

Rehabilitation and community care in psychiatry

DEAR SIRs

It has been evident in recent editions of the *Bulletin* that various related issues have come to the fore in psychiatry. These include resource management, clinical and medical audit, use of information technology, indicators in mental health and the NHS and community care White Papers. April 1991 will soon be upon us.

We would be interested to know if other psychiatrists of whatever level, involved in management or not, still feel the need for more knowledge about the above. As newly appointed consultants we are aware of the necessity to acquire information and discuss new developments as they arise.

We would welcome contact from others, either through the *Bulletin* or directly, as to whether this thirst for knowledge is being met and how.

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Gone but not forgotten

DEAR SIRs

The resignation of Mrs Thatcher as British Prime Minister marks a major watershed in many ways. It is a turning point for cognitive testing in patients with organic brain syndrome. It has been shown (Deary *et al*, 1985) that patients with dementia are more likely to recall Mrs Thatcher's name than was previously the case with other Prime Ministers. It is the authors' experience that patients with dementia, when asked the Prime Minister's name, will reply "Margaret Thatcher", or "That bloody woman", even in cases of severe impairment of other memories. It can be argued that the question is more a test of emotional function than of memory.

The appointment of Mr Major changes all of this. The clinical and research implications are that memory rating scales may have to be readjusted. Otherwise, several thousand patients with poor memory will certainly have become one point more demented overnight.

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Gartnavel Royal Hospital – 150th anniversary

DEAR SIRs

Preparations are now being made for the 150th Anniversary in 1993 of the transfer of the Glasgow Royal Asylum to the present buildings at Gartnavel. We intend to take this opportunity to produce a history of the hospital from its beginnings in 1810.

If any of your readers have documents, photographs or personal recollections of Gartnavel Royal which would help us in our task, we would be delighted to hear from them.

Contributions should be sent to me as Chairman of the '1993 Committee'.

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