

The College

Spring Quarterly Meeting 1988

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held at Robinson College, Cambridge on 12 and 13 April 1988 under the Presidency of Dr J. L. T. Birley.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, 13 April 1988, attended by 60 Members of the College.

The meeting approved the election of the following Honorary Fellows:

Professor Irving I. Gottesman, Professor R. Hinde, Dr J. Jancar, Dame Cicely Saunders and Mrs Renée Short.

Minutes

The minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting held at The Royal Society of Medicine on 26 and 27 January 1988 were approved and signed.

Report of Registrar

Although it is only a short time since I presented my last report there are several topics I would like to bring to your attention.

The debate on the funding of the National Health Service concerns us all and it might be helpful if I told Members the action which the College has taken. In my last report I mentioned that we had collected from the membership evidence of cutbacks in funding mental health services. We have now sent two large batches of clear examples of cuts to the DHSS and I am still receiving letters from Members, all of which are very helpful for our representations. The President wrote a letter printed in *'The Independent'* urging the Government to make a clear commitment to continued funding for change and expansion in the psychiatric services. A useful debate followed in the correspondence columns of this national newspaper. College evidence has also been sent to the House of Commons Social Services Committee on Resourcing the NHS and we are monitoring the situation closely.

The College has now received the Griffiths Report on Community Care. Although this Report did not receive much official publicity (it was launched the

morning after the Budget speech) the College is taking it very seriously. The Working Party, chaired by the President, has met twice and the Report has been circulated for comment to Council Members, Sections, Divisions, Regional Advisers, various College Committees and interested voluntary agencies. Whilst the Report contained some interesting proposals, the Committees were concerned at the suggestion that community care should be the ultimate and sole responsibility of Local Authorities. I would be grateful to receive any comments from the Membership on this Report.

Council met on 16 March and the following documents were approved and will shortly be appearing in the *Bulletin*: 'The Role, Responsibilities and Work of the Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist', the 'Report of the Working Group on Consultant Based Services', (to be published as a discussion document) and a position statement on 'Sterilisation and the Mentally Handicapped'.

Council also approved a report entitled 'The Practical Administration of Electro-Convulsive Therapy', prepared by the ECT Sub-Committee of the Research Committee. This excellent report gives a clear clinical guide to good practice. It is currently being printed and will be circulated free on request to all ECT Clinics and will shortly be available to members.

The first two Special Interest Groups under the new Bye-laws and Regulations have now been formally established by Council, namely the group for the History of Psychiatry and the group for Computers in Psychiatry.

Council received with delight the news that Professor John Wing had agreed to become the first Director of the College's Research Unit. Professor Wing will take office in 1989. The President will shortly be writing to those members who have not yet contributed to the Appeal fund.

It may interest Members to know that Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC, the new Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission, has accepted an invitation to address Council at its June meeting.

Council also approved a proposal to modernise the offices on the Ground and Third Floors. This will be done in conjunction with the present work on the Fourth Floor and the entire operation should be completed by the end of the Summer.

Council approved a budget of £25,000 for the Public Education Department for 1988/89. It was noted that the Department was to organise a Media

Training Day in the Autumn attended by two representatives from each of the College Divisions. It is hoped that this experience will enable these members to respond swiftly to their regional media on local problems. This should help the public education activities to develop both centrally and regionally. A report on the activities of the Public Education Department will shortly be published in the *Bulletin*.

Many of you may know that this is my last year as Registrar of the College. An election is to be held shortly and the results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the College in Brighton.

I would like to thank Professor Paykel, his staff and particularly Mary Coburn for their hospitality during our stay in Cambridge.

PROF. R. G. PRIEST

Distinction Awards in Psychiatry (England and Wales)

A complete list of psychiatrists on Distinction Awards Committees is given below. (see *Bulletin*, March 1988, 12, 112-113)

Central Committee on Distinction Awards

College nominated advisers on Awards in the Regions

Northern: Dr K. Schapira; *Yorkshire*: Dr J. Roberts; *Trent*: Professor J. E. Cooper; *East Anglia*: Dr C. P. B. Brook; *North West Thames*: Dr K. Granville-Grossman; *North East Thames*: Dr S. Crown; *South West Thames*: Professor A. Crisp; *South East Thames*: Dr T. H. Bewley; *Wessex*: Professor J. L. Gibbons; *Oxford*: Dr E. B. O. Smith; *South Western*: Professor H. G. Morgan; *West Midlands*: Professor R. Bluglass; *Mersey*: Professor J. Copeland; *North Western*: Dr J. Johnson; *Wales*: Dr D. M. Shaw.

Regional 'Higher' Awards Committee 1988

Psychiatrist members

Northern: Dr K. Davison; *Yorkshire*: Dr J. M. Roberts, Dr I. Berg; *Trent*: Professor F. A. Jenner, Professor G. E. Roberts; *East Anglia*: Dr G. E. Berrios; *North West Thames*: Dr J. Steinert, Professor B. I. Sacks; *North East Thames*: Professor T. Silverstone; *South East Thames*: Dr J. Merry, Dr J. A. Whitehead; *South West Thames*: Dr A. J. Coppen,

Professor D. Bicknell; *Wessex*: Professor J. L. Gibbons; *Oxford*: Professor M. Gelder, Dr D. H. Gath; *South Western*: Dr C. J. Wardle, Dr J. T. R. Bavin, Dr A. C. Brown; *West Midlands*: Professor R. S. Bluglass, Dr P. Hall; *Mersey*: Dr J. S. Madden; *North Western*: Professor D. C. Taylor, Professor D. P. Goldberg; *Wales*: Dr M. Tannahill, Dr M. A. Harper.

Regional 'C' Awards Committee 1988

Psychiatrist members

Northern: Dr D. A. Stephens, Dr H. Weaving; *Yorkshire*: Dr S. B. Mahapatra; Dr M. A. Hill; *Trent*: Dr M. C. Moss; *East Anglia*: Dr M. O'Brien, Dr J. H. Dowson; *North West Thames*: Dr M. T. Duff-Miller, Dr G. Kanakarathnam; *North East Thames*: Dr J. J. Bradley, Dr B. G. Adams; *South East Thames*: Dr N. Shanmuganathan; *South West Thames*: Dr S. Craske, Dr A. J. Forrest; *Wessex*: Dr M. A. Rowton-Lee, Dr D. H. Dick; *Oxford*: Professor M. Gelder; *South Western*: Dr A. C. Fairbairn, Dr Y. Wiley; *West Midlands*: Dr E. D. Myers, Dr L. I. Liebling, Dr G. Milner; *Mersey*: Dr J. Warburton, Dr M. W. Forth; *North Western*: Dr M. D. Cashman, Dr A. Theodossiadis; *Wales*: Dr D. J. L. Hughes, Dr A. B. Rolfe.

Summer Bank Holiday

The College will be closed from 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 25 August until 8.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30 August 1988.