

the prognosis of certain mental disorders, e.g. schizophrenia, is better in developing countries. It is vital to identify factors that make it so, and the changing role of family, urbanisation and rapid Westernisation, especially with economic liberalisation and the influence of satellite television, cannot be underestimated. As the editor of the *Journal* under review asks in his editorial, "Are some of our problems like increased social unrest, waves of agitations and protests, the menace of drug abuse and the arrival of the dreaded evil of AIDS due to rapid social change? Could it be that technological growth has not only provided prosperity to a few but the parallel boom in telecommunications and information technology has brought into sharper focus the economic disparity and the gulf between the rich and the poor?". These are relevant questions from the perspectives of the psychiatrist, not only in India but also in developed and other developing countries. The answers to these questions hold the key to improved health – mental and physical – to fit in with the Alma Ata declaration. The Indian Association for Social Psychiatry started producing its own journal in 1985. The current quarterly production indicates the growing importance of the subject.

The issue under review is a double issue commemorating the 13th World Congress of Social Psychiatry held in new Delhi in November 1992. It contains three invited articles: first one on parasuicide and suicide by Professor Venkoba Rao; one on behaviour and health in relation to HIV by Drs John and Jayaraj; and one on social disadvantage, by the current president of the Indian Association for Social Psychiatry, Professor Varma. Underlying themes of these three papers offer theoretically relevant ideas for practice of preventive psychiatry. The role of society in determining the help-seeking behaviour dependent upon attitudes to mental illness as well as service provision is vital in containing and managing mental distress. This is where these papers come into their own. Seven original papers deal with various topics ranging from the role of life events and relapse in alcohol dependence, through insight in psychosis to clinical depression in children. These papers are followed by an article on 'The caricature of the Indian psychiatrist: a study in psycho-satire'. In addition to one case report, there are three brief communications. The journal provides an interesting

snap-shot view of Indian psychiatry in an Indian context. Whether this will lead to a moving image, time will tell.

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Let's Go Wheelies! Ill conceived behaviours amongst staff caring for people with dementia. By Brian Lodge. A BASE Publication, 119 Hassell Street, Newcastle, Staffordshire ST5 1AX. 1992. Pp 69. £4.00.

In this booklet, Brian Lodge has put together a series of telling snapshots of what life can be like in a place for the victims of dementia.

In the Foreword, Tom Arie says this is a booklet for everyone involved in trying to help and support people with dementia. He goes on to say that his fantasy is that some rich person would pay for the book to be produced on such a scale that free copies came through the letter-box of every home. I certainly think everyone involved with old people, be they demented or not, should have a copy and read it regularly.

All of us in the field have seen and heard the behaviours described in this booklet and it is so easy for us to do some, if not most, of the wrong things mentioned. The table of contents is a teaching experience in itself, with such titles as "Sit down John, please – Now!", "Please lock the door!" "Come over here, Mary!", "What can you expect at her age?", "Sans teeth? Sans dentures? Sans ...?" "She's confused! She needs something!", "Needs writing up for something!", "All they need is to be kept clean, fed and watered!", "Come on George! Strip off! You're going to bed!"

This is a delightfully well-written booklet with many lessons for all of us. I highly recommend it and share Tom's fantasy of a rich person making sure that we all get a copy free, while compensating Brian Lodge and the publishers handsomely for their excellent job.

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