

The College

Spring Quarterly Meeting 1989

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held at the Clarendon Lecture Theatre, Medical School, University of Leeds on 4 and 5 April 1989 under the Presidency of Dr J. L. T. Birley.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, 5 April 1989, attended by 53 Members of the College.

The meeting approved the election of the following Honorary Fellows:

Dr Mary D. Ainsworth, Dr Thomas Bewley, Professor Alan D. B. Clarke, Professor Nicholas Corsellis and Dr H. R. Rollin.

Minutes

The minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting held at The Royal Institute of British Architects on 25 January 1989 were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Resolution regarding the expulsion of the Society of Psychiatrists of South Africa from the World Psychiatric Association: In accordance with the Regulations, the President had agreed that because of the small number in attendance a vote would not be taken at this meeting. The Resolution had been referred to Council who had decided that it should be voted on at the Annual General Meeting to be held during the first week in July in London.

Report of Registrar

The last three months since the Winter Quarterly Meeting have been a particularly busy period for the College. The day after that meeting saw the publication of the Government's White Paper called *Working for Patients*. The President convened a working party who studied that White Paper and the eight discussion papers which followed several weeks later. The White Paper has been discussed also by the Council and the President has taken the views of the College to the Joint Consultants Committee from which a recent press conference has gained some

publicity. Although the working party will be reporting on specific implications for psychiatry, the views of the College on the White Paper and the discussion documents appeared to be echoed by other Royal Colleges and medical organisations.

An important paper on 'HIV Disease and Psychiatric Practice' has been prepared by Dr Catalan, Dr Riccio and Professor Thompson and was approved by Council in March. Two other documents, one on 'A Model for Drug Misuse Services in a Health District' and the other on the 'Training required to provide Psychiatric Services for Children and Adolescents with Mental Handicap' have both been approved by Council and all three of these will be published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*.

The College is concerned with the problem of 'homelessness' and also with the 'care of the mentally abnormal offender'. Joint meetings with the Department of Health are planned on these two topics.

The College has been considering the continuing education needs of those doctors who practise as psychiatrists but do not have the MRCPsych. These will include the new staff grade. This group, to be referred to as non-Member psychiatrists, will be invited to subscribe to the *Journal/Bulletin* and to be included in divisional and section and quarterly meeting mailings.

A request was received for the College to establish a 'Special Interest Group for Private Practice in Psychiatry'. This request was considered by both the Executive and Finance Committee and by Council. It has been decided that the aims of the suggested group and of the College would be better met by encouraging those working outside the National Health Service to join the present Sections and Divisions which do cover all the relevant fields of psychiatry.

Yesterday the Section for General Psychiatry had its inaugural meeting. Professor John Cox was elected as Chairman and Dr Hubert Lacey was elected as Secretary.

Council has agreed that in future all Members must register if they wish to attend Quarterly Meetings. Although it has previously been College policy to enable Members to attend Scientific Sessions without registering, the costs of hiring lecture theatres, audio-visuals and printing are now so high that Council has decided that members attending should pay a greater contribution. Although the meetings will continue to be subsidised, the daily registration fee will be increased from the Annual General Meeting 1989.

Finally on behalf of the College I would like to thank the North East Division for their very kind welcome and for making this meeting such a success.

DR ANN GATH
Registrar