
The first year of *APT*

A. C. P. Sims

There have now been 32 articles in the eight issues of the first volume of *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*. The first issue appeared in September 1994, and each issue has been produced bi-monthly since then. It would be appropriate at this stage to carry out a brief audit. The real test of *APT*'s effectiveness is the response of the readership and there is necessarily a time lag between a reader forming a good or bad opinion and carrying out action such as sending a cheque to subscribe or writing a letter of complaint!

We have commissioned articles on both physical aspects of treatment and psychological and social therapies. It is sometimes difficult to know which category an article comes into but on my assessment there have been six articles on physical areas of treatment and nine on psychological. We have reckoned to have an article on aspects of psychiatric management in each issue, and in general this has been achieved. One of the most sensitive matters is that of covering the various sub-specialities of psychiatry. There has been at least one article, and in several cases two, for the sub-specialities of child and adolescent psychiatry, old age psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, learning disabilities and the addictions. It is very important that *APT* continues to keep a close eye on the distribution of articles between sub-specialities, but equally important that as many articles as possible, and ideally all contributions, should be relevant for all psychiatrists.

The first three issues were sent free to all consultant psychiatrists in the United Kingdom and Ireland and so it was not really necessary for individuals to send their subscription until the early part of this year. In March subscriptions stood at 630 and they had risen to the satisfactory figure of 1108 by 18 September 1995. We would hope that the majority of consultant psychiatrists working in the United Kingdom and in Ireland would find *APT* useful and would therefore want to subscribe. We also recommend it to trainees in psychiatry, even

those preparing themselves for the membership examination, for they will have realised that as their examiners are reading *APT* it is just possible that it might have an influence upon the questions asked! We are also recommending *APT* for use overseas. To this end, we will plan to have more contributions from psychiatrists overseas.

I will not describe future articles in any detail; this would be invidious. However, from January 1996, we will be publishing six articles in each bi-monthly issue. We are introducing case histories, with discussion of treatment. We also will continue to publish some issues with themes linking the articles, such as our successful issue on traumatic stress. We would like to increase the correspondence but that very much depends upon the readership.

Perhaps a disappointment I have as Editor is that there has not been more debate, more letters, more comment, even criticism from readers. We really do want to direct *APT* towards the needs of consultant psychiatrists and it is very clear that the working conditions of different psychiatrists in different specialities and in different parts of the country vary greatly. We would like to know what you want both in terms of topic and style. We would also like you to comment upon what you may regard as unhealthy trends. For example, do you feel that we are too much influenced by central College, or Government policy? Alternatively, do you feel that we do not pay enough attention to what is published elsewhere?

I want to end this piece by thanking those who have made *APT* a success so far: Louise Whalley, who as Editorial Assistant has carried *APT*; the Editorial Board; Professor Greg Wilkinson has given us much encouragement; and David Jago provided clear-minded oversight for *APT* through its early stages. We have also had much support from the College, its Officers and staff. We are very grateful to all those who have subscribed and have, in a sense, taken on trust the potential rather than the actuality of *APT*. We hope that we will continue to live up to your expectations.

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