fact mean what it says. In a letter to me he said that ". . . The motion seeks what you ask for, namely, the collective wisdom of the Association's members, at the meeting to begin with and, later, by a referendum by the Council", and he has said the same in his speech today, that in fact no steps should be taken until there has been a referendum or a postal vote of the whole Association. But, he adds, a referendum should be held "as the first step to a College". I put it to the meeting that a postal vote cannot be taken as the "first step" to anything. It is taken in order to ascertain the wishes of the members and it must be completely free and impartial. It is not part of the process of forming a College; it is part of the process of decision before any steps can be taken towards adopting any solution. That is why, in the interests of the Association, we are asking you to vote for this amendment.

But it has been put by Dr. Howells, and there is some force in this, that the passing of an amendment would prevent a vote being taken which would be very valuable as an indication of present opinion at this meeting. That is all it can be. The passing of this motion cannot be mandatory on the Council, because votes at Quarterly Meetings are, in fact, not mandatory on the Council constitutionally, nor could the Council conceivably go to the Privy Council with a request for an alteration to the Charter, on the basis of a vote taken here. However, I think that Dr. Howells has a point when he says that the passing of this amendment would prevent the taking of a straight vote for or against the principle of a College at this meeting. I have no wish to prevent that, and I am therefore going to make an offer to Dr. Howells. I suggest that he may like to ask the President's permission to alter the wording of his own motion so that it is compatible with the orderly processes which we have in mind. I wonder whether Dr. Howells would accept that. If he does that we can vote on the motion and it will be a straight vote as to whether those members present are in favour of a College of Psychiatry or not.

Perhaps in the present mood of the movers of the resolution it may be too much to ask them to alter the wording, and it may be that the meeting can safely be left to interpret what is in their minds in using the words "at once". If Dr. Howells will make it clear that he does, in fact, wish our Committee to continue its work in the way I have said—that is, for this meeting's proceedings to be published, for every member to be acquainted with them, a little time for reflection and then a postal vote, and then an orderly evaluation of what the result of this vote means—I am quite prepared to withdraw my amendment.

DR. HOWELLS: I think it is most unfortunate that, since an amendment has been moved, you and I have no opportunity of discussing it. I think this is most unfortunate. Our Bye-Laws allow discussion of an amendment and even allow a member to speak twice if an amendment is before the meeting.

What I did want to make clear was that, by the amendment, as Dr. Walk has admitted, you will not be able to express an opinion as to whether or not you want a College. This is precisely what we want to do. Dr. Walk asks me to adjust my motion, and so on and so forth, but he need not have put his amendment at all and then we could have had a straight vote. I feel it would be very much better and fairer, seeing that you have come and seeing that both the motion and the amendment are before you, that we should first of all reject the amendment. We are not going to have obstruction to our expressing our point of view. We will reject the amendment, and then we will vote for the motion.

Vote

The PRESIDENT: Under our Bye-Laws, Standing Rule 113, the vote will be taken by a show of hands, the hands being counted by the Chairman and the General Secretary. I hope you will forgive me if I ask other people to come up, preferably Dr. Howells, to help us count.

I will put the amendment first.

A vote was then taken by show of hands, and there was then a recount, members standing to record their vote. There being 70 *in favour and* 64 *against, the amendment was* **carried.** (*Total voting* 134)

The PRESIDENT: It only remains for me to thank you all for your attendance. I hope the counting was more or less right, although it may be one or two wrong. However, it does show the general trend. On the whole people seem to be in favour of the amendment by a small majority.

A MEMBER: Many of those who voted for the amendment may still wish to indicate their desire, or lack of desire, for a College of Psychiatry. We came here for this purpose.

DR. A. WALK: May I suggest that someone proposes a straight motion that this meeting is in favour of a College of Psychiatry?

DR. J. G. HOWELLS: I will do that.

DR. J. BOWLBY seconded.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to have this cleared up in our minds. Dr. Howells has proposed a motion that this meeting is in favour of a College of Psychiatry, and that has been seconded by Dr. Bowlby as before.

A vote was then taken, members standing to record their votes. There being 85 *in favour and* 26 *against the motion was* **carried.** (*Total voting* 111)

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