MY DEAR BEN,

I know I speak for our entire College when I say that the news of your resignation will be received with deep regret and disappointment. Yours will be a place difficult to fill, for the contributions you have made over many years of loyal and dedicated effort have given you an experience that is unique of College affairs and of the problems with which we will be continuing to grapple for many years to come. The work you have done has placed the Royal College of Psychiatrists lastingly in your debt, and I should like to send you on behalf of the College our gratitude and good wishes for the future.

I know that when Council meets it will wish to give formal expression of its gratitude, but I felt that I should not let this occasion pass without making some personal response to the step you have had to take at relatively short notice.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN.

Dr. M. Markowe has been appointed to be Acting Registrar until the election of a successor to Dr. Monro.

Quarterly Meeting

The next Quarterly Meeting will take place on 16 and 17 November at the Institute of Psychiatry, London On the 16th the theme will be *Crisis and Crisis Intervention* and on the 17th there will be miscellaneous papers. The Maudsley Lecture will be given by Sir Denis Hill with the title *Non-verbal Behaviour in Mental Illness* at 2.15 p.m. on 17 November.

Other College News

Besides the unexpected vacancy caused by Dr. Monro's resignation there remain a number of elections still to be made. That for the Editorship of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* is in progress, and there are also elections for the Committees and Officers of some of the Divisions and Sections to come. It is hoped that all those entitled to vote will exercise their right at these elections.

The first meeting of the Joint Working Party set up to discuss the problems of trainee psychiatrists was held on 8 August. Under special consideration was the question of how trainees could be most appropriately represented on the various Standing and Divisional Committees.

The Appeals and Building Committee is continuing to look for suitable premises on which a permanent London home for the College may be established. The problem is not only formidable in itself but is of some urgency in that the lease of our present home at Chandos House is of limited duration. Because of this situation estate agents have been engaged to prospect on behalf of the College. Nevertheless, if anyone knows of a benevolent landlord anxious to lease a vacant space in Central London, the Committee would be grateful to have this brought to their attention.

Memorandum on the Registration of Doctors Suffering from Mental Disorder

The General Medical Council's Interim Report on the registration of doctors suffering from mental disorder has been fully considered by the College's Public Policy Committee and Council.

1. The College wishes to state that it regards this whole subject as raising many complex social/professional problems which it is impossible to resolve in the short time available but which ought to be the subject of on-going discussion between the General Medical Council and the College.

As an interim statement of its position, the College makes the following observations:

(1) Where a doctor is suffering from mental disorder an alternative procedure from that offered by the Disciplinary Committee is desirable, giving power to suspend registration and yet offering a humanitarian as well as constructive approach to the problem.

(2) Such a possibility is not currently available to the General Medical Council unless the doctor's behaviour has led to a criminal offence or to serious professional misconduct; that is, the sanction is retrospective and punitive instead of preventive and therapeutic.

(3) It is noted that the Penal Cases Committee estimates that one in every six cases considered by it is associated with or due to psychiatric illness, and that this is almost certainly an under-estimate. Thus, on both therapeutic grounds and on the basis of public policy, a new form of special procedure is indicated with which the Royal College of Psychiatrists would be in accord.

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