

The College

Spring Quarterly Meeting 1984

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held in Edinburgh on 1 and 2 May 1984 at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the University Department of Psychiatry, Edinburgh, under the Presidency of Professor Kenneth Rawnsley.

BUSINESS MEETING

Election of Honorary Fellows

The following were approved for the election to the Honorary Fellowship:

PROFESSOR G. C. TIMBURY, past-Registrar of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (1978–1983); formerly Physician Superintendent at Gartnavel Royal Hospital.

PROFESSOR H. GWYNNE JONES, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and previously Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds.

PROFESSOR D. X. FREEDMAN, Chief Editor, *Archives of General Psychiatry*; past-President of the American Psychiatric Association.

DR NORMAN SARTORIUS, Director of the Division of Mental Health, World Health Organization.

SIR IVOR BATCHELOR, *CBE*; formerly Professor of Psychiatry, University of Dundee.

Registrar's Report

Council met on 14 March and 13 April, 1984. The Court of Electors met on 9 April. Council noted with pleasure the election of Dr T. H. Bewley as the next President. Nominations have been received for all of the honorary officers other than the President and for membership of the Court of Electors and Council. May I remind members that further nominations can be received until 11 May and ballots will be held shortly after that date.

Council has approved the annual accounts and these will be circulated to the membership with the papers for the Annual Meeting.

The College has submitted detailed written evidence to the House of Commons Social Services Committee's Inquiry into Community Care, with Special Reference to the Adult Mentally Ill and Mentally Handicapped. Copies of this evidence are available from the College. The College will also be presenting oral evidence to this Committee during the summer.

A Working Party has been set up by Council to discuss the need and to make recommendations for management training for psychiatrists following discussions of the Griffith's report. Their findings will be presented to Council in due course.

It has been agreed that there should be a second edition of the very successful College publication *Alcohol and Alcoholism* and arrangements are underway for the preparation of this publication. Dr Bruce Ritson of Edinburgh has been asked to act as editor.

A Resolution was passed at Council concerning the consultant's responsibility to organize cover for various sections of the Mental Health Act. The full text of this Resolution has already appeared (*Bulletin*, June 1984, 8, 107).

The College has submitted comments to the General Medical Council on its proposals for basic specialist training. The College supported the idea that there should be a certain flexibility during general professional training to allow experience and training in various specialties. It did not, however, recommend that obtaining experience in other medical areas should, in any way, become mandatory as this could result in rigid training schemes.

Council approved the draft protocol, presented by the Research Committee, for a second ECT survey. The final proposal will shortly be submitted to the Executive and Finance Committee.

Council approved the Report from the Joint Working Party of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners on a proposed survey into the effect of economic change on family health. This will be a topic for discussion at the joint meeting between the two Colleges.

The Appeals Committee and the Research Committee will be meeting shortly to decide upon the brochure for the Appeal to establish a College Research Unit. The Appeal will be launched in the near future.

Since the last Quarterly Meeting the Court of Electors has approved 98 Inceptor applications and has continued to receive interim reports from the Working Party for the Review of the MRCPsych examination. It approved 99 Members of the College for election to the Fellowship. Of the 340 candidates for the recent Preliminary Test, 153 passed (43.5 per cent).

The Working Party on the Mental Health Act is preparing guidelines for the treatment of informal patients who are unable or unwilling to give consent. This will have a particular relevance to mentally handicapped and psychogeriatric patients. They are also arranging a meeting with a representative from the Chairmen of Mental Health Review Tribunals to discuss mutual problems. The Mental Health Act Commission is preparing the draft Code of Practice and the College will have the opportunity to comment on this draft before it is submitted to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is, of course, required to consult 'such

bodies as appear to him to be concerned'.

The Section for the Psychiatry of Mental Handicap has prepared comments on the DHSS Mental Handicap Policy Paper. Copies of their comments are available from the College. Council noted with some concern that the DHSS Report *Helping Mentally Handicapped People with Special Problems* contained no references to psychiatric disorders or epilepsy. The Section for the Psychiatry of Mental Handicap has been asked to prepare the College's response to this Report.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held for the late Miss Natalie Cobbing on 29 March 1984. This was well attended and the President gave a very moving tribute to Natalie Cobbing's devoted service to the RMPA and the College (*Bulletin*, July 1984, 8, 141-2).

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the Department of Psychiatry who have made this meeting so successful. In particular, I would like to express the College's gratitude to Professor I. Oswald, Dr W. Boyd and Miss Irene Griffin.

Irish Division

The Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Division was held at St. Stephen's Hospital, Sarsfieldscourt, Cork, on 28 April 1984.

This was a joint meeting with our colleagues from the Irish Society of Physicians in Geriatric Medicine and addressed itself to the 'Care of the Elderly'. The academic session included two papers, one from Dr Noel Scott (Consultant Psychiatrist/Lecturer in the Psychiatry of Old Age), who gave details of his service in South Belfast. The other paper, 'A Medical Service for Old People', was given by Dr Gillian Twomey, a geriatrician from Cork. These papers were well received by geriatricians and psychiatrists alike. It was agreed that there should be ongoing discussions with our geriatrician colleagues, with a view to producing a document on the 'Care of the Elderly', acceptable to both organizations.

The Business Meeting of the Irish Division elected representatives to the Irish Psychiatric Training Committee. Professor T. J. Fahy took the chair owing to the absence of the Chairman, Dr Gordon McCallum, due to illness. Details were given of the most recent meeting with Department of Health officials. It is hoped that the Working Party (Department of Health) addressing itself to our psychiatric services, will report by May 1984. Members were informed that the Irish Division would be making a statement on the financial cutbacks affecting the quality of patient care.

The members expressed their thanks to Dr David Dunne, Clinical Director, St Stephen's Hospital and the Southern Health Board for hosting such a successful meeting.

DAVID SHANLEY

Honorary Secretary

College Library

Members have continued to be most generous in donating books to the College Library. The Librarian wishes to thank all concerned, especially those members who sent copies of their own works:

Dr F. J. Ayd *Affective Disorders Reassessed: 1983*
Dr D. H. Bennett *Theory and Practice of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*
Dr J. A. R. Bickford *De La Pole Hospital*
Dr D. H. Clark *Brief History of Fulbourn Hospital*
Dr S. Crown *Contemporary Psychiatry*
Dr J. H. Dowson *Treatment and Management in Adult Psychiatry*
Professor G. Edwards *Pharmacological Treatments for Alcoholism*
Dr L. Fagin *The Forsaken Families*
Professor J. L. Gibbons *Psychiatry*
Professor E. S. Paykel *Community Psychiatric Nursing for Neurotic Patients*
Dr M. A. Simpson *MCQ Tutor: Psychiatry*

Dr D. A. Spencer *An Introductory Foundation Lecture Course on Mental Handicap for Mental Teaching (1984)*
The History and Present Role of Wharfe Grange Hospital, Wetherby, West Yorks
Policies and Working Arrangements for the Management and Care of Adults with Mental Handicap (Mental Impairment) under the NHS in Leeds
Senior Registrar Training in Mental Handicap in the Yorkshire Region
Westwood Hol A History of Westwood Hospital, Bradford, Yorkshire
The History and Modern Development of Crooked Acres Hospital, Leeds
Dr P. J. Tyrer *Drugs in Psychiatric Practice*
Dr M. P. I. Weller *The Scientific Basis of Psychiatry*
Dr D. Wheatley *Psychopharmacology and Sexual Disorders*
Professor F. A. Whitlock *Symptomatic Affective Disorders*