

population over 75. We suggest that in future the norms for any service relating to the mentally frail should be related to the over-75 rather than the over-65 population. Some figures illustrating the prevalence of mental problems in the very elderly, though not pleasant, should be quoted. For example, handicapping memory defects have been found in more than 50 per cent of people over 85 years; that at least 20 per cent of persons over 80 years suffer from incapacitating mental deterioration; that by the age of 90 years self-care has been found to be severely jeopardized by mental changes in one third of subjects.

More active and effective services generate extra requirements for medical, nursing and remedial staff. In particular the more careful selection by severity of disability of patients for long-stay wards puts increasing strain on nursing staff. We have suggested minimum nurse-patient ratios of 1:1.2 for short-stay and 1:1.5 for long-stay wards; the ultimate target should be 1:1.

Education and Research

These important topics require more attention and emphasis. Without knowledgeable and well-trained workers even a well designed and well funded service is of little value. Education in the welfare and health problems of aged persons is important at all levels.

Operational research should be encouraged and supported to determine which of the present methods of therapy and support for the physically and mentally impaired elderly are the most effective in clinical, social and financial terms. Fundamental research may within the next few years demonstrate that the more severe forms of senile mental decline are due to pathological processes which can be halted or retarded by appropriate remedies. As a result there could be considerable changes in future services with a shift from caring towards early ascertainment of dementia and its active treatment. There is particular need for financial support to be given to longer-term research programmes such as might be mounted by a M.R.C. research unit devoted to these problems.

COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELECTION OF FELLOWS

The following Members have been elected to the Fellowship:

P. Abraham, J. V. Ananth, R. N. Antebi, M. W. Atkinson, M. G. Barker, R. J. Belas, Ann Dora Black, J. Blackburn, A. Boroffka, P. K. Bridges, R. S. Britton, Joan Bruce, P. Bruggen, G. D. Burrows, I. A. Cameron, Isobel Card, J. R. Christie Brown, C-M. Chung, Mary Coghlan, J. G. Cooney, A. J. Cooper, B. D. Cooper, A. D. Cox, C. Dare, R. Davidson, B. M. Davies, H. Eaton, H. Ellett-Brown, J. Evans, N. D. Farnan, M. Faulk, P. G. Fawcett, W. L. Flanagan, N. G. Fraser, W. I. Fraser, A. G. Fullerton, A. M. Gordon, B. Gordon, J-Y. Gosselin, A. J. Graham, L. A. Guile, J. D. Hailstone, M. A. Harper, P. Harper, F. S. Hashmi, J. A. Hatrick, J. R. Hawkings, B. E. Heine, S. R. Hirsch, L. Honigsberger, J. S. Hughes, L. C. Hurst, Lai Hung Im, R. C. Ingreys-Senn, F. E. James, D. A. W. Johnson, G. F. S. Johnson, D. A. Jones, E. J. E. Jones, I. H. Jones, G. C. Kanjilal, R. L. Kapur, R. E.

Kendell, T. A. Kerr, G. E. Langley, N. B. Le Couteur, J. P. Leff, Shirley Leslie, Janet Lindsay, Mary Lindsay, S. K. Littmann, I. M. Lowit, C. McCance, Elizabeth MacDougall, W. R. McKibben, S. C. Macmillan, P. E. McQuaid, J. B. McWhinnie, G. E. Mahy, I. C. A. Martin, K. R. Masani, R. A. Mayou, P. J. Meehan, G. Milner, J. Moffat, R. Neville, P. J. Noble, Irene Ovenstone, W. L. Parry-Jones, J. R. Pedder, D. C. Pitcher, B. M. N. Pitt, G. Pollitt, J. S. Price, R. A. W. Ratcliff, D. N. Ratnavale, Freda Reed, F. J. Roberts, Irene Rowlands, C. Roy, M. Segal, Susanne Shafar, S. Sharma, D. M. Shaw, G. M. Simpson, A. C. P. Sims, Margaret Smith, L. Sohn, D. Steinberg, J. L. Swift, Mary Tannahill, T. G. Tennent, H. B. G. Thomas, N. A. Todd, P. J. Tyrer, A. Wakeling, J. J. Waldron, N. R. Walsh, W. P. Walsh, P. G. Wells, P. B. Whatmore, J. M. White, B. F. Whitehead, P. C. Whybrow, C. E. Williams, S. N. Wolkind, P. G. Woolf, G. Woolfson, N. J. Yorkston, A. A. Zabow, A. K. Zealley.

EIGHTH CLINICAL TUTORS' CONFERENCE

The Eighth Clinical Tutors' Conference will be held at Trinity College, Dublin from 26 to 28 September 1979. Inclusive travel arrangements at advantageous rates are being negotiated. The programme will be

sent to all tutors on the College's list in the near future. Further information from Jane Boyce at the College.

PSYCHOTHERAPY SPECIALIST SECTION OPEN MEETINGS

8.15 pm Wednesday, 9 May, 1979
Dr William Gillespie

Relationship Between Psycho-Analysis and Hypnosis

8.15 pm Wednesday, 13 June, 1979
Professor Salvador Minuchin
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry,
University of Pennsylvania;
Director of Training, Family
Therapy Training Centre,
Philadelphia Child Guidance
Clinic

A Demonstration (postponed from 11 April)

Both meetings will be held at the Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3.

READING LISTS

The following interim progress report has been received from Dr Andrew C. Smith, Secretary of the Library and Reading Lists Sub-Committee of the Education Committee:

A booklet with lists on Forensic Psychiatry, Mental Handicap, the Psychiatry of Old Age, and Social and Community Psychiatry is in press and will be available shortly. Work is far advanced on lists for Child

and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Addiction, which should appear in a few months' time. Following these there will be a list on Psychotherapy, prepared with the help of the Psychotherapy Section, but this is unlikely to appear before the autumn of 1979. A more general list of interest to all psychiatrists is in the early stages of preparation.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRY GROUP

We regret that the list of Officers of the Social and Community Psychiatry Group published in the March

Bulletin (p 39) did not include the name of Dr H. L. Freeman as Vice-Chairman.