

Madonna and St. George hovering about her bedside and saying that she sees one of the doctors here every night on TV.' He felt that she had 'soul'. At the out-patient department she 'took on herself' certain privileges which were acquiesced in, while, on the other hand, she undertook small dressmaking alterations for his family, which she enjoyed. On being asked whether he felt that he should be communicating any of this information to the ward staff or whether they should be making enquiries of him, he replied that he did not feel it his place to inform the staff, as the out-patients was a separate department and the ward staff might feel that he was 'interfering'. The staff's surmise was that he might be able to establish a better relationship with the patient as he would not be having 'too much contact with Mrs. X, and that probably he felt he was doing the staff a favour by keeping her out of the way!'

Undoubtedly, in the relatively calm atmosphere of the out-patient department and with a circumscribed relationship, the psychotic experience of the patient had emerged more clearly. Apart from personality differences, the actual ward nursing staff were subject to constant interruptions from telephones, other patients, etc. However, a factor in maintaining the relationship between the out-patient Charge Nurse and the patient may have been the sense of mutual obligation engendered by the privileges and small personal work undertaken by the patient.

Looking back on this whole episode, so far, it would not seem unreasonable to conclude that in a stressful setting people with socially unacceptable experiences or behaviour may be extruded from their social setting. This may be engineered by labelling the individual 'mentally ill' and requesting admission to an institution. This article describes an alternative

way of dealing with such a situation by labelling the individual 'sane' and attempting discharge from the same kind of institution.

S. JACOBS.

*Halliwick House,  
Friern Hospital,  
London, N.10.*

#### A COMPILATION OF PAPERS FOR THE USE OF POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS OF PSYCHIATRY

DEAR SIR,

The Clinical Tutors' Sub-Committee, through the courtesy of John Wyeth and Brother, has prepared a third printing of the compilation of selected papers in psychiatry for post-graduate students, the previous two printings being exhausted. A limited number are available; those wanting copies should write to John Wyeth and Brother Ltd., Huntercombe Lane South, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks. The third printing has two additional papers: 'Trial of Maintenance Therapy in Schizophrenia', by J. P. Leff and J. K. Wing (*Brit. med. J.*, 1972, *iii*, 599-604); 'Prophylactic Lithium in Affective Disorders', by A. Coppen *et al.* (*Lancet*, 1971, *ii*, 275-9).

Extra copies of these two papers can be had by sending an SAE (3p, 11½ in. × 9 in.) to the address below.

B. M. BARRACLOUGH.  
B. E. HEINE.

*MRC Clinical Psychiatry Unit,  
Graylingwell Hospital,  
Chichester,  
Sussex.*