NEWS AND NOTES

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# THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

## DR. A. B. MONRO

The news that Ben Monro was shortly to relinquish the office of Registrar of the College came as a shock to many members. The name of Monro had grown to be linked with the RMPA more closely than any other, and this identification was duly transferred to the College. Those who do not know him personally may be forgiven for assuming that he has wielded great power in the affairs of the Association and the College, but colleagues with whom he has worked in the Council or on committees will agree that he never took advantage of his unrivalled knowledge and experience to secure a decision which he personally might have favoured. He acquired the art—or is it a natural talent?—of summarizing a problem and drawing attention to the pros and cons of any decision which might be made about it and then leaving it to the 'democratic process'. In a very real sense this made him an invaluable chief administrative officer.

His unique contribution to British psychiatry has been in the long drawn-out discussions with the Privy Council during the years leading up to the granting of our Supplemental Charter in June 1971. Except for the few who shared the toil and anxieties with him no one can know of the immense amount of detailed and painstaking work which he himself did in drafting and re-drafting the proposed Bye-laws. It was during part of this period that I personally was in closest touch with him, and he quickly gained my whole-hearted admiration and respect. Even when negotiations were at their toughest and success was in the balance I never knew him to be irritable or ruffled or lose his diplomatic poise.

Though this was his greatest achievement, his services as General Secretary from 1957 onwards will long be remembered. No one since the foundation of the Association in 1841 has held the office longer than Ben Monro, with the single exception of Reginald Worth who beat him by two years. Happily this is not an obituary notice when it is customary to pull out all the stops, and so I will make no attempt to catalogue the many honours Dr. Monro has received, nor the important committees on which he has sat, nor yet again the contributions he has made to medical literature.

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Throughout the years during which he held office in the RMPA/College he was Consultant Psychiatrist and Physician-Superintendent at Long Grove Hospital, and he did much pioneering work there both in adolescent and in administrative psychiatry. If all this was not enough to keep him busy, it is said that gardening is his hobby; one can only hope that too many weeds do not flourish in his garden.

On a more personal note, when I first came to know Ben Monro—it was about 1946 when he was at Narborough—I was struck by his boyish charm of manner and the touch of gaiety in his talk. Twenty years later he had become a cautious speaker who always seemed to weigh his words with care and who spoke them in a dignified manner, displaying at times a touch of gravity. Such are the maturing effects of responsibility in high office.

On 1 February of this year Dr. Monro becomes one of the Lord Chancellor's Medical Visitors. He leaves us with our enduring thanks for what he has done for us, and we wish him well in the responsible, though less onerous, tasks ahead.

FRANCIS PILKINGTON.

## AUTUMN MEETING, 1972

At the Quarterly Meeting held on 16 November 1972, the Acting Registrar reported on a number of recent developments.

The representatives of the College on the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training will be, in addition to the President and Dean, Drs. C. P. Brook, W. O. McCormick, T. F. Main, G. C. Timbury, W. Warren and Professor A. Munro. As announced previously, this is a joint committee on which six representatives of the Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry will serve; these representatives will be Professors I. Batchelor, A. H. Crisp, M. G. Gelder, J. M. Hinton, N. Kessel & H. J. Walton.

A joint committee has now been set up with the Royal College of Physicians to discuss matters of mutual concern. The two Presidents will alternate as Chairman of the committee's meetings and one of the immediate matters under consideration will be that of the D.P.M.

The process of accreditation continues. At present special panels are considering applications received from specialist hospitals and units for accreditation for purposes of general professional training. The Court of Electors is currently revising the 1970 memorandum on Educational Programmes for Trainees in Psychiatry, and this will then be referred to the Education Committee for further comment.

The elections for Affiliate/Inceptor observers on the Standing Committees will be organized through the Regional Divisions of the College. The Association of Psychiatrists in Training has also been invited to nominate one observer on each of the Standing Committees, a procedure which will be reviewed annually in the light of of changing circumstances.

Dr. D. F. Early has been nominated to serve on the committee which is to advise the Department of Health and Social Security on the Employment Medical Advisory Service.

It was resolved that due record should be made of the decisive part played by Mr. David Downs as our legal adviser in obtaining the Supplemental Charter, and the College's appreciation of his outstanding skill in the delicate negotiations with the Privy Council.

## THE MEMBERSHIP EXAMINATION

*November 1972*

### List of Successful Candidates

M. I. Akhter
R. T. Allen
J. M. Annear
B. H. Anstee
J. T. Antony
F. T. Antun
M. Atkins
M. O. Aveline
A. R. Bailey
C. B. Ballinger
N. Baloch
W. P. Bant
V. T. Baraniecka
S. P. Baxter
H. L. Behr
E. M. Bell
P. Berks
F. Berry
A. B. Bevan-Jones
M. Bhakta
A. M. Bilal
E. Bindman
H. Biswas
S. Biswas
D. J. Black
D. F. M. Black
E. E. Blackstock
S. Bloch
S. M. Blunden
C. L. Brewer
G. W. K. Bridge
C. S. Britten
B. M. Bromham
D. J. Brooksbank
F. R. B. Brown
A. W. Burke



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