
Miscellany

Maudsley wins major MRC research centre

The Medical Research Council (MRC) has chosen the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital for a major new research centre in psychiatry. With initial research funding of £2.6 million, it will be named the MRC Centre for Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry. Its first director will be Professor Sir Michael Rutter who is also Director of the MRC Child Psychiatry Unit.

Reversing the brain drain from Britain, the announcement coincides with the recruitment of two leading scientists from the United States, Robert Plomin and Judy Dunn, who specialise respectively in behavioural genetics and social development.

Robert Plomin's research combines genetic and environmental approaches to investigate how they interact in the development of behavioural dimensions and disorders; for example, he has pioneered research on the genetic and environmental factors for making children growing up in the same family so different from one another. Judy Dunn's plans for research at the new centre include a study of how children cope with important changes in their lives such as new schools or changes in the family structure; and a study of the development of children who are brought up by step-parents.

New publications

St George's Mental Health Library publishes The Sovereign Series, books which explain the difficult things of life to adults with learning disabilities and to help carers to talk about sensitive topics. Further information: Mrs Freda Macey, Division of Psychiatry of Disability, Department of Mental Health Sciences, St George's Hospital

Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE.

Community mental health care in Romania

Community mental health care in Romania is very new. The first project for supported accommodation for people having long-standing mental health problems is being undertaken by the Estuar Foundation, established in September 1993 by the Scottish organisation Penumbra and the Romanian League for Mental Health. Estuar is offering supported accommodation and other social options for the first 12 tenants.

Dr (Col) Kirpal Singh

Dr (Col) Kirpal Singh, a Fellow of the College, delivered the oration 'Psychiatry then and now: a flashback over five decades' on 12 December 1993 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

St Matthew's Hospital, Reunion: Burntwood

St Matthew's Hospital is due to close in March 1995 and a Grand Party/Reunion is being held in the Main Hall of the hospital on 18 February 1995. This will be followed by a dance in the Social Club in the evening. This is a preliminary notice to estimate the number of persons who would like to attend. Would all those interested please write to: Jean Carr or Shirley Sewell, c/o St Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood, Walsall WS7 9ES. Telephone messages may be left by ringing 0543 685511, extension 530 (24 hour answering machine).