Psychiatric Bulletin

Volume 14 Number 4 April 1990



The Royal College of Psychiatrists

Psychiatric Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Editors: ALAN KERR and GREG WILKINSON Assistant Editor: ROSALIND RAMSAY

Manager: ELAINE MILLEN

Notice to contributors

The Editors welcome articles of general interest to psychiatrists. Two thousand words is a good length; however, longer articles will be considered. Tables, diagrams and extended references should generally not be included. Please submit three copies, typed double-spaced, and using the Harvard system of referencing, as in *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. Correspondence on subjects of topical interest is also welcome. Contributions are accepted for publication on the condition that their substance has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. The views expressed in articles published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* (except official College material) are the author's own and do not necessarily represent College policy.

Help is at hand

Tuesday 30 January saw the media launch of the College's first series of leaflets telling the public about common psychiatric disorders.

The first leaflet, 'Depression', was introduced by the President, who spoke on the epidemiology of the disorder; Professor Gene Paykel who dealt with causation; Dr Ruth Seifert on symptoms; Professor John Horder (from the RCGP) on the recognition of depression in general practice and Professor Brice Pitt, Public Education Officer, on treatment and the overall purpose of the campaign. This is to raise awareness of psychiatric disorder, reduce its stigma, offer some guidance on self help and where to get further aid, encourage consultation with GPs and reduce resistance to psychiatric referral. The leaflet is attractively designed, illustrated with Mel Calman's delightful cartoons, and easy to read.

There was an uncomfortably full turn-out (in marked contrast to a superb workshop on schizophrenia last year which was attended by all of three reporters!) and excellent coverage in national, regional, local and professional newspapers, magazines and on national and local television and radio. The message that depression is common, distressing, often overlooked and highly treatable was well received and understood while the notion that psychiatry could be 'user friendly' was at least entertained.

So far 5000 requests for the leaflet have been received by the College. It is, however, intended to be distributed through general practitioners' surgeries. If you know of any GPs who have not yet received their supply, they can get them from: PO Box 19, Basingstoke, Hants.

Future leaflets, to be distributed at intervals over the next 18 months, concern 'Anxiety and Phobias', 'Alcohol' and 'Bereavement.'

The low profile support of Eli Lilly in this enterprise is greatly appreciated.

BRICE PITT

The Psychiatric Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists is published monthly by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. All contents © Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1989, unless otherwise stated.

ISSN 0 140-0789

Printed in Great Britain by Henry Ling Ltd, at the Dorset Press, Dorchester, Dorset

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