

in a spot in the body. . . . This fact is often ignored. Time and again you will hear yourself or your colleagues say that 'pain travels in the spinothalamic tracts' or that 'the end organs pick up pain and transmit it up the pain pathways'. But these impulses centrally bent to excite further mechanisms in the thalamocortical and reticulo-cortical systems are no more the pain than the visual impulses from the retina are the perceptual fields of color and pattern that present to us when our eyes are open". Szasz (10) has strongly advocated a similar point of view.

It is true that so far as research is concerned I gave myself needless trouble by attempting a definition, but having taken that trouble I have no doubt that doctors will all be saved still more bother if they can be persuaded universally to avoid calling certain impulses in nerves "pain". It is not easy, and I find myself liable, despite taking care, to make the sort of mistake that Walters stigmatizes, of saying that pain travels up the spinothalamic tracts, etc. However, the effort to preserve the distinction seems to me to help our understanding of the concepts we use, and if my definition contributes to this I shall be more than satisfied.

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#### STUDY TOUR TO DENMARK

DEAR SIR,

As you may know, there has been quite a considerable interest in the Study Tour to Denmark which was undertaken in September, 1964 by a group of Scottish penologists, under the leadership of Dr. James McWhinnie and the Director of The Danish Institute.

It has been suggested that a similar tour should take place in October 1966, this time for English people, actively engaged in the matter. The tour would be planned (in co-operation with the Danish appropriate authorities) to be comprehensive and representative of the wide range of provisions for the treatment of the offender.

Experience has shown that such a tour is most valuable if it is representative of all the professional interests concerned in the field of study. For this reason, places in the delegation will be limited to allow representation of all the various professional interests concerned with such work in England.

The cost of the Study Tour would be approximately £85 (1st Class travel and 1st Class hotels) from Harwich back to Harwich. Copies of the full programme can be obtained from the Secretary, R.M.P.A.

The tour lasts a fortnight and the principal visits are to three State prisons, the institutions for psychopaths, a probation hostel, a borstal and other institutions for young adult offenders and a "work-house" for recidivists as well as some sightseeing items.

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