

B. A. B. P. BULLETIN
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EDITORIAL

In this issue, we are publishing abstracts of some of the papers presented at the BABP Annual Conference in Exeter in July. In the next issue we will feedback information from the 6th Annual EABT Conference in Greece in September. Both Conferences attracted over 100 participants and it is reliably reported that the standard of presentations was very high. It seems clear that behavioural psychotherapy is now well established in Europe, although equally clearly it is better established in some countries and in some content areas than in others.

As most students of behaviour therapy will realize, the area which historically has attracted most attention is that of adult phobias. Studies in this area have rapidly progressed from single case descriptions to large scale experimental evaluations. Advances have been made at both technical and theoretical levels. The stage has now been reached where investigators in different clinics and different counties are seriously developing standard scales for pre and post-treatment evaluations. The use of such measures by different investigators, otherwise working independently, should ultimately permit easier comparison of different studies and hence accelerate progress in our understanding of phobic behaviour.

In both conferences, it was noticeable how few studies reported the application of behavioural techniques to children's disorders. The organizers say that their programmes reflect the type of papers they were offered. Is it really the case that there is so little empirical research on behaviour therapy with children in Europe? If so, what can be done to develop such work; if not, we would welcome more papers in this area for future publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, SEPTEMBER, 1976.

Antonia Whitehead

As Chairman of six weeks, it will be necessary for this to be a brief report.

The Annual Conference at Exeter went off extremely well, as had apparently the preceding workshops. For this, we must thank both organizers and contributors. Next year we shall probably be at Keele and I hope that you will all bear in mind the possibility of presenting a paper there. Three topics were discussed at the Annual General Meeting, all of which will receive further attention at the Executive Committee Meeting during the Autumn. Firstly, there was the role of the BABP in training; the meeting felt that there should, at least, be an individual responsible for collating and disseminating information as required. Secondly, Isaac Marks reported on the working party on the registration of psychotherapists; this is now about to produce a report, and it is still problematic whether the majority statement will be acceptable to the BABP. Luckily, Dr. Marks has agreed to continue to represent our interests. A third matter was a proposed constitutional change, whereby there would be a "Chairman-elect"; details have yet to be worked out but the feeling of the meeting seemed to be that this be an elected post, the person to serve in that capacity for one year and then normally become chairman for a further year.

The Executive Committee was formed according to the new Constitution. There are now seven Branch representatives, with Glasgow being the latest addition. There has been one meeting held in Birmingham, at which David Pike of Torquay was co-opted as Assistant Secretary. The "Agenda" looks as if we shall be kept pretty busy.

MEDICAL DEVICES - Reprinted from APA Monitor

Legislation regulating medical devices - including biofeedback and other psychological hardware - was being speeded through Congress at press time. A bill, S. 510, introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy and identical to one passed last year, has again passed the Senate. Hearings on a similar House bill (H.R. 5545), which got side-tracked last year, were expected sometime in May. Both APA and the Association for the Advancement of Psychology were expected to testify, in order that concerns of psychologists would become a part of the bill's legislative history.

The legislation would enable the Food and Drug Administration to require pre-market clearance of biofeedback devices much as the sale of drugs is now controlled. Some researchers and small manufacturers have warned that the new authority could be used to stifle innovation. Clinicians are also worried that the FDA might require a physician's prescription to purchase biofeedback instruments. Passage of the Medical Devices Amendments is considered likely this year.