

The College

Mental Health Films—Old and New

Notes from the Audio-Visual Sub-Committee

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One of the most valuable sources of psychiatric teaching films for many years has been the BMA/BLAT Film Library, which holds over 800 films on various topics relating to medicine. They may be hired for a £4 handling charge, and new productions are encouraged by the annual BMA film competition. A brief survey of borrowing during the period 1973–82, gives an indication of the use and value of film in the teaching of psychiatry.

Of the 35 films listed, 29 were made before 1973 and 4 before 1960. The spate of psychiatric film making in the 1960s (21) has been remarked upon elsewhere and may form the basis of a College archival films study. During the period, the top three films were *The World of the Schizophrenic* (made in the 1970s and borrowed 386 times), *The Horla* (1967, 225 times) and *The Subnormality Picture* (1965, 211 times). The last named is one of five teaching films made by the RMPA in 1963–4.

Demand, as indicated by the ratio of borrowing to the number of films available, reached its peak in 1978 (13.61), and since then has steadily declined to an estimated 9.46 in 1982. This is certainly due to diminished film production in recent years, and it is of interest that the top ten films borrowed in 1980–2 were (in order): *The World of the Schizophrenic*; *The Horla*; *Infantile Autism* (1968); *Nurse-Patient Relationships in Mental Retardation* (1972); *Faces of Depression* (1959); *Time Out of Mind* (1969); *Token System for Operant Conditioning* (1970); *The Subnormality Picture*; *World Unseen* (1975); and *Recognition and Treatment of the Depressed Patient* (1962).

Films of teaching value in psychiatry are still being produced, however, and tutors (and others) may be interested in

the following.

Depression—The Role of Neurotransmitters and the Clinical Implications (1981, colour, 20 mins)

This film, made by Medi-Cine for Astra Pharmaceuticals, reviews the current status of the monoamine hypothesis, advances new models of effective illness, and examines their implications. Although it assumes some dedication to this subject, it contains some very good graphics which at times have a beauty of their own. A valuable teaching film, it can also be obtained as a video-cassette (VHS format). Enquiries to Astra Pharmaceuticals Ltd, 2 Bricket Road, St Albans.

World in Action: Home Help (1982, colour, 26 mins)

As this was a broadcast television programme, it is not primarily teaching material, but it contains valuable points for discussion. It describes the work of Brindle House in Cheshire, a community centre for the mentally ill practising early intervention whereby it is claimed that hospital admissions can be reduced by 40 per cent. Many of the staff are social workers, although it is under psychiatric direction. From Granada Television, 36 Golden Square, London W1.

Ashwood Day Centre (1982, colour, 20 mins)

Although on a similar theme to *Home Help*, this film attempts to present the activities of a centre for the mentally ill, both from the community and from hospital, through the eyes of the participants themselves. This it does with conviction, and in its subjectivity lies its teaching value. In this case the centre is run by a local Association for Mental Health; the film was made in collaboration with the University Department of Psychology and the local psychiatrist. Available also as video-cassette from Leeds University Audio-Visual Service, Leeds LS2 9JT.

Examination Results

Preliminary Test—September 1982

There were 451 candidates, of whom 217 passed.

Gerald Acey; Julian Francis Adie; Maurice Norman Agnew; Esther Rosaleen Agugo; Abdul Malek Ramadhen Al-Ani; Mahmood Abdul Hadi Al-Bachari; Ali Sadik Abdul Mahdi Al Bazaz; Numan Serhan Ali; Menal Khalid Al-Mekhtar; Serath Seneviratne Anandagoda; Adrian

Christopher Angold; Helen Miriam Annis; Nicholas Argyle; Susan Margaret Arstall; Sawsan Mustafa Awad-el-Kariem; Shelagh Lesley Axford;

Lorna Frances Baker; Pradeep Balakrishnan; Jane Susan Baldock; Alison Margaret Ball; John Christopher Bass;