

ference, medical disorders causing mental handicap, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and neurological disorders, chromosomal abnormalities and dermatoglyphs, biochemical abnormalities and screening, the psychiatry of mental handicap including family psychiatry, behaviour and conduct disorders, visual and hearing defects, speech and communication defects, problems of elderly mentally handicapped people, sexual problems in mentally handicapped people, rehabilitation, community placement and community services, visits to prisons and remand centres and preparation of reports for courts.

Timetable

Each trainee should prepare a timetable of his work for discussion and approval. This should be reviewed and updated as necessary when changes occur in the programme. The timetable should specify in-patient work such as ward rounds and case conferences, out-patient work, visits to facilities in the community, and times regularly spent on postgraduate training, private study and research. The trainee can help himself and his tutors by keeping a record of training in which he can note any special experience, for example, a visit to a Special Hospital.

Parliamentary News

The Bill in the Commons

The Second Reading debate on the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill took place in the House of Commons on 22 March, and the Bill was then committed to a Special Standing Committee. The Government speakers were the new Secretary of State, Mr Norman Fowler, and the new Minister for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who wound up the debate. The speeches were on much the same lines as those of Government spokesmen in the Lords; criticisms from other speakers mainly concerned resources, legal representation at Tribunals and after-care. Mrs G. Dunwoody led for the Opposition, and a gratifying feature of her speech was her concern about the effects of the Bill's provisions on hospital staffs; she quoted the views of psychiatrists at the

Maudsley on the difficulties resulting from the inclusion of 'medication' in the clauses dealing with 'imposed' treatment.

Action by the College

A letter from the President explaining the views and action taken on the Bill has been sent to all members resident in Britain. The College is objecting to the 'impaired' clause and the exclusion of mental handicap from the Bill, mainly on the ground that the present protection afforded to patients against ill-treatment, etc, may be lost. The College is also pressing for the exclusion of medication from the clause concerning compulsory treatment.