

The College

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting, 1992

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the College was held at Trinity College, Dublin from 24–27 July 1992 under the Presidency of Professor A. C. P. Sims.

Members not less than two and not more than four Sub-Deans to assist the Dean as the Dean shall direct.

Scientific Meetings

The Scientific Meetings were held at Trinity College, Dublin.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was held on 25 July and was chaired by Professor Sims. It was attended by 50 members of the College.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Brighton on 4 July 1991 and published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, December 1991, were approved and signed.

The Report of the Registrar and the Annual Report were received and approved.

The Report of the Treasurer and the Annual Accounts for 1991 were received and approved.

The appointment of auditors, new fees and subscription rates were approved.

The amendments to the bye-laws were approved.

Amendments to bye-laws

Bye-Law V

Honorary Fellows

3. Not more than 5 Honorary Fellows may be elected in any College year and the total number of persons on the register of Honorary Fellows at any one time shall not exceed one hundred and fifty.

Bye-Law XV

The Treasurer and the Audit

3. Delete first paragraph.

(This paragraph relates to the signing of cheques. The Privy Council have indicated that they will now permit arrangements for the signing of cheques to be included in the Regulations and a suitable Regulation will be submitted to the Council for approval before the deletion of this Bye-Law takes effect.)

Bye-Law XVIII

The Sub-Deans

1. At the first meeting of the Council in each College year the Council shall elect from among the

Registrar's Report

The College has a problem with rising costs. Therefore, a detailed review of all College Committees held in 1991 was carried out by the Secretary and as a result a number of steps have been taken to cut down the costs of the meetings, cutting the frequency in some cases and in others, the membership. It has been agreed, for example, that meetings of Council should take place in the afternoon, in order to enable members to purchase off-peak rail tickets. However, it is also clear that many members of the College are involved in these meetings which cover a very wide range of activity.

There has been a joint working party, between the specialist sections for mental handicap (learning disability) and child and adolescent psychiatry. These young patients have complex problems and the report aims to encourage development of expertise in both specialties.

Since the College has now installed a new computer system, it has been suggested that we might use the data we have to introduce an annual staffing census and the Deputy Regional Advisers have agreed to act as Census Officers to obtain full and accurate data. The first occasion will clearly necessitate quite a lot of work but in subsequent years this will be lessened and for the first time we will have accurate information on all grades of psychiatrists.

Council has decided that the visit of the representatives of the College to South Africa will be postponed. It is suggested that a watching brief should be maintained and the situation reconsidered in June 1993.

After wide consultation within the College, the proposal to reduce the number of scientific meetings from four a year to two meetings, with an increased duration and content, has been supported. This proposal will come into effect from 1994 but will not effect the College's next visit to Ireland, which will be to Cork in April 1994.

There have been a number of incidents reported in the Press about the death of patients following high doses of medication. It has been agreed that a College

working group, with wide representation, including psychopharmacologists, should be convened in order to produce a consensus statement. There is particular concern in the case of very young patients who are particularly susceptible to long-term effects such as tardive dyskinesia.

The Government of the United Kingdom has recently launched a White Paper called *The Health of the Nation*. The logo on the front of this document represents a map of the nation to which it refers

and this can be seen as an extraordinarily truncated representation. The *Nation* to which the Secretary of State for Health is referring is defined in the same way as *Nation* by the Rugby Union. There are thus four Nations but fortunately no suggestion as yet has been made for a championship based on goals scored among the targets listed. Nonetheless, the document has implications for psychiatry over a much wider geographical distribution. The aim to reduce suicide is one which is applauded everywhere.

The College Appeal

The College Appeal was set up in November 1986, under the Presidency of Dr Thomas Bewley, with the primary objective of raising funds to secure the existence of the Research Unit. To date we have raised £534,352; this includes donations, covenants and tax reclaimed, bank interest and grants for research projects from the Department of Health and others. This has enabled the College to build and staff the Research Unit at the College headquarters in Belgrave Square.

It has now been decided that the College Appeal should focus on the following activities.

Psychiatric research

Psychiatric research continues to be under-funded when compared with other specialties and a fund will be established which would enable the College to finance short-term contracts for senior registrars and registrars in whole time research in approved psychiatric training. It is thought more likely that major research funding will follow when the College has given a clear lead in establishing posts in research for psychiatric trainees.

Defeat Depression Campaign

The Defeat Depression Campaign is a five year national campaign designed to reduce the stigma associated with depression, to assist general practitioners and other health care professionals in the recognition and treatment of depressive illness, and to increase public awareness of the extent and treatability of depression.

The campaign has been reasonably successful in raising funds to finance its first year. However,

significant funds are needed for the subsequent years.

Travelling Fellowships for overseas psychiatrists

This fund would provide finance for several Travelling Fellowships to be awarded over a period of seven years, to enable highly promising psychiatrists from developing countries to visit the UK for a period of six weeks to three months. The College has already successfully established one such Fellowship.

The Library

- (a) The intention for funding would be to purchase Psychological Abstracts (PsycLIT) on CD-ROM.
- (b) To build up the historical collection concerning British and Irish psychiatry.

College art fund

The purpose of this fund would be to acquire works of art, particularly those with psychiatric significance, for display in the College.

Fund for lectures

The purpose of this fund would be to finance costs incurred for the four College lectures which are not self-financing: the Maudsley lecture, the Blake Marsh Lecture, the Christmas Lecture for Young People and the recently-established Summer Lecture for lay people.