

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual AAPL meeting held in Ann Arbor, Michigan on October 19-21, 1972 was eminently successful. Over 50 of our members attended this meeting as did a score of guests. Ames Robey did an outstanding job in producing and directing the arrangements for the Friday afternoon session on the Expert Witness. The Program Committee, under the able leadership of Johnnie Gallemore, presented us with a most stimulating and informative program. For those members who missed this exciting meeting, I can offer the consolation that one of the papers presented will be reprinted in the Bulletin. However, the opportunity to meet with each other and share our ideas and discuss new issues in forensic psychiatry is invaluable, and I would encourage every member to attend at least one of our two meetings a year.

In order to encourage personal communication and to stimulate further training and development in the more current issues in forensic psychiatry, we have established a series of task forces or study groups within the organization. The purpose of these task forces will be to prepare a public statement, reflecting the Academy's views on such issues as treatment of the mentally ill offender, the role of the psychiatrist in the correctional system, the influence of prisons on mental state, confidentiality and privilege, and the right to treatment. Members are encouraged to participate in at least one of these task forces, or study groups, in order to have the opportunity

to express themselves and feel that in this way they are making a contribution to the Academy and to psychiatry and law in general.

The Chairmen of the Task Forces are as follows: The Role of the Psychiatrist in Corrections is headed by Dr. Jonas Rappeport, Medical Service, Room 309, Courthouse, Baltimore, Maryland 21202; the Task Force on the Issue of Corrections and Mental Health is headed by Dr. Jonas Robitscher, Emory University, Woodruff Medical Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30322; the Task Force on Confidentiality and Privilege is headed by Dr. Irwin N. Perr, Department of Psychiatry, Rutgers Medical School, Rescataway, New Jersey 08854; the Task Force on the Right to Treatment is currently unheaded. All interested in the Task Force may contact me until a Chairman is named.

At each annual meeting, the Executive Committee considers the membership of AAPL, and usually entertains the question about admitting nonpsychiatrists as members. We also have discussed various levels of membership, including Fellows, Members, Associates or Affiliates. In the past we have rejected the admission of nonpsychiatrists, or non-APA members into AAPL. Also, we have rejected the notion of having subclasses of membership. This year we decided to establish two subcommittees to study these issues and report their findings at the next meeting in Hawaii. Dr. Seymour Pollack will head the subcommittee on the study of various classes of membership with the possibility of setting up standards within our sub-specialty for board certification. Dr. Ames Robey will chair the subcommittee to evaluate

the potentials for admitting non-APA members or nonpsychiatrists; i.e., lawyers or law professors as affiliate or full members of AAPL.

Another subcommittee was appointed to create liaison with the American Medical Association Committee on Standards for Medical and Mental Health in Corrections. Dr. Dennis Jurczak is Chairman of this subcommittee which includes Dr. Ruth Jens, Dr. Ted Sidley and Dr. Emerson Emory.

I encourage any member of AAPL who wishes to participate in any of the study groups, task forces or subcommittees to contact the chairmen of these groups and offer his services.

As you recall, I sent a letter to each of the members over the summer requesting information on experience, interest and expertise in various areas of law and psychiatry. We wish to use this information to call upon our various members to participate in panels or discussions relevant to the areas of their expertise and interest. Also, we would collate the experience of our members for publication in our Bulletin to keep other members informed of the practices and experiences occurring in various parts of the country. I received about 15 responses from the members and decided to hand out a brief blank for interest and expertise at the meeting. I received a similar number of responses, and encourage all members to send this information to me as soon as possible.

At our general meeting, Dr. Gerald Epstein, a member of AAPL, was invited to present information about his new journal,

The Journal of Psychiatry and Law, which will be published in January 1973. Dr. Epstein described the journal as one of high quality, and we encourage AAPL members to subscribe to the journal. If a sufficient number of members subscribe, there is a possibility that the journal can be obtained by AAPL members at a substantial reduction in cost. I encourage all of you who are interested in subscribing to indicate on your subscription application that you are a member of AAPL.

I shall not cover all that occurred at the meeting, because our Secretary, Dr. Seymour Pollack, will be preparing a statement of the minutes for publication in the Bulletin. I do want to emphasize that this was one of our most successful and stimulating meetings, and I want to congratulate the Program and Arrangements Committees for their very successful efforts. Next year we will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the fourth weekend in October. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. In the meantime, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our semiannual meeting in Hawaii on May 5, 1973.

RLS