

## 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.