

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a year of significant advances by the Academy. Particularly noteworthy has been transformation of the Newsletter into a professional Bulletin. This was primarily due to the leadership and dedication of our Editor, Herbert E. Thomas. Financial support from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals also played a crucial part in bringing about this salutary change.

Significant, too, has been the creation and development of a series of task forces, each designed to study a critical problem in our field. It is hoped that these task forces will enable the Academy to develop intelligent and effective position papers which will publicize our views on salient issues. As of now, the Academy Task Forces and their respective chairmen are:

The Role of Psychiatry in Corrections,
Jonas R. Rappeport, Chairman

Social Influences on the Treatment of Prisoners,
Jonas Robitscher, Chairman

Confidentiality and Privilege,
Irwin N. Perr, Chairman

Human Experimentation and Behavior Control,
Jonas Robitscher, Chairman

The Right to Treatment,
Augustus F. Kinzel, Chairman

AMA - Treatment in Prisons,
Dennis M. Jurszak, Chairman

Levels of Membership,
Seymour L. Pollack, Chairman

Membership - Open to Psychiatrists Only?
Ames Robey, Chairman

These task forces routinely convene during annual and semiannual meetings of the Academy. Task force chairman will present recommendations of their groups to the Academy as a whole for approval, rejection, and/or modification. Any member interested in preparing material for consideration by one of the task forces should feel free to send this information to the chairman concerned.

The third memorable event of 1972-73 has been development of formal training programs, aside from those presented at our annual and semiannual meetings. The mid-March 1973 meeting, sponsored jointly with the APA Committee on Law and Psychiatry and held in Atlanta, is merely the beginning of such educational endeavors. We have been asked by individuals from several other areas of the country to prepare and present smaller, similar seminars for them.

All three changes are tied to a single, unifying theme: education. I firmly believe that a primary function and a fundamental purpose of our Academy is to educate ourselves and others as we strive to maintain the standards of our profession.

Membership has now reached a plateau. My own feeling is that we should be able to respond intelligently to inquiries from others about our organization. Perhaps we even ought to inaugurate a publicity campaign to apprise those who are still unaware of our existence that the Academy is viable and functioning. The Bulletin, which will be distributed widely to

law and medical libraries throughout the United States and Canada, will, I feel, play an important part in increasing our membership.

Occasionally, I learn from some members about problems they may have or questions of concern to them. I would encourage anyone who wishes to discuss any matter relevant to the Academy to feel free to call or write to me, and I shall make every effort to respond as quickly as possible. Also, any comments about the Bulletin or articles published therein should be sent to Dr. Thomas.

We are fortunate to be particularly well represented at the 1973 APA meetings in Hawaii. While I do not know all of our members who will present papers or participate in panels or discussions at the meeting, I do know there will be several. There are at least two panels we ought to support. One is moderated by Jonas Rappeport and discusses the applicability to the responsibility doctrine in the ALA Model Penal Code to the Bremer case. The other panel (which I will moderate) deals with the right to treatment and patients' rights, and will have a number of our members as participants.