

service to humanity in relation to the study, prevention or treatment of mental illness or to subjects allied thereto or connected herewith or has rendered notable service to the College or to the Association.”

Nomination forms are available from Ms Beverley Fiddimore, Department of Postgraduate Educational Services, to whom nominations for the Honorary Fellowship should be sent by 1

April 1999. Such nominations must contain recommendations by no less than six Members of the College, and include full supporting documentation.

ANNE DEAN, *Head of Postgraduate Educational Services, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG*

Photographs of College Fellows and Members

Margaret Harcourt Williams

The College holds a number of photographs of Fellows and Members. It is proposed that, if a Fellow or Member has supplied the College with a photograph in the past, the supplying of such a photograph is deemed to have licenced the College in the use of this photograph, unless a Fellow or Member informs the Head of Post-

graduate Education or the Archivist that they object to this.

MARGARET HARCOURT WILLIAMS, *College Archivist, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG*

The College archives

Records of Special Committees, Divisions and Sections

Margaret Harcourt Williams

The College archives are the part of the paper-work created by the College and its predecessor bodies that has been considered worthy of permanent preservation for administrative or historical reasons. The core of this archive is

the surviving minutes of the Council and standing committees that are preserved either in printed form in the *Journal of Mental Science* (JMS), now *The British Journal of Psychiatry* (BJP) or in manuscript form. These were

carefully kept throughout the various moves of the (Royal) Medico-Psychological Association before it became the College and settled in a permanent headquarters in Belgrave Square. Paperwork from other (Royal) Medico-Psychological Association bodies was not kept so systematically and this article will describe what has survived.

Special Committees

The newly founded Association lost no time in setting up special committees. The first of these, the Registers and Tables Committees, was appointed at the first annual meeting in 1841 and reported the following year. Many other committees followed; some produced reports that were printed in the *JMS* or bound into the Council minute books; others produced reports that have disappeared and others just disappeared without apparently reporting or even meeting. Records of two committees are in the archives, namely the Medical Planning Committee, 1944–1945, which have been used for a history of the National Health Service, and the Appeal Committee, 1971–1985. Records of the Special Committee on Unethical Psychiatric Practices are also held and are awaiting sorting. In recent years the College has developed a records management system and record keeping is becoming more structured.

Sections

The College's Specialist Sections (now Faculties) developed from 1928 onwards from Research

Committee Sub-Committees, and became Specialist Sections when the (Royal) Medico-Psychological Association became the College. Minutes from most Sections (Faculties) are in the archives, although the earliest of these minutes dates only from the 1940s.

Divisions

College Divisions date from the early 1890s although there were regular meetings in Ireland and Scotland before then. The modern Divisions retain their own records. Of the pre-1972 divisions, minutes of the South-East Division, 1897–1971; of the South-West Division, 1955–1971; and of the Northern and Midland Division, 1964–1971; are in the archives and there are also small files relating to the Indian Division that existed from 1936 to 1948 and to the New Zealand branch that was proposed in 1928. Records of the Scottish Division from 1869 are in Edinburgh University Library, but the whereabouts of early records of the South-West Division (founded in 1894) the Northern and Midland Division (founded in 1897) and of any records of the Irish Division is unknown.

I am in the College on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and would be pleased to answer any questions about the archives. Suggestions or information about any relevant archival material would be welcomed.

Margaret Harcourt Williams, *College Archivist, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PG*

Procedure for the nomination of examiners

As part of the procedures to assist in standardisation of the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Court of Electors endorsed recently a proposal approved by the Examinations Sub-Committee defining the criteria recommended for aspirants wishing to become members of the Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. These criteria are given below.

MRCPsych Part I Board of Examiners

To be eligible to become a member of this Board, a doctor must have held a consultant or equivalent post in general adult or old age psychiatry for at least two years.

MRCPsych Part II Board of Examiners

To be eligible to become a member of this Board, a doctor must have held a consultant or