

advises us to read the document ourselves. This I have done, and have taken the opportunity to discuss the Report with colleagues both locally and further afield. Although one can acknowledge Dr Baker's sincere interest, as the sole psychiatric signatory, in extolling the merit of the Report, it seems that Rollin's criticisms are not without validity. The great majority of clinicians with whom I have spoken are, like Rollin, impressed by the inquisitorial nature of the Inquiry, and are perplexed by the tortuous, vague and unreasonable interrogation of medical staff on the meanings of clinical responsibility. Also, the recommendation of the all-purpose multidisciplinary panacea is neither readily palatable nor reassuring.

It may be that your published review of the St Augustine's Hospital Report has enjoyed more support and agreement than these Correspondence columns have reflected.

E. B. GORDON

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DEAR SIR,

I found it a very unpleasant surprise that you printed a letter from Mr Tony Smythe which proved to be below the standard expected from the Director of MIND.

One can agree or disagree with the opinions of Dr Henry Rollin about the Report of the Committee

of Inquiry, St Augustine's Hospital. Nevertheless, my opinion is polite, based on long experience in psychiatric hospitals and logically consistent. The use by Mr Smythe of such expressions as 'sickening' and 'utterly deplorable' instead of factual arguments make the contents of his letter uncivilized and I am really sad that you felt it possible to print it.

B. ALAPIN

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## THE MENTAL HANDICAP HOSPITAL TEAM

DEAR SIR,

Professor Gwynne Jones' letter, published in the January issue, has been brought to the notice of the Executive Committee of the Mental Deficiency Section of the College. They have agreed that the original wording did not clearly express what was intended and they are glad to adopt Professor Gwynne Jones' suggestion for a change. According to the statement should now read '... the clinician must remain the co-ordinator of the clinical team to ensure that training principles do not take precedence over medical needs'.

W. R. McKIBBEN

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