

Hospitals.

Special Hospital staff find difficulty in giving real help to patients when they cannot relax security and they cannot dissociate from it, as the same staff are responsible for security as are responsible for therapy. A relaxation of security is generally assumed to involve an increase in danger to the public but it is difficult to see that this would be so as part of a carefully worked-out therapeutic programme. Security would be relaxed in a controlled manner rather than in the somewhat haphazard way at present where a patient may have to wait a long time for a place in another hospital or for other accommodation and then be moved suddenly after little preparation.

To avoid wastage of resources and to help our patients, action is needed to integrate the Special Hospitals into their

appropriate place in the NHS. The newly-opened and opening secure units take and will continue to take patients that they feel they can treat and who will respond within a reasonable period. They will treat them making use of a flexible security system and many of their patients will be those who at one time would have been admitted to Special Hospitals. The Special Hospitals' only future now is to find ways of treating those patients hitherto regarded as untreatable. If they do not then they must accept that they are providing a purely custodial and preventive service.

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the DHSS or of Moss Side Hospital.

Forthcoming Events

The **Institute of Family Psychiatry** is holding a two-day course in family psychiatry for trainee psychiatrists on 16 and 17 June 1983 at the Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich Hospital. Programmes and application forms are available from the Secretary, The Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3TF.

The **Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry** will be holding the following scientific meetings in 1983. 5 January: 'Allergy, diet and behaviour'—Eric Taylor; 2 February: 'Why do teenagers take overdoses?'—Keith Hawton; 2 March: The Chairman's Address—Philip Graham; 6 April: The Emanuel Miller Lecture ('The concept of inner experience')—Mary Warnock; 4 May: 'Origins of the personal relation and the strange case of autism'—Peter Hobson; 1 June: 'Impact of bereavement on children: a follow-up study'—Dora Black. All meetings will take place at 7.00 pm at the Institute of Child Health, 30 Guildford Street, London WC1. Information: Jim Stevenson, Honorary Secretary, Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 4 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AB.

The **Royal Society of Medicine's Section of Psychiatry** will be holding the following meetings in 1983. 7 February (2.15 pm): 'Behavioural and cognitive therapy'—Professor I. Marks, Dr A. Ghosh, Professor M. Gelder; 8 March (2.00 pm): 'The Sutcliffe case: medico-legal issues'—Professor R. Bluglass; and 'Mental Health Act'—Professor J. Gunn and team; 12 April (3.00 pm): 'Psychiatric disorders in general practice and obstetrics'—Professor E. Paykel, Dr P. Freeling, Dr L. I. Sireling, Professor R. E. Kendell. Information: Sections Office, RSM, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

The **African Psychiatric Association** is holding an international conference on 'Training in Psychiatry for Developing Countries' at the Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury from 17 to 22 July 1983. Details for submission of abstracts and general information: Dr A. C. Raman, St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LL.

The **Centre for Personal Construct Psychology** (founded 1981) offers two basic general courses in the theory, methods and applications of personal construct psychology. A 20-week, part-time course will commence on 11 January 1983 and the first unit of a 3-unit course will run from 31 January to 3 February 1983. Information and application forms: Director of Centre, Dr Fay Fransella, 132 Warwick Way, London SW1V 4JD (Telephone: 01-834-8875).

The **8th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy** will take place from 21 to 28 April 1984 in Mexico City. The Chairman of the Programme Committee is Dr Ramon Ganzarain, The Menninger Foundation, Box 829, Kansas 66601, USA and the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee is Dr Luis Feder, Corregidores 1429, Mexico L10 DF, Mexico. All enquiries should be directed to them or else to Dr Malcolm Pines, 1 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London W1H 3LF and Dr Jay Fidler, PO Box 327, Three Bridges, NY 08887, USA.

A **Workshop in Psychodrama** will be held by Marcia Karp, Graduate of Moreno Academy, at the Warneford Hospital from 25 to 27 February 1983. Further information: Dr S. Bloch, Department of Psychotherapy, Warneford Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JX (please enclose an s.a.e.).