

for the more dependent elderly functionally mentally ill. Experience of the fate of elderly psychiatric hospital residents discharged into nursing homes in the United States has been highly problematic (Brown, 1985; Linn *et al*, 1985). Although it has been argued that comparisons between the private sectors in the USA and Britain are misleading (Perkins *et al*, 1989), the current British government strategy which specifically encourages a "mixed economy of care" must be a cause for concern.

It is possible that the need for specialised public sector provision for elderly people suffering from a functional mental illness may be recognised, and that the necessary capital and revenue support will be forthcoming. If services for the patients with long-term and severe disabilities are not made available, the hospital closure programme can only progress by the collapsing of hospitals onto residual institutions. Such a strategy may be appropriate for some institutionalised patients. However, this hardly meets aspirations for the development of comprehensive local mental health services, which will come under increasing strain without adequate provision for those who require long-term highly supported residential care.

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A full list of references is available on request to the author.

Regional Meeting of the College in Bahrain

Members and Fellows are reminded that the Regional Meeting of the College in Bahrain was postponed from October 1990 until 28-30 October 1991. The full programme extends from Saturday, 26 October to Sunday, 3 November and includes flights and accommodation in both Cairo and Bahrain. The organisers will be in touch with all participants

who registered for the original meeting. Anyone interested in attending who did not register for the original meeting should contact either Dr M. A. Mawgoud, Severalls Hospital, Boxted Road, Colchester CO4 5HG or Dr Charlotte Kamel, Ministry of Health, PO Box 12, Bahrain. **These dates are provisional and are yet to be confirmed by the College.**