



columns

Obituary of Dr Russell Barton

There are a number of inaccuracies in Dr Henry Rollin's obituary for the late Dr Russell Barton.

Most importantly, he did not relinquish his post at Severalls because of an impolitic letter to the *Lancet*. Dr Barton was clearly displeased with the suggestion that he stay on as Consultant after the position of Physician Superintendent was abolished, even though he could keep the emoluments of his previous position. He moved to the United States for an

opportunity to exercise direction on a hospital-wide basis, an opportunity which no longer existed in the land of his birth.

The title of the grade he held at Shenley was Senior Hospital Medical Officer, not Senior Medical Officer. *Institutional Neurosis* was published in 1959, not 1976. As he came to Severalls in 1960, only his experience at Shenley was included in the book. Finally, at Severalls it was not discharges that plummeted. Discharges increased – the patient census plummeted.

I can also throw some light on the question whether Dr Barton ever changed his mind on the subject of community care for the mentally ill, having maintained periodic contact with him until his infirmity made such contacts impracticable. He never regretted his role in the deinstitutionalisation movement, although he recognised, like the rest of us, that the actual performance fell well short of what he would have wished to see happen.

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the college

Annual elections

Council and Court of Electors

Members are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the vacancies on the Court of Electors and Council. There are four vacancies on the Court of Electors. There are vacancies for two Fellows and two Members on Council. The relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations are printed below.

The nominating meeting of the Council will now be held on 28 April 2003 and the last date for receiving nominations will therefore be 27 May 2003. Nomination forms are available from Andrea Woolf.

Extracts from the Bye-Laws and Regulations

Bye-Law XXI

The Court of Electors

The Court of Electors shall be composed of:

- (a) The President, Dean and Registrar, each of whom shall be an ex-officio member of the Court of Electors; and
- (b) Fifteen Electors who shall be chosen in the manner hereinafter prescribed from amongst the Fellows.

At the first meeting of the Council in alternate years after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, the Council shall nominate a sufficient number of candidates for appointment as Electors to ensure an election, which will be held by a postal ballot of all Members of the College in the manner prescribed by the Regulations. Additional nominations may be lodged with the Registrar between the beginning of the then current calendar year and the end of four clear weeks after the meeting of the Council above referred to. No such nominations shall be valid unless it be supported in writing by twelve Members of the College and accompanied by the nominee's written consent to serve if elected.

Regulation XIX

The Council

Elections shall be held in alternate years to ensure that there are not less than six elected Members of Council and no more than six elected Fellows of the Council subject to the overall condition that no elected Member or Fellow shall serve on Council for more than six years in that capacity without a break of at least one year. At its first meeting in each alternate College year after the name of the President for the next ensuing College

year has become known, the Council shall nominate the necessary number of Members and Fellows of the College to ensure that there are no more than six elected Fellows and not less than six elected Members serving on Council. Any nominee who is proposed and seconded and gives his or her consent in writing to 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.

obituaries

Ian Hunter Lockhart Gillies

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Stobhill General Hospital, Glasgow

Hunter Gillies, as he was always known, died on 11 September 2002. He was born in Glasgow on 4 January 1911 and attended Allan Glen's School. He studied medicine at Glasgow University, graduating MB ChB with Commendation in 1934. He proceeded MD with High Commendation in 1938, having obtained the DPM in 1936. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of

Edinburgh in 1947 and was elected as a fellow of that College in 1953. He was a founder fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

He served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946 and he was a specialist in neuropsychiatry at the Naval Hospitals in Chatham and Sydney, Australia.

He was Deputy-Physician Superintendent at the Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries from 1946 until 1953. His colleagues at the Crichton included Professors Willi Mayer-Gross and Martin Roth.

In 1953, Hunter Gillies returned to Glasgow on his appointment as consultant-in-charge of the psychiatric unit at Stobhill General Hospital in Glasgow. The hospital was established by the city of Glasgow early in the 20th Century and had mental observation wards from which the large psychiatric unit developed. It became an active unit, dealing with patients with a wide range of psychiatric conditions under the leadership of Hunter Gillies. He was held in high regard by colleagues in other specialities in the hospital and this helped to make the