

College prizes

Janssen Prize for Computer Applications in Psychiatry

The Computers in Psychiatry Special Interest Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists wishes to encourage the involvement of trainees in psychiatry in the development of computer applications in the specialty.

A Prize of £500 will be awarded in 1992 for an essay of between 3,000 and 5,000 words, describing either the adaptation of a particular package in relation to psychiatry or the development of a computer programme which has applications in psychiatry. The essay may be accompanied by the relevant software. The Prize may only be awarded to Members or Inceptors of the College below the rank of consultant or equivalent at the time the entry is submitted.

Entries will be judged by Professor R. McClelland (Sub-Dean) and assessors appointed by the Executive Committee of the Computers in Psychiatry Special Interest Group. The successful candidate may be invited to present a paper at the Group's Annual Scientific Meeting. No Prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

Entries should be submitted to the Secretary of the Group, Dr Martin Briscoe, at Wonford House Hospital, Dryden Road, Wonford, Exeter, Devon EX2 5AF, no later than 30 April 1992.

Philip Davis Prize in Old Age Psychiatry

The Prize was established in 1991 and derives from the estate of the late Dr Philip R. H. Davis, a Member of the College for over 40 years and, at the time of his death, consultant psychiatrist in the Reading Hospitals Group.

The Philip Davis Prize (value £300) is awarded annually under the auspices of the Royal College of Psychiatrists for an essay of between 4,000 and 6,000 words on a broadly-based clinical topic relating to the care of the elderly mentally ill. The Prize may only be awarded to Members or Inceptors of the College below the rank of consultant psychiatrist or the equivalent at the time the essay is submitted. Each application should be accompanied by a concise *curriculum vitae*. In line with Dr Davis' wishes, attention will be given by the examiners to the literacy of the submissions.

Recipients of the Prize may be invited to present a report at a Scientific Meeting of the Specialist Section for Old Age Psychiatry.

The examiners for the Prize will be the Dean and two assessors appointed by the Old Age Psychiatry Section. No Prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

Entries for the Prize should be submitted to the Dean by 30 April 1992.

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Obituary

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

GERALD BERNARD SIMON, formerly Professor of Mental Handicap, University of Birmingham

Professor Gerry Simon, founder and first director of the British Institute of Mental Handicap and director of the National Development Team, died on 14 July 1991 at the age of 71.

In a professional life truncated by war service, Gerry Simon established in a remarkably short time a leadership role in the treatment and care of people with a learning and sensory disability. At the time he started, this cinderella of professions was undergoing a particularly turbulent phase, following a series of

damaging inquiries starting in the mid 1960s into the conditions in mental handicap and mental illness hospitals. It was through his force of character, his vision and an ability to mobilise the energies of colleagues that proposals for change were implemented through the work of the National Development Team and that the British Institute, a nationwide multiprofessional organisation, was established. He also played a major part with other university departments in regaining academic respectability for the profession.

Gerry Simon was born in South India where his family was in business. After leaving school in India,