

HAPPENINGS

In the most recent issue of the Newsletter we presented biographical material on officers and committee chairmen of the Academy. We would now like to introduce you to the four Councilors: Melvin S. Heller, M.D., Herbert A. Raskin, M.D., Jonas Robitscher, M.D., and Joseph Satten, M.D. All four men are endowed with a dedication to the Academy and have many years' experience in law and psychiatry. Councilors attend Executive Committee meetings and participate in policy-formation and decision-making and are elected annually for a four-year term at the fall meeting.

Dr. Melvin S. Heller was one of the founding fathers of AAPL during our organization meeting in Boston in 1967. He is currently Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia. He also lectures at Temple University School of Law and is Co-Director of the Temple University Unit in Law and Psychiatry. He is Chief Psychiatric Consultant to the Psychiatric Division of the Philadelphia Quarter Sessions Court. Dr. Heller consulted for several years to the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia County Prison System and the State Maximum Security Forensic Diagnostic Hospital. He is one of the few men Board Certified in both adult and child psychiatry and is now actively engaged in the practice of forensic psychiatry.

Dr. Herbert A. Raskin is Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, Wayne State University, Detroit. He is also a member of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education School of Law, University of Michigan and Wayne State University. In 1967 he was elected President of the Michigan Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of the Michigan District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association. He is a charter member of the Michigan Association of Law and Psychiatry and served as President of that organization in 1969. Dr. Raskin was Vice-President of the Detroit Psychoanalytic Society in 1966 to 1969, a member of the Committee on Law and Psychiatry of the APA and consultant in forensic psychiatry to the President of the APA. He is also Chairman of the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Council on Mental Health of the American Medical Association and is on the editorial board of New England Journal of Medicine. He has authored a number of papers, primarily in the area of drug and alcohol abuse.

Dr. Jonas Robitscher is currently Henry R. Luce Professor of Law and the Behavioral Sciences, Emory University Schools of Law and Medicine, Atlanta. He is a Fellow of the American College of Legal Medicine, a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and a member of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He was a founding member of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and is Associate Editor of the AAPL Bulletin. Dr. Robitscher is also a Fellow of the Institute of Society Ethics and Life Sciences and author of Pursuit of Agreement: Psychiatry and the Law, (published by J. B. Lippincott). He has been formerly Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania

and Instructor in Law at Villanova Law School. Dr. Robitscher is also on the editorial board of the new Journal of Psychiatry and Law. He has authored a number of papers and has been consultant to a number of commissions, councils and boards.

Dr. Joseph Satten is currently Professor of Psychiatry at Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco. He was director of the program in forensic psychiatry at the Menninger Clinic for many years. Dr. Satten served as our first vice-president and was also one of the founding members of AAPL. He has published extensively and has been consultant to a number of national, state and local organizations and councils in the areas of law and psychiatry.

Our first president and "founding father" of AAPL, Jonas Rappeport, is currently Chief Medical Officer of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore. He is also Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland Medical School, Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Law School, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Chairman of the Guttmacher Award Board of APA. Dr. Rappeport has also served as consultant to a number of national, state and local bodies.

The Editor of our Bulletin, Dr. Herbert E. Thomas, is currently Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry and the Law, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh. He has been actively involved as consultant to prisons in Michigan, and more recently, in Pennsylvania. Since 1967 he has been Chief Psychiatrist, Forensic Service, Department of

Psychiatry, School of Medicine at University of Pittsburgh and has also been Psychiatric Consultant to Alpha House, a therapeutic community for drug addicts in Pittsburgh. He is a Fellow of the APA, a member of the International Society for Criminology, and an advanced candidate in the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Thomas has also served as consultant and advisor to a number of national, state and local task forces and committees.

A number of our members have discussed forming local branches or chapters of the Academy. While we do not now have local chapters, there is in New York the Isaac Ray Society, composed of several of our own members plus nonpsychiatrists. Jacques Quen, M.D., a member of AAPL, is currently President of that Society.

The Isaac Ray Society is an example of local organization of legal-psychiatric meetings, a forum for discussing problems of common interest to psychiatrists, lawyers and behavioral scientists.

It seems most fitting that this interdisciplinary group should honor the memory of Isaac Ray (1807-1881). Few have contributed more to forensic psychiatry than the "author of the first systematic treatise in the English language on the relations of the law and mental derangement;" (and Overholser continues): "It is only in recent decades that comparable contributions to their literature have been made."* Ray's intellectual interests were also interdisciplinary. He was not only a distinguished physician with a lucrative practice devoted to the treatment of

*Ray, Isaac. A Treatise on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, Edited by Winfred Overholser. Cambridge, Beknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1962. First published in 1838.

the mentally ill, a skilled hospital administrator, and a founder of the American Psychiatric Association, but also a man whose catholicity of interests spanned the spectrum of the natural sciences and the humanities. In particular, he should be remembered for his part in formulation of the New Hampshire Rule, which put him a century ahead of his time.

The Isaac Ray Society, an interdisciplinary group with a membership that includes lawyers, mental health professionals, and behavioral scientists, is centered in the New York metropolitan area. It affords a meeting place for individuals actively interested in the interfaces of their respective professions. The Society hopes that participation in sufficient numbers by members of the various disciplines will lead to a constructive exchange of experiences and information which will bring better understanding among the professionals and the development of new concepts through synthesis of knowledge and experience.

Similarly, in Philadelphia, there exists the Community Services Institute. This organization began as the "Camac Street Irregulars," when it was founded by the late Philip Quentin Roche, M.D. (1902-1966), who is also remembered as the author of the widely praised "Pennsylvania Plan for Intramural Training in Penal Psychiatry," which provided fellowships for physicians at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia. The "Camac Street Irregulars" grew out of a special ad hoc task force appointed by Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader to study mental health legislation in the Commonwealth. Membership of the Philadelphia

group now stands at 60, and it meets monthly for interdisciplinary discussion of local or regional problems in law and psychiatry and the behavioral sciences. At the most recent meeting (October 5, 1972), the group discussed drug legislation in Pennsylvania.

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