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NEWS AND NOTES

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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

The College Appeal

Important steps have recently been taken towards realising funds which will provide the College with a fitting headquarters building and enable it to fulfil its declared aims. In view of the prevailing economic situation and other considerations it was regarded as a matter of some urgency that the foundations for fund-raising should be laid down as soon as possible.

The Appeals Organisers of the College have now charged the firm of Wells Management Consultants with the task of carrying out the initial phases of a three-stage plan designed to raise a substantial sum in gifts and promises during the 18 months from January 1973. A sound fund-raising structure linked to the College will also be set up. To achieve these goals a Development Trust will be established consisting of trustees drawn both from the College and from outside disciplines interested in advancing its cause; this arrangement will ensure that the funds raised are directed solely towards the aims to which they are committed. The Trust will be linked to a Founding Fund which will finance the temporary move to new accommodation and allow the ongoing work of the College to continue. By the time that the major headquarters change takes place it is hoped that the Trust will have relieved Council of the immediate problems relating to finance and also the larger difficulty of long-term fund-raising.

In addition to this professional assistance, however, the College has reserved the right to pursue the Appeal along alternative channels, and to this end the aims of the College and its

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need for suitable premises have been communicated at several informal gatherings which have included among their number industrialists, politicians, newspaper proprietors and prominent lawyers. It would be appreciated if anyone able to assist the College in its attempts to secure funds wherewith to establish itself would communicate with the President.

The Future of Psychiatric Research

In a previous College Memorandum (published in the April *News and Notes*) on the Green Paper 'A Framework of Government Research and Development' (the Rothschild Report), the need for more applied research into areas of high social priority was recognized, but misgivings were expressed about the proposals for ways by which this was to be achieved. The Government White Paper, however, has since endorsed Rothschild's main proposals, and the contractor/customer notion will be implemented by transferring 25 per cent of the MRC's annual funds to the DHSS, which now becomes the principal customer. These changes must therefore now be accepted.

As the College has the duty to keep the general lines of development throughout psychiatric research under review, to assist in the formulation of research priorities, and to support and encourage the application of high scientific standards, it is particularly concerned to ensure that its influence is felt during the early stages of reorganization of Government research and development. The College is therefore taking steps to ensure that it is formally represented on any bodies set up by DHSS or MRC in order that it can actively participate both in the definition of research priorities and in the determination of what is considered feasible.

Review of the Criminal Law

Arising out of the Graham Young case,* an independent committee under the chairmanship of Lord Butler was appointed to carry out a fundamental review of the criminal law relating to mentally abnormal offenders and the facilities for the treatment of such persons. The College has now been asked to present evidence to this committee.

In the future, when the College is called upon to provide expert advice on specific issues, it is hoped that it will be able to mobilize more widely the talents present in British psychiatry. Accordingly, when the Divisional elections are complete the Divisional Chairmen will be written to and the names requested of psychiatrists in the Division who may be prepared to help when the College is asked for expert comment.

Educational Developments

A Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training has now been established, and will comprise the President and Registrar of the College, six other representatives of the College, and six members of the Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry.

A number of rotational training schemes are now in existence in different centres, and the patterns they are establishing are being studied with interest. It is hoped to publish further information about rotational schemes in existence in a future issue of *News and Notes*.

Election of Editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*

The scrutineers for this election have reported as follows:

'The valid votes were cast as follows:

Edward Hare	504	(43·4%)
Arthur Crisp	373	(32·1%)
Neil Kessel	283	(24·5%)

No candidate obtained a simple majority. Edward Hare obtained not less than six-fifths of the votes cast for Arthur Crisp, the nominee with the next highest number of valid votes cast, and is hereby declared elected as Editor.

* A personal comment on this case was given by Dr. D. J. West in the September *News and Notes*.

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