

Registrar's Report and during that time the Executive and Finance Committee has met twice and Council met about three weeks ago. I am sure that you have all read in the press about the Government proposals to introduce value added tax on books and periodicals. Council discussed these proposals at length in their recent meeting and it was agreed that the Dean should draft a note suggesting points that could be put to members of Parliament to be sent to members with the February edition of the *Journal*. This circular will urge you to write to your local MP stating your opposition to these proposals. Council was concerned about the effect VAT would have upon the educational function of the College and; of course, upon medicine in general. It will also have quite a serious effect on the College finances and if these proposals are implemented, the overall cost to the College could be as much as £50,000 per annum. The President has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to various appropriate Ministers of State, stating the College's views.

Council was also very concerned about the Government proposals to limit the range of drugs prescribed under the NHS and if any member of the College would like to receive a copy of their views, which have been sent to Mr Norman Fowler, these can be obtained by writing to me at the College.

Various changes have taken place concerning the management of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. Council approved at their recent meeting the appointment of a Business Manager and we have entered into a consultancy arrangement with the Royal Society of Medicine Publications. This contract is for an initial period of three years. It is anticipated that it will bring many advantages to the *Journal* and we hope to improve the overseas sales of the *Journal* through this arrangement. I should add that the College does, of course, maintain editorial control over the content of the *Journal*.

The Treasurer, Dr C. M. B. Pare, the Vice-President, Professor R. Buglass and other members of the College have recently returned from a visit to Pakistan as guests of the Pakistan Psychiatric Association, where they attended

the first Regional Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Pakistan which was held in Rawalpindi. A full report of this meeting is to be presented to the Executive and Finance Committee and I gather that it was a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

The College has responded to an invitation from the House of Commons' Social Services Committee to submit evidence of their 'Inquiry into the Misuse of Drugs with Special Reference to Treatment and Rehabilitation of Misusers of Hard Drugs'. The Secretary of the Dependence/Addiction Group will, in fact, be presenting oral evidence to the Social Services Committee later on today. Again, if any member of the College would like a copy of the written evidence, it can be obtained by notifying me at the College of your request.

Since the last Quarterly Meeting the Court of Electors approved 77 applications from Inceptors and it was announced that 191 out of 362 candidates were successful in the Membership Examination held in November 1984. The Working Party, convened to review the Membership Examinations, is continuing to meet regularly and it is hoped that they will present their proposals to the Court of Electors during the Summer.

The next Quarterly Meeting will take place at the University of Nottingham and could I ask members who intend to stay on campus for the duration of this meeting to fill in accommodation forms which are available at the Registration desk today.

I mentioned in my Registrar's Report a year ago that I was concerned that not all members were aware that there is a Members' Room available at the College. I should add that we have now introduced facilities for providing members with coffee (at a small charge) but unfortunately nobody seems to be using this facility.

Finally, I am sure that you would wish to congratulate Professor Michael Rutter who was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List.

PROFESSOR R. G. PRIEST
Registrar

Audio-Visual Aids to Teaching

T. L. PILKINGTON, Convener, Audio-Visual Working Group

Some recent films

Pictures from the Past (UK, 1983, colour, 12 mins)

An introduction to historical, research and clinical aspects of human memory. Intended to create a better understanding of some of the symptoms of depression. Winner of a Bronze Award at a BMA Film Competition.

Producer: Medi-Cine, London. *Distributor:* Albert Products, Hoechst House, 50 Salisbury Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Drinking Sensibly: Good Health (UK, 1983, colour, 18 mins)

Shows the effects of alcohol on the body and the long-

and short-term effects of over-indulgence. Winner of a BMA Film Competition Gold Award.

Producer: British Film for the RAF Directorate of Training Films. *Distributors:* Services Sound and Vision Corporation, Chalfont Grove, Gerrards Cross, Bucks; BMA Film Library, BMA, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

A Second Chance (UK, 1983, colour, 17 mins)

A film using patients' case histories to highlight the problems of identifying suicidal intent and, in particular, the management of those patients who survive an act of deliberate self-harm.