

Reply

DEAR SIRs

It was not my intention to comment on clinical matters such as diagnosis or treatment. Dr Anderson has assessed the patient while I have not. If the outcome of these assessments is that she has an illness requiring ECT, then I accept this entirely and hope that she responds favourably.

My purpose was to emphasise the importance of social factors in psychiatric practice, especially the matter of compulsory admission. Disturbed, deviant, or merely difficult behaviour may be presented as evidence of mental illness, and psychiatrists should be particularly aware that such behaviour in the absence of other features must be viewed with reserve. Diogenes after all was not mentally ill.

D. V. COAKLEY

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The Thomas Clouston Clinic (Craighouse) Royal Edinburgh Hospital

DEAR SIRs

The Thomas Clouston Clinic, formerly Craighouse, a major part of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital complex since 1894, is due to close completely in March 1993. Towards a PhD thesis, I am carrying out an oral history of the Thomas Clouston Clinic from 1945 to date. If any readers have documents, photographs or, in particular, personal recollections of the Clinic at any time over the last 50 years, I would be delighted to hear from them.

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The College

Spring Quarterly Meeting, 1992

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held at Ninewells Hospital and the University of Dundee on 7 and 8 April 1992 under the Presidency of Professor A.C.P. Sims.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on 7 April, attended by 26 Members of the College.

Election of Honorary Fellows

Since the maximum number of Honorary Fellows had been attained (75) there would be no nominations for Honorary Fellows. A proposal would be made at the Annual General Meeting in Dublin to change the Bye-laws so that the total number of Honorary Fellows could be increased to a maximum of 150 and therefore five Honorary Fellows could be elected at the Autumn Quarterly Meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, on 22 January 1992 were approved and signed.

Registrar's report

The Confidential Enquiry into 'Homicide and Suicide in Mentally Ill Persons' has now found a Director and a home. The Director is Dr Bill Boyd, well known here in Scotland for his work on the Mental Health Commission and in the College for his service as Honorary Treasurer. The home will be at 16 Belgrave Square, next door, and so the enquiry will be able to maintain an independence without losing the benefits of close communication with the College, including the Research Unit.

Forensic issues are still taking up much time. The second batch of discussion papers coming from the Reed Committee for consideration by a broad range of interested parties will be delayed a little inevitably by the Election but will appear a month or two later. As always, discussion time is very short and the College is grateful to those members who keep abreast of the issues and react fast to enable a considered consensus to be drafted.

At this meeting two new Special Interest groups are being launched. Yesterday after a morning session of papers, the Management Special Interest Group had its inaugural meeting when Greg Richardson was elected as chairman. Immediately after this business meeting, there will be the first meeting of the Transcultural Special Interest Group.

It has been very refreshing to come to Dundee for this Quarterly Meeting to enjoy mutual interests as well as to see what is sometimes a very different Scottish perspective. Thank you for your hospitality.

PROFESSOR ANN GATH
Registrar