

error embarrassing for Mr Irving and of some consequence to McKenny at his appeal. Her description of Mr Irving's qualifications has a discrediting tone and is distasteful. She was also deliberate in her omission that he is the author of a recent important publication for the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure on Police Interrogation (Irving, 1980). It was Mr Irving's particular expertise in this area that presumably resulted in his instruction by the defence.

Not all Mrs Brahams' colleagues take such a satisfied view of this complex case, of which she has chosen to describe one facet. Blom-Cooper (1981) has expressed concern over the central position of Childs' evidence. A further exploration into Childs' initial confession, and any further benefits accruing to him for turning Queen's evidence, would no doubt be dismissed by Mrs Brahams as 'irrelevant and collateral'. In addition, the question of whether Childs is also a psychopath is admittedly fraught with a multitude of diagnostic problems, but was somewhat crucial to the case. Certain information had been made available to Mr Irving and the Defence Psychiatrist, suggesting that Childs was not

quite as normal as Mrs Brahams would have us believe. Both expert witnesses were acting within their brief in making some attempt to explore these aspects further.

Finally, whilst agreeing that 'a string of psychiatrists expressing conflicting views is unlikely to be of great assistance', it is important to question the extent to which psychiatrists are to be held responsible for such spectacles in Court. The answer must also go some way to answering Mrs Brahams' question of who can give evidence and when.

JEREMY COID

*Maudsley Hospital,  
London SE5*

#### REFERENCES

- BLOM-COOPER, L. (1981) A miscarriage of justice—English style. *Medico-Legal Journal*, **49**, 98–117.
- IRVING, B. (1960) *Police Interrogation. The Psychological Approach: A Case Study of Current Practice. Research Studies No. 1 and No. 2*. Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. London: HMSO.

## *The College*

### *College Meetings in 1983*

The Programmes & Meetings Committee would be very pleased to hear from members of the College who would like to present a paper at either the Spring or Summer Quarterly Meetings next year. [The Spring Quarterly Meeting is to be held in Oxford on 26 and 27 April, and the Summer (Annual) Meeting in Bristol on 5, 6 and 7 July.] It would be helpful if a brief summary of the paper could be enclosed with the offer.

ROBIN M. MURRAY  
*Secretary*

*Programmes & Meetings Committee*

### *Examinations—Spring 1983*

The Spring 1983 MRCPsych Examinations will take place on the following dates:

*Preliminary Test:* 23 February 1983. Closing date for receipt of entries—1 December 1982.

*Membership Examination:* 13 April 1983 (written papers); 18 to 21 April 1983 (clinical and orals). Closing date for receipt of entries—26 January 1983.

The entry fees are £50 and £90 respectively. New regulations concerning withdrawals and refunds will be applicable. Late or incomplete entries are not accepted. The College does not give exemption from any part of the examinations. Candidates are reminded that they must pass the Membership Examination within five years of passing the Preliminary Test.

Details and entry forms are available from the Examination Secretary at the College.

### *On Sale at the College*

*College Ties:* A new All Silk Tie is now available—plain blue, green and maroon with the College Crest (single motif) in black, gold, silver and red. Price £7 each, plus 25p postage and packing (overseas airmail £1). Other designs are still available in either Crimplene or polyester (blue only), both at £4 each (postage as above).

*College Plaque:* This is available at £7 plus 80p postage and packing (£1.75 surface overseas).

*College Christmas Cards:* These are 15p each; 12 for £1.80—postage and packing, 25p.