

suggestion of a surgeon, a clinic for surgical treatment of the mentally defective patients in Stoke Park Colony. The idea was later abandoned and the Medical Research Council suggested that the premises be used as a neuro-research centre for the West of England. Mrs Burden accepted the idea and gave further financial support and the Burden Neurological Institute was opened on 12 May 1939. Professor F. L. Golla was appointed Director of the Institute, Dr W. Grey Walter was in charge of the Physiological Research Unit, Dr E. L. Hutton was in charge of psychiatric research, Mr L. D. MacLeod and Mr A. Tingey were appointed as biochemists, and Professor Max Reiss was in charge of the Endocrinological Unit.

Sir Wylie McKissock, Mr Willway and Professor Lambert Rogers gave their services in the beginning, later the Surgeon-in-Charge was Miss Diane Beck. These neuro-surgeons and the staff dealt with all the neuro-surgical casualties from the west country for several years.

The Institute became nationally and internationally known for its work, especially in the studies of electro-physiology of the CNS, electro-encephalography, and the physical treatment of mental disorder. Just before the Second World War,

the Burden Institute initiated the practice of electric convulsive therapy in this country, and soon after the first leucotomy in Great Britain was performed there. Since then many discoveries and observations have been made in the Institute.

Mrs R. G. Burden died in 1939, and she is buried with her husband, the Reverend Burden, at Clevedon near Bristol.

The Burden Trustees are still financing research projects in the United Kingdom, and in addition they are generously supporting the Burden Institute.

In 1969 the Burden Trustees instituted 'The Burden Research Gold Medal and Prize' to encourage research into mental handicap. To date 11 eminent psychiatrists in this field have received the coveted award.

### *References*

- BERRY, R. J. A. (1933) *Mental Deficiency – Stoke Park Studies – First Series*. London: MacMillan.
- JANCAR, J. (1972) Fifty Years of Brentry (1922–1972). *Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, **87**, 23–30.
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## Miscellany

### **Professor Joseph Sandler**

Joseph Sandler, Freud Memorial Professor, University of London, and Director of the Psychoanalysis Unit, University College London, was elected to the Presidency of the International Psycho-Analytical Association at its 36th Congress in Rome.

### **New publication**

*Standards for Quality* gives guidelines for those concerned in using, planning and providing services to meet the needs of people with a disability. It can be obtained from Choice, 152 Camden Road, London

NW1 9HL, price £2.50, including postage and packing.

### **Flat to let**

A first floor one bedroom flat near Willesden Green Underground Station (close to Tavistock Clinic) is to let for six months or a year. It is suitable for a professional couple or one person (£175 per week, negotiable). Further information: Lucia Alvarez de Toledo, 138B Melrose Avenue, London NW2 4JX (telephone 01 450 5344; fax 01 452 7735).