

Editorial

This number of the *Bulletin* is of particular significance for two quite different reasons. First, it provides the reader with material presented at a colloquium in San Diego which was arranged by Melvin G. Goldzband, M.D. Second, it contains a statement by Maier Tuchler, M.D., that outlines the scope of the new American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, Inc.

In the past there has been much resistance to developing forensic psychiatry as a formal sub-specialty of psychiatry. Apparently there have been two causes for this. One has been the fear that less than adequately trained psychiatrists would somehow congregate in the field. The other, which I believe to be more important, has been the concern that no single psychiatrist will be able to present in a court of law the level of expertise that various psychiatric specialists are now capable of in combination.

The fact that the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, Inc. will certify only those psychiatrists who are already board certified in psychiatry by The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology should erase any fear that those certified in forensic psychiatry will not be adequately trained. However, the second concern, *viz.* the need for forensic psychiatrists to be exceptionally well trained in many of the specialties of psychiatry, will pose problems. This issue of the *Bulletin* presents a paper by an expert in child development, while a forthcoming issue will offer a paper by a neurologist on psychosurgery. Can a single forensic psychiatrist encompass all of this material as an expert?

It would appear that the educational activities of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law will need to be greatly expanded. The pleasures of the generalist who has pursued forensic psychiatry as an avocation will have to give way to the demands of a field that claims it will serve the ends of law in such a manner as to give it a special status *vis-a-vis* the law. This special status will require a commitment to forensic psychiatry that is most sobering. The forensic psychiatrist not only will need a superior knowledge of the law, but also will have to be current in sub-specialties of psychiatry to a degree that will allow him to enter a courtroom to encounter specialists in fields he may not have formally studied since his residence training.

Truly, this is the end of the beginning.

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Editor