

All involved in ECT, including the consultant in charge, should be trained for it. The provision of education and training should be reviewed, perhaps using the APA Task Force report as a basis. Neglect of ECT practice is likely to continue unless specific sessional time is set aside for the duties of the consultant in charge. It is suggested that about one session a week would be appropriate. A College ECT committee should continue to deal with all ECT matters which concern the College and to work with other College bodies.

Finally, I am convinced that although we do not always agree about when ECT should be prescribed, it remains an important, even essential, treatment and few psychiatrists would say that it should never be used. We *must* ensure that it is given properly.

References

- AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (1990) *The Practise of Electroconvulsive Therapy: Recommendations for Treatment, Training and Privileging*. Washington DC: APA.
- PIPPARD, J. (1988) ECT custom and practice. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **12**, 473–475.
- & ELLAM, L. (1981a) *Electroconvulsive Treatment in Great Britain, 1980*. London: Gaskell.
- & — (1981b) Electroconvulsive Treatment in Great Britain. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **139**, 563–568.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS (1989) *The Practical Administration of Electroconvulsive Treatment*. London: Gaskell.
- SACKEIM, H. A., DEVANAND, D. P. & PRUDIC, J. (1990) Stimulus intensity, seizure threshold, and seizure duration: impact on the efficacy and safety of electroconvulsive therapy. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*. December 1991.

Election of President

Notice to Fellows and Members

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights under the Bye-laws and Regulations, as follows:

Bye-law XI

The President shall be elected annually from among the Fellows.

Regulation XI

- (1) As soon as may be practicable after the first day of January in any year the Council shall hold a nomination meeting and shall . . . nominate not less than one candidate and not more than three candidates. . . .

- (2) Between the first day of January in any year and the date which is four clear weeks after the nomination meeting of the Council, written nominations, accompanied in each case by the nominees' written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
- (3) An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The nominating meeting of the Council will be held on 14 January 1992 and the last date for receiving nominations under (2) above will therefore be 11 February 1992. Professor A. C. P. Sims is in his second year of office as President and is therefore eligible for re-election.

Election to the Fellowship

Candidates for election to the Fellowship are considered annually by the Court of Electors.

Candidates may not make a personal approach to the College for election, *but must be nominated by two sponsors, who must be Fellows of the College*.

Sponsors should *apply in writing* to the Registrar for the relevant forms. Completed nominations should be submitted to the Registrar by 30 September in any year, for considerations by the Court at its meeting the following February.

Eligibility of nominees

- a. Candidates must either be Members of the College by Examination of more than five years standing, or Members who have been granted exemption from Examination.

- b. The Fellowship is ordinarily awarded to a Member for unusual distinction in teaching, research, and/or administrative ability, or for exceptional service to patients, especially where the supporting services have been inadequate. Sponsors are therefore asked to indicate any factors which go beyond the carrying out of consultant or academic duties by the candidates of their choice.

All sponsors and all successful candidates will be notified by letter of the decision of the Court of Electors.

Individuals elected to the Fellowship become entitled to use the designation FRCPsych after they have paid the prescribed registration fee.