

THE BURDEN MEDAL AND PRIZE AND THE NEWCASTLE SURVEY

The Burden Gold Medal and Prize for 1972 has been awarded to Dr. George McCoull for his work on the *Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Aetiological Survey (Mental Retardation)*, 1966–71.

Dr. McCoull had been planning this survey for some time before his retirement from Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital in 1966, and with the aid of a grant from the then Ministry of Health he was able to commence work on it on the day after leaving Prudhoe.

The survey covered all (4,618) retarded patients in four local authority areas (population 1,003,836) and all (4,806) retarded patients in hospitals from the whole Newcastle Hospital Region (population 3,072,310).

Except for 121 patients living in far distant hospitals, a total of 9,424 patients alive on 1.7.66 were examined clinically by the same person in areas with known populations.

The objects of the survey were to ascertain the prevalence of mental retardation and the causative factors in the Newcastle Hospital Region, to classify them in terms of the classification of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and to record type of residence and occupation, the principal reason for admission to hospital, patterns of behaviour, weight at birth and educational history.

The section on aetiology deals with associated factors as secondary diagnostic factors, grading by measured intelligence adaptive behaviour, and factors indicating social incompetence. Among other sections are a report on pupils in Junior Training Centres (now 'Schools') and 1,321 ESN pupils. No attempt is made in this review to comment on any

part of the mass of statistics given, and no effort has been made by the author to comment on known weaknesses of the classification used, a new edition of which is expected shortly.

Search has failed to find a similar survey where as nearly as possible a 100 per cent sample has been ascertained in a population of one million in Local Authority areas, and in over three million in Hospital cases, and where clinical examination of all cases has been made by one medical worker.

The approach generally is that of a physician rather than a psychiatrist, and some of the author's final conclusions are that the mentally retarded are not now a race of neglected people in this country and that in future admission to Mental Subnormality Hospitals should be restricted only for those needing maximum medical and nursing care.

Important are the figures for the various grades of retarded patients. Previous figures since 1909 have given 4–6 per cent of all patients as being in this category and this has for long been doubted. This report shows the figure for hospital and non-hospital patients combined to be 13 per cent, and it must be noted that this figure has been arrived at by an examination of the patients themselves, and not only of their paper records.

Important too is the author's work on Adaptive Behaviour which calls attention to the possibilities of this measurement as an important addition to psychological measurement.

The work as a whole will be a useful source of reference and of ideas for some time to come.

I. A. FRASER.

LEGAL NEWS

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: Regimes of Control *Licensing of Medical Practitioners and Persons Engaged in Scientific Education, Research or Chemical Analysis*

Paragraphs 7 and 10 of Note A set out proposals

- (a) for the licensing of medical practitioners to possess Lysergide (LSD) and to supply it by way of administration to their patients, and
- (b) together with paragraphs 8 and 13 of Note B, for the licensing of persons engaged in scientific education, research or chemical analysis, who had a genuine need to possess any of the substances referred to in Notes A and B.

The following paragraphs elaborate the proposals for licensing in these cases.

2. Immediately the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 comes into force these licences will be required by the

persons concerned. The licence will be valid for a stated period and during its validity will authorize possession up to the limit of a specified maximum quantity. Safekeeping requirements appropriate to the circumstances of each case will be imposed by attaching conditions to the licence. All licence holders will be required to keep records showing, in a specified format and separately for each substance, quantities received, administered or otherwise disposed of, e.g. transformed or destroyed in processing or experimentation. These records will be required to be kept for a period of two years from the date of the last entry and to be available at the premises specified in the relevant licence. Holders of licences other than import licences will be required to make annual returns in a prescribed format showing receipts,

supplies and other disposals, and stock in hand. Licences will not be permitted to import any substance save under the authority of an import licence granted by the Secretary of State.

3. Licences will be issued only to medical practitioners or persons engaged in scientific education, research or chemical analysis who can satisfy the Secretary of State that they have a requirement for Lysergide or any of the other substances specified in Notes A and B. Accordingly time will be required to vet licence applications and these will need to be made well in advance of the commencement of the Act. It

is proposed therefore to give early and wide publicity through professional bodies, professional journals and by a direct approach to the persons concerned where these can be identified, that, on commencement of the Act, these licences will be available and to invite applications. It is also proposed that, except where commercial interests are involved, licences should be issued without charge, but this arrangement will be without prejudice to any review of the scale of licence fees when the demand for licences of all kinds under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 becomes clear.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Centre for Postgraduate Psychiatry, Birmingham

The following postgraduate meetings will be held at the Charles Burns Clinic, Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, at 4 p.m.

8 December—Dr. P. Barker: Follow-up study of child psychiatric in-patients;

12 January—Dr. J. Morris, Mr. T. Jellis and Mr. I. Malcolmson: Symposium on development of services for disturbed children in Worcestershire;

16 February—Dr. E. M. D. O'Brien: Aspects of child psychiatry in two different clinical settings.

International Council of Group Psychotherapy

The Fifth International Congress of Group Psychotherapy will be held in Zurich from 19–25 August 1973.

For information write to: Dr. J. L. Moreno, 259 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon, New York 12508 or Dr. A. Friedemann, Fischerweg 6, CH-2500 Biel Bienne, Switzerland.

INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION WORKSHOP

A workshop sponsored by the Dutch Association for Behaviour Therapy, the Dutch Association for Special Education, and the Dutch Society for the Study of Mental Retardation was held in Amsterdam last August. The content of coming workshops will concentrate more heavily on behaviour modification

with psychotic and retarded children and adults in institutional, community, school and vocational settings.

Further information about these workshops from Dr. Joan F. Bassinger, Behaviour Modification Projects, P.O. Box 23161, Columbus, Ohio 53223.