

Research into psychiatry's role in Biblical questions

DEAR SIRs

Psychiatry has been a forgotten science in the study of the Bible. In the context of a systematic study concerning the part psychiatry can take in the explanation of Biblical questions, we are in search of psychiatrists with considerable experience in psychoses who could be interested in the study.

A small committee has been set up which will consider only scientific arguments and will search for symptoms and identification of syndromes otherwise well known in classical psy-

chiatry. We have obtained a number of results which are important, but which can raise some opposition from religious organizations, and we would therefore like to contact scientific people in order to obtain a consensus before the results are published. The objective of the study is purely scientific.

We would be pleased to hear from any member of the College who is interested in assisting in this study.

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The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting, 1984

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held in London on 15 and 16 November 1984 under the Presidency of Dr Thomas Bewley.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Maudsley Lecture

On 16 November 1984 Professor C. D. Marsden, FRS, Department of Neurology, Institute of Psychiatry, London, delivered the Maudsley Lecture, 'Hysteria—A Neurologist's View'. The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr J. L. T. Birley.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting was held on 16 November 1984.

Registrar's Report

Four months have elapsed since my last report which was at the time of the Annual General Meeting. During this period there have been three meetings of the Executive and Finance Committee and one Council meeting. The Report of the Working Party on Management Training for Psychiatrists, which I mentioned in my report in July, was presented at the recent meeting of Council. Council approved the principles contained in this report and considered that training in management should begin at the senior registrar level. The report has been forwarded for comment to the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training and in the light of their comments will be forwarded to the College Divisions.

The Executive and Finance Committee continues to meet monthly and has a very full agenda. I would like to express my gratitude to members of this Committee for their devoted and hard-working service to the College. A vast amount of work is processed through this Committee and membership of it is an arduous task. The College is preparing comments on a number of documents including the Report of the Inquiry into Human Fertilization and Embryology (the Warnock Report).

The membership of the Specialist Sections has risen

greatly over the last few years, and although the College does not wish to discourage interest in the specialties, it is possible that members are automatically ticking all the boxes relating to membership of Sections on the Registration Form. This is obviously costing the College a great deal of money in paper and postage. I shall be writing a letter to go out with the next few Section mailings asking members to inform me if they wish their names to be removed from Section lists.

The College has been informed, through the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, that the Government may extend VAT to books and periodicals in the 1985 budget which, in view of the revenue received by the College from sales to non-members, would seriously affect its income. The College will obviously protest vigorously to the Government about this and hopes to enlist the support of the other Royal Colleges over the matter.

The College is preparing a second edition of its publication *Alcohol and Alcoholism*. Dr Bruce Ritson has convened a Working Party to prepare this. The College's more recent ECT report, prepared by Dr Pippard in 1981, has sold out and you might like to know that there is to be a reprint and copies will be available from our printers. Further copies of the ECT chart are being prepared. The College's ECT Sub-Committee has produced a model ECT Prescription and Record Form, which will also be available shortly.

The Court of Electors admitted 76 Inceptors at their recent meeting and it was announced that, out of 340 candidates, 153 were successful in the Preliminary Test. The Working Party which is reviewing the Membership Examinations meets frequently and it is hoped that their recommendations will be presented to the Court of Electors in 1985.

Finally, I should like to congratulate Professor Tom Arie who was elected as Vice-President following the Council meeting in October.

PROFESSOR R. G. PRIEST, Registrar