INTERROGATION PROCEDURES

Following the publication of the Report of the European Commission of Human Rights on the interrogation procedures used by the British Army in Northern Ireland in 1971, the Public Policy Committee considered the implications for medical practitioners and in particular for psychiatrists. It was noted that there was no evidence in the Report (or in the earlier British Government inquiries) that any psychiatrists had been involved. Nevertheless, Council thought it right that a statement should be made to the press on behalf of the College.

The statement refers to the five interrogation techniques mentioned in the Report, namely hooding, wall standing, noise, deprivation of food and water and deprivation of sleep, and, having regard to the fact that these techniques were based on psychological studies, declares the College's repugnance to such methods.

The statement continues: 'The College considers that no doctor should associate himself with the planning, conduct or supervision of torture, and advises its members accordingly and would support any member who followed this advice.' It is issued by the College 'as a body with members in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and other countries throughout the world'.

M.R.C.PSYCH. EXAMINATIONS—AUTUMN 1977

The next M.R.C.Psych. Examinations will take place on the following dates:

Preliminary Test—Wednesday 5 October 1977

Membership Examination (Written Papers)—Wednesday 9 November 1977

Membership Examination (Clinical and Oral)—Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 November 1977

The entry fees are £25 (resit £15) and £35 (resit £25) respectively.

The closing date for receipt of entries is WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 1977.

Prospective candidates are reminded that late entries will not be accepted and that the College no longer gives exemption from any part of the Examinations. Candidates who were previously granted exemption from the Preliminary Test (i.e. before June 1973) are reminded that they must pass the Membership Examination within five years from the date of granting in order to retain their exemption.

In cases where candidates have undertaken part-time or overseas experience in psychiatry, or are required to submit the name and address of their Clinical Tutor or Consultant Chief, the entry forms should be submitted at least three weeks in advance so that the application may be finalized before the closing date is reached.

Regulations and application forms are obtainable from the Examinations Secretary at 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. Past Essay Question Papers are available at 50p per set covering five years, and a Reading List at 38p including postage, which amounts must be prepaid.

All Members and Fellows are asked to bring this announcement to the notice of any prospective candidates who may be working under their guidance.

K. RAWNSLEY
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