

its proposed contents. They seem very appropriate, sensible and enlightened. However, I have considerable reservations as to whether a leaflet would be the best way of dealing with this.

At a time of considerable grief and stress for the whole family providing them with a leaflet could appear to reinforce the currently prevalent attitude of denial of these feelings, at least in some quarters. I wonder how many parents, particularly mothers, would even be able to read through this leaflet, considering the extent and nature of their distress at this time.

Personally, I do not think that there is any alternative but for one of the professionals involved, whether doctor, nurse or social worker, to deal personally with the mother's and the family's distress.

Perhaps the contents of this leaflet could be expanded to provide more information for the professionals coming into direct contact with these mothers and parents, particularly nurses and health visitors. Giving a leaflet to a mother or parents at a time like this could further inhibit the facilitation of the mourning process.

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IN NEED OF SYMPATHETIC MODERNIZATION

DEAR SIR,

Following Ezra's column in your March issue (p 43), I couldn't resist sending you excerpts from this Australian advertisement for a desirable post from the March 1978 *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*. The italics are mine.

'Mental Health Authority, Victoria
Consultant *Psychiatrist (sic)*

Applications are invited . . . the *Unit* is a 36 bed *unit, conducted* jointly by the MHA of Victoria and the Department of Psychiatry . . . It is *centrally* located only a short distance from the *centre* of Melbourne and is situated in attractive parklands close to schools, universities and *amenities*. Housing may be available . . . There are five Consultant Psychiatrist positions *within* the Unit, each leading multi-disciplinary teams. Four of these teams practise *electric (sic)* psychiatry, while the fifth is concerned specifically with psychotherapy, both individual and group . . .'

Regretfully I couldn't stop laughing sufficiently to attempt Ezra's competition to be a HASbeen.

MICHAEL DUKE
(*alias* Araxerxes Brevimanus)

*Royal Prince Alfred Hospital,
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

The next course on Integrated Basic Sciences, intended for those preparing for the M.R.C.Psych. Preliminary Test and Part I DPM Examination will start on 10 October at the Royal Free Hospital, on Tuesdays from 2-5 p.m. The course covers three academic terms and the subjects covered include physiology, pharmacology, neuro-physiology and genetics. The cost of £80 may be reclaimed from the appropriate Area Health Authority. Application forms and further details from Dr Fay Fransella, Academic Department of Psychiatry, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

Training in Psychodrama

Dr Dean Elefthery, current President of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama, will be taking a training group of the International Foundation for Human Relations at the Uffculme Clinic, beginning in October 1978. Course will consist of a total of 21 days, divided into three-day sessions over a 2½-year period. The first session will take place on 27, 28 and 29 October, and the fee will be £75, excluding hotel expenses. Applicants should have some previous training in psychotherapy. Further details from Dr Martin H. Davies, Uffculme Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8QD.

MIND (National Association for Mental Health)

The Annual Conference of MIND will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1, on 12-13 October, 1978, with the theme 'Positive Approaches to Mental Infirmity in Elderly People'. The Conference will explore a number of hopeful and practical ways of working with elderly people suffering from mental illness and mental infirmity, and will focus particularly on what can be and is being done in the prevention of, and early intervention in, processes of deterioration. The Secretary of State for Social Services has been invited to address the conference, and Professor Rolf Olsen of Birmingham University will be among the speakers. The Conference fee is £12.50 for both days, £7.00 for one day (there are reductions for members of MIND and for groups of six or more persons from the same agency). Applications and further details from the Conference Secretary, MIND (NAMH), 22 Harley Street, London W1N 2ED. *The closing date is 28 September.*

Thistletown Regional Centre

The 1978 symposium on Primary Prevention in Children's Mental Health, organized by the Thistletown Regional Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Association, will be held at the Holiday Inn, Downtown, Toronto, from 21-22 September. Further information from Primary Prevention 1978, Thistletown Regional Centre, 51 Panorama Court, Rexdale, Toronto, Ontario M9V 4K8, Canada.

American Psychiatric Association

The 30th Institute on Hospital and Community Psychiatry of the American Psychiatric Association will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, from 18-21 September. The theme is 'Quality amidst Constraints: Creative Use of Limited Resources'. Further information is obtainable from: Alice Conde Martinez, American Psychiatric Association, 1700 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA.

Institute of Child Health

A one-week course in Child Psychiatry, organized by the Institute of Child Health in conjunction with members of the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will be held from 16-20 October, 1978. The fee is £45. Application forms from: The Sub-Dean, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1N 1EH. The closing date for applications is 25 August.

Laterality and Psychopathology Conference

An international conference on 'Hemisphere Asymmetries of Function and Psychopathology' will be held on 22-24 August at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, University of London. Papers concern information processing, neuropsychological, EEG, cortical evoked potential, electrodermal, genetic, handedness, psychopharmacological and clinical investigations of the relevance of lateralised or callosal deficits to schizophrenia, affective disorders, psychopathy, neurosis and epilepsy. The conference will include papers and workshop discussions. Details from Dr John Gruzelier, Neuro-Psychophysiology Laboratory, Department of Psychiatry, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 8RF.

Conferences Abroad

Information about the following conferences has been received via the World Psychiatric Association: *32nd International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence*: Warsaw, Poland, 3-8 September. Information: ICAA, Case Postale 140, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

8th International Congress on Criminology: Lisbon, Portugal, 4-9 September. Information: Contur-Organizacao de Congressos, Rua Cidade de Cadiz, 11 8°Eaq, Lisbon 4, Portugal.

Symposium of the European Working Group of Geronto-Psychiatry: Lausanne, Switzerland, 13-14 October. Information: Professor C. Muller, Hôpital de Cery, 1008 Lausanne, Prilly, Switzerland.

Epilepsy International Symposium: Vancouver, Canada, 10-14 September. Information: CanWest Conference Services, 1315-925 West Georgia, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1R5, Canada.

2nd International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect: London, 12-15 September. Information: 2nd International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect Congress Office, Conference Services Ltd, 43 Charles Street, Mayfair, London W1X 7PB.

Symposium on Suicide and Parasuicide

A two-day symposium on Suicide and Parasuicide: Recent Research and Implications for Clinical Practice will be held at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London, from 12-13 October, 1978. Original papers will be presented, with time for discussion of the clinical implications. Doctors and other interested professional workers requiring application forms and further details should write to Professor S. R. Hirsch, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Fulham Palace Road, London W6.