

## Winter Quarterly Meeting, 1981

The Winter Quarterly Meeting and the Maudsley Bequest lectures were held at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School on 10 and 11 February, 1981, under the Presidency of Sir Desmond Pond.

### Scientific Meetings

#### Monday 9 February

The fifteenth Blake Marsh Lecture, 'The Influence of Genetics on Psychiatry', was given by Professor P. E. Polani of Guy's Hospital Medical School. The vote of thanks was given by Dr J. Jancar.

#### Tuesday 10 February: Maudsley Bequest lectures *Schizophrenia*

Schizophrenic thought disorder—Dr John Cutting  
The WHO studies in schizophrenia—Professor J. E. Cooper  
Do neuroleptics cause depression?—Professor Stephen Hirsch

Schizophrenia in the 1980s—Professor James Stabenau

#### *Neurosis*

The conditioning theory of neurosis and therapy revisited—  
Professor H. J. Eysenck  
The outcome of neurosis—Dr Anthony Mann  
Mental Health in pregnancy and the puerperium—Dr R. Kumar

#### *Special topic*

The role of MIND in relation to psychiatry—Mr Tony Smythe

#### Wednesday 11 February: Maudsley Bequest lectures *Affective and Psychosomatic Disorders*

The genetics of affective disorder—Professor J. Mendlewicz  
Psychiatric illness and growing old in the communities of London and New York—Professor John R. M. Copeland.

Psychiatric aspects of breathlessness—Dr Rachel Rosser.

#### *Psychopharmacology*

Treatment of schizophrenia with endorphin fragments—  
Professor Dr H. M. van Praag

Animal models of psychiatric disorders—Dr Susan Iversen

#### *Special Topic*

Cost and benefits of psychiatric care of schizophrenics—  
Professor David Goldberg.

#### *Other Sessions*

At the meeting of the *Biological Psychiatry Group* on 11 February the following papers were presented:

Lithium and the heart: Assessment by 24-hour Holter monitor—Dr S. P. Tyrer

MAO activity in a large series of schizophrenic brains—relationship to symptomatology—Dr F. Owen

Adult mental health after childhood limbic epilepsy—Dr C. Ounsted

Some biological aspects of epilepsy in children—Dr G. Stores  
Loss of adrenergic neurones in some cases of Alzheimer's disease—  
Mr A. J. Cross

Plasma drug and prolactin levels during maintenance treatment with depot neuroleptics—Dr T. Kolakowska

The effects of benzhexol on memory—Dr J. M. Kellett

Spontaneous involuntary movements in neuroleptic and non-neuroleptic treated schizophrenic patients—Dr D. G. C. Owens

Age and mortality in dementia—Dr A. Whitehead

Time course of the antipsychotic effect in schizophrenia—Dr T. J. Crow

At the *Psychotherapy Section* meeting, also held on 11 February, Mrs E. Balint presented a paper entitled 'The Psychology of Women'.

### Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was held on Wednesday 11 February.

#### *Minutes*

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 and 21 November, 1980 at the Institute of Psychiatry (*Bulletin*, February 1981) were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### *Obituary*

The REGISTRAR announced with regret the death of the following members:

REHMATULLAKHAM A. HAKIM, Consultant Psychiatrist, Polyclinic, Lal Derwaja, Ahmadabad, India  
ROBERT ALEXANDER PORTER, formerly Deputy Medical Superintendent, Moss Side Hospital.

#### *Overseas Guests*

The PRESIDENT welcomed the following guests from overseas: Dr H. H. Grosser (Germany); Dr A. R. Siddigvi (Canada); Dr D. J. Spencer (Australia) and Professor D. Davis (USA).

#### *Registrar's Report*

PROFESSOR GERALD TIMBURY presented the Registrar's report:

'Council met on 16 January 1981 and noted with pleasure the award of a Knighthood to the President, Professor Desmond Pond. Dr Gavin Shaw, Honorary Fellow, had been awarded the CBE.

'The Executive and Finance Committee continues to meet monthly, and the Court of Electors met on 8 December 1980 and 9 February 1981. The Court continues to supervise the examinations, the approvals exercise and the admissions of Fellows, Members and Inceptors. At its last meeting, 113 Members were elected to the Fellowship and 128 new

Members have been admitted by examination—a pass rate of 51 per cent. About 100 new Inceptors have been admitted, bringing the total to more than 700.

