

## THE BMA MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

We have been asked to give publicity to the recently revived Mental Health Group (formerly Psychological Medicine Group) of the British Medical Association. The new title is meant to emphasize that membership is open to all members of the BMA engaged in the field of mental health, whether in hospital or private consultant practice, general practice, community medicine, etc. For the Group to be effective in representing the interests of those so engaged it is most desirable that all who are eligible should join it, and members who wish to do so are invited to write to Mr R. V. Woods at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

The Group in part elects the Mental Health Group Committee, which advises the BMA Council on policy in relation to the specialty. At the Group's first revived meeting on 7 July the following were elected: Drs C. Berry, J. D. W. Fisher, J. T.

Hutchinson, Morris Markowe, Doris Odlum and A. C. Woodmansey. Dr Markowe was formerly the College's 'observer' at the Group Committee, and the College has been asked to appoint a new representative in his place.

It is also intended to revive the Joint Standing Committee of the Group and the College, which when constituted will meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The next meeting of the Group will be held at BMA House at 11 am on Wednesday, 15 November, the day before the Quarterly Meeting of the College. There will be a discussion on the theme 'Future policies for mental handicap: is there a need for change?', to be opened by Dr G. F. Harris of St. Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, and Dr G. B. Simon of Lea Hospital, Bromsgrove, and Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Association of Psychiatrists in Training

The next workshop in examination techniques will be held on Saturday, 7 October. The workshop stresses the importance of the optimal use of factual knowledge in all aspects of the examination. Another day course will be held on Sunday, 8 October. Course fees: £15.00 (APIT members, £13.50). Course Organizer: Dr D. Mawson, APIT Exam Workshop, 99 Denmark Hill, London SE5. Telephone: 01-703 5411.

### Symposium on Suicide and Parasuicide

A two-day symposium on Suicide and Parasuicide: Recent Research and Implications for Clinical Practice will be held at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London, from 12-13 October, 1978. Original papers will be presented, with time for discussion of the clinical implications. Doctors and other interested professional workers requiring application forms and further details should write to Professor S. R. Hirsch, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Fulham Palace Road, London W6.

### Forensic Psychiatry Course

A two-day course in Forensic Psychiatry will be held at the Academic Centre, Friern Hospital, on

19 and 20 October. The course is of particular interest to M.R.C.Psych. and D.P.M. candidates, but Senior or Junior Psychiatrists, Prison Medical Officers and Police Surgeons are welcome. General Practitioners may attend under Section 63. The fee is £24, including lunch and refreshments, and the programme includes lectures on homicide, marital violence, arson, sexual deviation, assessment of dangerousness, juvenile delinquency, reports to courts, criminal responsibility, and special hospitals and secure units. Applications to Dr H. G. S. Sergeant, Clinical Tutor, Friern Hospital, Friern Barnet Road, London N11 3BP.

### Aspects of Psychosexual Problems

A weekend symposium on Aspects of Psychosexual Problems will be held in Liverpool in April 1979. There will be invited speakers and opportunities to present short papers, and anyone wishing to submit a paper should send a draft to Dr Ansari at the address below. It is hoped that the total cost of the symposium will not exceed £40 for residents and £20 for non-residents. Further details from Dr J. M. A. Ansari, Windsor Clinic, Rainhill Hospital, Prescot, Merseyside.

#### **Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry**

The 1978–9 programme of scientific meetings on the theme 'Ways of Studying Child Behaviour' opened in September. Details of the Association and its meetings are available from the Hon. Secretary, Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry, Department of Child Psychiatry, Institute of Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH.

#### **Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease**

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease will be held on 1 and 2 December at the Hotel Biltmore, New York City. The meeting will be devoted to "Current Concepts of Pain and its Treatment". Further information from Dr Roger Duvoisin, Secretary-Treasurer, ARNMD, Annenberg Building, Suite 14-02, 100th Street at 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10029, U.S.A.

#### **15th International Congress of Therapeutics**

The 15th International Congress of Therapeutics will be held at the Palais des Académies, Brussels, from 5 to 9 September 1979. Further information and preliminary programme available from the Department of Cardiology, Hôpital Universitaire Saint-Pierre, Rue Haute, 322–1000, Brussels, Belgium.

#### **Society for Psychotherapy Research**

The European Conference of the Society for Psychotherapy Research will be held at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, from 1 to 5 July 1979. Workers in this field are invited to send papers describing original research (accompanied by a 100-word summary) and suggestions for panel discussions or workshops. These should be sent in parallel to Professor M. Gelder, Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford, and Dr Gary R. VandenBos, American Psychological Association, 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC

20036, USA. Further information and application forms for attending the meeting may be obtained from Professor Gelder.

#### **10th International Congress for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention**

The 10th International Congress for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from 17–20 June 1979, under the auspices of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. The theme is 'Basic Issues', and there will be three sessions—I. High-risk Populations; II. Issues of Life and Death; III. Strategies. Those wishing to present scientific papers should submit abstracts of 300–500 words by 1 November 1978. Further details and registration forms from the Secretariat, IASP Congress 1979, Suite 700, 71 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 5N2.

#### **11th International Congress of Psychotherapy**

The 11th International Congress of Psychotherapy will be held in Amsterdam from 27 August–1 September 1979. The main theme is 'Training and Research'. Further details from The Secretariat of the 11th International Congress of Psychotherapy, c/o Holland Organizing Centre, 16 Lange Voorhout, 2514 EE The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### **7th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy**

The 7th International Congress of Group Psychotherapy will be held in Copenhagen from 3–8 August 1980. The theme is 'The Individual and the Group: Boundaries and Inter-relations in Theory and in Practice'. The Congress organizer is Dr Lise Rafaelsen, Psychiatric Department, Gentofte Hospital, Niels Andersenvej 65, DK 2900 Hellerup, Denmark, and the Programme Chairman is Dr M. Pines, 1 Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, London W1H 3LF. Further details will be published in due course.