



columns

forthcoming events

Personality Disorders: Mad, Bad or just Misunderstood.

A 1-day conference to be held at Regent's College, on 15 March 2001, convened by Dr Gwen Adshead, Honorary Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry at Broadmoor Hospital and the Traumatic Stress Clinic. The personality disorder diagnosis can give rise to problems and debate: both professional and political. The conference will look at the realities of working with patients given this diagnosis. Speakers with extensive experience in the field will review assessment, research and treatment issues. The impact on staff working with a potentially demanding group will also be looked at. Whatever the Government plans for this group, mental health services will be involved at different levels. The conference will be of interest to different practitioners of mental health care.

Dual Diagnosis – Steps in the Right Directions.

A 1-day conference to be held on the 30 March 2001 at the Institute of Physics, convened by Dr Ken Chęcinski, Senior Lecturer in Addictive Behaviour at St George's Hospital Medical School.

The conference will explore dual diagnosis from a range of agendas and professional perspectives. It will present the case of good practice and emphasise the need to tailor the response of dual diagnosis to local situations. There will be constructive discussion about the barriers to collaborate projects and how they can be overcome. A major aim of the conference will be to identify a consensus framework for a response to this issue in a geographical area.

Dr Chęcinski is an enthusiastic clinician with a keen interest in service development, especially for 'difficult to reach' individuals. He is an energetic teacher and has published in the field of dual diagnosis and addictive behaviour research.

Shopping Addiction, an afternoon seminar organised by Mole Conferences to be held at Britannia Street Conference Centre during March 2001. Speaker and content are to be confirmed. **Cognitive–Behavioural Therapy (CBT)** is the first of a series of afternoon seminars on aspects of CBT organised by Mole Conferences to be held at Britannia Street Conference Centre during March 2001.

For further details of any of the above conferences please contact Mole Conferences, 26 Church Road, Portslade,

Brighton BN41 1LA; tel: 01273 242 634; fax: 01273 235 095.

The 9th Manchester Course in Liaison Psychiatry

will be held 4–8 June 2001. This is an intensive week-long course in liaison psychiatry. It is most suitable for newly appointed consultants and specialist registrars. Emphasis is placed upon small group teaching and workshops. Clinical issues covered include somatisation, psychological reactions to physical illness and medico-legal aspects of liaison psychiatry. Managerial and administrative issues are also covered, as are research and audit. The course organisers are Dr Else Guthrie and Professor Francis Creed. Course facilitators for 2001 include Professor Amanda Ramirez, Dr Allan House, Dr Chris Bass, Dr Eleanor Reldman and Dr Chris Dickens. The course fee is £295, non-residential (includes lunch and refreshments each day) and £475, residential (includes 4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation). For further information and application forms contact Mrs Una Dean, Secretary to Dr E. Guthrie, University Department of Psychiatry, Rawnsley Building, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester M13 9WL; tel: 0161 276 5383; fax: 0161 273 2135; e-mail Una.Dean@man.ac.uk.

The White Paper Mental Health Law for the 21st Century

is a major multi-disciplinary conference that will examine the key features of the eagerly awaited White Paper. It is probable that the proposals will also include a framework for those considered to be 'a dangerous person with severe personality disorder'. The programme for this day will be added to the website of The Institute of Mental Health Law (www.imhl.com) once the White Paper has been published.

Difficult Decisions – Ethics Support in the Delivery of Health Care

is a 1-day conference to be held on 27 February 2001 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. The British Medical Journal Publishing Group, in conjunction with the Nuffield Trust and the Ethox Centre, University of Oxford, is holding this conference to consider the issues relating to ethics support in the delivery of health care.

The programme will raise awareness of the ethical issues faced by clinicians in their day-to-day practice, as well as various models of clinical ethics support from the UK, USA and elsewhere. Topics for discussion in the afternoon workshop

sessions include: rationing and the health authority; the place of ethics in clinical governance; e-ethics; ethics in health care management; clinical ethics committees; and primary care groups and primary care trusts – how are the ethical issues to be addressed?

The conference will be of particular interest to those already facing ethical problems in their practice, whether at clinical or management level, in NHS trusts, health authorities, health boards and primary care. The conference will also appeal to health care educators, those providing ethics support to clinicians and consumers of health care. For further information please contact the BMJ Publishing Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR; tel: 020 7387 4499; fax: 020 7383 6661.

Once again the Royal Edinburgh Hospital is offering another course on **Practical Electroconvulsive Therapy** that will include practical demonstrations of empirical titration of seizure threshold and monitoring by electroencephalogram. The course will be held on 28–29 March 2001. For further information please contact Ms F. Morrison, Andrew Duncan Clinic, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh EH10 5HF; tel: 0131 537 6452; fax: 0131 537 6116.

Psychosexual Problems: Psyche or Soma?

A joint meeting of The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and The British Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Andrology is to be held on 8 March 2001. For further information please contact the Conference Administrator, Postgraduate Education Department, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG; fax: 020 7772 6388.

Applications are now invited for semester two of the **MRCPsych course run by University College London**. Part one will take place on Monday afternoons commencing 5 March 2001 and part two on Tuesday afternoons commencing 6 March 2001. The course includes mock exams, theme specific revision sessions, research methodology and the College's Critical Appraisal Paper for the Part two exam. For further information and an application form, please contact Linda Dutton, the Course Administrator (tel: 020 7679 9475; E-mail: l.dutton@ucl.ac.uk).