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People with mental health problems regularly become caught up in the criminal justice process. There is a consensus that this serves the interests neither of justice nor of the individual. The Butler report in 1975 and the more recent Reed Committee report on Services for the Mentally Disordered Offender have pointed up some of the problems and suggested some solutions. How far have we come in addressing the former and providing the latter?

**Simon Keyes**, of the Revolving Doors Project, argues that we still have a long way to go. Is it, as in Erewon, a crime to be ill? **Herschel Prins** and **Christopher Cordess** in the two following articles, outline some of the complexities of definition and terminology, reminding us that the relationships between mental disorder and crime, psychiatry and the law, are by no means precise.

The following four articles describe the scene from a variety of 'insider' perspectives. **Richard Kirk** has a personal story to tell - one not often given a public voice. **Dr V Somasundaram** discusses the closure of Brixton Prison's notorious F Wing. **Murray Cox** writes resonantly about the challenges of psychotherapy in Broadmoor Special Hospital, whilst **Carlos Fishman's** article describes the work of the Portman Clinic, past and present.

The Government's 'care in the community' policy, and all that it entails, is an underlying theme in this debate, and this surfaces at several points throughout the issue. The police are regularly the first point of contact outside office hours for the mentally ill and those who come into contact with them. The article by **Pat Haysey** of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship describes some of the work in progress to provide them with support and training. Diversion from the criminal justice process is another recurrent theme. **Jill Watkins** examines some of the issues from the court's perspective, whilst **Barbara Swyer** provides an encouraging account of what can be achieved through a genuinely multi-agency approach.

Finally **Jill Peay** looks at the recent Inquiries which are now mandatory where there has been a homicide involving a person in contact with specialist mental health services. Their value, she argues, lies not so much in helping us to learn how to predict or to prevent such tragedies, but rather 'in focusing attention on the standards and quality of care provided for the great bulk of patients who have not been and probably will never be 'dangerous' and hence are unlikely to attract public attention.'

**Julia Braggins**

## THE KOESTLER AWARDS SCHEME

We are grateful for permission to use photographs of original work from this year's Koestler Exhibition in this issue of CJM.

The Koestler Awards Scheme invites the annual submission of creative work from men and women held in United Kingdom Prisons and Young Offender Institutions, and from patients in Special Hospitals.

For further information about the Koestler Award Trust please contact the Director, Dorothy Salmon, 9 Birchmead Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2BG. Tel: 0181 868 4044.

Cover: *Expression of Terror*. Wandsworth. Photography: David Kidd-Hewitt.

Other work used in this issue: *Self Portrait*, Lancaster Farms (p8), *New Life*, Rampton Hospital (p9), *Collage*, Ashworth Hospital (p18) and *Under Pressure*, Morton Hall (p21), *The Lady*, Rampton Hospital (p22).

Special thanks to David Kidd-Hewitt for the photography.