NEWS AND NOTES

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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

RECENT ACTIVITIES

The College is actively bidding, and having bids made on its behalf, for properties in Central London. It is far from easy to make headway in the present economic climate, but as soon as any definite moves have been made these will be communicated to Fellows and Members. The Appeals and Building Committee have gone personally to survey buildings and look at properties, and have spent considerable time negotiating with agents and lawyers and meeting with our sponsors. Their efforts have also brought about considerable progress in spreading the network of people likely to help in laying the foundations of the College.

Another recent move of importance has been towards the establishment of a liaison between the College and the Royal College of General Practitioners, the first stage being the setting up of a Joint Working Party. This will examine how the College can become more formally involved in the education and vocational training of general practitioners and help define with more precision the psychiatric ingredient. Negotiations between the two Colleges have also been taking place at the Presidential and Officer level, and there is a strong mutual desire to develop joint participation further.

Formal application has been made to the Central Council for Postgraduate Education in an attempt to have the College reimbursed for certain of its educational activities. In particular, help is being sought to augment the contribution made from the Department of Health, which at present is disappointingly small and can make little impression on the College's finances, in running the Accreditation Exercise and enabling the Dean to carry out the duties of the College in relation to post-graduate activity on both regional and national levels.

The College is continuing to explore ways in which its views can be more effectively heard on the medico-political scene. Encouraging initial contacts have been made with the Department

Contents

The Royal College of Psychiatrists:
- Recent Activities 1
- Lists of Accredited Hospitals:
  - Mental Handicap 2
  - Child and/or Adolescent Psychiatry 3
- Parliamentary News 5
- The Regional Divisions 5

Community Care Provisions for Mentally Ill and Mentally Handicapped Adults 7

Correspondence 9

Forthcoming Events 10

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of Health in relation to the manpower problem, and it is hoped to develop these further. The College's concern about recruitment and the declining proportion of British graduates entering psychiatry has been communicated to the Department. Ways are being sought of presenting the opportunities and special professional satisfactions offered by psychiatry, and it is hoped that its potential as a specialty of the future will be conveyed with the greatest possible impact to undergraduates and newly-qualified doctors.

A Group has been set up within the Research Committee to formulate proposals for the types of venture for which the College could reasonably be expected to become a customer in respect of operational research activities. These proposals will then be discussed jointly with the contractor, the Department of Health.

There have been many responses to the telegram sent by the President on the subject of 'Psychiatry and Political Dissent' to the Presidents of the National Societies of the U.S.S.R., U.S.A., E.E.C. countries, Scandinavian countries, Canada, Australia and New Zealand (published in the January *News and Notes*). The majority have expressed an agreement to participate in the College's initiative.

LIST OF MENTAL HANDICAP HOSPITALS AND UNITS ACCREDITED FOR PURPOSES OF GENERAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

This list comprises units providing experience of Mental Handicap and associated training of a quality and standard appropriate (at least) to the period of *general professional training*. It will be noted that not all units have applied for accreditation.

Some of the units form part of a rotational or integrated training programme covering many aspects of psychiatry. Others are not linked with such schemes.

It is desirable that candidates preparing for the M.R.C.Psych. should have some experience in Mental Handicap, which may be on a full-time or on a part-time basis. The total amount of time to be spent in this field will vary according to the candidate's interests and inclinations and will depend on the opportunities provided. However, as a guide to the *maximum* period of Mental Handicap experience which will be credited for purposes of the M.R.C.Psych., candidates must spend at least half of their time (eighteen months) in the pre-Membership period acquiring clinical experience and formal training in other branches of psychiatry and related disciplines. This does not exclude the possibility that a post may be held in a Mental Handicap hospital or unit for the full period of three years prior to taking the M.R.C.Psych. examination, provided that arrangements are made for the candidate to spend at least half his time studying all aspects of general psychiatry, including involvement in clinical practice.

The second stage of the accreditation exercise will involve visits by College Visitors to training units. Junior staff actually in post at a centre whose accreditation status is reduced will not be penalized in consequence.

The accreditation exercise is a continuous procedure, and hospitals are entitled to apply for accreditation at any time.

This list of accredited hospitals and units remains valid for a maximum period of two years or until it is superseded by a revised list before that time.

K. RAWNSLEY,
Dean.

ABERDEEN. Woodlands Hospital.
ANTRIM (*see* Muckamore).
BALDERTON. Balderton Hospital, in association with Westdale Hospital, Nottingham, and Victoria Hospital, Mansfield.
BEDFORD. Bromham Hospital.
BIRMINGHAM. Chelmsley Hospital, in association with Coleshill Hall Hospital, Coleshill, Weston Hospital, near Leamington Spa, and Over Whitacre House, near Coventry.
Monyhull Hospital.
BLACKBURN. Brockhall Hospital
BRISTOL. Hortham Hospital and Brentry Hospital (Hortham-Brentry Group).
BROMSGROVE (*see* Kidderminster).
COLESHILL (*see* Birmingham).
CARMARTHEN (*see* Pontyclun).
CARSHALTON. Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in association with St. Ebba's Hospital, Epsom.
CATERHAM. St. Lawrence's Hospital.
CHERTSEY. Botleys Park Hospital.
COVENTRY (*see* Birmingham).

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