

intended for use in all circumstances when a patient moves from a Special Hospital.

One surprising recommendation concerns liaison between psychiatrists and the police, although the relevance to Mr Sailes' case is not clear. The Report suggests that police should always be notified of leave arrangements, unless there are special circumstances that make this inappropriate, for patients who have previously been subject to restrictions and for patients who though never subject to restrictions have been convicted of a serious sexual or violent offence. To make such a distinction between the management of mentally abnormal and mentally normal offenders could only be supported if there were reliable evidence that the former had a poorer prognosis in terms of recidivism than their mentally normal colleagues, and that such liaison with the police would do anything to affect the incidence of reoffending. (Such a practice might, however, improve the detection rate of crimes by discharged mentally abnormal

offenders, with the result that more repressive measures would be taken against them.)

In its reactionary aspects the Report reflects the persuasive tendency to respond to the vagaries of human behaviour by imposing strictures which have never been shown to exert any lasting effect on deviations from the normal. In my view it is only possible to justify an infringement of individual liberty if it can be shown (i.e. demonstrated empirically so that conclusions are directly applicable to a person or group) that such a restriction of freedom is likely (more than 'evens' chance) to be of significant (major rather than minor) benefit to the individual or the community.

The Report may be obtained from DHSS Leaflets, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middx. HA7 1AY.

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Forthcoming Events

The British Psycho-Analytical Society is holding a one-day course of lectures and discussion entitled 'The Mind of the Child—Development and Assessment' on 4 July 1981 at the Institute of Psycho-Analysis. Information: Honorary Secretary, Public Lectures, Institute of Psycho-Analysis, 63 New Cavendish Street, London W1.

The Tavistock Clinic, in conjunction with the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, is offering an advanced course in consultation designed for experienced practitioners in the helping professions who are in responsible positions and directly involved in training or development of other professional workers and/or in consultative work for organisations serving the community. Information: Executive Officer (Training), Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA.

Two Midland Courses in **Group Work and Family Therapy** are being held in association with the Institute of Group Analysis (London). The first is in Oxford (September 1981 to May 1982) and the second is in Northampton (October 1981 to June 1982). Information: (Oxford) Mrs Ann West, Chaplain's Office, Littlemore Hospital, Oxford OX4 4XN and (Northampton) Mrs Rose Fisher, Cheyne Walk Clinic, 3 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5PT.

The 6th International Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency (IASSMD) will be held in Toronto from 22 to 26 August, 1982. Information: IASSMD Secretariat, National Institute on Mental Retardation, York University Campus, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.

The Institute of Group Analysis will be holding a series of courses during 1981 and 1982. A general course in group work will run from October 1981 to June 1982; supervision seminars in clinical work and seminars on counselling and psychotherapy with offenders will run from October 1981; and a workshop on Analytic Psychodrama will take place on 4 and 5 July 1981. Information: Course Secretary, Institute of Group Analysis, 1 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London W1H 3LF.

The 1981 Congress of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists will be held in Hong Kong from 11 to 16 October, 1981 under the auspices of the Victorian branch of the College. The theme is 'Asian Pacific Psychiatry: Common Grounds, Common Solutions?'. Information: Dr John M. G. Grigor, PO Box 8, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052.

The 13th Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum Congress will be held in Jerusalem from 20 to 25 June 1982. Information: Secretariat, 13th CINP Congress, PO Box 29784, Tel Aviv, Israel.

'The Group as a Therapeutic Process' is the theme of the 4th Annual Charney Manor Workshop in Psychotherapy. The workshop, organized by the Department of Psychotherapy, Warneford and Littlemore Hospitals, will be held at Charney Manor, a delightful 13th century manor house close to Oxford, from 23 to 26 September, 1981. Information and application: Dr Sidney Bloch, Warneford Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JX.