

take chances by putting into writing some of the things which one is told, though we have no evidence as such that anything that has ever been recorded has led to the death of a former patient or a relative of a former patient. Some of the things may, of course, well be delusional and some may well be factual; in Northern Ireland occasionally one blends into the other. Resident medical students as part of their clinical training are taught to take a full psychiatric history, but nowadays they are advised to make this one proviso about taking into consideration the fact that they are working in a divided community before recording certain types of item.

This is peculiar presumably to Northern Ireland at the moment, but who can say what other part of these islands might or might not be involved within the new few years in urban guerilla campaigns?

W. A. G. MACGALLUM

*Purdysburn Hospital,  
Sainfield Road,  
Belfast 8, Northern Ireland*

#### THE HANDBOOK FOR INCEPTORS AND TRAINEES IN PSYCHIATRY

DEAR SIR,

'The credit I take for myself, the blame I share with my colleagues.' As Dr Clare says, 'the Association of Psychiatrists in Training might have received some acknowledgement'. So indeed it might, if Dr Clare had written the Handbook. As the APIT representative on the Trainees Working Party and the Education Committee, he missed a golden opportunity when I was alternately pleading for information or press-ganging my colleagues. Never mind, as I said elsewhere, it is the second edition which the cognoscenti will treasure. Now that Dr Clare has

formally severed his links with APIT he will have both the time and the necessary Olympian detachment to write this section outlining their history and current activities. I must thank the Editor for showing me this review in advance, thus giving me the opportunity to publicly accept the offer Dr Clare did not know he was making.

THOMAS BEWLEY

*Tooting Bec Hospital,  
London SE17*

DEAR SIR,

In his review of the Handbook Dr Clare has some kind words for my historical contribution but at the same time chides me gently for not saying enough about the actual formation of the College.

My contribution was based on a longer article I wrote a few years ago for the *St Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, who were running a series on the history of the several Royal Colleges. This I put at Dr Bewley's disposal, and he abbreviated it very skilfully for the purpose of the Handbook. I had in fact included a statement of our aims and ideals, quoted from Dr Monro. But I refrained from going more fully into this stage of our history, because the details I could have related would have been of no interest to readers of the *Bart's Journal* and because too many of these details, while diverting enough, did not seem to redound to the credit of psychiatrists.

Incidentally, Dr Clare complains of the spread of bureaucracy in the College. Bureaux there are in plenty; but where is the 'cracy'? Our hard-worked staff do what the doctors want them to do—we are an iatrocracy.

ALEXANDER WALK

*8 Avenue St Nicholas,  
Flat 1,  
Harpenden, Herts*