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MAC/SSC

10th November, 1976.

Dr. D. Gordon,
Gorbals Health Centre,
45 Pine Place,
GLASGOW, G5 OBQ.

Dear Dr. Gordon,

Peter Burke d.o.b. 30.6.52
98 Batson Street Glasgow

Thank you for referring this patient to the Castle Clinic where I saw him on Tuesday, 9th November. I understand that he is the son-in-law of Mrs. Jessie Butler - a lady wellknown to us both. He presented with what he described as a drinking problem but I had the impression after heaving listened to him for a while that his drinking is more in the nature of acting-out behaviour in an immature personality rather than a true addiction. His drinking is confined to the weekends and takes place either at the house of his brother or some other member of his own family and once he has gone beyond a certain point he is afraid to go home because he knows that he will be in trouble. His wife has threatened to leave him if he does not stop drinking and apparently words between them on this subject a couple of months ago resulted in an overdose of drugs for which he spent two or three days in Stobhill Hospital.

These bouts of drinking have occurred over the past five years which is about the duration of his marriage - in fact he tells me that they began about a fortnight after the wedding day. He protests that he loves his wife and I can only suppose that his drinking is one way of expressing his negative feelings for her. They have no family in spite of wishing to have a baby. He describes their sexual relationship as good although I gather that after he has been drinking his wife may not be speaking to him for several days and this may limit their sex life as well. He comes from a Catholic family and his wife is Protestant but this does not appear to cause any conflict between them.

His early background is that he was the second oldest of a family of seven living in the Springburn district of Glasgow. His father was unemployed for many years on account of tuberculosis and died three years ago at the age of 45. He has three brothers and three sisters and says they "got on great" as a family. His father was fond of drinking and his mother sometimes disapproved of this but it did not seem to cause any tremendous difficulties in the family. His father was not a violent man and both his parents on the whole were reasonably loving and concerned. He disliked school and played truant a lot because he "had a stammer and the teachers used to make fun of me". He left school at 15 years and seems to have been mildly delinquent at that time, passing on to approved school for 14 months where he was taught bricklaying. On discharge he went into an apprenticeship and has continued in this kind of work in the Building Industry. He admitted to one or two minor offences involving the police but does not seem to have any serious criminal tendencies.

Despite the basic immaturity and personality difficulties he seemed in many ways a likeable young man and I have arranged to see him on an out patient basis to discuss his marriage and see if he can be helped to grow up a little. He did not seem to have developed the type of drinking pattern which would make one think of admitting him to hospital for drying out. I would suppose that the prognosis must remain somewhat guarded. He complained of some anxiety symptoms which I told him was not surprising in view of the fears provoked by his wife's threats. I advised him against drugs at the moment to damp down these symptoms, because of the danger of addiction and abuse.

Yours sincerely,

Marjorie A. Campbell

MARJORIE A. CAMPBELL,
Medical Officer.