

Psychiatrists and is healthily sceptical of the Government's intentions towards local authorities. A representative of the consumers (Peter Campbell) notes sourly that, despite the consumerist rhetoric of *Caring for People*, service users played no part in shaping the proposals. ("Neither did we", the professionals might add.)

Taken as a whole, these contributions are too anecdotal and rooted in the specific experiences of the authors to allow us to learn a great deal about how to tackle the challenges that *Caring for People* and its implementation present. However there are some useful nuggets of information to be gleaned. Ron Thompson, discussing the role of housing consortia, makes an important but obvious point (which took me three hard years as someone involved in the

reprovision of a declining mental hospital to learn) that services catering for the historic 'old long stay' may not be of much use to people newly accumulating within psychiatric services. The most interesting paper (by Kathy Johnson) describes what has been achieved in the Medway Area of Kent, where joint service planning and management have become a practical reality and monies flow productively and without rancour from the health to the local authority. If only we could all find such apparently successful ways of joint working!

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Forthcoming events

International Psychogeriatric Association: a Regional Meeting will be held in Cambridge from 2–5 April 1991 with symposia on epidemiology and treatment issues in the functional psychoses and the dementias, and on new directions in psychogeriatric research. Plenary lectures by Prof. Alwyn Lishman (History of Scientific Enquiry in Psychogeriatrics) and Sir Martin Roth (New Perspectives in the Study of the Dementias). Applications invited for free communications and posters. Residential accommodation available (numbers limited to 130). Social programme in and around Cambridge including Reception and Conference Banquet at Trinity College. Application (and abstract) forms: Mrs Anne Cook, Secretary to Sir Martin Roth, 41 Highsett, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NZ (telephone 0223 63128; fax 0223 467331).

One-year day-release Forensic Psychotherapy Course will be held by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation (University of London) in association with the Portman Clinic. Next course begins October 1991. Details and application forms: Education Department, BPF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ (telephone 071 831 6222, extension 155; fax 071 831 7599).

The Tavistock Clinic will be holding a part-time course of six weekly sessions on **Understanding the Management of Perinatal Bereavement** on 23 and 30 January; 6, 20 and 27 February and 6 March 1991. A new course is held each term with a follow-up in the next term. Fees: £70, including a registration fee of

£10. Application forms: The Training Administrator, The Tavistock Clinic, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA.

The Research Committee of the British Psychoanalytical Society announces the 3rd Annual Lecture on 'Research in Psychoanalysis' to be given by Dr Daniel Stern, Professor of Psychology, University of Geneva; Professor of Psychiatry, Cornell University, New York (author of *The Interpersonal World of the Infant*) speaking on **Research into Mother-Infant Interaction – the Infant's Construction of Psychic Reality** at the Edward Lewis Theatre, Windeyer Building, 46 Cleveland Street, London W1P 6DB on 5 December 1990 at 8.15 pm. Admission is free.

The European Society for Mental Health and Deafness will be holding the **Second International Congress on Mental Health and Deafness** in Namur, Belgium from 9–11 May 1991. Further information: Congress Secretariat, Avenue Vauban 8, B-5000 Namur, Belgium (telephone 32 81 22 52 55; fax 32 18 23 14 45).

The **Xth International Symposium for the Psychotherapy of Schizophrenia** will be held in Stockholm from 11–15 August 1991. Last date for Abstract: 1 March 1991; last date for lower registration fee: 1 May 1991; last date for hotel reservation: 15 June 1991. Further information: Stockholm Convention Bureau, PO Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden.

An international multidisciplinary seminar organised by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in collaboration with the Italian National Research Council and the Italian Police Department entitled **Cocaine Today: Its Effects on the Individual and Society** will be held from 20–23 March 1991 in Rome. Further information: International Top Team, Viale Giulio Cesare 11, 00192 Rome, Italy (telephone/fax 39-6 3213290).

The **First European Symposium on Drug Addiction and AIDS** will be held from 22–23 February 1991 in Vienna. Further information: AUSTROPA/Congress Department, PO Box 30, A-1043 Vienna, Austria.

The **Third Workshop of the European Association of Transcultural Group Analysis** will be held from 4–7 April 1991 at St John's College, Oxford. Further information: Mrs June Ansell, Conference Administrator, 88 Montagu Mansions, London W1H 1LF (telephone 071 935 3103/3085).

The International Academy for Biomedical and Drug Research is organising scientific workshops: **Target Receptors for Anxiolytics and Hypnotics: From Molecular Pharmacology to Therapeutics** from 18–20 March 1991; **Serotonin Receptor Subtypes: Pharma-**

logical Significance and Clinical Implications from 6–8 June 1991. These workshops will take place at the Centre de Rencontres Internationales at Monte Carlo, Monaco. Further information: ES Assistance SNC, Via Napo Torriani, 30, 20124 Milan, Italy (telephone 39 2 66 96 702; fax 39 2 67 01 851).

A workshop entitled **The Structural Analysis of Social Behaviour (SASB): Method and Applications in Psychotherapeutic Process Research** will be held from 24–28 June 1991 at the Klinische Einrichtungen für Psychosomatik und Psychotherapie der Heinrich Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Rheinische Landes-klinik Düsseldorf. (Congress language is English). Further information: Mrs Dr med K. Jung, Klinik für Psychotherapie der Universität, Postfach 120510, 4000 Düsseldorf 12, Germany.

Lambeth Link Self Advocacy Project will be holding a one-day conference and seminar (led by Professor Marius Romme, Department of Social Psychiatry, Limburg University, The Netherlands) entitled **Hearing Voices** on 22 March 1991 at International Students' House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1. Further information: Lambeth Link Self Advocacy Project, 30A Acre Lane, Brixton, London SW2 5SG (telephone 071 978 8766; fax 071 978 8572).

Contributions for this section should be submitted two months in advance of publication.

Back to the future

Audit

The Association of Medical Officers of Hospitals for the Insane, has done much towards obtaining a well-digested method of registration, and in the collection of results of various kinds, classified in a numerical form. In pursuance of this object, the association some time ago distributed a form of register which they wished to be adopted by those of their members who were connected with asylums. If the form which was ultimately agreed upon be fully carried out, by even a limited number of medical officers, much good may be expected ultimately to result from its introduction; and we confidently anticipate that such an aggregate mass of information will be thereby procured, as to prove of great practical utility to the profession. The necessity for some uniform method of obtaining as full histories as may be possible of all cases admitted into lunatic

asylums is most evident, as some of the tables still in use in several establishments are exceedingly brief, not to say defective. Being advocates for the diffusion of correct and uniform statistical information on so important a subject as insanity, we coincide in opinion with the author, that it is very desirable the forms employed should undergo a general revision, and be made to embrace all the facts required by a complete and detailed register, which should be introduced into every public hospital for the insane throughout the British Empire.

Reference

Analytical review of Observations and Essays on the Statistics of Insanity by J. Thurnham in *The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology*, 1848, Vol. 1, page 66.

Research by Susan Floate, Librarian.