

Lord Justice Bridge stated: 'Of course, it must be recognized that nurses, whether collectively or individually, in a mental hospital—or, for that matter, in any other hospital—have no doubt an extremely important consultative function to perform. But, except in the day-to-day, hour-to-hour decisions which they must necessarily make in performing their duty, and in the exercise of detailed day-to-day control and treatment of patients, nurses do not normally have any responsibility for decision-making, and they certainly, as far as I can see, do not have cast on them by the statute, either expressly or by necessary implication, any authority to take decisions of broad policy as to how the

services of the hospital should be operated. If it were otherwise . . . irreconcilable and sometimes ridiculous conflicts could arise. It is clear that in matters of policy, broad policy, as regards the operation of the hospital service, the decision rests either with the Area Health Authority or no doubt in purely medical matters with the medical staff.'

These statements are clear and should prove helpful to those psychiatrists who have doubts about defining areas of responsibility, particularly in multidisciplinary teams. The major responsibility is still that of the consultant psychiatrist.

EZRA THE SCRIBE

Forthcoming Events

'**Psychiatric Treatment—Art or Science?**' is the theme of MIND's Annual Conference to be held at Kensington Town Hall on October 26 and 27, 1981. Speakers will include the Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, Professor Sydney Brandon, Dr Victor Meyer and Dr Heinz Wolff. Closing date for application: 2 October. Information: Conference Organizer, MIND, 22 Harley Street, London W1N 2ED (telephone: 01-637-0741).

The next meeting of the **Midland Division** of the College will be at Chesford Grange, near Warwick, from 16 to 18 October, 1981. The topics discussed will be rehabilitation in psychiatry and approval visits. On the morning of Sunday 18 October the Chairman of the Division will be presented with the Chairman's Badge of Office. Information: Dr L. I. Liebling, Highcroft Hospital, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6AX or Miss Deborah Hart at the College address.

A **one-day introductory course in child and adolescent psychiatry** for general psychiatrists and paediatricians in training has been organized by members of staff of the Institute of Child Health and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The course is intended to be of use for MRCPsych candidates and will be held at the Institute of Child Health from 12 to 16 October, 1981. Information: Sub-Dean Secretary, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH.

The **12th International Congress of Psychotherapy** will be held under the auspices of the International Federation for Medical Psychotherapy in Rio de Janeiro from 19 to 25 August, 1982. The theme will be 'Psychotherapy and Culture'. Information: Dr Murray Cox, Consultant Psychotherapist, Broadmoor Hospital, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 7EG.

A one-day symposium will be held at the Birmingham Medical Institute on 4 December 1981 entitled '**The Reproductive Epoch: Psychological Aspects of Perinatal Mortality and Fertility**'. It is aimed at psychiatrists, gynaecologists, GPs and community physicians. Information: Dr Kerry Bluglass, Department of Psychiatry, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham B15 2TH.

The **Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine** will be holding a series of talks throughout the rest of the year and the first half of 1982. Dr G. D. Fraser Steele will give The Presidential Address and a paper on 'The Clinicians' Dilemmas' on 13 October 1981. On 10 November 1981, Professor Gerald Russell will talk on 'Dyslexia' and on 8 December 1981 Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, will address the Section and this will be followed by a talk by Dr Pamela Mason, 'Restructuring and Psychiatric Services'. Information: Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

A further meeting in the 'Controversies in Medicine' series entitled '**Psychotropic Drugs in Medicine: Use or Abuse**' will be held at the Royal College of Physicians at 8 p.m. on 13 October 1981. Speakers will include Sir William Trethowan and Dr. J. T. Silverstone. Attendance is open to all members of the medical profession. Information: Conference Secretary, 11 St Andrew's Place, London NW1.

A one-day study meeting for psychiatrists, psychologists and nurses interested in the **practical applications of behaviour modification** will be held at St Andrew's Hospital on 17 October 1981. Information: Mr Rodger Wood, Consultant Neuropsychologist, St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton NN1 5DG.