'The Collegiate Trainees Committee are planning more regional trainees' study days which will have the support of the College, and which it is hoped will encourage more trainees to associate themselves with College activities.

'Council debated the discussion document 'A Diploma in Clinical Psychiatry' which had been widely circulated and published in the *Bulletin* (January 1981). Many reservations were expressed about the wisdom of having an additional diploma, but no final decision has yet been taken.

'Following the Council meeting, Dr Heaton-Ward presented an elegant Badge of Office which is to be worn by the Chairman of the Mental Deficiency Section. The College is most grateful to Dr Heaton-Ward for this generous gift.

'A memorandum entitled 'Medical Manpower in the Psychiatric Specialties' has been approved by Council and will be published in due course.

'The College Research Project on a survey of the use of ECT is nearing completion and it is hoped that the results will be published later this year.

'The reconstituted Nursing Committee had its first meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Seager, and it is intended that a session at one of the Quarterly Meetings will be devoted to consideration of the many problems facing psychiatric nursing. Representations have been made to the new Nursing Boards asking that they should set up committees to deal with psychiatric nursing.

'Council noted that a discussion document on a revised Complaints Procedure had been approved by the Joint Consultants Committee. Council have also debated a discussion document on the possible creation of Regional Mental Health Commissions, which might form part of future Mental Health legislation. There was considerable support for the creation of such Commissions which would be independent of the Health Service but available to advise on and monitor the care of patients detained under the Mental Health Act. Such Commissions might also have functions in respect of informal patients. Discussions are continuing on this topic and will be reported in more detail later.

'The Special Committee on the Bye-laws has begun its task of reviewing these now that the College has been established for 10 years. I would be grateful to receive from members suggestions as to possible areas for amendment.

'The document 'Psychiatric Rehabilitation in the 1980s' has now been sent to members, and it is hoped that this will stimulate the development and improvement of rehabilitation services for psychiatric patients in each district.

'The next Quarterly Meeting will be in Montrose and will be followed by a meeting of the Scottish Division to which all members are invited.

'The Irish Division are holding a joint meeting with the American Psychiatric Association in Dublin in May 1982. Further details will be announced later.

'Thanks are due to Professor Hirsch and to the staff of Charing Cross Hospital for helping with the arrangements for this meeting.'

(Continued from page 62)

hands recently I should like to mention two. The first is one on which our College has played a conspicuous part in recent years, the problem of alcoholism. I am glad to say that the Conference has recently formally agreed to take an initiative with regard to alcohol similar to that which the Royal College of Physicians of London took with regard to tobacco ten years ago, which led to the setting up of ASH. Many distinguished psychiatrists have contributed to our knowledge of alcoholism and to the formation of public and professional opinion about this very serious problem. A great difference between alcohol and tobacco is that the former has had for many years bodies both medical and non-medical concerned with the problem, whereas ASH was virtually the only organization in the field when it was set up. Organizations such as the National Council for Alcoholism, the Medical Council for Alcoholism, not to mention Alcoholics Anonymous and numerous other voluntary agencies, have done much over the years, but the time now seems ripe to take a new medical initiative.

The second issue which has recently occupied a good deal of medical political time is the question of complaints procedures, in which I have been involved as a member of the working party on the subject of the Joint Consultants' Com-

mittee. We put forward some suggestions which I am glad to say have received the assent, even if grudging, of the profession generally. It remains to be seen whether our proposals will be acceptable to Parliament.

As far as psychiatry is concerned, these complaints procedures border on various aspects of change in the new Mental Health Bill which we anticipate will be introduced in the next session of Parliament. The most controversial issues revolve around the question of consent for treatment and the monitoring of psychiatric care generally (*Bulletin*, January p. 9). These are complex issues, and I strongly advise all our members in the United Kingdom to interest themselves in these matters, and should they agree with College policy see that the issues are properly understood by all those with whom they come in contact professionally.

In my daily journeys on the underground I have been depressed by a recent advertisement for nurse recruitment. It shows two charming young ladies earnestly gazing at some latest piece of gadgetry—but where is the patient? Nursing has to do with wet sheets and sore backs and, most important of all, with that tender loving care we all need in the valley of the shadow. No wonder we can't get enough good nurses into psychiatry and mental handicap.

Donald Paul