

DEAR SIRs

I, too, deplore references to Schumann in the context of an advertisement for 'Depixol' (*Bulletin*, March 1983, 7, 55), but mainly because he seems to have suffered from bipolar affective psychosis rather than schizophrenia. It is doubtful whether art therapy would have done him any more good than 'Depixol'.

One can, however, think of a few geniuses who might have been helped by such a drug whilst insane.

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### *Madness in the cinema*

DEAR SIRs

Following Dr Pilkington's report on new films on mental health, members of the College may be interested in a forthcoming season at the National Film Theatre on perceptions of mental illness. The season, 'Madness in the Cinema', is scheduled for July and includes documentaries ('Warrendale'), allegories ('Dr Caligari') and melodramas ('Gaslight').

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## **News Items**

### ***A Guide to the Introduction of a Personalized Clothing Service***

The Disabled Living Foundation (DLF) has recently published a short guide to introducing a personalized clothing service for long-stay patients in certain hospitals where clothing supplied by the hospital (outerwear, underwear and footwear) is used in common. This is an important and often unrecognized problem, and it is hoped that the guide will be of use to those hospitals planning to set up such a service. The guide includes information on the provision of clothing; the storage and care of clothing; collection and distribution; and the staffing required for such a service. The booklet is available at a cost of £1.60 (including postage) from the Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS.

### ***Rehabilitation of the Acute Brain Damaged***

The MRC Co-ordinating Group on Rehabilitation After Acute Brain Damage, funded by a special project grant from the MRC, was established in 1977 to review current research, identify areas of relative neglect and make recommendations.

Last year the *Lancet* (6 November 1982, pp 1034-36) published an article describing the work of the Group, detailing the issues it was concerned with such as the types of research being carried out, the peculiarities of the brain damaged patients requiring rehabilitation and the staff involved in the rehabilitation. In relation to the size of the problem, there is a paucity of research into rehabilitation, and the Group emphasize that there is a need for further work in the field. Advice is available from them to any professional contemplating research into the rehabilitation of the recently brain damaged. (Secretary to the Group: Dr D. N. Brooks, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Glasgow, 6 Whittinghame Gardens, Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0AA.)

### ***'Maybury' returns***

A new series of 'Maybury' has returned to BBC2 (Mondays, 9.30 pm) and will run for seven weeks. The first two-part story looked at epilepsy and was, in fact, an account of the author's own struggle to accept the condition realistically. Further episodes consider community medicine, the effects of social deprivation and unemployment and the problems faced by people who would 'go under' without help and support.

The standard of dramatization continues to be good and the stories are well researched. One of the aims of the series is to present mental illness as it is, without the myth and the mystery, thus removing some of the stigma, and 'Maybury' succeeds in doing this where other programmes have failed.

### ***Health Service Development: Care in the Community and Joint Finance***

The above circular, HC(83)6, LAC(83)5, is now available from the DHSS. It sets out decisions on the suggestions made in the consultative document *Care in the Community*; provides guidance on follow-up action; consolidates and modifies as necessary previous guidance on the joint finance arrangements and gives the joint finance allocations for 1983-84 and planning assumptions for 1984-85.

### ***'Youth Update'***

Information related to causes, treatment and management of anti-social behaviour in adolescents is massive and appears in a variety of journals thus making it difficult for a professional working in the field to keep up to date with the latest developments.

As a service to professionals, *Youth Update* will provide abstracts (without any technical jargon) of selected recent articles. The first issue of the newsletter was published in Spring 1983, and three issues will be published each year. Complementary copies of *Youth Update* are available from: Dr Jalal Shamsie, Director, Research, Evaluation and Professional Education, Thistletown Regional Centre, 51 Panorama Court, Toronto, Canada M9V 4L8.