

Academy News

Of specific interest to the members of the Academy are a number of meetings on law and psychiatry that occur regularly. At the March, 1974, meeting of the combined APA-AAPL conference in Phoenix, Professor Robert Joling, who has a presentation in this issue, was present. He is currently the President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences: an organization that is broad in its scope of membership and deals in issues beyond the traditional legal medicine or forensic psychiatric ones. Professor Joling has asked that our membership consider joining the Academy on an individual basis. He is sending information and applications to our members.

Another organization that has been quite active in legislation and other medical-legal issues is the American College of Legal Medicine. This organization is composed primarily of lawyers and physicians, and a number who hold joint degrees in both professions. This year the annual ACLM meeting was held on May 10 in Atlanta, Georgia, and one of our members, Jonas Robitscher, attended as a coordinator. The meeting dealt primarily with issues in common to lawyers and physicians, including malpractice, HMO's, PSRO's, etc. Dr. Irwin Perr, another member of the Academy, presented a paper at that meeting, entitled "Legal Aspects of Sexual Therapies."

Every two years the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association hold a joint meeting. The next such meeting will be in March, 1975, called The National Medical-Legal Symposium. It is scheduled to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A symposium was held recently at Taylor Manor Hospital in Ellicott City, Maryland, on the issues of law and ethics in psychiatry, dealing primarily with the issues of right to treatment, confidentiality and informed consent. Several of our members presented papers at that symposium, including Lou McGarry and Jonas Robitscher.

Receiving relatively little publicity, the Isaac Ray Symposium entitled "Human Rights, the Law and Psychiatric Treatment" was held May 24-25 at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Members of the Academy who presented papers were Lou McGarry, Jacques Quen and Jonas Rappoport.

We should like to mention all members of the Academy who are presenting at national meetings. We would like to have information about these meetings well in advance so that our members can be informed and be able to attend. We also want to record the involvement of our members in various meetings, both international and national. To get this information, I need to have input from all of the members sent to the editorial offices in Pittsburgh.

I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Samuel Bellet Library in Law, Medicine and the Behavioral Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. This library will contain the essential volumes and journals dealing with the interface of law, medicine and behavioral sciences. It is not restricted to law and psychiatry and will serve as a research facility for the various training programs in the Delaware Valley. In addition to housing volumes, the library will be a living, functioning organism, in that it will provide relevant timely materials to those requesting information or reprints and will also be available for law student research in this interdisciplinary field.

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