

and last regular school grade completed, were collected on 51 male and 65 female adult schizophrenics, their siblings and age mates. The school performance of male schizophrenics was inferior to that of female schizophrenics on all three measures. The male probands, but not the female probands, did significantly more poorly in school than their age mates. There was a sizeable group of low-IQ males, but not low-IQ females, who received a diagnosis of schizophrenia in a state hospital setting. The within-family results indicated that the only pre-schizophrenics who differed consistently on school performance from both their siblings and their age mates were boys who belonged to low-IQ sibships. The significance of these results in understanding the relationship among schizophrenic illness, gender and IQ level is examined.

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A Study of the Use of Antidepressive Medication in General Practice. By D. A. W. JOHNSON.

A survey of the drug treatments prescribed to three separate groups of patients under treatment for depressive illness in the setting of urban general practice. The reasons for drug defaulting by patients are explored. The opinions of a group of general practitioners on the use of psychotropic drugs are also reported. The results suggest that the potential for the traditional family doctor-patient relationship is, in urban general practice, strictly limited, and that the knowledge of, and interest in, psychiatry and psychotropic drugs is in practice, relatively small. This is the fourth report on surveys carried out by the author into the treatment of the psychiatric patient in the community in the Manchester area. Collectively the results suggest that only one third of general

practitioners have the interest or knowledge needed to treat psychiatric patients to an acceptable level.

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The Victims of Mentally Disordered Female Offenders. By ELIZABETH PARKER.

This paper describes the victims of a group of mentally disordered female offenders who were admitted to the Special Hospitals (Broadmoor, Rampton and Moss Side) during 1961-1965. Differences between the victims of murder, manslaughter, attempted murder and wounding are examined, and it is shown that the victims of the fatal offences tend to be similar to each other, as do the victims of the non-fatal offences. The findings with regard to the fatal offences are compared with those of other British studies of homicide victims, and some measure of agreement is found.

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Learning Clinical Psychiatry in a Provincial Mental Hospital. By BRIAN BARRACLOUGH and GODFREY WACE.

The clinical teaching of psychiatry to registrars in a provincial mental hospital was assessed with an 'educational technology' approach. Teaching methods based on learning theory and which relate the academic aspects of training more closely to clinical work are considered likely to be more efficient than present methods.

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ERRATUM

Dr. I. B. Cookson and Dr. P. G. Wells have pointed out that their letter on 'Haloperidol in the treatment of stutterers' published in the *Journal*, October 1973 (123, 491) did not accurately convey what they wished to say. The sentence carrying the major piece of information, i.e.: the final sentence of the second paragraph, should have read: 'More than three years after haloperidol was taken, it was found that fluency alone remained significantly improved; the other two measures, repetitions and interjections, though much improved, failed to show significant improvement.'

Our apologies.

Ed.