Speakers Named for L.P.A.
Mid-Winter Meet

Speakers have been announced for the annual Mid-Winter meeting of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association, which is scheduled January 19 through 21 at the Jung Hotel, New Orleans.

"The Community in Mental Health" will be the theme of the scientific session, slated to start at 9 a.m., Jan. 20. Hale Boggs, U.S. Representative from Louisiana, will be present. Others include Michael O'Keefe, state senator; John J. Petre, member of the New Orleans City Council; Clark Corliss, executive director, Social Welfare Planning Council; and, Grover Shaunty, Director, Mental Health Center, Austin, Texas.

The speakers have been selected to provide a view of the theme from all levels: federal, state, municipal, and community.

Two aspects of the community in relationship to mental health are emphasized in current approaches. First, the influence of the community on the mental health of its citizens has been recognized more clearly; and second, involvement of the total community in maintaining adequate mental health of its citizens plus use of all facilities in treatment of the mentally ill individual.

André Tuzet, M.D., president-elect of L.P.A., is chairman of the convention.

Gene Usdin for A.P.A. Council

Gene L. Usdin, M.D., of New Orleans, has been nominated as a candidate for a seat on the American Psychiatric Association Council.

Dr. Usdin is widely-known for his activities in private practice of psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, as an author and writer, a leader in community psychiatry, and educational circles.

Invitations to attend have been extended to the Arkansas Psychiatric Association and the Mississippi Psychiatric Association. We hope that there will be many guests at the meeting.

A cocktail party, buffet dinner and dance will highlight activities on Saturday night, Jan. 20.

Besides the important issues of the scientific session and, the equally vital work of L.P.A. committees, the delights of America's Most Interesting City will be available to those attending the annual mid-winter meeting.

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About one-third of the registered voters rendered decisions in the recent state election. The remainder of the electorate did not choose to be bothered.

There is no authority without responsibility. Responsibility means work. Work means expenditure of energy and effort. The energy requested may range from sitting through a meeting, to filling out a questionnaire, to locking a stamp and putting it on an envelope. It is astounding how many persons are loath to expend energy in this form, but are spendthrift in complaining.

Perhaps a solution is levels of participation. An example could be:

A) Payment of dues—after 3rd notice
B) Payment of dues—after 2nd notice
C) Payment of dues—after 1st notice
or
D) Agrees to permit name listed as committee member
E) Responds to notices from committee chairman
F) Attends at least one meeting per year of committee

Members would desire recognition of the level of participation—one who pays dues with the first notice, or, attends a committee meeting is due public notice. At meetings, these persons might be awarded distinctive name badges, or, seats in a special section.

LPA has suffered, and is suffering, from members who are laggard in expenditure of energy for the (Continued on page 4)
Psychotic Child Managed In Community

Why send the psychotic child to an institution?

In searching for answers, the Shreveport Mental Health Center has found an approach which utilizes available community resources. "Community Management of the Psychotic Child" was discussed at the Louisiana Psychiatric-New Orleans Area Psychiatric Association meeting in December by Max Sugar, M.D.

Personnel conducting the project, in addition to Dr. Sugar, were B. Stuckey, M.S.W.; S. Oppliger, M.S.W.; M. Garrett, M.S.W.; J. J. Stretch, Ph.D.; and, B. Thorne-Thomsen, B.A.

In the Shreveport center's viewpoint, use is made of the customary out-patient therapy with children and their parents in the Mental Health Center; undergraduate students from the local college serve as companions to the children; special education classes are a part of the efforts where needed and, the existing community educational and recreational programs are called upon for assistance.

The current project was begun February 1, 1966 and is for the child between age three years and 13 years who has been diagnosed as psychotic. Dr. Sugar elaborated that the diagnosis is a joint one, involving psychiatrists and psychometrics. To date, 15 children have been participating.

College Students

Untrained college students, the keystone of the plan, serve as companions for the disturbed children. Roby Kerr, M.S.W., conceived this approach which subsequently led to development of the project. The student spends approximately 10 hours per week with the child assigned. In addition, the students have a one-hour per week supervisory conference.

The college students were selected upon the basis of interviews and their responses when confronted with a psychotic child. Assignment of student companion to child was done on a same-sex basis. Dr. Sugar noted the students had difficulty in recognizing the child assigned. In addition, the students have a one-hour per week supervisory conference.

The college students were selected upon the basis of interviews and their responses when confronted with a psychotic child. Assignment of student companion to child was done on a same-sex basis. Dr. Sugar noted the students had difficulty in recognizing and/or accepting the fact the child assigned was psychotic and not just undisciplined.

Although initial visits by the companion occurred in the child's home, it soon was obvious that taking the child out into the community was preferable. "Parents frequently attempted to monopolize the companion's time or expected them to include siblings in the play," Dr. Sugar explained.

Family crisis oriented treatment of the parents was an integral part of the program. The mothers were seen weekly for individual or group treatment. Attempts to involve the fathers were hamstrung by irregular attendance, and in five of the families fathers were absent.

