



columns

treatment as usual it is not surprising that any form of coordinated and committed care would come out to be superior.

This book is certainly worth reading. It gives the longitudinal history of an experiment in community care that has been undoubtedly successful and has influenced the world. However, it also reveals, almost unwittingly, that the

essential requirements of success are not cookbook ingredients, but the right mix of skills, true collaboration between professionals, and good communication and coordination. The members of many community mental health teams in this country would be surprised on reading this book to find out that they are practising assertive community treatment but without the prerequisites that its

instigators regard as essential. Perhaps this should be the true test of the success of this approach; it is fundamentally the philosophy that matters and what constitutes its outer clothes is really immaterial.

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forthcoming events

The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health are the organisers of a two-day conference entitled **Building on Progress: The National Service Framework – One Year On**. The conference will take place in Manchester on 19/20 September 2000 and key themes will include: how far we have got with National Service Framework implementation; public attitudes and mental health promotion; suicide; the evolving primary care agenda; and partnership. Further information: The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, 134138 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LB (tel: 020 7827 8384; fax: 020 7403 9482; website: www.sainsburycentre.org.uk).

The **British & Irish Association for the Study of Personality Disorder**, in collaboration with the **Association Of Therapeutic Communities**, will be holding their second **Annual Meeting** on 20/22 September 2000 at the University of Leicester. The aim is to develop further the themes identified in last year's conference and, in particular, devote several sessions to the management and treatment of personality disorders, both in forensic and general settings. Further information: Ms Victoria Cochrane, Research & Business Development Office, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH (tel: 0116 252 3332; fax: 0116 252 2028; e-mail: vclm@admin.le.ac.uk).

The Division of Psychological Medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry would like to announce **The First Annual Institute of Psychiatry 'Matter-to-mind' Symposium**. This symposium focusing on schizophrenia in the year 2000, is the first of a series of annual symposia focusing on the latest in world research findings in

specific psychiatric disorders. The 'matter-to-mind' title reflects the integration of work from all disciplines in academic neuroscience at the cutting edge of research. Leading international psychiatrists will be presenting their current research in schizophrenia. This two-day symposium will take place on 24/25 October 2000 at the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Institute of Psychiatry. Further information: Dr Mike Travis/Dr Mary Phillips, Division of Psychological Medicine, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF (tel: 020 7848 0625; fax: 020 7848 0051; e-mail: m.travis@iop.kcl.ac.uk or m.phillips@iop.kcl.ac.uk; website: www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/matter2mind/).

Mole Conferences are the organisers of the following events: **Friends and Enemies: Our Need to Love and Hate** is an afternoon seminar with Dr Dorothy Rowe to explore the themes of her new book which is due to be launched in September 2000; this seminar will take place on 9 November 2000; **Serving the Community: Using Health Services Research** is a one-day conference administered by Mole Conferences for the Institute of Psychiatry and will take place in February 2001 at King's College, London. Further information: Mole Conferences, 26 Church Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1LA (tel: 01273 242634; fax: 01273 235095; e-mail: enquiries@mole-conferences.com).

The British Institute of Human Rights and MIND are the organisers of **Mental Health and Human Rights in the UK**, a unique and timely forum setting out how the Human Rights Act will impact on mental health service provision. The event will take place in London on 9 October

2000. Further information: The British Institute of Human Rights (tel: 020 7401 2712).

The Manchester Medical Society Section of Psychiatry would like to announce their first meeting, which is to be held on 28 November 2000 in the Health Sciences Centre of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester. The programme will include topics such as setting up assertive community treatment and the effectiveness of counselling in primary care; and a debate on the future of psychiatry with Professor Sir David Goldberg and Professor Anthony Clare. Further information: The Administrator, Manchester Medical Society, c/o John Rylands University Library, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PP (tel: 0161 273 6048; fax: 0161 272 8046; e-mail: admin@mcr-med-society.u-net.com).

The Institute of Health Sciences, City University London have recently developed an **MSc in Interprofessional Mental Health Studies**. This course, which starts in October 2000, will provide the skills and knowledge needed to strategically develop services for people with mental health problems using an inter-professional focus. The course emphasises collaboration at all levels; draws on a wealth of professional specialist knowledge in the university; and is aimed at mental health and social care practitioners and managers from nursing, medicine, social work, the justice system and occupational therapy. Further information: MSc Courses Administrator, City University London, St Bartholomew School of Nursing and Midwifery, 20 Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7QN (tel: 020 7505 5829; fax 020 7505 5832; website: www.city.ac.uk/barts).