

confidence. When I admit a patient compulsorily, on grounds of health alone, I try to act at a point when the patient recognises, at some level, that he needs help, even if he does not ask for it very obviously. I may have to wait for this point to be reached. If I wait too long, however, even if his health does not deteriorate further, his social reputation or his social network, whether of family, friends, neighbours or workmates may be severely damaged or irretrievably broken.

So a judgement is involved, which may be difficult, and there is room for different opinions – which is why others must be consulted. But we should all know and agree on the basic rules which govern these decisions.

I hope our letters will provoke some further correspondence.

JIM BIRLEY
President

Miscellany

Research prize in psychiatry

The Welsh Division Annual Research Prize in Psychiatry was awarded for the first time in December 1989 and was shared by Dr Michael Morris and Dr Alison Linnington. Entries are now invited for the 1990 prize, the closing date for which is 1 September 1990. Trainees in approved posts in psychiatry in Wales are eligible to apply as are trainees currently employed elsewhere but who have previously carried out research in Wales during either a clinical or research appointment. Further details regarding entry regulations can be obtained from Dr D. D. R. Williams, Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett, Swansea SA2 0EH (telephone 0792 561155).

AUTP postgraduate training in behavioural psychotherapy 1990–91

The Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry with the Institute of Psychiatry runs an annual course in behavioural psychotherapy. The course will begin with a two-day workshop on 20 and 21 September 1990. This will include the following components: theoretical background, demonstration of treatments and participant practice. After the workshop participants will be asked to undertake behavioural treatment of their own patients in their own centres, and later also to supervise other trainees. Participants will be supervised in small groups at monthly intervals in half-day sessions over the following academic year. During the two-day workshop and throughout the course eminent guest speakers from round the UK will run seminars on

behavioural treatment in acute and chronic disorders in adults, the elderly, children, mental handicap, and liaison psychiatry. A certificate will be awarded to those completing the course. The course is organised on lines which qualify for local funding assistance under Study Leave Regulations of the BPF. Cost of the combined workshop, monthly supervision and reading materials over the following academic year is £375. Applicants should write, stating their qualifications and current appointment, to Professor Isaac Marks at the Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF, where the course will be held.

New publications

Rights, Risks and Responsibilities is a conference report which examines the dilemma for medical and social workers, and domestic carers, trying to look after frail older people without denying them their right to make their own choices. Price: £1.95. Further information: Age Concern Scotland, 54A Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9PT.

Care of the Elderly is a new multidisciplinary medical journal for all health professionals, medical and paramedical, who are involved in the care of elderly people. It is published monthly and is free on request to NHS health professionals. Further information: Ms Toni Lury, Care of the Elderly, Newbourne Health Services, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QQ.