

Editorial

Several of the papers in this issue of the Bulletin were presented at the second annual joint meeting of the Academy and the Committee on Psychiatry and the Law of APA, in March, 1974, at Phoenix, Arizona. The theme of the meetings was "Ethical-Legal Issues in Psychiatry." These meetings originated when Dr. Herbert Thomas was Chairman of the Committee on Psychiatry and Law of APA and wished to present significant issues in legal psychiatry at the local and regional levels of the APA through the state and regional societies. AAPL and APA decided to join forces and bring this material to the practicing psychiatrists in various parts of the country. The first joint meeting was held in Atlanta in 1973, and was extremely successful.

Dr. Maier Tuchler keynoted the meeting in Phoenix by presenting a general philosophical treatise on ethics and integrity in law and medicine. His presentation was a scholarly, academic one that was ably discussed by Professor Henry Foster, of the NYU School of Law.

Dr. Richard Rada's discussion of Professor David Wexler's presentation of the psychosurgery case in Michigan, with its ethical-legal ramifications, stands by itself. Dr. Rada has had experience in assessing the design of experimental research in prisons and reaches significant conclusions about the conduct of research on incarcerated individuals.

Professor Robert Joling and I shared the second morning presentations on confidentiality, privilege and informed consent in psychiatry, presented both from the legal and medical points of view.

I am pleased to have been asked to prepare the editorial for this issue, primarily because I have strong feelings about the joint meetings and am very proud of the results of the conference. This issue reflects the success of that joint effort and records the essentials of what transpired. It is my hope that these meetings will be continued on an annual basis and the level of professional involvement will be of the same excellent quality. I am most appreciative and grateful to all who participated and who prepared papers for this issue of the Bulletin.

Educational pursuit continues to be the lifeline of the Academy. Teaching ourselves as well as others in this interdisciplinary field remains the primary goal of AAPL. The next joint meeting will be on March 13, 1975, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in conjunction with the medico-legal symposium of the ABA/AMA.

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