and nursing staffs at the Special Hospitals, and I would like
to pay tribute to what I might describe as their steadiness
under fire. We certainly need to press ahead with the pro-
gramme of Regional secure units, recognizing that what is
required is a continuum of care consisting of community
services, local hospitals, psychiatric units in general
hospitals, Regional secure units and the Special Hospitals.
All are inter-related and inter-dependent.

'I face, too, pressures to deal with the growing problems of
alcoholism, and I pay tribute to the admirable report pub-
lished by this College which has made a notable contribu-
tion to the debate.'So I do not doubt that Governments and Secretaries of
State have an important part to play in grappling with the
problems you face. But in the end it is the profession—your
profession—on which rests the main responsibility for the
developing future of psychiatry. In this, the Royal College is
making its mark as it strives to establish its codes of
behaviour, to raise standards, to safeguard the best tradi-
tions of psychiatry, and to promote and support research
which alone can unlock the doors which lead to greater
understanding. In all this, despite the assaults which have
rained in from every quarter, the College and its officers have
acted throughout with dignity, with responsibility and with
vigilance. On behalf of the people whom it is your purpose to
serve I would like to thank you for the highly professional
and responsible role that your College is playing.'It is not without significance that the College's motto is
"Let Wisdom Guide". In this era of change and challenge,
where both scepticism and blind faith still abound, wisdom is
certainly needed. That you have it in abundance is not
doubted. I wish you every success in your endeavours.'

Mr Jenkin ended by proposing the toast of 'The Royal
College of Psychiatrists'.

The President in reply expressed his pleasure on the
close relation the College enjoyed with the DHSS which was
helpful to both organizations, especially in politically
sensitive areas. In some matters we had many problems in
common with the rest of medicine, and in some of these pro-
gress was inevitably slow. The trend in what was customarily
called 'patients' rights' was causing some anxiety, but it also
gave an opportunity for healthy and constructive debate
which could well influence future Mental Health legislation.
More headway was being made with audit procedures to
supplement the considerable degree of 'audit' implicit in the
system already.

Much of our work came into that often misunderstood
area—multidisciplinary. The presence that evening of the
Presidents of the Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of
General Practitioners and the British Psychological Society
was evidence of their particular close relationship with us.
Multidisciplinary organizations, such as the Association of
Child Psychology and Psychiatry, were most important, but
could not take the place of the professional organizations
which controlled standards of entry and training and so had
a special relationship to the DHSS.

In common with medicine and surgery, psychiatry had a
tendency to fissiparous sub-specialties with a proliferation of
new Groups and Sections. There was a need to balance this
with the common professional organization of the College
which must be able to present clear, considered and united
views to Government Departments and to other sections of
the medical profession.

Reviews

*Institute of Fools* by Victor Nekipelov. Victor
Gollancz. 1980. Pp 292. £7.95

After two years of close investigation, detailed interroga-
tion of his many friends and numerous house searches,
Nekipelov, pharmacist and dissident, was arrested and
charged with the criminal act of possessing samizdat litera-
ture and passing on the 'Chronicle of Current Events'. Ever
solicitous for the mental welfare of such active and persis-
tent dissidents, the prison authorities made the presumptive
diagnosis of sluggish schizophrenia', and Nekipelov was
promptly transferred for assessment to the notorious
Serbsky Institute, national research and training centre for
forensic psychiatry. From the moment when he is trans-
ferred from prison to the institute in the company of a
motley collection of criminal types, Nekipelov, cynical and
guardedly prepared to co-operate with the authorities, is
determined to relate all he experiences. The first thing they
do at the Serbsky is to remove his copy of the *Criminal
Code*, but he continues to quote relevant sections which
Psychiatric Probation Orders: Roles and Expectations of Probation Officers and Psychiatrists by Peter Lewis. Institute of Criminology. £2.50.

This pamphlet of 40 pages discusses the results of a survey of psychiatric probation orders by a Senior Probation Officer when holding a Cropwood Fellowship at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge. The sub-titles describe the main thrust of the study, though it also includes a summary of the history and development of the order and a useful statement of the law and regulations governing it—revised in Section 3 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act of 1973.

The survey deals with all the psychiatric probation orders in force in Nottinghamshire on 1 April 1978, of every length, though more than two-thirds had been operating for over a year. Nottingham magistrates make orders rather more often than other benches—10 per cent of probation orders have a psychiatric condition compared with the national average of 5 per cent. The author studied 118 (out of 120 made) by means of fairly detailed questionnaires sent to doctors and probation officers concerned. From our point of view, one of the startling results was that 7 of the 23 doctors did not return their questionnaire, and one of these was a psychiatrist responsible for 39 of the cases, more than anyone else! Lewis tactfully makes no comment.

The type of case dealt with was no doubt influenced by the particular attitudes of magistrates and psychiatrists as well as of local treatment facilities, but compared with Grunhut's original series (collected in 1953 and described in 1963), there were much fewer sex offenders, more cases of addictions, and an interesting group of offences of domestic violence. There were also 15 subnormals, mainly in-patients, a group often spoken of as unsuitable for probation.

The main and universal value of the study, however, is Mr Lewis's very detailed description of the many methods of social work used—family and marital work; specially chosen employment assignments and training; hostels; group homes; joint treatment by several officers; and above all, the need of officers, psychiatrists and sometimes nurses to understand what each is aiming at, and to learn to cooperate effectively.

At times he is rather a perfectionist, e.g. in suggesting that a complete treatment programme might be outlined by doctor and officer in the initial court report; but he quotes cases in which neither the court nor those treating had any notion of why or how the order had come to be made, and it is useless to describe the best practice.

The pamphlet gives a good idea of the scope and power of the nation's most efficient social work agency and should be in the library of every hospital and clinic and recommended to psychiatrists in training.

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This is a striking indictment by a brave and outspoken man determined to reveal the truth from the inside.