

Up to two years will be granted provided that:

(a) four sessions of appropriate clinical work are undertaken which have been approved by the higher training scheme organiser and/or the professor of psychiatry. The JCHPT has agreed that depending upon the nature of the research project undertaken, the SAC concerned

can recommend that only two sessions of clinical work be undertaken;

(b) the trainee undertakes emergency duties on the senior on-call rota;

(c) the trainee attends the academic meetings for higher trainees.

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## *Registrar's Report for Spring Quarterly Meeting 1986*

Since I reported to you in January, one of the most pressing problems with which the College has been concerned continues to be the Mental Health Act Commission's Draft Code of Practice. The Special (Code of Practice) Committee has met regularly throughout February, March and April and has prepared the College's initial response. This has taken the form of (1) general comments and (2) a detailed Section-by-Section critique of the Draft Code. At its meeting on 19 March Council approved the circulation of the general comments with a covering letter to other Medical Royal Colleges and further relevant organisations and agreed that these and the detailed critique should be forwarded to Divisions, Specialist Sections and Groups for their comments.

In January and February the College commented on Mr Tom Clarke's Disabled Persons (Service Consultation and Representation) Bill, suggesting that a memorandum on community treatment should be tabled as an amendment. In February the College was asked to comment on Government amendments to the Bill (which reached report stage in the Commons on 11 April). At its March meeting Council accepted the principle of treatment in the community and agreed that this view should be brought to the attention of Members of Parliament concerned with the Bill. Council also recommended that a full discussion should take place at Public Policy Committee of the implications of treatment in the community (in terms of the mechanisms, safeguards and alternatives) so that the College would be prepared with a consensus view to present to the DHSS.

Council welcomed and endorsed the Executive and Finance Committee's proposals on public relations and approved its recommendation that the College should proceed with negotiations for a one year contract with Granard Communications. The services included by this company

will include monitoring of any issues relevant to psychiatry which are about to be discussed in Parliament and throughout the media.

The College has submitted its comments to the DHSS on its Consultation Paper called the Data Protection Act: Subject Access to Personal Health Information. The College recommended the adoption of option B, namely that there should be total exemption for personal health data from the subject access provisions of the Act. Our reply also emphasised that, if the Government instead decides that there should be modified access to health data (option C), then considerable safeguards will have to be introduced for psychiatric records and the College would wish to be involved in any further discussion.

I am glad to be able to tell you that planning permission for the Research Unit at Belgrave Square has now been granted, and building work will continue until the end of October. May I take this opportunity to apologise in advance to members for any inconvenience they may encounter whilst building work is in progress.

Since the last Quarterly Meeting, the Court of Electors has approved 30 applications from Inceptors. In the Preliminary Test, out of 309 candidates, 143 were successful.

The President has been elected for a further year in office, as have all the Honorary Officers with the exception of the Honorary Treasurer. Dr Michael Pare has served as Honorary Treasurer for seven years and is therefore due to retire this year.

The Annual Meeting will take place from 8 to 10 July at the University of Southampton.

Finally, I am sure that you would like to join me in thanking Dr A. A. Campbell and his staff for the organisation of such a successful and well attended meeting.

R. G. PRIEST  
*Registrar*

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