

Medical Council: 1858–1958: A Brief History of the Council during its First Hundred Years.

⁵ *The Lancet*, 11 October 1982.

⁶ SIEGHART, P. (1978) *Statutory Registration of Psychotherapists. A Report of a Professions Joint Working Party*. Cambridge: E. E. Plumridge.

⁷ BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (1981) *An Approach to the Regulation of Psychotherapy*.

⁸ *Towards a Standing Conference on Psychotherapy* (1983) Report on Second Rugby Conference on Psychotherapy.

⁹ JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING (1980) *Second Report, 1980*.

News Items

Assessments and Statements of Special Educational Needs

The Executive Committee of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Specialist Section felt that the attention of its members should be drawn to Circular 1/83 (DES), Health Circular HC(83)3, Local Authority Circular LAC(83)2, 'Assessments and Statements of Special Educational Needs'.

It was felt that paragraphs 36, 37, 64 on the keeping and disclosure of statements and 61–63 on the transfer of information from one authority to another, would be of particular interest.

Report of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Working Group of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Dr Barry Matthews (St George's Hospital Medical School) writes:

Formed in 1975 to prepare a comprehensive review of the treatment and rehabilitation of drug misusers and issue recommendations, the Advisory Council published its report in December 1982. Almost immediately it vanished from view in the pre-election and election activity, but hopefully it has not vanished from sight forever. The abuse of many different drugs is at present growing in the country, and the report has thus been awaited with expectations; its somewhat conservative approach may disappoint some of those working in the field.

Initially, the report sets out the historical background to the present machinery and realistically assesses the present situation. Changing patterns of drug abuse, and the difficulties the present system has had in adjusting are interestingly reviewed. Proposals are then outlined using the model of the ever popular multidisciplinary team, based both regionally and locally. Data collection and planning would be done by District Drug Advisory Committees, the suggested membership for which is extremely wide, possibly too much so.

Perhaps the part of the report most likely to be implemented is that dealing with prescribing safeguards. Guidelines for good practice and increased use of the tribunals already in existence are sensible. An urgent request for dipipanone prescribing is made, and surely cannot be

implemented too soon. Hopefully this restriction will be quickly extended to all opioids as the report suggests.

Reviews of and proposals for training, research and funding end the report. These are sensible, but unfortunately unlikely to be thought realistic given the present financial climate.

It is to be hoped that the new incumbents at the Home Office and Department of Health will soon find time to review this report and act on its recommendations, before the drug problem in this country deteriorates further. /See below and correspondence on page 187./

Treatment and Rehabilitation

In response to the publication of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs Report on Treatment and Rehabilitation [see above], the Secretary of State for Social Services has announced that £2m was being made available to health authorities, local authorities (for training initiatives) and voluntary bodies in 1983/84, and similar sums in each of the following two years, for improving services for people with drug related problems. Guidelines have now been produced ('Treatment and Rehabilitation: Report of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD); Central Funding Initiative'—HN (83) 13 LASSL (83) 1) for statutory bodies and voluntary bodies wishing to bid for grants under this scheme. They give information on the objectives of the scheme, uses of the funds and who can bid for them and the form of application for bids for the money. Copies of the guidelines may be obtained from Mr du Sauzay, B1411, Community Services Division 2B, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY or from DHSS Store, Health Publications Unit, No 2 Site, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancs OL10 2PZ. Copies of the ACMD Report (price £3.95) are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

JCHPT Handbook

An updated version of the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training's 'Handbook' is now available from the Administrative Secretary of the JCHPT at the College address (please send a large (A4) s.a.e. stamped to the value of 45p).