

THE 'SCHIZOPHRENIA BULLETIN'
(National Institute of Mental Health, U.S.A.)

The *Schizophrenia Bulletin* is an experimental publication now being issued on a quarterly basis by the National Institute of Mental Health. Its purpose is to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information about schizophrenia and to provide abstracts of the recent literature on the subject. To date, eight experimental issues have been published, each focusing on a major theme—for example, the biochemistry of schizophrenia, twin studies, childhood schizophrenia and autism, and psychosocial treatment approaches. The current issue (no. 8) features part 1 of an exhaustive review entitled, 'Children at Risk: The Search for the Antecedents of Schizophrenia'. In addition to review articles focusing on a major theme, the *Bulletin* features articles reporting original observations in laboratory

or clinical research, short reports of preliminary or negative research results, theoretical dissertations and other essays, and news items describing research and training programmes or reporting professional activities in schizophrenia.

Single copies of the *Bulletin* are offered free of charge to individual requesters. Requests to be added to the mailing list to receive gratis copies of future experimental issues and, if desired, available back issues should be addressed to:

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Rockville, Md. 20852,
U.S.A.

CORRESPONDENCE

**SELECTION OF DOCTORS AND NURSES
FOR PSYCHIATRY**

DEAR SIR,

In the 'Recent Activities' item in *News and Notes* for March 1974 the College's concern for the declining proportion of British graduates interested in psychiatry was mentioned.

The same situation occurs with regard to mental nursing and particularly in new general hospital psychiatric units like this one. Certain considerations about the whole matter have been forced on me, some of which will apply to medical recruitment.

It has been shown that mental nurses differ from general nurses, and that the major part of this difference is present at the time of recruitment and is not the result of training. This underlines the truth of the general proposition that in the psychiatric field at any level, be it Clinical Psychology, Psychiatric Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychiatric Social Work, Psychiatric Occupational Therapy and so forth, self-selection is of prime importance. We have found that to entice general nurses into psychiatry is very difficult, as they have selected themselves for general nursing. Recruitment has to be at the pre-nursing stage. Similarly it seems to me that recruitment for psychiatry will have to be at the University entrance stage. Somehow one must attempt to persuade and teach the Deans of medical schools to select a proportion of their entrants as prospective psychiatrists, or rather perhaps to give a proportion of the places to those candidates presenting them-

selves as prospective psychiatrists. I think that attempts to lure medical students into psychiatry after they have started is likely to be rather unrewarding, as indeed time has shown it to be.

It was also stated that a working party was to be set up concerned among other things with the training of general practitioners in psychiatry. This was to be a cooperative effort of the Colleges of General Practitioners and Psychiatrists. I do hope that its membership will not be exclusively from University Departments whether of general practice or psychiatry, and that there will be adequate representation of schemes and services which are removed from the University districts.

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**THE ROLE OF CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE N.H.S.**

DEAR SIR,

We have noticed that in all the correspondence about the role of the psychologist in the Health Service the signatories of any one letter appear never to have included both a psychiatrist and a psychologist. This failure to combine suggests a polarity which we would like to try to reduce.

We agree with the view of Sir George Godber (*Journal*, 1973, 123, 617-20) that, doctors being so