

article, and with other articles alleging that hormone treatment had been applied compulsorily to sexual offenders. Contrary to what the MPs suggested, doctors in the Prison Medical Service were actually more accountable than those in the NHS. However, the Home Secretary had decided to collect further information, showing nature of drugs, number of doses, etc.

Addiction

In an Adjournment Debate on 6 December, Mr J. Dempster raised the problem of *glue and solvent sniffing*. He gave figures showing the extent of the problem in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. In the Strathclyde police area some 600 young people had been seen with this addiction in the last 2½ years, and a special clinic had been established by one Health Authority. He suggested a ban on the selling of certain products to young people. As against this, Mr Ewing, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, argued that the range of products involved was too wide and many were readily available even if not sold direct, and it was better to rely on health education, propaganda directed to parents, and discreet action by the police.

Miscellaneous

On 1 December there was an Adjournment Debate

on the Report of the Royal Commission on Gambling, during which, however, nothing was said about the psychological ill-effects of gambling—the aspect which the Report itself has largely ignored. A request was made for a full debate at a later stage, when there may be an opportunity for this matter to be raised.

The *Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Bill* had its second reading on 15 November. Misgivings and anxieties were expressed on behalf of the last two professions. The only reference to psychiatric nursing was an assurance by Mr Ennals that standing committees on the proposed Central Council would be set up for this and other specialties which required distinctive training.

In a written answer on 8 November it was stated that in *England the ratio of one consultant in adult psychiatry per 50,000 population* had already been reached. In another written answer on 15 November it was stated that in *Scotland 45 per cent of NHS beds were occupied by the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, with 12.5 per cent of consultants working with such patients.*

Questions have been asked about *autism* (including one by Sir Harold Wilson), *anorexia nervosa* and *Gilles de la Tourette's disease*, but no information worth recording was elicited by these questions.

ALEXANDER WALK

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

Sheffield, 1 and 2 May 1979

Members will have received with the preliminary announcement of this meeting a notice about the concessionary travel. The costs quoted, however, were incorrectly given for full board, and should read as follows, for bed and breakfast only:

From	Cost per person
Scotland (all parts)	£48.00
North England and North Wales (North of Lincs., Leics., Staffs., Salop, Clwyd) including Isle of Man	£43.00
South England including Isle of Wight and Wales south of Clwyd	£48.00
Single accommodation supplement	£4.00