

The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting, 1983

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held in London on 17 and 18 November 1983 at the Institute of Psychiatry, under the Presidency of Professor Kenneth Rawnsley.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The Scientific Meetings were held on 17 and 18 November 1983.

Maudsley Lecture

On 18 November Professor Sir John Walton, Warden, Green College, Oxford, President of the General Medical Council, delivered the Maudsley Lecture: 'Clinical Medicine—Its Challenges and Responsibilities'. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Professor M. Gelder.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting was held on 18 November 1983.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 1982, 9 February 1983 and 27 April 1983 (*Bulletin*, August 1983, 7, 150–52; September 1983, 7, 170–72; November 1983, 7, 212–4) were approved and signed as a correct record.

Obituary

The Registrar announced with regret the names of those members who had died since the last College meeting.

Registrar's Report

PROFESSOR R. G. PRIEST, presented the following report:

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report as Registrar of the College.

The Executive and Finance Committee has had four meetings since the last Registrar's Report. The Court of Electors met on 10 October and Council met on 20 October.

I am very pleased to welcome as our new Editor, Dr Hugh Freeman, who is with us this morning. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the College's gratitude to Dr John Crammer who worked tirelessly as Editor of the *Journal* and we are all enormously indebted to him.

Professor Michael Gelder now replaces Dr Joze Jancar as Senior Vice-President. Council is in the process of electing a Junior Vice-President.

The Court of Electors admitted 120 Inceptors at their recent meeting and it was announced that 209 out of 428 candidates were successful in the Preliminary Test. The Working Party for the review of the Membership Examination continues to meet and it is expected that their recommendations will be presented to the Court in Summer 1984.

The President has presented to Council a paper that he has prepared on the 'Future of the Consultant in Psychiatry', summarizing the main points in the responses he had

received to his original submission and making recommendations. Council approved this document and it is hoped that it will be published in the *Bulletin*.

Council has agreed, in principle, that the College should jointly sponsor the Chair of Military Psychiatry that already exists in the Royal Army Medical College.

A Steering Committee has been set up to organize a Joint Conference between the College and the DHSS which will be held in Spring 1985 and will probably concentrate on discussing the transitional situation of Mental Health Service Planning and, in particular, the process of closing down mental hospitals and mental handicap units and the consequential effects in the community.

The Public Policy Committee and the Mental Health Act Working Party continue to monitor the implementation of the 1983 Act. The Working Party would be grateful if members could write to the Chairman, Professor R. Buglass, if they are experiencing practical difficulties as a result of the new legislation. Council has agreed to recommend to the DHSS that when new doctors are to be approved under Section 12 (the equivalent of Section 28 of the 1959 Act), they should hold Membership of the College or have equivalent qualification or experience. The membership of the Mental Health Act Commission has been announced and of the 90 Commissioners, approximately 20 are psychiatrists. The College has submitted a list of some 70 consultant psychiatrists, distributed throughout the Regions, who are willing to provide second opinions on behalf of the Mental Health Act Commission.

The Executive and Finance Committee has set up a small Working Party to prepare the College response to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. The Public Policy Committee has prepared reports on the preparation of evidence to the DHSS Working Group on Primary Health Care for Cancer Patients, and on the role of the psychiatrist in relation to the Young Brain Damaged. It will be recommending to Council that a careful study be undertaken of the work of the Court of Protection.

Representatives of the Appeal Committee and a Sub-Committee of the Research Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss the appeals procedure for the College Research Unit. An Appeal will be launched early next year. At the request of the Special (ECT) Committee, an ECT Sub-Committee of the Research Committee has been formed to resume involvement in ECT Research.

Many of you will have heard that Miss Cobbing has been ill recently. You will be pleased to hear that she is now out of hospital and convalescing satisfactorily.

Finally, may I thank Dr Robin Murray and his colleagues for allowing us once more to hold our meeting at the Institute of Psychiatry.