

a varied role'). Group E discussed the 'old long-stay' and present and future problems of running down a mental hospital. It posed the problems of staff morale, of patient treatment and of building closure and suggested points requiring special consideration.

The note from the DHSS summarizing the aims and conclusions of the Symposium claims that 'the complex network of domiciliary, out-patient, day and residential services required to provide the high level of care that is often needed ... is now almost complete' in the Project area. There is, in fact, little evidence that this is so. Appendix B describes the Kidderminster DGH Unit (opened July, 1978), Worcester and Malvern local authority day centres (opened in January, 1977) and a local authority short-stay hostel (opened in August, 1976). The Worcester DGH Unit is described as 'opened in December, 1978', although the Symposium took place in

October, 1978. No other completed schemes are described, so that the statement that a 'complex network' is 'almost complete' is not borne out by this Symposium. The physical components are still largely lacking. The problems of intra-professional and inter-professional relationships are scarcely mentioned, let alone discussed. The problems of the run-down of the mental hospital are acknowledged by clichés without any indication that the problem has been solved or even adequately thought through.

In all, apparently a poor return for 11 years work and for a vast expenditure of money. 'We deal with poverty rather better than we used to. I guess that in Worcester the same could soon apply to chronicity' says Professor Trethowan in his closing remarks. I hope that he is right, but the evidence presented in this Symposium does not justify such optimism.

DONAL F. EARLY.

NEWS ITEMS

THE JUDITH BASKIN OFFER PRIZE

The Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis will be awarding the next Judith Baskin Offer Prize (of \$500) for an original paper on the psychology of adolescence early in 1981. Papers submitted *must be postmarked no later than 31 December, 1980*. The winner of the first Judith Baskin Offer Prize was Dr Peter Alan Olsson. Further details are available from Dr G. H. Pollock, Institute of Psychoanalysis, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60601.

TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHIATRY SOCIETY (UK)

Following the third workshop on Transcultural Aspects of Psychiatric Services held at Bradford in April 1979, the 'Transcultural Psychiatry Society (UK)' was formed. The Society aims to increase an awareness of and understanding of those interactions between culture and psychiatry which are relevant to

clinical services, teaching and research. This interaction may be biological, psychological or sociological. The Committee consists of eight members and is chaired by Dr Philip Rack. For membership apply to the Secretary, Dr H. N. Ghadiali, Ingrebourne Centre, St George's Hospital, Hornchurch, Essex.

PAPERS FOR THE COLLEGE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The Committee would be pleased to receive offers of papers for the College Meetings to be held in 1980 on 5 and 6 February (London); 6 and 7 May (Broadmoor); 8 to 11 July (London) and 20 and 21 November (London). It would be helpful if short abstracts were available to facilitate selection of suitable papers. I would be pleased to discuss any queries with those interested. Tel: 01-703-0898, Ext 6016.

GRAHAM LUCAS

Honorary Secretary, Programmes and Meetings Committee

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A one day MIND Conference entitled 'Mental Health and Meditation' will be held on 1 December at Thomas Coram Centre, London WC1. An introductory paper will be read by Dr Michael West. Details and application forms are available from Charles Patmore, MIND, 22 Harley Street, London W1. Tel: 01-637-0741.

The next workshop on Transcultural Aspects of Psychiatric Services will be held on 24 and 25 November, 1979 at St Bartholomews Hospital. Those who are interested and would like to read a paper should contact Dr H. N. Ghadiali, (address: see News Items).