

which has now become a forum for practitioners working within the boundaries of the old Area Health Authority. This offers a potential framework for strategic planning of a combined service for the two health authorities coterminous with the local authority, while the day to day spending of money will be decided at district level. An encouraging DHSS circular (HN (82) 9 (5)) recommends joint arrangements between health authorities and local authorities for the co-ordination of services of common interest. These include services concerned with child abuse, *child and family guidance*, child health, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

Following reorganization, the acid test for all child and adolescent psychiatrists will be what voice they have in the new district units of management. Each unit will have an administrator and director of nursing services plus 'a senior member/members of the medical staff to whom the administrator and director of nursing services can relate' (DHSS circular HN (81) 34 (6)). Since these units will exercise not only budgetary control but also have the power to re-allocate the surplus within a budget, it is essential for child and adolescent psychiatrists to represent their client group and their speciality in the appropriate unit of management.

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### *Insanity and genius*

DEAR SIRs

We write to draw your attention and that of members of the Royal College of Psychiatrists to a glossy pamphlet advertising 'Depixol' issued by Lundbeck Limited and distributed, presumably, to all practising psychiatrists.

The pamphlet is entitled *Art & Psychosis—No. 2 Robert Schumann* and contains a picture and brief biographical description of the artist, his career and his later deterioration towards the end of his life into psychosis with a statement that 'his brain was found to be one of the smallest and lightest on record in the medical history of men of genius'. Opposite is a description of 'Depixol' injections for schizophrenia and on the back an advertisement for 'Clonipixol' injections.

We write to express our concern at the tone of this advertisement which we understand is one of a series depicting artists of genius as a means of drawing attention to the benefits of long-acting anti-psychotic agents. We feel that this series serves to confirm popular misinformation about artists through emphasizing the mythical association between insanity and genius, and in particular tends to confirm the widespread view of the artist as in some way unreliable, disordered and liable to dangerous outbursts.

We further feel that this does a disservice to those who are attempting to find a new relationship between the creative arts and therapy by defining the role of creativity in personal development.

We hope that others who share our concern at this style of advertising will write in to the *Bulletin*, or to ourselves, in order to express their views.

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### *Croydon Mental Hospital*

DEAR SIRs

In his review of the history of some mental hospitals (*Bulletin*, November 1982, 6, 195–7) the late Dr Walk omitted to mention the vital change that took place in 1903, when the new Lunatic Asylum for Croydon was called the Croydon Mental Hospital.

In January 1927 *The Croydon Advertiser and Surrey County Reporter* published an obituary of my father, Dr Edwin S. Pasmore, who was appointed the first Medical Superintendent of that hospital before it was opened, and attributed to him the origin of the term 'mental hospital'. Furthermore the hospital was the first of its kind in the country to have an operating theatre and X-ray department to bring it into line with the general hospitals of the day. It has since been renamed the Warlingham Park Hospital.

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