

inquiries and the formal legal tribunal that would be speedy and do justice not only to the complainer but also to those whose actions are complained about. Some consultants fear that hearsay evidence and hasty peer judgements may be most unfair. Perhaps the whole area is related to 'medical audit', though that is really another topic to be dealt with in due course.

Don't miss the exciting next instalment of *President's*

Press—or perhaps the one after. Meanwhile if anyone has any experience of complaints not being dealt with in what they think was a proper fashion, or any observations to make on existing procedures, I should be glad to hear about them (in strict confidence, of course).

DESMOND POND

COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR SEMYON GLUZMAN

The College's Special Committee on the Political Abuse of Psychiatry has sent the following letter to Dr Gluzman, who, as members will recall, is still confined to prison camp because of the brave stand he took against the abuse of psychiatry in the USSR. The letter is published here so that readers of the *Bulletin* may know that the College is continuing to give such support as it is able to Dr Gluzman. Copies have also been sent to the Camp Commandant at Camp Mordovia 19, to the Minister of Health (USSR) and to the Soviet Embassy in London.

Dear Dr Gluzman,

I am writing as Chairman of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Special Committee on the Political Abuse of Psychiatry to assure you of our continuing concern about your detention and the reasons for it. We remain acutely aware not only of what we owe to you and to your courageous stand against the political abuses of psychiatry, but also of our responsibility to take such action as is open to us to press for your release and that of other psychiatric colleagues.

An important recent development will, we earnestly hope, be of help to you. New committees have been set up both by an international organisation (the World Psychiatric Association) and by a number of official national psychiatric associations. These committees will investigate and act on reports of psychiatric abuse. They will also take action on behalf of those, such as yourself, who are being persecuted for bringing abuses to the attention of the world. This improved collaboration between official national psychiatric associations should enable us to make our voice heard more clearly.

One such national committee is the Special Committee recently set up by the Royal College of Psychiatrists to pursue these objectives. It is at the request of this committee that I now write to you to

tell you of the urgent consideration we are giving to your plight and our deep-felt concern for you personally.

Yours sincerely,

PETER SAINSBURY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

DHSS Computer Research Funds

The joint DHSS/NHS Computer Policy Committee (which is supported by a Computer R & D Committee and Technical Committee) earlier this year invited applications for support of research and development in the application of computers to the solution of Health Service problems. Members may like to be aware that central funds are available for this purpose. The DHSS is in general interested in supporting health service studies rather than biomedical research, the latter being the province of the Research Councils. Examples of fields in which it has supported computer research and development in the past decade are hospital patient administration, laboratory services, health centres, nursing records, orders and allocations, and Family Practitioner Committee patient registers.

Applications for DHSS funding of computer research proposals need the support of the appropriate Regional Health Authority. Regional Computing Services Officers should be approached to advise on the format and content of proposals. In assessing the relative merits of competing proposals, the DHSS and when appropriate the Computer Policy Committee draw on the advice of the NHS Computer Research and Development Committee which in addition to representatives of Health Service disciplines also includes independent scientific advisers appointed by the Chief Scientist in its membership.