

Correspondence

Migraine Symposium

Sir,

Certain remarks are attributed to me in the printed version of the discussion. There are obvious errors in the transcript of this part of the meeting and it is unfortunate that I did not realize this was to be printed without correction. I was able to see and to correct the transcript of my main contribution to the meeting.

My views have already been set out in the *Journal* (J. Coll. gen. Practit. (1962), 5, 86) and should any member attending the migraine symposium desire to raise any other points I would be grateful if he would get in touch with me.

Birmingham 27

K. M. HAY

Sir,

In the report of a symposium on migraine sponsored by the College in July 1963 I was astonished to find no reference to the basic role of psychotherapy in the treatment of this condition which responds to this approach just as readily as any other psychosomatic disease. Passive patients are the personality type most commonly encountered in migraine as in neurosis generally and are more highly motivated for and responsive to therapy than authoritarian patients; as they learn in therapy or from life experiences to become more assertive and self-accepting and to relax their over-conscientious and perfectionistic drives their migraine ceases to be a serious problem.

This symposium seemed to me to fail badly in adopting a narrow "specialist" approach rather than the holistic one worthy of a meeting organized by general practitioners.

Hornchurch

S. E. BROWNE

Biological Sex Patterns and Modern Living

Sir,

My article in the February *Journal* (J. Coll. gen. Practit. (1963), 6, 35) is well criticized by Margaret Stacey and I fully agree with all she says. It is essential that a general practitioner and a patient can fully understand the problems discussed. This is not a theoretical paper, but a pamphlet which I hope will give easy understanding and make the life of many people happier. A hypothetical community, a man with his everyday problems, a woman who is tired and lonely, is a clear concept. Surely, biological and sociological concepts must be kept apart in a scientific work. Here, the opposite is needed. Fuse problems into the simplest manner and we can help most. The most difficult part of writing this article was to keep out theoretical discussion and give clear reasoning.

Wellington, C.1.

E. PHILIPP

Dr Philipp showed his letter to Mrs Stacey before submitting it to the *Journal*