

biased population in which the patient was actually admitted. Discussions with colleagues and our experience on night and weekend duty lead us to believe, in accord with Bean's review,⁵ that the police were prescient in their diagnoses of mental illness and seldom diagnosed inappropriately or when the severity was slight. On the contrary, we felt that if the police were guilty of error it was likely to be to under use their powers in this regard.

The impact of the reductions in the long-stay psychiatric patient population and psychiatric hospital closures is evident in other data, such as the prison population,⁶ violent offences, destitution^{7,8} and wandering,⁹ but may be masked in the statistics of section 136 admissions if the police accompany patients to hospital without using statutory instruments, seeming instead to be prepared to exercise a benign paternalism. In one case the patient was brought to a local district general hospital on a section 136 in handcuffs and was transferred from there to Friern Hospital as a 'voluntary' patient, a situation that was stressed, no doubt, because it is debatable whether section 136 provides authority to transfer patients from one place of safety to another.

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New Publications

Behavioural Neurology is a new quarterly which will publish mainly clinical papers dealing with disordered human behaviour covering the fields of organic and biological psychiatry, clinical neuropsychology and neurological disorders of the cerebral cortex. The editor is Dr Andrew Lees, The National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London WC1 3BG and it is published by CNS Publishers, 50 Ferry Street, London E14 9DT.

Elsevier Science Publishers, 91 rue de Rennes, F-75006, Paris, France have agreed to publish and distribute *Psychiatry and Psychobiology* which was originally launched in 1986. Results of clinical studies related to natural history

and psychopathological disorders, and results of therapeutic studies such as investigation of pharmacological therapies effects are included, as well as animal model, socioepidemiological, biological and psychological studies.

Following the paper given by Dr J. Marks of Halton General Hospital at the Spring Quarterly Meeting 1988 on desensitisation by paradoxical intention (DPI) and the community psychiatric nurse management of benzodiazepine addiction, copies of the booklet for patients entitled *Understanding Panics* may be obtained from Paul Sturgeon, RMN, Halton General Hospital, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2DA (telephone 0928 714567).

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The University of Kent at Canterbury is offering a course leading to an MA in Psychoanalytic Studies, the first of its kind in Great Britain. It is designed to appeal to students who wish to study the broader cultural applications of psychoanalysis, as well as the status of its theoretical work; the course does not support a particular psychoanalytical viewpoint.

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consult qualified practitioners, should they wish to begin analysis or therapy as a background experience. It is stressed that this course does not provide a qualification to practise psychoanalysis.

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