

"if he was wrong and, at times, absurd, to us he is no more a person now but a climate of opinion under whom we conduct our different lives."

Summing up his attitude to psychiatry he wrote: "No facts are in dispute. I believe that to give serious consideration to the issues that arise from seeing the same (facts) differently itself contributes to lessening some of the fear, pain, madness and folly in the world" (Laing, 1985).

Selected references

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- LAING, R. D. (1949) Philosophy and medicine. *Surgo*, June, 134–135.
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Miscellany

Charities

The Manic Depression Fellowship Ltd aims to help sufferers of manic depression and their relatives; to educate the public about this illness and to fund research for a cure. Both sufferers and relatives are eligible for membership and the Fellowship offers a quarterly newsletter, local self-help groups and open meetings, pen-friendship scheme and information sheets, and international news. Further information: David Young, Public Relations Officer, The Manic Depression Fellowship Ltd, 51 Sheen Road, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey TW9 1YQ.

Good Practices in Mental Health (GPMH) is a national charity set up to disseminate information about local mental health services which are found to work well. By providing an exchange of information about effective services in hospitals and the community, GPMH encourages others to build on what is already proving successful in order to promote and assist the development of good mental health services. Details of its activities are included in their Annual Report 1988–89. Further information: Judy Renshaw, Director, Good Practices in Mental Health, 380–384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU.

Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic

In 1990 the *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic* (a journal for mental health professionals) will change its publication frequency from six times a year to quarterly. However, the total number of the journal's editorial pages per year will not be reduced. The visual appearance of the journal will also change. Further information: Philip R. Beard, Managing Editor, *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic*, The Menninger Foundation, Box 829, Topeka, KS 66601 0829, USA.

Request for back copies of the Journal

The Schizophrenia Research Foundation (India) is a voluntary, charitable, non-governmental organisation working for people with chronic mental illness. Founded in 1984 by a group of philanthropists and mental health professionals, the Foundation works towards objectives of research, rehabilitation and public education in the field of schizophrenia on a very small budget. Their library is extremely small and they would welcome runs of back issues of the *Journal*. They should be sent to: Dr Vijay Nagaswami, Assistant Director (Research), Schizophrenia Research Foundation (India), No. C-46, 13th Street, East Anna Nagar, Madras, India.

New publication

Community Psychiatric Service in Mental Handicap: Six Years of Experience. By N. Bouras and K. Drummond, 1989. £5.00 (UK); \$7.50 (USA) including postage and packing. Available from NUPRD, Lewisham Hospital, Lewisham, London SE13.

This is the second report in a series which describes the activity of a new psychiatry of mental handicap community service. The first report documented the assessment and clinical management of new referrals during the first five years. This report updates the existing data. It focuses on continued involvement with clients, as the population served has life-long disabilities and recurrent needs. The report presents information about demographic and clinical characteristics of clients, including psychiatric disorders and degree of handicap, and raises many issues related to current service provision for adults with a mental handicap.