community while the community needed a refuge from them. The White Paper recognized that hospital staff were tending to abdicate from what had always been regarded as their responsibilities. Some psychiatrists saw their only function as 'treatment'. But many things thought of as great advances forty to twenty years ago were now discarded or queried. As Graham Foulds had pointed out, the more rigorously a controlled trial was carried out the more negative were the results. Dr Bewley concluded by again emphasizing the continued responsibility of psychiatrists to look after the chronic disabled.

ALEXANDER WALK

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NHS

A Special Committee of Council has been set up to prepare evidence for submission to the Royal Commission on the NHS. The Committee is representative of the various sections and interests of the College and is confident that a full and balanced report of its views will be presented to the Commission.

It has been suggested, however, that individual members of the College who feel strongly about some particular aspect of the Health Services should write directly to the Commission. The closing date for the submission of comments is 31 December 1976, and they should be addressed to The Secretary, The Royal Commission on the NHS, Commission House, 20 Grosvenor Hill, London, W1X 0HX.

BRIAN WARD

Secretary, Public Policy Committee

MENTAL DEFICIENCY SECTION

Memorandum on the Present and Future Development and Organization of Mental Handicap Services

It is regretted that this Memorandum, published in *News and Notes*, August 1976, contained a mis-statement. The first paragraph under 'Responsibility of Consultant Psychiatrists in Mental Handicap' (page 12) should have read as follows: 'The clinical responsibilities of all doctors are implicit in the normal ethical practice of the profession and, in the case of psychiatrists, in the provisions of the Mental Health Act.

SIR MARTIN ROTH

We offer our congratulations to our immediate Past-President, Sir Martin Roth, on his appointment to the newly-created Chair of Psychiatry in the University of Cambridge.

COLLEGE TIE

The College now has its own necktie. This is dark blue with the College arms, the cadenceus and serpents of Aesculapius and the butterflies of Psyche, in yellow and white, and is manufactured to a high standard in polyester Crimplene. It is available to members at a cost of £2.50, plus 12p for postage and packing, and orders should be sent to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, together with a cheque for the appropriate amount.

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