

B.M.J. March 30, 1974

British Academy of Psychopharmacology

SIR,—I have just learnt of the proposal by an eminent group of neuro-psychopharmacologists in the United Kingdom to form a British Academy of Psychopharmacology (2 March, p. 391). Such a proposal has much merit, as anyone who has followed this field closely is well aware of the great contributions made by British investigators. The United Kingdom has more than enough highly qualified persons to constitute such a group.

The American College of Neuro-psychopharmacology, now in existence for 14 years, has provided a common meeting-

ground for the exchange of ideas among the many disciplines which this field embraces. Our membership is limited to 185 fellows and 35 members and scientific associates. Our small membership, deliberately kept so as to keep the meetings relatively informal, has limited the privileges of membership to residents of North America. The formation of a British Academy of Psychopharmacology would provide a formal channel of communication between English-speaking neuropsychopharmacologists on both sides of the Atlantic. Many of us, but by no means all, are also members of the Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum, whose biennial meetings provide only a limited exchange of information between workers in North American countries and those in the United Kingdom.

So we welcome the formation of the British Academy of Psychopharmacology and fully expect it to thrive.—I am, etc.,

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B.M.J. May 4, 1974

British Academy of Psychopharmacology

SIR,—The Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (C.I.N.P.) was founded at the second World Congress of Psychiatry in 1957. At that time—five years after the introduction of chlorpromazine into psychiatric therapy—the foundation of this international association was an important contribution to establishing a platform for scientists from various branches to discuss and handle problems of mutual interest. Since then this international association has proved to be of considerable value for collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians. In the course of the past 15 years associations or academies have been founded in several countries aiming to promote development of psychopharmacology and pharmacopsychiatry. Collaboration between the C.I.N.P. and all national associations is close and effective. The C.I.N.P. Executive Committee always regretted that there had so far been no society or academy of psychopharmacology in Great Britain. This fact has been particularly regrettable as pioneering studies in many fields of psychopharmacology and pharmacopsychiatry were carried out by British scientists.

With pleasure we heard the news telling that a British Academy of Psychopharmacology has now been established (2 March, p. 391). It is my conviction that foundation of this academy will further stimulate psychopharmacology in Great Britain. Therefore I have pleasure in congratulating this newly established academy on behalf of the C.I.N.P. Executive Committee and in wishing it all the best for their future development. The C.I.N.P., as an international organization, will promote with emphasis the future work of the British Academy of Psychopharmacology.—I am, etc.,

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