

Election of President and Honorary Officers

Introduction

During 1990, elections were held for the President and for the Dean. It is now unusual for the President to be elected after one ballot and therefore the ballot for Officers, which takes place after the election of the President, no longer takes place in April but in May. Last year a second Presidential ballot was held and Professor Sims was notified in May that he had been elected President and would take office two months later in July. The new Dean had less notice than this, only a matter of days between the announcement of the result of the election for Dean and the Annual General Meeting when Dr Caldicott took office. If there had been a second ballot, the College would not have had a Dean until August. It is obviously difficult for Honorary Officers to take on their onerous duties with such short notice. Council has agreed that the timing of elections should change this year to prevent this situation occurring again.

New election procedure

The Bye-Laws of the College state that the "President shall assume Office at such stage of the Annual General Meeting following upon his election". Council, in future, will receive nominations for the Presidency at its June meeting, rather than its January meeting as at present. This will mean that nominations will be received from the Membership by mid-July. The election will then be held immediately, with a longer period than usual within which to return ballot papers, to take ac-

count of the holiday period. Ballot papers will therefore be returned to the College by the beginning of September.

If a second ballot is necessary, this will be completed by mid-October. The announcements of the new President for the following year will be made at the October meeting of Council when nominations will then be received for Honorary Officers. The election for Honorary Officers will then take place during the autumn and early winter months and the results will be announced at the January meeting of Council. The President-Elect will then have nine months to prepare for the Presidency and new Honorary Officers will have approximately six months.

Election of President and Honorary Officers to take up duties in July 1993

The nominating meeting of Council for the new President will take place on 19 June 1992. An election notice will appear in the June *Bulletin*, and nominations for the President will be received from the membership until 17 July 1992. The ballot, or ballots, will take place during August and September and the name of the new President will be announced to Council on 16 October. The procedure will then commence in a similar fashion for the election of Honorary Officers. The President, Registrar, Editor, and Treasurer will all be retiring in 1993.

VANESSA CAMERON
The Secretary

College Parliamentary monitoring service

The College's Public Education Committee has since 1986 employed the services of Parliamentary Monitoring Agents to ensure that we are kept informed, on a daily basis, as to the progress of relevant Bills or statutory instruments of relevance to the College.

The Parliamentary Information Unit of *The House Magazine* has been providing this service since 1988 and gives the College advance warning of Parliamentary questions in both the Houses of Commons and Lords, of forthcoming debates and the work and membership of Select Committees; they notify us of early day motions and their sig-

natories and supply us with the text of ministerial statements, answers to questions and debates in both Houses; they report when Bills are introduced into Parliament and upon all stages in their progress; and supply us with relevant Government releases, White and Green Papers and other Government publications. They also keep the College regularly informed on EC legislation of relevance to the practice of psychiatry.

Members of the College wishing to seek further information or advice on Parliamentary matters should contact Deborah Hart, Public Education Officer, at the College.