

The speakers had no doubt that Section 136 was invaluable as a means for rapid response to a crisis but it carried a danger of becoming an instrument of undue social control and needed a central system to find out more about how it was being operated and to standardise procedures. Also several controversial points might have to be tested in the courts: they included the legality of removing from a place to which the public might or might not have access a person, who appeared to a constable to be mentally disturbed, to a police station under the common law, or on a dubious charge of breach of the peace or committing a nuisance; moving the person from one place of safety to another; and holding the person in

a place of safety other than a police station in the absence of a police constable.

At a subsequent meeting of the Public Policy Committee, Professor Robert Bluglass said that actually there was much use of Section 136 outside London and that the reason why most people were not aware of it was that it was not recorded unless the patient were to be admitted to hospital. He said, too, that the notion that a constable should stay with the patient during the Section 136 assessment was erroneous. He suggested that an approach to the Association of Chief Constables would be a good way to start standardising procedures and resolving legal uncertainties.

Miscellany

Prizes

The *Welsh Division* has recently established an *annual research prize* consisting of books to the value of £100 and an inscribed scroll. It is confined to trainees in psychiatry who present a report based upon studies carried out during an appointment within Wales. Trainees in psychiatry will only be eligible to enter submissions for the prize up to two calendar years after securing membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists from the date of the examination results. The subject of the report or dissertation should include original research in relation to the Discipline of Psychiatry. The closing date is 31 August 1989. Further details can be obtained from the secretary, Dr D. D. R. Williams, Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett, Swansea SA2 0GH.

Dr Don Johnson, the Chairman of the North West Division, was recently awarded the first *Cheadle Royal Prize* of £500.

AUTP postgraduate training in behavioural psychotherapy 1989-90

The Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry with the Institute of Psychiatry runs an annual course in behavioural psychotherapy. The course will begin with a two-day workshop on 28 September and 29 September 1989. This will include the following components: theoretical background, demonstration of treatments and participant practice. After the workshop participants will be asked to undertake behavioural treatment of their own patients in their own centres, and later also to supervise other trainees. Participants will be supervised in small groups at monthly intervals in half-day sessions over the

following academic year. During the two-day workshop and throughout the course eminent guest speakers from round the UK will run seminars on behavioural treatment in acute and chronic disorders in adults, the elderly, children, mental handicap, and liaison psychiatry. A certificate will be awarded to those completing the course. The course is organised on lines which qualify for local funding assistance under Study Leave Regulations of the BPMF. Cost of the combined workshop, monthly supervision and reading materials over the following academic year is £340. Applicants should write, stating their qualifications and current appointment, to Professor Isaac Marks at the Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF, where the course will be held.

Honour

Professor Michael Shepherd, Institute of Psychiatry, was awarded the CBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Appointment

Chris Thompson has recently been appointed Professor of Psychiatry, University of Southampton.

SANE

SANE (Schizophrenia: a National Emergency) is a new fund-raising and campaigning organisation whose prime objectives are to find a cure for schizophrenia, raise awareness and promote care. Further information: SANE, 5th Floor, 120 Regent Street, London W1A 5FE.