WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

The Winter Quarterly Meeting and the Maudsley Bequest lecture series were held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on 4 and 5 February 1975.

On the first day of the meeting the following papers were presented:

Appetite and Psychiatry, Dr. Trevor Silverstone; Treatment of Marital Sexual Problems, Dr. J. H. J. Bancroft; Physician and Psychiatrist: The Rheumatoid Paradigm, Dr. Sidney Crown; Psychiatric Aspects of Parkinson's Disease and its Treatment, Dr. R. H. S. Mindham.

After the Business Meeting on 5 February the following papers were read:

'Withdrawal of Drugs': Withdrawal and Maintenance of Antidepressant Drugs, Dr. E. S. Paykel; Misuse of Drugs in the Treatment of Chronic Psychotics, Dr. H. Rollin; Withdrawal of Drugs: Planning of Controlled Trials, Professor Max Hamilton; Management of Anxiety, Dr. Steven Greer.

The Ninth Blake Marsh Lecture was delivered by Dr. Neil O'Connor on 'Specific and General Memory Deficits in the Handicapped', on Monday, 3 February. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. W. A. Heaton-Ward.

The Business Meeting was held on 5 February. In the absence of the President, who was overseas, Dr. T. F. Main, Vice-President, took the Chair.

Dr. MAIN announced with regret the death of the following members:

INDRANI ABBEY-WICKRAMA, Senior Registrar, York Clinic, Guy's Hospital.

M. J. HERON, Consultant Psychotherapist, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

SIR AUBREY LEWIS, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of London. Chairman of the Social Psychiatry Section, 1946–47.

R. B. MEYER, Consultant Psychiatrist, Marlborough Day Hospital.

T. W. ROGERS, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Preston Royal Infirmary.

AUGUSTA J. BONNARD, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, East London Child Guidance Clinic.

The Registrar, Dr. MORRIS MARKOWE, presented the following report:

'Since the last Quarterly Meeting, Council has met once. This was the "Nominating" meeting, and in accordance with the Bye-laws Council made its nominations for the Presidency for 1975–6, and these will be ballotted for together with any other nominations received by 12 February 1975. Members were reminded of the Bye-laws governing the election of the President in the January 1975 issue of *News and Notes*.

The Executive and Finance Committee has continued to meet each month, and much business has been transacted. There has been careful and full consideration of the current problems in the National Health Service, both by the Executive and Finance Committee and by the Public Policy Committee, and as a result of these discussions the President sent a statement to the David Owen Committee. The Presidents of the Royal Colleges have also met the Secretary of State, Mrs. Castle. The question of sanctions has been raised, and it has been felt that this must remain a matter of individual conscience. There has been a meeting between representatives of the College and the D.H.S.S. to discuss the improvement of the Service in the mental deficiency field, following the South Ockendon Report. The monthly manpower discussions with the D.H.S.S. continue, and recently have been concerned with the problems of the sub-specialties.

A Memorandum on "Norms" for Medical Staffing of a Forensic Psychiatry Service within the National Health Service has been approved by Council and submitted to the Central Manpower Committee. A Memorandum of Evidence for the Employment and Social Services Sub-Committee of the Expenditure Committee of the House of Commons on the working of the Children and Young Persons Act was prepared by the Child Psychiatry Section and approved.

Arrangements are going ahead through the Programmes and Meetings Committee for a Joint Conference with the Association of Directors of Social Services and the Royal College of General Practitioners. The meeting is likely to be in the autumn and will consider a wide range of subjects, particularly the problems of priorities and the scope and limitations of the various disciplines.

Like many other similar bodies the College is being overtaken by inflation, and recommendations for increased subscription rates to take effect from 1 January 1976 are likely to be submitted to the Annual Meeting in July. In the meantime Members and Fellows have been asked to continue with the payment of the voluntary additional subscription for one further year.

The College staff and offices are now installed on the two top floors of our new home at 17 Belgrave Square. Decorators, electricians and plumbers are

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working on the remaining offices and the caretaker's flat. Ideas and plans for the rest of the building are being considered, including the Library, the Council/Committee room, the Lecture Theatre, facilities for Members and Fellows and space for other College activities. It is hoped that all this will not take too long, but we are, of course, also seeking further funds.

I would like to apologize for the non-appearance of the minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting. The time between that meeting and today's meeting has been a particularly busy time for our staff, because of the many problems connected with the move. We are currently advertising to fill four staff vacancies, but in the meantime we have a number of "temps" helping out.

The Court of Electors has approved the results of the Membership Examination held in the Autumn, when 100 out of 180 candidates were successful (a pass rate of 55.5 per cent). Further statistical data are being prepared by Professor Trethowan and Dr. Christine Hassell. Arrangements are being made for a second Examinations Forum early in the autumn, when it is hoped there will be wide-ranging discussions among representatives of the Court, the Examiners and Examinees, the Clinical Tutors and Education Committee and the trainees. A further round of visits to hospitals has been completed, and next week the Court will be considering the Central Panel's recommendations for approval. It should be reported here that there have been certain changes in the College's terminology to bring us into line with other bodies undertaking similar exercises; Hospitals and training schemes are now being *approved* (formerly accredited); individuals who successfully complete higher training are *accredited*.

You will recall that at the last meeting the President was asked to continue to intervene wherever and whenever possible in cases of reported misuse of psychiatry and ill-treatment of dissidents for political reasons. Sir Martin received a reply from Professor Snezhnevsky to his enquiry about Dr. Semyon Gluzman. This reply indicated that Dr. Gluzman was not in fact a psychiatrist; there appeared to be some conflicting evidence, and the President is writing to Professor Snezhnevsky again to seek further information. Information is also being sought about Drs. Mikhail Shteru, Vladimir Bukovsky and Leonid Plyushch. Dr. Vladimir Levitt was granted an exit visa from the U.S.S.R. and the President subsequently heard from him from Rome. Representations have been made to the President of the Collegio Medico de Chile in respect of a number of cases of reported arrest and execution, particularly on behalf of Dr. Katia Reszczynski who has been held without trial since last September; no reply has been received to the President's letter, and the matter is being pursued. Enquiries are also being made following allegations about psychiatric practice in Ceylon.'

In reply to a question from a member of the audience, the Treasurer, Dr. WILFRID WARREN, indicated that he would most likely be submitting proposals to the Annual Meeting for increased rates of subscription to become effective from January 1976. This was because of the rapid rate of inflation and the expanding College activities. In the meantime, during 1975, Members and Fellows had been invited to continue to pay the additional voluntary subscription which had applied during the past three years.

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