

world at large? Psychiatric hospitals cannot opt out of the social changes which are evident not only in the running of the Health Service but also in national and local government, industry, education, and even the M.C.C.!

Whether we like it or not, the old days of leaders-and-led, of Gentlemen-and-Players, are over. We are in the age of participative democracy, and certainly we are not doing very well. We can either retreat into anarchy or totalitarianism, or strive to make the democratic system work. Skilful leadership has never been more necessary; and the jargon about communication, shared responsibility, and appropriate levels of decision-making—at which it is easy to poke fun—contains important truths. You see,

Scribe, I believe in the multidisciplinary team as I believe in marriage and the family. There are unfortunate marriages and problem families—as there are poorly run cricket-teams—but they do not invalidate the notion or the method.

I think we must continue to work hopefully and insightfully towards the construction of social systems (which include not only new ideas of teamwork but also older values of proven worth) to better inform our modern institutions and help them to be relevant and effective.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Brent Consultation Centre and Centre for Research into Adolescent Breakdown**

The Seventh Conference on Adolescence will be held on Saturday, 4 March and will focus on the psychological aspects of sexuality in adolescent development and breakdown, and on the special responsibility of the professional worker in his contact with vulnerable young people. The registration fee is £5, which includes lunch. Application form and further details from Brent Consultation Centre, Johnston House, 51 Winchester Avenue, London NW6. *Registration will close on 31 January.*

### **Canadian Society for Autistic Children**

The second Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Autistic Children, sponsored by the Pacific Association for Autistic Children, will be held in Vancouver from 24–26 May 1978, with the general theme, 'Autism: Research, theory and practice'. Those requiring further information or wishing to participate in the Conference should contact Lois Meyerhoff, Conference Coordinator, Pacific Association for Autistic Children, 4125 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

### **International Society for Electrosleep and Electroanaesthesia**

The Fifth International Symposium on Electro-

therapeutic Sleep and Electroanaesthesia (also covering Electroacupuncture and Electrohypnosis) will be held in Graz, Austria, from 11–16 September 1978. Original contributions on any of these topics are invited, and authors should contact the Secretariat at Universitätsklinik für Chirurgie, 8036 Graz, Austria, for further information.

### **Second International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect**

The Second International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in London from 12–15 September 1978. The subject of the Congress is 'The Abused Child in the Family and in the Community' and the themes for each day: 'The rights of the abused child, his development and his needs for treatment, and for parenting'; 'Family problems and interactions within the family, however constituted, including the rights of the siblings and the parents'; 'The community's responsibility towards the abused child and towards his family'. Papers for presentation are invited and forms of application *which must be returned, together with an abstract of not more than 500 words, by 20 January*, are obtainable from Second International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, The Congress Office, Conference Services Limited, 43 Charles Street, Mayfair, London W1X 7PB. The provisional programme will be available from the above address in February.