

In a ward for disturbed women 25 of 26 patients were taking medication, and in a ward for disturbed men 28 of 38 patients were on treatment. Only 3 of 31 patients were prescribed drugs in a ward for non-disturbed cases. The patients in the hospital are long-stay, and the pattern of medication for a majority of them remains unchanged for long periods.

The value of such a survey is that it encourages the doctors to think about their prescribing habits, and the nurses and the pharmacy to consider their dispensing arrangements. The information gained is also of use for comparative purposes with similar hospitals.

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#### BRITISH ACADEMY OF PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

DEAR SIR,

For many years the United Kingdom has lagged behind other countries in having no specific organization dedicated to psychopharmacology. A number of other countries have established their own national organizations, which are affiliated to the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (C.I.N.P.), one of the best known of these being the American College of Neuro-Psychopharmacology.

In view of the considerable contributions made by our country to psychopharmacology, it appears to us that the present situation is anomalous and that the time has come to establish a national organization in this country. To avoid confusion with the Royal Colleges, we propose that this organization be called 'The British Academy of Psychopharmacology'.

We believe that there is a particular need to focus attention on the importance of drug treatment in psychiatry, in the eyes of both the young clinician and the research scientist. The objects of the Academy will therefore be to further research in psychopharmacology, both clinical and experimental, and to improve the quality and standards of psychotropic drug evaluation. This can be accomplished by means of the spoken and written word, through the media of meetings, study groups and publications.

We propose to call a meeting in the near future of all members of the profession who may have an active interest in psychopharmacology, for the purpose of determining the constitution of the Academy, to elect officers, and to consider the Academy's policy, particularly in relation to the pharmaceutical industry. To this end we have drafted some suggestions, and we would be pleased to forward these to any interested member of the profession. We would also like to receive suggestions and comments concerning the establishment of the Academy, and invite those interested to communicate with any one of the undersigned.

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