THE SPECIALIST SECTIONS

Election of Officers and Executive Committees

The following have been elected in their respective Sections:

Mental Deficiency

Chairman: W. A. Heaton-Ward.
Secretary: M. E. York-Moore.
Executive Committee: M. Craft, C. Dutton, H. Hunter, J. Jancar, W. R. McKibben, G. O'Gorman, T. L. Pilkington, A. Shapiro, C. S. Simon, H. C. Smyth, D. A. Spencer, A. R. Worters.
(All the above were unopposed.)

Child Psychiatry

Chairman: P. H. Connell (elected by ballot).
Secretary: Anne Bolton (unopposed).
Executive Committee: P. A. Barker, I. Berg, P. Graham, Dorothy Heard, L. Hersov, I. Kolvin, Mary Lindsay, P. Pinkerton, M. Rutter, F. H. Stone, D. A. Walk, A. C. Woodmansey (elected by ballot).

Psychotherapy

Chairman: I. S. Kreeger (unopposed).
Secretary: S. Crown (elected by ballot).
Executive Committee: W. Brough, S. Crown, J. Evans, R. Gosling, R. F. Hobson, L. C. Kreeger, R. E. D. Markillie, I. Marks, M. Pines, J. P. Watson, J. L. Wilson, H. H. Wolff (elected by ballot).

Forensic Psychiatry

Chairman: P. G. McGrath (unopposed).
Secretary: (Second ballot to be held.)
Executive Committee: R. Bluglass, M. Faulk, T. C. N. Gibbens, J. Gunn, J. Harper, I. Pierce James, D. J. Power, P. D. Scott, D. O. Topp, K. R. H. Wardrop, W. A. Weston, P. B. Whatmore (elected by ballot).

POLITICAL DISSENTERS*

At the meeting of Council held on 24 January 1973, the following resolution was passed:

'The Royal College of Psychiatrists firmly opposes the use of psychiatric facilities for the detention of persons solely on the basis of their political dissent, no matter where it occurs.'*

This has been sent to the World Health Organization, the World Psychiatric Association, and also to the American Psychiatric Association, who had previously passed a similar resolution.

* A personal view on this subject by Professor F. A. Jenner will appear in a later issue of *News and Notes*.

TWO LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Recent College Activities

DEAR COLLEAGUE,

The time has come to bring you up to date in relation to the more important recent developments in the work of the Royal College. We shall need a united effort from the College at all levels if we are to surmount the problems that confront us.

Dialogue with the Department of Health and Social Security: A further meeting to continue the dialogue between participants drawn from the College and its Regional Divisions and the representatives of the Department of Health and Social Security has been planned for 22 June. The developments we are discussing are likely to prove of fateful significance for the character and quality of the mental health services in the decades to come. The widest possible range of opinion within the College should therefore find expression in these consultations.

The main differences of opinion within our discipline and between the College and other bodies are more concerned with means than ends. There is general agreement that the need for Departments of Psychiatry in general hospitals is now firmly established. A consultation service is needed there to deal with the steeply rising number of individuals who attempt suicide, the acute emotional crises of those with personality disorder, and with other emergencies. A general hospital psychiatric unit provides the best setting for the management of a substantial proportion of individuals with neuroses and affective disorders, some cases of schizophrenic and other psychoses, and with the great majority of

* Copies of these two letters have been circulated to members of the College.

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