THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY
(THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE)
[*Published by Authority of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association*]

SUPPLEMENT, JULY 1968

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING

THE ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING was held in London on Thursday, 8 February, 1968, with the President, Dr. H. V. Dicks, in the Chair.

At the opening of the meeting Dr. W. Sargant asked the meeting to show its appreciation of the hard work put in on the revision of the Bye-laws by the General Secretary, by Dr. Howells and by many other members of the Petition Committee. The meeting expressed this appreciation generously.

The meeting considered a revised draft of the Bye-laws, which it was understood might be accepted by the Privy Council in connection with the Association's petition to become the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The meeting also had before it a draft of the proposed Council Resolutions.

The discussion, though wide-ranging, fell into two main categories:

(*a*) Questions about the implications of the changes which might be required by the Privy Council, especially as regards Foundation Fellowship, Foundation Membership and the Higher Qualification for Membership.

(*b*) Suggestions for changes in the conditions for awarding Foundation Fellowship and Foundation Membership.

As regards the first category, it was explained that there was no likelihood of any proposals being approved which were based on the concept of a transition period during which those gaining consultant status could also become Foundation Members. The status of an individual at the date of inception must be decisive. It was pointed out that the R.M.P.A.s negotiations had retained the right of the Court of Electors to admit to Foundation Membership those with qualifications normally sufficient to gain consultant status, especially in those branches of psychiatry in which consultant status is usually obtained late in a person's career. It was also pointed out that power to exempt from all parts of the examination except the final viva was in the Bye-laws; Council would use this power at its discretion, although there could be no question of using these powers in such a way as to give the impression of lowering standards; it should be possible, however, to reduce hardship to the minimum.

As regards Foundation Fellowship, it was made clear that the proposal to award the Fellowship to consultants of five years standing stood no chance of being accepted, nor would the College be allowed to grant the Fellowship on seniority alone; evidence of merit or distinction would also be required. The list of Foundation Fellows would therefore be much smaller, the condition being at least 12 years in consultant posts and some distinction since becoming a consultant. The function of the Foundation Fellows was to propose and second further Fellows, and some of those now excluded, who would have qualified under the earlier proposals, could hope to become Fellows at the first election. The point was also made that any member of the R.M.P.A. who was not granted the Foundation Membership or Foundation Fellowship, but felt that he was entitled to such status, would have the right of appeal to the Court of Electors and Council; the Court of Electors would not be empowered to alter the standards required for admission but would adjudicate as to whether the appellant fulfilled the necessary conditions.

Reference was also made to the grade of Affiliate, with emphasis on the point that this would become a closed class. In the course of time it might well

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125068307872 Published online by Cambridge University Press

be replaced by the class of Diplomate, if it were to be created, and by the class of Inceptor, the proposals for which had apparently been accepted by the Privy Council.

The second category of discussion centred on two points:

(i) The possibility of altering the condition for Foundation Membership to allow those to become Members who had posts of equivalent responsibility to consultant status, not only those with posts of equivalent status.

(ii) The possibility of members being allowed to apply for the Fellowship instead of having to wait to be proposed and seconded by Fellows.

It was agreed that these proposals should be considered carefully and should be put to the Association's legal advisers. The point was also made that the Court of Electors would seek advice, e.g. from the Prison Service and the Armed Forces, about those who might occupy posts of similar status to consultants in the National Health Service. They would also obtain advice from the Irish Republic and from overseas countries.

Subject to legal advice and correction of any clerical errors and to any amendments in the spirit of the draft Bye-laws that the Association might be advised by its lawyers were necessary to implement proposals which would be acceptable to the Privy Council, the draft proposed Bye-laws were approved. The Motion was put from the Chair, seconded by Dr. D. A. Blair and carried *nem. con.*

The meeting gave authority to the Council to take such steps as the Association's legal advisers might consider necessary for the transfer of effective power from the R.M.P.A. to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The President announced with pleasure that the *Ad Hoc* Committee had nominated Dr. Francis Pilkington as President for 1968-1969. The meeting unanimously confirmed his election.

The Annual Meeting was further adjourned.

A further ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING was held at Tone Vale Hospital on 1 May 1968. The President stated that there was nothing fresh to report concerning the Association's approach to the Privy Council.

In reply to a question from a member, who did not give his name, the President and Dr. Warren, Acting General Secretary, explained why it had been necessary, at short notice, to present and pass the further amendments to the Bye-laws at the Adjourned Annual Meeting in February; this had been done in order not to delay further the Petitioning of the Privy Council in accordance with the remit given to Council at the Annual Meeting in July, 1964.

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

THE SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING was held at Tone Vale Hospital, Taunton on 30 April, and 1 May, 1968, under the Presidency of Dr. H. V. Dicks and by kind invitation of Dr. K. C. Bailey, Medical Superintendent, and the Hospital Management Committee.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Quarterly meeting held in London on 6, 7 and 8 February, 1968, having been published in the *Supplement*, were approved.

Obituary

The President announced with regret the death of the following members:

COATS, PERCY MURRAY, Principal Medical Officer, H.M. Prison, Wormwood Scrubs. An Ordinary Member since 1938.

HARLEY, JOHN ALFRED, Registrar, Maudsley Hospital, An Ordinary Member since 1964.

KISSEN, DAVID MORRIS, Director, Psychosomatic Research Unit, Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Glasgow. An Ordinary Member since 1962.

PAGE, WILLIAM ROBERT, Honorary Psychiatrist, Sydney Hospital, Australia. An Ordinary Member since 1930.

TODD, KATHLEEN MARY, The End House, Wairere Road, Melling, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. An Ordinary Member since 1943.

O'CONNELL, DANIEL J., formerly Medical Superintendent, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton. An Ordinary Member 1929–1966.

WILSON, HENRY LEONARD, Physician, Department of Psychological Medicine, The London Hospital. An Ordinary Member 1930–1965.

Election of Ordinary Members

The following were unanimously elected to Ordinary Membership:

ATKINS, ROY LEONARD WILLIAM, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar, Bangour Village Hospital, Broxburn, West Lothian.
Proposed by Drs. A. K. M. Macrae, Betty Magill, J. B. Rae.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125068307872 Published online by Cambridge University Press