

have biased the results. If there has been a disproportionately high response from those interested in IT, then the proportion of members with access to a PC and the Internet may be inflated. Nevertheless a significant and growing number of College members would be able and willing to benefit from College IT developments.

The full report of the Working Party will be published after it has received Council's approval.

In the meantime, with the approval of the Executive and Finance Committee, the Publications Department has set up a trial Web site that can be viewed at

<http://www.demon.co.uk/rcpsych>.

Ian Pullen, *Honorary Librarian and Chair of the IT Working Party*

Miscellany

Honours

Members of the College will be delighted to know that Fiona Caldicott, who has recently retired as our President was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the recent Birthday Honours. She is now Dame Fiona Caldicott, Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire (DBE).

The National Counselling and Welfare Service for Sick Doctors

The National Counselling and Welfare Service for Sick Doctors is totally independent and has the full support and backing of the Royal Colleges and Faculties, the Joint Consultants' Committee, the British Medical Association and other professional bodies. It is controlled by a National Management Committee with representatives from all these organisations, but which is autonomous. A doctor concerned about the effect of illness or the fitness to practise of a sick colleague may telephone the national contact point on 0171 935 5982. He will be given the name of a national adviser who will be a senior doctor in the same branch of medicine as the doctor-patient. He may contact the national adviser, and it is not until this stage that he need disclose the name of his sick colleague. The adviser may personally approach the sick doctor, or may arrange for another specialist to do so. No permanent records incorporating names will be kept of these transactions. The sick doctor is perfectly entitled to refuse the offer, in which case the original referring colleague is informed and the matter closed so far as the National Counselling Service is concerned.

To activate the Service for a particular problem, telephone 0171 935 5982 as above. For further information about the scope and working of the scheme write to: Chairman, National Management Committee, National Counselling and Welfare Service for Sick Doctors, 1 Park Square West, London NW1 4LJ.

New publications

Interpersonal Factors in Origin and Course of Affective Disorders edited by Ch. Mundt, M. J. Goldstein, K. Hahlweg and P. Fiedler, with the assistance of H. Freeman, is the latest publication in the Gaskell Academic Series. It is available in hardback for £30 from bookshops and the Publications Dept of The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG (Telephone: 0171 235 2351, ext. 146).

The first issue of a new journal, entitled *Mortality* has recently been published. This is the only academic journal in Europe devoted to the study of death, dying and disposal. It is edited by Dr Glennys Howarth and Revd Dr Peter C. Jupp. Further details: CARFAX Publishing Company, PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3UE (Fax: +44 (0) 1235 401550).

A History of Clinical Psychiatry - The Origin and History of Psychiatric Disorders edited by German Berrios and Roy Porter has recently been published and is available for £60 (hb) and £19.95 (pb) from The Athlone Press, 1 Park Drive, London NW11 7SG.

150 Years of Psychiatry 1841-1991, Vol. II: The Aftermath edited by Hugh Freeman and German Berrios has also been recently published by The Athlone Press (address as above) and is available for £45 (hb).