

NEWS ITEMS

The Donald Winnicott Centre

For reasons which remain obscure, our main medical journals overlooked the opening of the Donald Winnicott Centre by the Minister for the Disabled, Mr Alfred Morris, M.P., on 26 October 1978.

Some half a million pounds, mainly donated by the Hayward Foundation, has produced a handsome building at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, London, where Dr Winnicott was a paediatrician for twelve years. The centre is designed to provide a combined psychiatric and paediatric assessment facility, with, in addition, one of the most sophisticated audiological units for children yet designed in the United Kingdom. The Warnock Report places the under-fives as first priority.

From concept to completion has taken about ten years, and it is gratifying that one of the most distinguished child psychiatrists in the world has been commemorated, and his journey from paediatrics to psychiatry both embodied in stone and blessed.

ANDREW CROWCROFT

Working Party on Observation and Assessment

The Department of Health and Social Security has set up a working party to look into present practices in the observation and assessment of children and young persons referred to local authority social services departments, and to explore the possibilities of developing such observation and assessment other than in residential community homes.

It is hoped that publicity will stimulate interest and

will assist the work of the Committee by bringing in ideas. Indeed, any relevant information, advice or ideas from interested individuals, authorities, or organisations would be welcomed.

Excerpta Medica Travel Award, 1979

Applications are invited for the Excerpta Medica Travel Award for 1979. The Award, which lasts for three months and covers travel and hotel costs, is open to medical specialists born during or after 1943. A married recipient may be accompanied by husband or wife. Applications, enclosing: Curriculum vitae (and a recent photograph); list of publications, plus reprints; two letters of recommendation; and a statement of approximately 250 words indicating how the Award would be used, should be sent to: Mr Kenneth Ellison Davis, Travel Award Office, Excerpta Medica Foundation, P.O. Box 1126, 1000 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, *by 1 March*.

Research Programme on Social Skills Behavioural Psychotherapy

A research programme is in progress at the Institute of Psychiatry for investigating the treatment of patients who have social skills problems without schizophrenia or severe depression. Treatment involves 14 sessions of group social skills training with or without additional training in cognitive coping mechanisms. Patients who are referred with such problems can be offered a rapid appointment for assessment for possible treatment. Referrals should be directed to Professor Isaac Marks, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Association of Psychiatrists in Training

An Open Forum on 'Who puts medical students off psychiatry?' will be held on Tuesday, 6 February, at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, E1. The speakers will include Professor Gerald Russell, Professor Henry Walton, a non-psychiatrist, and medical students. All are welcome. Further details from Dr F. Creed, Department of Psychiatry, The London Hospital.

Winnicott Fund

The fourth Winnicott Conference will be held at Bedford College, Regent's Park, London, on Friday, 23 March. The theme is 'Containing Stress in Profes-

sional Work'. Application forms from Mrs J. Coles, 1 Anne Mount, 44 Madeley Road, London, W5 2LU.

Association of Therapeutic Communities

The Annual General Meeting and a day conference with the theme, 'Love, Hate and Analysis in Therapeutic Communities' will be held at St Bernard's Hospital, Southall, on Saturday, 24 February. Details and application form from Dr H. Bourne, Connolly Unit, St Bernard's Hospital, Southall, Middlesex.

The second residential training weekend, 'Learning from Experience in Therapeutic Community Living', will be held from 23-25 March. Further details and application forms from Dr Jeff Roberts, Ingrebourne Centre, St. George's Hospital, Hornchurch, Essex.