

The College

Educational strategy

In the latter part of 1992 the Education Committee of the College held an Open Forum on the topic of 'Psychiatric Training: Too Many Subjects and Not Enough Education'. Partly as a result of that symposium and also for other reasons, the Education Committee set itself the task of producing an educational strategy for the College. The Education Committee specifically asked the three Sub Deans of the College, under the Chairmanship of Dr Mike Harris, along with a representative from the Psychiatric Tutors Sub-Committee, a course organiser and a member of the Collegiate Trainees' Committee, to formulate a strategy which could then be considered by the whole Education Committee and later the College. In order to undertake this work I am seeking the views of any members of the College who have an

interest in this area. Specifically I have written to all specialties within the College, seeking their views on those things they see as essential core requirements of psychiatric training at the point of entry to psychiatric training, at the point of transition from SHO to registrar, registrar to senior registrar and the completion of training. There is, of course, a separate committee looking at continuing medical education for those who have completed their initial training. There will be a separate report on the Educational Forum which started this debate, but if you have any views on this subject and would like to contact me please write to me at the College.

MIKE HARRIS
Sub Dean

Chairman of the Working Group

Dementia Concern

There will be a joint meeting between the Section for the Psychiatry of Old Age, Royal College of General Practitioners, Age Concern, Alzheimer's Disease Society and Directors of Public Health Medicine on 'Dementia Concern: Services for People with Dementia – Making Them Work' on 30 November 1993 in London. This is a first venture between these

various organisations and will be aimed primarily at purchasers of care. Speakers will include representatives from the various organisations and the meeting will be addressed by John Bowis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. There will also be a variety of workshops. Further information can be obtained from Jean Wales at the College.

Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

JOHN ALEXANDER AITKEN, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Borocourt Hospital, Wyfold, Reading, Berkshire

John Aitken studied medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London, and qualified MRCS (Eng) LRCP (Lond) in 1956. After deciding on a career in psychiatry he gained the DPM (Eng) in 1969, was elected MRCPsych in 1971 and proceeded to the fellowship in 1983.

He served as senior registrar at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford, prior to his appointment as consultant to and general manager at Borocourt Hospital, Reading. At the same time he served as a clinical teacher in the University of Oxford and as a clinical tutor to the Reading area.

Aitken did his military service in the RAMC and with the rank of captain worked as clinical officer in psychiatry at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.