

## Correspondence

### *The Future of the 'Conjoint' DPM*

DEAR SIR,

I refer to the announcement in the *Bulletin* (March 1980, p. 50) about the above examination, and am pleased to note that the College is inviting 'some open discussion of needs and aims'. As is well known, the majority of the candidates appearing for the Conjoint DPM examination are overseas psychiatric trainees. The reasons for this are many. Many of us find this a most useful examination in preparation for the MRCPsych. The format, with its emphasis on essay-type questions, is very familiar to overseas graduates, and also there is still a lot of prestige attached to the Diploma, and it is a recognized postgraduate qualification in many countries.

Neurology, both theory and clinical, is a large component of the examination, and this is invaluable for overseas doctors returning to their country of origin; for, as Carstairs observes: '... in developing countries, infections, toxæmic

and organic lesions of the CNS are common accompaniments of psychiatric disorders'. Before the College takes a final decision on the subject, could they please get the views of the trainees, through the various Divisional representatives in the Collegiate Trainees Committee? The Divisional representatives could perhaps use part of the 'trainees day' being organized in the various regions to discuss this issue.

MOHAN DAS,  
Senior Registrar,

West Suffolk Hospital,  
Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP33 2QZ.

#### REFERENCE

CARSTAIRS, G. M. (1973) Psychiatric training for foreign medical graduates. *Companion to Psychiatric Studies* (Ed. A. Forrest). Churchill Livingstone.

## Forthcoming Events

The **Association of Therapeutic Communities** is holding a one-day conference on 21 June, 1980 at the Richmond Fellowship Headquarters and College and at the Cardinal Vaughan School Hall, Addison Road, London. The subject of the conference is 'The Growth of the Therapeutic Community Outside the Hospital'. Information: ATC Conference Secretary, The Richmond Fellowship, 8 Addison Road, London W14 8DL.

The **Third Congress of Medical Informatics and Methodology**, organized by the European Federation for Medical Informatics, will take place in Toulouse from 9 to 13 March, 1981. The themes selected are methodology of follow-up study of chronic diseases; methodology of analysis evaluation and improvement of health care systems; and the help that informatics and robotics can provide to handicapped persons. Information: Service des Relations Extérieures, Domaine de Voluceau—B.P. 105, 78150 Le Chesnay, France.

The **British Association for Psychopharmacology** is holding its Annual Summer Meeting from 13 to 15 July, 1980, at Exeter University. There will be symposia on 'Psychopharmacology of Sleep' and 'New Antidepressants'. The Autumn Scientific Meeting will be held on 24 October, 1980, at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. Information for both these events: Dr. David Wheatley, 325 Staines Road, Twickenham, TW2 5AX.

Adaptability and Aging is the theme of the **IXth International Conference of Social Gerontology** which will be held from 27 to 30 August, 1980, in Quebec. Information: Maggy Bieulac, Siege Administratif, 91 Rue Jouffroy, 75017 Paris, France.

The **Third Annual Oxford Psychotherapy Workshop** will be held from 23 to 26 September, 1980, at Charney Manor, Oxon. The theme will be 'The Group as a Therapeutic Process'. Information: Dr. S. Bloch, Psychotherapy Department, Warneford Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JX.

The **Child Guidance Trust** is sponsoring a one-day course for practitioners in the Child Guidance/Child Psychiatric Service on 19 September, 1980, at Bedford College, Regents Park, London W1. The theme is 'Growing Points and Sticking Points in Child Guidance'. Information: Ms Angela Joyce, 24 Corsica Street, Highbury, London N5. Telephone: 01-359-1069.

A **Course on Therapeutic Communication with Children** will take place at the Child Guidance Training Centre on Monday afternoons during the Autumn Term 1980 and the Spring Term 1981. The course is open to staff of Child Guidance Clinics and Departments of Child Psychiatry who are already engaged in work with individual children and who are willing to contribute current clinical material. Ten places are available. Information: Mrs. J. Hopkins, Child Guidance Training Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3.