

Academy News

The Academy held its third annual educational meeting in conjunction with the Committee on Psychiatry and Law of the APA on March 13, 1975, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The theme of the meeting was "The Clinical Gamble," originated by Melvin S. Heller, M.D., Chairman of the Education Committee. The three papers presented included: Dr. Heller's presentation of "The Danger of Predicting and Not Predicting Dangerousness"; Dr. Robert L. Sadoff's paper on "The Risks of State and Private Hospital Psychiatrist in Involuntary Hospitalization In Re: Right to Treatment"; and Professor Paul Rheingold's presentation "Problems of Malpractice in Psychiatry." The papers were discussed by the following AAPL members: Dr. Heller's paper by Dr. Robert Trivus, Dr. Sadoff's by Dr. William Woodruff, and Professor Rheingold's by Dr. Stanley Portnow, who is also Chairman of the Committee on Psychiatry and Law of the APA.

The workshops included a small group discussion of each of the presentations and relevant issues. Participants in the panels included: Ephraim R. Gomberg, Esquire, Robert Trivus, M.D., and Arthur Boxer, M.D., for Dr. Heller's paper. On "Risks of Private and State Hospital Psychiatrists" the panelists included Dr. Jonas Rappeport, Dr. Jacques Quen and Dr. William Woodruff. Dr. Stanley Portnow and Dr. John Torrens were panelists on the issue of malpractice.

The success of the meeting was demonstrated primarily in two ways: First, the anticipated registration of between forty and fifty members was far exceeded by the actual seventy-six people who had registered. Secondly, the participants approved, overwhelmingly, the recommendation by the President, Seymour Pollack, M.D., that on Sunday, May 4, just preceding the APA Meetings, an educational presentation on the Legal Psychiatric Interview, arranged by Dr. Pollack, would be held.

Dr. Heller welcomes suggestions from members on topics, themes, papers or presentations for next year's educational meeting. The educational meetings are separate from the business meetings, which are held twice yearly. We are able to obtain up to six continuing education credits of Category I, AMA Physician's Recognition Award, for these meetings and would encourage all members to attend and participate whenever possible.

Several members of the Academy had papers, panels and workshops accepted for presentation at the APA Meeting in Anaheim in May, 1975. Those of interest to our members included the following:

A one-half day special session devoted to the right to treatment was prepared by Jonas Rappeport, M.D., Chairman APA Task Force on the Right to Treatment. Dr. Rappeport co-chaired with Dr. Stonewall Stickney, former Commissioner of Mental Health for the State of Alabama. Other participants in this half-day session included Morton Birnbaum, M.D., LL.B., considered the "father of the right to treatment," Bertram Pepper, M.D., Commissioner of Mental Health and Hygiene, State of Maryland, Richard T. Rada, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, University of New Mexico, Alan Stone, M.D., Professor of Law and Psychiatry at Harvard University, and Robert Sadoff, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania. All are members of the Task Force, except for Dr. Stone, who is Chairman of the APA's Committee on Judicial Action. This special half-day session focused on various aspects of the right to treatment with implications for practicing psychiatrists.

Dr. Melvin Heller, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Academy, prepared a morning panel on the role of the psychiatrist in corrections. Other participants included Drs. Arthur Boxer, Jonas Rappeport, Edward Guy, Robert Sadoff and Louis B. Aytch, Superintendent of Corrections, Philadelphia.

Dr. Dennis Koson, Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania,

produced, and developed a mock trial teaching and training procedure which was presented as an evening panel at the APA meetings, utilizing the trial procedure as a focus for discussion and further educational pursuit in the field of law and psychiatry. Dr. Ames Robey, Vice-President of AAPL and Director, Center for Forensic Psychiatry, State of Michigan, was one of Dr. Koson's expert witnesses.

There is need for a director of mental health services for the New York City Prison System. The position, which commands a salary range between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per annum, requires the applicant to hold a New York State license to practice medicine, completion of an approved residency in psychiatry and a minimum of three years of progressively responsible administrative or executive psychiatry experience with a psychiatric care institution or community mental health organization. All qualified candidates are invited to submit detailed resume of education and experience to Commissioner Lowell E. Bellin, M.D., MPH, New York City Health Dept. 125 Worth St., New York City 10013.

In the spirit of unity, I have always felt it was important for our members to know some things about each other and would encourage your sending bits of information about yourselves or your colleagues in AAPL to me for presentation in this column. In this way we can continue to maintain our early feelings of camaraderie as AAPL continues to grow in numbers and spreads geographically throughout the country.

ROBERT L. SADOFF, M.D.