They should prove an asset of inestimable value to the College. I believe this first meeting to have been a valuable one, and it will be repeated as soon as possible.

Although I have not relinquished my duties in Newcastle, I should like to make it clear that so long as I am President the College will have the first claim on my time. I should like to urge all Fellows, Members, and trainees to communicate with me about any issues or problems which are relevant to the College's work or for which they require its aid or intervention.

Having regard to the number of people for which the College has to cater, our organization is very small and the offices and other facilities at our disposal are inadequate and unsatisfactory. We are trying to streamline our organization so that we can respond in a prompt and flexible manner to the many demands made upon us by the new developments within the Health Service, in postgraduate education and in relation to manpower questions. We shall also strive to respond, quickly, and in a manner one is justified in expecting from a College of Psychiatrists, to the appeals made to us by our colleagues.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN ROTH,
*President.*

## Other College News

At the Council meeting on 2 May the President gave an account of the meeting with trainee psychiatrists described above in his Presidential Letter. Council agreed that a Joint Working Party should be set up, on an *ad hoc* basis, to discuss the most appropriate ways of dealing with problems affecting trainees, the Party to consist of five members of Council and five representatives of the trainees. The Council's representatives are the President (Sir Martin Roth), the Dean (Prof. Rawnsley), Prof. Hamilton, and Drs. Bewley and Letemendia.

The relevant Standing Committees have been considering the future scientific activities of the College, and a new look is being taken at the future shape of College meetings. It is likely that, in the interests of scientific communication, there will be a separation between the administration and business meetings and those devoted to scientific papers and educational lectures or seminars.

*Membership Examination.* Of the 324 candidates who took the first Membership examination, 229 (70·7 per cent) passed. Of candidates allowed maximum exemption (taking the final viva only) 89·4 per cent passed; of those exempted from the written papers 69·6 per cent passed; and of those who received no exemptions 60 per cent passed. A more detailed statistical analysis of the results will be published later.

A list of hospitals which have been accredited, together with the category of accreditatives of each, will be published shortly. Substantial progress has been made with the appeals relating to Foundation Membership, decisions on which have almost been completed, and with those relating to Foundation Fellowship, of which about one half have been dealt with.

*Council Vacancies.* Vacancies for Divisional Representatives have arisen as a result of the election of Prof. Rawnsley as Dean and Dr. T. H. Bewley as Sub-Dean. These have been filled by the co-option of the runners-up in the Divisional elections, Dr. M. W. Annear for the Welsh Division and Dr. B. M. Barraclough for the Southern Division.

## Memorandum on 'Hospital Services for the Mentally Ill'* (H.M.(71) 97)

1. While we would welcome a fresh approach to the question of improving hospital services for the mentally ill, we would by no means entirely concede that the policies advocated in the Memorandum can be wholeheartedly supported on current evidence. Although schemes similar to those outlined in the Memorandum have been implemented in practice in certain regions and by certain individual workers, the transition to a stereotyped service on a national basis should, we think, have been approached much more cautiously. Pilot experiments in regions with contrasting psychiatric morbidity should have been considered, to be followed by a synthesis of statistical study, rather than an *ad hoc* acceptance of trends in certain specific areas.

2. The Department's Guidelines for In-Patients, Day-Patients and Out-Patients may well fall short of what is necessary for good patient care even if adequate community facilities were available, which

* A personal view of the Memorandum was given by Dr. Hugh Freeman in *News and Notes*, February 1972.



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