

Continuing medical education

David Tait

Continuing medical education (CME), or continuing professional development, will now receive special attention in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* (Kerr, 1994). A report from the Special Committee (of Council) on CME examining consultant psychiatrists' experiences and opinions on CME has already been published (Sensky, 1994). Two further aspects of the work of the Committee are now reported.

College position on CME

The College is responsible for the provision of CME in psychiatry. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists recently published criteria for mandatory CME for accreditation of its members and fellows. Some form of accreditation seems inevitable and, to avoid a system being imposed from outside, the College is working towards the introduction of a scheme, which will involve wide consultation with the membership.

A new journal, *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, under the editorship of Professor Andrew Sims, is planned. Also, a CME Department has

been formed within the College and will be actively involved in the provision of courses, seminars and workshops.

CME in the 'Bulletin'

CME matters will appear regularly in the *Bulletin* and include reports of medico-political interest from the Special Committee, the Conference of Colleges, Government Offices, and purchasers and providers. Reports of successful CME events which might act as catalysts for others' activities will be encouraged.

This statement therefore serves as a call for papers.

References

- KERR, A. (1994) Editorial. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **18**, 1.
SENSKY, T. (1994) Continuing medical education: consultant psychiatrists' experiences and opinions. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **18**, 18-22.

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The 3rd Joan Bicknell Prize

To mark her retirement and to celebrate her ten years at St George's, Professor Joan Bicknell, Professor Emeritus in the Psychiatry of Mental Handicap, donated a sum of money which will allow an annual prize of £100 to be offered. The competition is open to all young professionals (under the age of 40) within the field of learning disability and the subject for this year is 'Abuse in Children or Adults with Learning Disability'.

The closing date for entry is 29 April 1994 and the prize will be presented at the Sexual Abuse and Learning Disability Conference to be held at St George's Hospital on 8 June 1994. Further information: Professor Sheila Hollins, Division of Psychiatry of Disability, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE.