

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS (to the Summer Recess)

Legislation

Hypnotism

On 17 July, in the House of Lords, the EARL OF KINNOULL proposed the second reading of a Bill to amend the law relating to stage performances involving hypnotism, mainly by extending the present restrictions to performances in clubs. LORD WELLS-PESTELL thought that this did not go far enough and wanted to see all such performances banned. LORD SANDYS, for the Government, asserted that there was no evidence that any change was needed, and advised rejection of the Bill. The House nevertheless gave it a second reading.

Nursing and the EEC

An Order giving effect to an EEC agreement concerning common standards of nurse training, enabling qualified nurses to practise in any of the member states, was debated in the House of Lords on 24 July. It was made clear that the Order did not apply to psychiatric nurses. But in future general nursing students would be required to have experience in psychiatry and other areas of nursing at present optional.

Mental Health Act

MR JENKIN stated on 24 July that there would be no legislation in the current session (which lasts until October, 1980).

Crime and Mentally Abnormal Offenders

Following the showing on Yorkshire TV of a film containing allegation of ill-treatment of patients at Rampton Hospital, MR JENKIN announced on 21 May, that he had referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who had arranged for a police investigation. He also intended to institute 'a thorough review of the organization and facilities' at the hospital.

On 11 June, in a written answer, it was stated that during 1974-78 there had been 57 complaints against Rampton staff, but none had resulted in disciplinary action. In the same period there had been about 1800 attacks on staff, increasing from 290 in 1974 to 430 in 1978.

On 26 July, in a written answer, MR JENKIN made a further statement about the proposed review. The team would be chaired by Sir John Boynton and would include members from the various disciplines

concerned. Comprehensive terms of reference were set out in the statement.

On 12 June figures were given for the numbers of patients in the Special Hospitals who are awaiting transfer to NHS hospitals. The figures were classified by age and period of waiting. The total number is about 200, of whom about 140 are at Rampton.

Three Regional Health Authorities have still to submit proposals for secure units. The subject was also mentioned in a House of Lords debate on 'The Proper Use of Prisons', initiated by LORD SOPER on 27 June.

Among the numerous written answers recorded in the last issues of *Hansard* before the recess are several answering questions by MR ARTHUR LEWIS concerning the use of psychotropic drugs in prisons, all phrased so as to suggest improper use. Appropriate replies were given by MR BRITAN on behalf of the Home Office.

Figures relating to murder were given on 27 May, and show that the number of persons sentenced for murder in England and Wales has risen steadily from 22 in 1957 to 123 in 1978.

Mental Handicap

It was announced on 27 July that the deadline for comments on the Jay Report had been extended to the end of the year.

Information on progress made in mental handicap provision since the 'Better Services' White Paper is being collected with a view to decisions on further action.

Figures were given on 23 May for the number of children and adults in mental handicap hospitals and units in England. The number of children under 16 has fallen from 6,400 in 1971 to 3,878 in 1977; the number of adults from 48,000 to 44,000.

Miscellaneous

Some disquiet about the condition of patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals was reflected in questions suggesting that some patients were being discharged 'to no fixed abode' and others to lodgings where the landlord forced them to roam the streets in the daytime.

Consultations are taking place on the future of community services for alcoholics when the grant scheme for hostels comes to an end next year. Concern

has continued to be expressed by M P's about the future of detoxification centres.

MR ARTHUR LEWIS twice asked whether since scientologists are banned from entering the country

they should not also be banned from the Civil Service. This attempt at a *reductio ad absurdum* was each time answered by a brief 'No'.

ALEXANDER WALK

PSYCHIATRIC TUTORS*

The organization of postgraduate training programmes in individual hospitals is the responsibility of the Psychiatric Tutors. The present arrangements have evolved from the pioneering work of the late Professor Erwin Stengel in the 1950s. From these beginnings a system has developed which now encompasses almost every psychiatric hospital and unit in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and which has indeed been adopted by other branches of medicine.

Appointment and Recognition of Tutors

The procedures by which Tutors are appointed vary widely between different parts of the country. Initial selection and appointment is usually made by the local consultants in their Division of Psychiatry or equivalent body—indeed the College regards the agreement of the consultants in the hospitals concerned as essential. Appointments may be formally made or recognized by a variety of bodies, for example, the British Postgraduate Medical Federation (in the Thames Regions), Area or Regional Health Authorities and Postgraduate Committees, and the local University. Relatively few Tutors are members of a University's academic staff. Some Tutors receive an honorarium (usually small), but few have their tutorial work recognized in their N H S contracts; the great majority carry a full clinical workload in addition to their tutorial duties.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists does not itself appoint Psychiatric Tutors, but it has since 1977 been engaged in a programme of formal recognition of Tutors. The scheme, initially temporary, is about to be placed on a permanent footing, and it is hoped that a list of Recognized Tutors will be published in due course. One of the principal aims of the scheme is to support and strengthen the position of Tutors, especially in areas where Tutors have experienced difficulties in obtaining recognition of their status or of the special needs of psychiatry. The College recognizes two categories of Tutor, the *Psychiatric Tutor* and the *Specialty Tutor*. The *Psychiatric Tutor* is the person

responsible for postgraduate education and training in his hospital or group of hospitals (previously the term 'Clinical Tutor' was used, but this led to confusion with non-psychiatric Tutors). *Specialty Tutors* are recognized in the fields of psychotherapy, forensic psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry and mental handicap; in the near future geriatric psychiatry and drug dependence may be added to these. The College also recognizes *Academic Organizers*; these are psychiatrists, usually (but not necessarily) Senior Lecturers in University Departments, who have the task of organizing day release courses and similar activities.

The College's aim is that there should be a recognized Psychiatric Tutor in every hospital where postgraduate training is carried on, and this has largely been achieved. Specialty Tutors, however, are unevenly distributed in keeping with the variations in the development of the psychiatric sub-specialties.

The Psychiatric Tutors' Subcommittee

This Subcommittee of the College Education Committee includes representatives of Tutors from all Divisions of the College, as well as of Specialist Sections and of trainees. It meets four times annually and provides a forum in which issues of concern to Tutors can be discussed at national level. Among its other activities the Subcommittee has organized a number of conferences to discuss psychiatric training and related matters, and a Working Party, on behalf of the Education Committee, scrutinizes applications for recognition by Tutors and Academic Organizers.

Functions of the Psychiatric Tutor

For most trainees, the Psychiatric Tutor will be a key figure throughout the training period. The Approval status of the hospital largely depends upon the standard of the training programmes he organizes. The Tutor is expected to maintain contact with other Tutors and Academic staff in his Region, as well as with Tutors in other disciplines, to keep abreast of developments in educational technology, and to develop and maintain good library facilities. On local

*This is a section taken from the Second Edition of the *Handbook for Inceptors and Trainees in Psychiatry*.