

Academy News

As the *Newsletter* has become a *Bulletin*, so the column, "Happenings," has changed to "Academy News." In this column each quarter we will try to keep all members abreast of what is occurring in law and psychiatry that is of interest and significance. We wish to solicit your aid in filling these pages by providing us with data and material that would be of relevance or significance to our membership and our readers.

Of importance is the news of our recent meeting in Pittsburgh, which was the most successful and best attended AAPL meeting on record. Well over 125 individuals attended the majority of the meetings, which proved to be stimulating, provocative and educational. Elections were held, and we now have a totally new administration and plans for continued growth and success of the Academy.

The dominant theme of the annual meeting was presented by our new President, Seymour Pollack, who stressed the importance of standardization of training and standards of practice of legal psychiatry. In line with these considerations were the two sessions on teaching and training legal psychiatry at various centers in the country. These meetings, which were sponsored by the Center for Studies in Social-Legal Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, were designed to promote communication among the teachers of legal psychiatry for mutual stimulation and information sharing. At least forty people presented materials from their various training centers, all of which was recorded, will be transcribed and will be available in directory form to interested members and other professionals.

The second annual joint meeting of the AAPL and the Committee on Psychiatry and the Law of the APA will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 15-16, 1974 at the Ramada Inn-East in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's theme is on ethical legal issues in psychiatry and will be highlighted by three major presentations and a luncheon address. Dr. Maier I. Tuchler, who has been responsible for coordinating the program and local arrangements, will present the opening paper entitled "Ethics and Integrity in Law and Medicine" to be discussed by Professor Henry Foster, from New York University. Professor David Wexler, first winner of the Manfred Guttmacher Award in 1972, will present the afternoon paper entitled "Psychosurgery, Ethical and Legal Implications," to be discussed by Dr. Richard Rada of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Robert Sadoff will give the final major presentation on Saturday morning entitled "Informed Consent, Confidentiality and Privilege in Psychiatry" to be discussed by Professor Robert Joling of Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. John Frank, noted attorney and author, will present the luncheon address on Friday entitled "Law and Ethics in Psychiatry." The meeting has been approved for 12 hours of Category I continuation Education Credit for the AMA.

Second, on March 30, 1974, the American Society of Law and Medicine, Inc. will present a mock trial in Boston, Mass., at Boston University Law School auditorium, featuring a malpractice trial demonstration. The purpose of the mock trial is to demonstrate to physicians, lawyers, students and other professionals in the medical, legal and insurance fields the important issues and practical aspects raised in potential medical malpractice litigation. Questions of negligence, assault and battery, breach of contract and lack of informed consent will be at issue in the mock trial. A number of noted trial lawyers will be present and the Honorable John J. McNaught of the Superior Court of Massachusetts will be the presiding judge.

On April 5-6, 1975 the Sixth Annual Taylor Manor Hospital Psychiatric Symposium, "Medical, Moral and Legal Issues of Mental Health Care," will be held. Speakers include the second Manfred Guttmacher Award winner, Dr. Morton Birnbaum, who will speak on "The Right To Treatment—Some Comments on Recent Developments." Also, two of our members, Dr. A. Louis McGarry, recently elected vice-president of AAPL, will present "Massachusetts New Mental Health Act: Process and Performance," and Dr. Jonas Robitscher, one of our Councilors, will present "Implementing the Rights of the Mentally Disabled: Judicial, Legislative and Psychiatric Action." Other speakers include: Professor William Curran, presenting "Ethical Issues in Short Term and Long Term Psychiatric Research" and the President of the American Psychiatric Association, Albert M. Freedman, M.D., presenting "The Re-definition of Psychiatric Treatment," Leo E. Hollister, M.D. on "The Use of Psychiatric Patients as Experimental Subjects," Professor Nicholas N. Kittric on "The Flowering and the Decline of the Therapeutic State," The Reverend Thomas J. O'Donnell on "Ethical Concepts of Consent" and Professor Samuel I. Shuman on "The Emotional, Medical and Legal Reasons for Special Concern about Psychosurgery."

These three meetings all dealing in some way with ethical and legal issues in psychiatry promise to be stimulating, informative and exciting. Further information on the AAPL-APA meeting may be obtained by writing to Dr. Robert Sadoff, 326 Benjamin Fox Pavilion, Jenkintown, Pa. 19046; on the meeting of the American Society of Law and Medicine, Inc., to Dr. Elliot L. Sagall at 454 Brookline Ave., Boston, Mass. 02215; for the Taylor Manor Symposium on Medical, Moral and Legal Issues in Mental Health Care write to the Symposium Secretary, Taylor Manor Hospital, Ellicott City, Md. 21043.

The annual meeting of the American College of Legal Medicine will be held in May, 1974 in Atlanta, Ga., under the chairmanship of Jonas Robitscher, one of our Councilors. Dr. Robitscher, who is Henry R. Luce Professor of Law and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University, has also been named to a new interdisciplinary commission on the mentally disabled of the American Bar Association. Dr. Robitscher is one of seventeen members selected to the commission whose mandate from the ABA is to aid in the solution of many of the legal problems facing the mentally disabled.

The American Bar Association has also created a Committee on Psychiatry and the Criminal Law, Ephraim R. Gomberg, Chairman. Mr. Gomberg is an attorney who is also a member of the Committee on Psychiatry and Law of the APA. He is interested in working with selected psychiatrists in helping discuss and prepare position statements on problems of mutual concern to criminal law and psychiatry. Several of our members, including Stan Portnow, Jonas Rappeport, Melvin Heller, Dick Lonsdorf and Carl Malmquist, have agreed to work with Mr. Gomberg.

I am sure there is much more in the way of news of meetings of importance to lawyers and psychiatrists that should be in this column. Also, news of individuals who are involved in exciting or interesting new programs should be included here but cannot be unless I hear from you and am able to relay this information to the rest of the members. Please send in this material, whether it be a change of address, a change of position, a promotion, an acceptance of a new grant or a development of new program planning.

ROBERT L. SADOFF, M.D.