information: Secretariat, Uniturismo, Amoreiras Shopping Center, Lojas 2031/2, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal (telephone 351 1 69 04 94; fax 351 1 388 63 69).

2nd National Conference on Mental Health Aspects of AIDS will be held at the University of York on 25 March 1993. Further information: Conference Secretariat, National Forum for Mental Health, PO Box B135, Huddersfield HD1 1YG (telephone 0484 548693; 2–5 pm).

A one day multidisciplinary conference **Suicide & the Murderous Self: understanding self harm as a prelude to effective intervention** will be held in the Monckton Postgraduate Suite, St George's Hospital on 19 March 1993. Further information: Philippa Weitz, The Conference Unit, Department of Mental Health Sciences, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE (telephone 081 672 9944, extension 55534).

The Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP) will be holding two workshops: **Recent Advances in the Treatment of Neurodegenerative Disorders and Cognitive Dysfunction** in Capri, Italy from 1–3 May 1993 and **Current**