

SIMÕES, E. A. F., BABU, P. G., JOHN, T. J. *et al* (1987) Evidence for HTLV-III infection among prostitutes in Tamil Nadu. *Indian Journal of Medical Research* (in press).

from the British Association of Art Therapy, 13c Northwood Road, London N6.

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### Art Therapy

SIR: In his review of the book *Art Therapy for Groups* by M. Liebmann (*Journal*, December 1986, 149, 805), Aveline, in commenting on group dynamics, states: "This imbalance is worrying and reflects a deficiency in the training of art therapists". In fact, much emphasis is placed on group dynamics in the three postgraduate Diplomas in Art Therapy: at Hertfordshire College of Art, St Albans; Sheffield University; and Goldsmiths' College, University of London. I can speak more specifically about the Goldsmiths' course, where five out of eight of the tutors are qualified group psychotherapists as well as art therapists and the other three have extensive experience of group dynamics. Our course is structured around a model of art therapy combined with group analysis, and the students participate in weekly experimental groups, including one focusing solely on group dynamics. We do not neglect individual therapy, but are known for our 'group bias'.

The profession of art therapy is fairly new and is an easy target for misconceptions concerning training and practice. Full information about the courses can be obtained from each of the three centres, and general information on art therapy can be obtained

SIR: May I comment on Aveline's review of Liebman's book *Art Therapy for Groups: The Handbook of Games and Exercises*. While his criticism of the book's meagre psychodynamic content may be fair comment in the context of the powerful feelings that can be aroused by some of the exercises described, it is misleading to say that this a reflection of the "deficiency in the formal training of art therapists". On the contrary, the Postgraduate Diploma course in Art Therapy at Goldsmiths' College is firmly and extensively based on group dynamics, both theoretical and experiential.

The techniques described in the book demonstrate one approach to art therapy, which can perhaps also be used by other professionals wishing to use art in their work with patients. However, I think it is true to say that qualified art therapists have a deep concern and understanding of the emotional forces which may surface through the use of art, and are fully aware of the implications of individual and group dynamics.

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## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

### Lunacy and Pauperism

At a recent Poor Law Conference in Glasgow, Dr Yellowlees read a highly interesting paper on the above theme. He urged that every county or district should have two types of asylums for its pauper insane; one a hospital, fully equipped with the best means of treatment, and receiving all new cases, the size not exceeding 300. Another building, erected at

half the cost, should be devoted to chronic cases only, and should receive no patients except from the cure-asylum.

### Reference

*Journal of Mental Science* (July 1884) 30, 335.

*Researched by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Surrey*