

EDITOR'S NOTE

This number of the BULLETIN contains papers which were presented in Atlanta, Georgia in March of this year. The occasion was a two day conference entitled "Current Issues in Psychiatry and Law" jointly sponsored by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and the Committee on Psychiatry and the Law of the American Psychiatric Association.

Mr. Rector's paper might well serve as an introduction for those who would study the topic of "dangerousness." His distress at the federal government's building of new prisons when "alternatives to institutions" are finally gaining public acceptance is something that should be shared by us all. Dr. Steadman's study clearly shows our inability to identify who is dangerous and who is not. To attempt to solve this problem by simply locking up more individuals is surely a régressive step that could take years to correct.

In his paper listing what he considers as the rights of the child, Professor Foster provides not only an interesting point of view, but also a carefully footnoted document which should be of particular value to those teaching courses on psychiatry and the law in schools of law.

Finally, the financial assistance of Pfizer Laboratories is again gratefully acknowledged.

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