

several months in advance. If I am going to attend CPD workshops, I would require a great deal more notice than three or four weeks. In the post reform NHS, cancelling clinics at short notice is likely to attract adverse comments at least, and may in the future be an activity that attracts a financial penalty under performance-related pay.

I would hope that, as the College gains experience in organising CPD, busy clinical psychiatrists can expect the sort of advance notification which accompanies annual College meetings.

G. E. P. VINCENTI, *Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1JG*

Sir: I agree entirely with Dr Vincenti that there should be as much notice as possible for CPD activities. I hope that eventually we will be able to give a programme of future courses and

workshops six months or even a year in advance and also that many activities will be repeated on a regular basis.

I think that Dr Vincenti is complaining about the notice he would have had of future meetings in the direct mailing to consultants. This, however, followed notice of workshops in the September 1994 issue of *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment* and a notice in the August 1994 issue of the *Psychiatric Bulletin* of the same events. This was two to three months before the workshop – still not long enough but we very much wanted to launch a series of courses during the Autumn and Winter.

We are very grateful for all comments on CPD activities, adverse as well as complimentary.

A. C. P. SIMS, *Chairman, Continuing Professional Committee, Royal College of Psychiatrists*

History of Psychiatry

An all-day symposium entitled **Hearing Voices from the Past – Sources in the History of Psychiatry** is being held on 10 February 1995 at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road,

London NW1 2BE. This has been jointly organised by the History Group of the College and the Wellcome Institute. Further information: Frieda Houser (Telephone 071-611 8619).