



columns

serve, shall be validly nominated. Any twelve Members of the College may make nominations in writing at any time between the first day of January in each alternate year and the date which is four clear weeks after the meeting of the Council at which nominations were made. Nominations other than those made by the Council shall be lodged with the Registrar and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to serve if elected. Should there be more nominations than vacancies, an election shall be held by ballot of the Members of the College. The ballot paper shall not indicate the method of nomination or the names of those nominating. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, these nominees shall be declared elected at the first meeting, whether of the Council or of the Executive and Finance Committee, after the expiry of the period of four clear weeks in this paragraph referred to.

## Annual elections – Honorary Officers

### Notice to Members and Fellows

Fellows and Members of the College are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian.

All Honorary Officers are eligible for re-election, although the Registrar, Dr Andrew Fairbairn, does not wish to be re-elected.

The nominating of the Council will be held on 24 January 2005 and the last date for receiving nominations will be Wednesday 23 February 2005. The Registrar's job description and nomination forms are available from Andrea Woolf: e-mail: awoolf@cpsych.ac.uk.

The relevant Bye-laws and Regulations are printed below. Please note that constitutional changes are currently under consideration, and that the term of office of the Registrar may be altered.

## Bye-law XXI – the other Honorary Officers

1. The Council shall, in accordance with the Regulations, make its nominations for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian at the first meeting after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known. Written nominations for the above Honorary Offices, accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may also be lodged with the Registrar at such time as may be prescribed by the Regulations, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
2. The Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian shall be elected from amongst the Fellows, by the Members of the College, in each case in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Regulations.

## Bye-law XIV – the Registrar and Deputy Registrars

3. The Registrar shall hold office as such for a term of not more than five consecutive College years.

## Regulation XXII – election of the other Honorary Officers

1. The method of electing the Honorary Officers other than the President, the Vice-Presidents, Associate-Deans and Deputy Registrars shall be the same as that for electing the President\*, save that nominations from Members of the College who are not members of the Council shall be lodged with the Registrar between the first day of June in any calendar year and the date which is four clear weeks after that meeting of the Council which is the first held after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known.

*\*i.e. Written nominations, accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council. An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.*

# obituaries

## Kirpal Singh

### Formerly Director of Psychological Research, Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Colonel Kirpal Singh died on 29 August 2004 at the Army Base Hospital, New Delhi, so ending a glorious chapter in the annals of mental health in India.

Born in 1911, Kirpal Singh obtained his Licentiate from the Amritsar Medical School and worked in Kenya for over five years, after which enrolling in the Madras Medical College to obtain the MBBS. He joined the Army during the Second World War and was subsequently selected for in-service training in psychiatry, which he completed in 1944. Then he was posted as the psychiatrist to the Military Hospital, Lahore where he presented his first scientific paper in 1945 at the Conference of Army Psychiatrists, held at Rangoon in 1945. Later, he became the first Indian to be elected a Corresponding Fellow of the

Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Subsequently, he trained in mental health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Kirpal Singh was one of the founder members when the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) was founded in 1947, and served as its President twice, in 1957 and 1968. He was the first recipient of the Sandoz Award in 1967 and delivered the DLN Murthy Rao Oration in 1983. An award named after him was instituted by the IPS in 1982. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and of the National Academy of Medical Sciences. He retired from the Army as Director of Psychological Research nearly four decades ago, but continued to maintain an active interest in clinical practice, as well as other professional matters. Despite his age and indifferent health, he travelled to Pune for the first Military Psychiatry CME, held in 1997. Probably the last formal event he attended was the annual conference of the Delhi Psychiatric Society in December 2003.

Possessed of phenomenal courage and will power, Kirpal Singh never mentioned the pain he suffered towards the last few years of his life. During his regular weekly visits to the Army Base Hospital Department of Psychiatry, he always brought along the latest issues of the British and American journals of psychiatry and encouraged the younger psychiatrists to write scientific papers. His death marks the passing of an era. For me, it is a great personal loss. For nearly four decades he had been my mentor and role-model, as he was to generations of military psychiatrists. Almost to the end, even after I had retired from the army, he would telephone every other week to find out about what was happening on the mental health scene and, lately, to enquire about the book, *Mental Health: An Indian Perspective (1946–2003)*, to which he had contributed a chapter. That we could not formally present him with a copy of the book, which is awaiting release, will always remain a source of deep regret.

D. S. Goel (Col.)