

patients may well relate to the perfectly understandable desire of clinicians to be able to be of more help. Coming to terms with a set of realistic clinical expectations is probably the best cure for therapeutic pessimism. That same lesson may apply to attempts to change the medical curriculum. A few modest improvements may not seem to produce the radical revision that the inertia of existing practice cries out for; but these same modest improvements may have an influence that outstrips their immediate impact. The trick is to be sure that you are moving in the right direction. Then even the smallest step is an important advance.

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News Items

The Burden Research Gold Medal and Prize

The Burden Research Gold Medal and Prize for outstanding published research work in the field of mental handicap during the past three years was presented on 7 June 1982 at Stoke Park Hospital, Bristol, to Dr J. A. Corbett, Consultant Psychiatrist, Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, London.

The Psychotherapy Section of the Scottish Division

The Psychotherapy Section of the College's Scottish Division has successfully held residential conferences twice a year for a decade or so. The beauty of Pitlochry, the comfort of Scotland's Hotel and a relatively constant membership provide the therapeutic setting. The variety of people, places, skills and styles represented, and the intensive formal and informal presentations and discussions provide the material and work of the conference.

The last conference (29 April to 1 May 1982) was entitled 'On the Borderline'—a concern for the theorist and the practitioner, for the expert psychotherapist and the novice psychiatrist. Some forty-five people attended, and it is hoped most of them will return to the next conference on 'Group Psychotherapy' to be held at the end of October 1982.

Psychopharmacology for the Trainee Psychiatrist

The Upjohn Company have produced a book called *Introduction to Psychopharmacology* written by Professor Malcolm Lader. The book aims to present succinctly the pharmacological basis for the clinical use of psychotropic drugs, and is principally designed for the psychiatrist in training, but general practitioners, psychologists and pharmacologists should find it useful.

Copies are available, free of charge, on request to: Introduction to Psychopharmacology, Upjohn Ltd., Fleming Way, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2NJ.