Everyday Living

Problems of everyday living, such as birth of a sibling, school vacations, substitute teachers—in short—any interruption in normal routine caused crises in these families. The mothers responded to supportive therapy. While the mothers did not demonstrate any basic personality structure change, they became less angry, less guilty and were able to manage their children more effectively and realistically.

Arrangements were made with the parish school boards to place all school-age children in regular or special education classes. Kindergartens and day nurseries cooperated by accepting pre-schoolers to help prepare them for participation in an academic program. Project staff were available to the teachers involved for consultation as needed for each child.

A rating scale was developed by consultants on the project to aid in assessing the agreement about the diagnosis and any changes noted in the child. "The internal consistency reliability coefficient of the rating scales is 0.70," according to Dr. Sugar. "It is expected that the reliability coefficient will tend to increase as certain extraneous influences are controlled further."

Therapeutic Milieu

"The approach has been one of management—converting the child's home partly into a mental hospital, using the companions as an auxiliary ego or therapist. The presence of a vigorous, interested, non-psychotic person in the family, where there is often gross reality distortion, exerts a stabilizing effect on the child and on the family.

"Our efforts to have a total therapeutic milieu where each participant's contribution is equally valuable leads to sharing information, questions and understanding about the child and his family. No jargon is used with the companions, nor is any theory taught to them. Instead, the focus is on being friend-helpers who report on their transactions, actions and reactions, feelings, questions, behavior and effects on them and on the child," Dr. Sugar said.

Theoretically, the need for a corrective-object relationship for the psychotic child is based on a need-satisfying relationship between the child and the child care worker. The dependent relationship of the child on the worker induces a regressive movement on the part of the child with increased dependency and trust on an anaclitic oral incorporative level which lends itself to restitution and corrective manipulation by the therapist. The proper development of attachment behavior is regarded as necessary to permit the subsequent orderly development of other ego functions and appropriate libidinal organization.

The companions spontaneously used a natural frustration-growth approach at times in that they withheld some privileges unless the child accepted the

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limits set or controls instituted. This is similar to what a good parent does to stimulate growth and maturation.

Dr. Sugar pointed out that further study is needed to test adequately the long-term effects of this method of treatment with psychotic children.

Haircuts and Books

Among illustrative case histories given by Dr. Sugar was that of a boy who refused to have a haircut. When the student companion was helped to understand the child viewed having a haircut as losing a part of himself, the companion began inviting the boy to watch him get a haircut. After several months of watching the companion get haircuts, the boy expressed a willingness to have his hair trimmed.

Another patient, a girl, carried a book on animals and her purse at all times. She stayed in her room alone and, had no friends. She had never made a purchase and had to be taught how to enter a store, ask for a candy bar and, pay for it. A year later, she no longer carries the book, relinquishes her purse on occasion. She socializes in the neighborhood, enjoys shopping and her relationship with her mother has improved. She is able to attend classes at a junior high school.

A lively question-answer session followed the presentation. Audience participation was one of the most lively at recent L.P.A.-N.O.A.P.A. meetings.

The paper will be presented at the American Orthopsychiatry Association Meeting, March 22, 1968, at Chicago, Ill.

Group Therapy 11th Institute

Tom Malone, Ph.D., M.D. and John Warkentin, Ph.D., M.D., of the Atlanta Psychiatric clinic, will be featured speakers at the eleventh annual institute of the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Association.

The Institute, scheduled for March 1-3, will be at Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, La.

Theme of the meeting will be “Encounter and Engagement in Group Psychotherapy. Discussion and experimental groups will be part of the program and there will be a “question the experts” session.

IT'S WORK, MAC

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organization. This, in turn, influences what LPA can accomplish on a parish level and on a state level. Should more members accept the work involved in maintaining a responsible organization, this would be reflected by increased prestige and influence of LPA.

Executive Council Notes

Louisiana Association of Mental Health has extended an invitation to Louisiana Psychiatric Association that the L.P.A. president become an ex-officio member of the L.A.M.H. board.

Kenneth Ritter, M.D., L.P.A. president, has sent a letter to Gov. John McKeithen thanking him, on behalf of L.P.A., for inclusion of a mental health plank in his platform.

L.P.A. is pursuing efforts to achieve clarification of privileged communication between physician and patient in Louisiana.

Members Active

John L. Kuehn, M.D., Director of Counseling and Mental Health Services, Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, attended the “Peace Corps Opportunities and Present Selection Policies.” Dr. Kuehn was psychiatrist in residence at the University of Hawaii Training Center for the Peace Corps last summer.

He also appeared on two television programs in the Baton Rouge area, “Pursuit of Learning.”

Charles Watkins, M.D., attended the meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in New York City during October.

Arthur Burdon, M.D., discussed “The Use of Group Process in Training of Management” at the November meeting of the New Orleans Chapter, American Society of Training Directors.