

concept of liaison as a subspecialty. However, the need for research to include valid and reliable assessment procedures such as operationalised diagnosis and structured interviews acceptable to medical and surgical patients; to aid comparability between studies was stressed.

We finished our meetings with a discussion of 'How To Do a Psychiatric Consultation' (Garrick & Stotland, 1982) which was seen as an example of excellence rarely achieved in UK practice.

Our answers to the questions initially posed were:

- (a) There is a need and demand for consultation and liaison psychiatry in the UK which is currently poorly met.
- (b) Although there is interest in liaison, most members felt that as an initial step increased training, supervision and quality of consultation were required in the UK. Expertise is lacking due to poor supervision, poor data collection and lack of training in non-pharmacologic interventions.
- (c) Some clinical syndromes are over-represented in liaison referrals but it is too soon to decide whether this fact merits the designation of speciality status.

The group wishes to express support for the objec-

tives published by the Liaison Psychiatry Group regarding manpower, training and service organisation in this area of psychiatry. One step towards these might be the organisation of similar study groups in other centres.

Study Group Members:

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Training matters

Further to the article by Neil Holden on Training in Psychiatry in Less Developed Countries (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, October 1989, **13**, 558-560); it should be pointed out that a full report of the WHO workshop referred to is available from the Division of Mental

Health, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.* It should be noted that views expressed in the article are those of Dr Holden and do not necessarily reflect the views of WHO nor of the other participants at the workshop.

*HOLDEN, N. & EDWARDS, E. (eds.) (1989) *Postgraduate Training in Psychiatry: Options for international collaboration*. Geneva: World Health Organization. Unpublished document WHO/MND/MEP/88.7.

Psychiatric Bulletin (1990), **14**, 37-40

Conference reports

'Royal road to the unconscious'*

KEVIN O'NEILL, Tutor, Department of Psychiatry, University College Dublin, and St Brendan's Hospital; and JOHN CORISH, Registrar, St Brendan's Hospital, Dublin 7, Ireland

A psychiatric conference on dreams poses a considerable challenge for its organisers due to the breadth of the topic. The approach taken at this one-day conference was to adopt an interdisciplinary format where

viewpoints were included from the perspective of philosophy and literature.

A basic tenet of psychoanalytic theory is that through dream interpretation an understanding of