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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held in Glasgow on 5, 6 and 7 May 1975. The scientific meetings on 6 May were held at the Southern General Hospital, and members were entertained to lunch by the Hospital. The papers presented were as follows:

Psychiatric Aspects of Head Injury

Prof. J. Hume Adams: 'Some observations on the pathology of closed head injuries'; Mr. D. N. Brooks: 'Recovery of cognitive function following severe closed head injury'; Prof. M. R. Bond: 'Psychiatric aspects of recovery from severe head injury'; Dr. D. Shaffer: 'Psychiatric outcome after head injury to children'.

The Psychiatrist's Role in the Care of the Elderly

Prof. Sir Ferguson Anderson: 'The geriatrician's view'; Dr. R. A. Robinson: 'The psychiatrist's view'; Dr. R. Levy: 'The assessment of cognitive function of elderly psychiatric patients by computerized psychological tests'; Dr. A. V. P. Mackey: 'Biochemical aspects of dementia'.

The *Mental Deficiency Section* met at Lennox Castle Hospital, and the following papers were presented:

Dr. T. L. Pilkington: 'Mental deficiency and subnormality—an oil and water mixture?'; Dr. W. I. Fraser: 'A university/health service communications research unit'; Dr. J. C. Murdoch: 'Ischaemic heart disease in Down's syndrome', 'Osteoporosis in epilepsy'.

Followed by a clinical demonstration by Dr. D. Primrose and discussion.

Following the Business Meeting on Wednesday 7 May, Drs. G. D. Forwell, M. M. Whittet, J. Loughran, R. Davidson and W. A. Heaton-Ward presented papers on 'The responsibility of the consultant'. In the afternoon there were two parallel sessions organized by: (a) the *Forensic Psychiatry Section:*

Dr. Hunter Gillies: 'Homicide in the West of Scotland 1953–74: 400 cases'; Dr. P. G. McGrath: 'Maternal filicides'; and Dr. R. Bluglass: '500

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referrals to the Birmingham Forensic Clinic';

and (b) the *Psychotherapy Section:*

Dr. J. D. Sutherland: 'The future of psychotherapy in Scotland; Discussants: Drs. I. S. Kreeger and P. O'Farrell.

Members of the College were generously entertained to a Reception by the Greater Glasgow Health Board at Gartnavel Royal Hospital on 5 May 1975, and to a Reception by the Corporation of Glasgow at the City Chambers on Thursday 7 May, and attended a Dinner/Dance on 6 May 1975. To all the authorities concerned the College is most grateful. Thanks are also due to Professor M. R. Bond for the arrangements for the meeting at the Southern General Hospital and to Dr. Timbury not only for the most successful session at Gartnavel but also for his work towards the organization and success of the whole meeting in co-operation with the Scottish Division.

Members of the College were guests of the Scottish Division at their meeting at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons on Thursday 8 May 1975, when the following topics were discussed:

The Training of Psychiatrists in Scotland

Prof. K. Rawnsley: 'Objectives in training; Dr. K. Davison: 'The Scottish scene viewed from England'; Dr. P. G. Aungle: 'The clinical tutors' view'; Dr. A. McNeill: 'The trainee's view'.

The Planning of Psychiatric Accommodation

Dr. J. H. Henderson: 'Objectives in planning'; Dr. J. Scott: 'Participation in planning'; 'Response from the users', Drs. W. I. Fraser, Anne M. Gray, R. Davidson, J. A. G. Watt.

Business Meeting

The Business meeting was held at Gartnavel Royal Hospital on Wednesday 7 May.

The PRESIDENT announced with regret the death of the following members:

ASPINALL, Dennis Leece. Consultant, Naburn and Bootham Park Hospital, York.

AVERY, Charles. Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, Ministry of Health, Nassau, Bahamas.

BELL, Andrew Allan. Formerly Physician Superintendent, West Green Hospital, Dundee.

ROYES, Kenneth Coates. Formerly Psychiatrist, Bellevue Hospital, Jamaica.

The minutes of the Quarterly meetings held on 15 November 1974 and 5 February 1975 (published in *News and Notes*, May 1975) were approved and signed.

