

forward to. Silberman has told her that after six months, she might move to the minimum-security wing, where she can have a visit from her son, whom she is desperate to see. Six months have elapsed, and Sarah now says she does not believe the delusions. Silberman recognises that she is faking insight, he rightly believes she will try to escape if she is moved, and tells her that he will recommend to the review board that she stays another six months. She begs to see her son, at least to speak to him on the telephone. She is denied. She attacks Silberman, but is restrained (see picture), and injected with a drug that knocks her out. Silberman looks to the video camera and exclaims, "Model citizen!" At least there is a review board. . . .

The last episode in the hospital begins with the police interviewing Sarah; Silberman lurks in the background. She is told that her son is missing; she pretends to become totally withdrawn, and steals a paperclip with which to effect an escape. A male orderly takes her back to her cell, and straps her to the bed, even though she has never shown any tendency to self-harm. He licks her slowly across the face, while she is still withdrawn. He locks her in the room, and walks off down the corridor, nonchalantly banging his truncheon against the cell doors.

Sarah picks the locks and runs off. Silberman is in the dispensary, with a nurse, and we hear him recommending an increase in dose (what else?) for a patient to 250 mg. Sarah nearly makes it out by holding a hypodermic full of "Liquid Rooter. Industrial Strength. Poison", from the dispensary, to Silberman's neck. In fact the terminator arrives for more general mayhem. Silberman sees it all, and in the last shot of him he looks washed up and rather foolish.

*Terminator 2* is a good film. I and millions more enjoyed it. I saw psychiatry portrayed badly. Millions will have seen it simply portrayed. It is sad that this is done in terms of the old fears – the sane being locked away, drugged up, by the men in white coats. The drugs don't work, the staff don't care. Community care is side-stepped by making the heroine criminally insane, or worse, sane and while criminal, morally justified.

One final point is perhaps worth mentioning. World War III starts when the defence computer becomes 'self-aware', and when the terminator is asked whether it can be more human it says it can, the longer it spends with humans, because it has a "neural network". Given the prescience of some science fiction, can we chalk one up for biological psychiatry?

*Psychiatric Bulletin* (1991), 15, 797

## Miscellany

### Back issues of the Journal

Complete volumes of *The British Journal of Psychiatry* from 1963–1982 are available free of charge from Mr Hugh Robertson, Home Office Research and Planning Unit, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (telephone 071 273 2084).

### Information leaflets

The following leaflets are available from the Mental Health Foundation, 8 Hallam Street, London W1N 6DH (telephone 071 580 0145): *Dementia and the Family*, *Mental Handicap and the Family*, *Problems of Alcohol*, and *Problems with Tranquillisers*.

### Monograph on delirium

The International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) announces that a large special issue of *International Psychogeriatrics*, to be published in December 1991, will be devoted entirely to the subject of delirium. Membership in IPA is open to all interested in the field of psychogeriatrics (\$75.00 for individuals, \$150.00 for institutions) and anyone who joins IPA before 31 December 1991 will receive the monograph as part of their membership. Those interested in membership, and non-members who wish to purchase the monograph separately, should contact: The Secretariat, IPA, 3127 Greenleaf Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091, USA (telephone 010 1 708 866 7227; fax 010 1 708 866 6984).