

rupting the programme'. The authors propose a new type of management system for community mental health services—a Joint Mental Health Development Committee, with senior representatives from the main services involved, both Health and Local Authority, and including representatives of local voluntary services.

It is evident that for the objectives set out in this document to be realized, a great deal more money needs to be injected into psychiatric services. The members of the Enquiry suggest that a Development Fund be set up for this purpose and that disbursements should be monitored and controlled by the Joint Mental Health Development Committee, to be set up. The Development Fund would not be restricted to schemes enabling people to move out of hospital and funding would continue, if necessary, indefinitely.

This Report is timely as strong moves are currently being made to implement the recommendations of the 1959 Act. Claybury and Friern Hospitals in the North East Thames Region are likely to be in the vanguard of this movement for change to a community psychiatric service. The members of the Enquiry state clearly that 'no hospital should be closed

until the alternatives are available and shown to be working well'. This well-intentioned statement ignores the effects of planning blight. Once a hospital has been designated for closure, the staff begin to melt away, morale drops, and the therapeutic environment undergoes an irreversible process of dissolution. Furthermore the acres of land on which the mental hospitals stand, and which provide many advantages for patient care, cannot be replaced after they have been sold off. Once a government, whatever its political colour, has declared its firm intentions to remedy what Lord Longford calls 'the scandalous neglect' of psychiatric services, it must be prepared to follow through with the necessary cash. However inopportune that may be, given current economic policy, an inadequately funded community psychiatric service could easily worsen the 'present crisis in the mental health services' identified by the authors of this Report.

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Forthcoming Events

The 1984 meeting of the **Biological Council, Co-Ordinating Committee for Symposia on Drug Addiction, 'Control and Manipulation of Calcium Movement'**, will be held from 30 April to 1 May 1984 at the Royal Institution, London W1. Information: Mrs J. Kruger, c/o Department of Pharmacology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London SE1 7EH.

The **26th Current Themes in Psychiatry** conference will be held at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, from 24 to 30 March 1984. As before, the course is restricted to 25 senior psychiatrists. Further information: Marie Carlisle, Munro Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT.

Junior Current Themes in Psychiatry conference will be held at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, from 24 to 30 March 1984. This course is suitable for registrars preparing for Part II of the MRCPsych examination, and is being organized jointly by the Academic Department of Psychiatry, Guy's Hospital Medical School and the SE Thames Regional MRCPsych training programme. Applications to: Marie Carlisle, Munro Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT.

The **Hospital for Sick Children**, Great Ormond Street, London, and the Institute of Child Health, London is holding a one-week course in Child Psychiatry from 26 to 30 March 1984. This course is suitable for trainees taking the MRCPsych. Application forms and information: Sub-Dean's Secretary, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1 1EH (closing date for applications: 9 March 1984).

The **Second International Meeting of the International Organization of Psychophysiology (IOP)** will be held from 16 to 19 July 1984 at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, Hammersmith, London. Prospective symposia and invited lectures will concern: brain influences and immunology; developmental psychophysiology; a one-day symposium on lateralization, including basic processes, interhemispheric relations, individual differences, and psychosis; scalp electroencephalography and cognition; infra slow potentials and behaviour; and medical psychophysiology. Papers are now invited—deadline for submission of abstracts: 24 April 1984. Information: Dr John Gruzeliier, Chairman, Conference Committee, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, 22–24 St Dunstons Road, London W6 8RP.

The **Pakistan Psychiatric Society** is holding its 5th International Psychiatric Conference at Peshawar from 13 to 16 December 1984. Information: Dr M. Shafique, Chairman, Organizing Committee, 5th International Psychiatric Conference, Department of Psychiatry, Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, Pakistan.

A **'Training Workshop in Gestalt Therapy'** will be held from 9 to 13 April 1984 at Thomas Hall, University of Exeter. This workshop is intended for members of the helping professions whose work involves counselling or psychotherapy. Information: Dr Richard Tillet, Wonford House Hospital, Exeter EX2 5AF.