The REGISTRAR, Dr. Morris Markowe, read the following report:

'In case any members here today have not heard the result of the Presidential election I am pleased to announce that Professor W. Linford Rees has been elected and will take office at the Annual Meeting in July.

When I last reported to the February Quarterly Meeting we had just moved into No. 17 Belgrave Square. Some further work has now been carried out and the offices are more or less in order. We will also soon be accommodating the new psychosurgery research project which is being undertaken under the auspices of the Research Committee. We are trying very hard to recruit some more junior secretarial staff and are also investigating various methods of streamlining our office work.

Council met on 26 March and considered among other matters the First Report of the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training which has now been fairly widely distributed and is available (price 50p) from the College office. The Joint Committee was congratulated by Council on the clarity and helpfulness of the Report.

It has been agreed that there should be a Joint Committee with the Royal College of General Practitioners to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern, and Council has nominated a number of College representatives who might serve on this Committee.

Last year we had a very useful meeting at the D.H.S.S., when representatives of the College and the Department discussed problems relevant to psychiatry arising from the reorganization of the National Health Service. Dr. Beddard, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, indicated that he would be very pleased to meet us again if we had further problems, and we are therefore arranging to meet him or Dr. Archibald to discuss a number of topics, including the redistribution of registrars, senior registrars and consultants; psychiatric representation at Regional and Area level; the lack of representation on the Central Manpower Committee; and the responsibility of the psychiatrist in institutional management.

Council has approved the submission to the Annual General Meeting of revised subscription rates, which if passed will take effect from 1 January 1976. The Annual Accounts, which will be circulated with the Annual Report before the Annual Meeting, show that a modest surplus was made last year; next year we will no longer be receiving the additional

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subscriptions paid by Members of the College over the past few years, we have greatly increased expenses in connection with our new headquarters, and like everyone else we are faced by rising costs and inflation.

The Court of Electors has sanctioned several changes in the Preliminary Test and the Membership Examination. The pass-rate for the Membership Examination has remained fairly constant, but that for the Preliminary Test has fallen somewhat; one of the reasons for this is because there has been an increasing number of failures who are repeatedly re-sitting. It was felt that these candidates needed special help, and it has been agreed that those who fail the *Preliminary Test* three times shall not be allowed to re-sit for one year and that they must produce a certificate from the clinical tutors certifying that they are making satisfactory progress. Two years' notice is being given of the decision that, other than in exceptional circumstances, a candidate may not re-sit the *Membership Examination* more than four times after passing the Preliminary Test. The conditions under which training in disciplines other than psychiatry may be recognized as part of the three-year training period for the Membership Examination have been widened to allow the Dean to give retrospective recognition of one year's approved general medical experience if this is requested before the candidate commences his psychiatric training.

There have also been two meetings of the Executive and Finance Committee, and these will be fully reported to Council in due course. Evidence has been submitted to the House of Commons Select Committee on Abortion, to the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, and on the Consultation Document on Proposals for the Future Activities of the Hospital Advisory Service —to be known as the Health Advisory Service. Evidence is being prepared for the Committee of Inquiry into Competence to Practise and comments on the Report of the (Merrison) Committee of Enquiry into the Regulation of the Medical Profession. A small Working Party will prepare evidence for the Home Office Marriage Guidance Working Party.

We are all very grateful to our colleagues of the Scottish Division for this profitable and most enjoyable meeting, particularly to Dr. Timbury on whose shoulders has fallen the organization and detailed work. We recall that it is almost ten years since we were in Glasgow—on the occasion of Professor Ferguson Rodger's induction to the Presidency; we are very sorry to hear that he is unwell and send him all our very best wishes.'

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to the ways in which those who repeatedly failed the Preliminary Test might get advice, and to the accountability of the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training. It was agreed to pursue the problems of part-time trainees and overseas trainees which might arise from Britain's membership of the E.E.C. in the other countries of which part-time training was not recognized and where certain overseas trainees who obtained higher specialist qualifications might not be recognized because of the non-recognition of their basic medical qualifications and training.

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