AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at the Institute of Psychiatry, London, on 14 and 15 November 1974, by kind invitation of the Institute.

The Meeting also marked the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Institute of Psychiatry.

On Thursday, 14 November, three parallel series of papers were presented in the morning as follows:

Neuropsychiatry (Chairman: Sir Martin Roth): Recent Developments in Experimental Epilepsy, Dr. B. Meldrum; The EEG and Antisocial Behaviour: A Promising Line or a Dead End? Dr. G. Fenton; The Effect of Localized Brain Damage in Children, Dr. D. Shaffer; Clinical Studies on Brain Amines in Basal Ganglia Disease and their Relation to Brain Amines in Psychiatry, Professor C. D. Marsden.

Transcultural Psychiatry (Chairman: Dr. P. Sainsbury): Problems of Communication in Transcultural Psychiatry, Dr. J. Leff; The Different Rates of Schizophrenia in Ireland and England: An Investigation, Dr. M. Kelleher; Social and Psychological Problems of Children of West Indian Immigrants, Mr. D. Quinton.

The Present State of Psychotherapy (Chairman: Dr. H. H. Wolff): Family Therapy, Dr. R. Skynner, Dr. M. Crowe; Problems of Assessment of Psychotherapy, Dr. R. Cawley; Panel discussion on 'Recent Developments in Group Psychotherapy', Contributors: Dr. M. Pines, Dr. H. Rey, Dr. J. Steiner and Dr. M. Feldman.

In the afternoon:

Children and Social Psychiatry (Chairman: Professor M. Shepherd): 'The Urban Problem': Some Specific Studies, Professor M. Rutter; General Epidemiology, Professor J. K. Wing; 'The Strategy of Intervention and its Implications', a debate between Dr. J. Birley and Dr. A. Clare.

Forensic Psychiatry (Chairman: Dr. Peter Scott): Battered Wives—Dangerousness, Dr. P. D. Scott; Intention at the Moment of Crime—Beyond Reasonable Doubt? Dr. O. Briscoe; Changes in Grendon Prisoners, Dr. J. Gunn.

Behaviour Therapy (Chairman: Professor J. Watson): The Incoherent State of the Underlying Theory, Professor H. J. Eysenck; Behaviour Modification in School, Dr. W. Yule; Behaviour Modification in the Home, Dr. J. Carr; The Professional Implications of Nurse Therapists, Dr. I. Marks and some nurse therapists.

In the evening members were invited to be present at the Mapother Lecture 'The Medical Model of Mental Illness: Its Validity and Values', delivered by Professor S. S. Kety.

On Friday, 15 November the following papers followed the General Meeting:

The Use of Computers in Research (Chairman: Sir Martin Roth): Cluster Analysis, Dr. B. Everitt; Computers and the EEG, Dr. P. Fenwick; Laboratory Demonstration, Dr. C. Rashbass, Dr. B. Everitt.

Neuropsychology (Chairman: Sir Denis Hill): Differential Memory for Pleasant and Unpleasant Experiences: Variation with Affective State, Dr. W. A. Lishman; Autism: Cognition Abnormalities and Social Development, Mr. L. Bartak.

Current Topics and Issues (Chairman: Professor K. Rawnsley): Nicotine and Smoking, Dr. R. Kumar, Dr. M. Russell; Do Psychotic Subjects make their own Hallucinogens? Dr. R. Rodnight; Students' Assessment of Education—a Pilot Study at the Maudsley Hospital, Dr. P. Jefferys, Dr. R. Murray.

The Maudsley Lecture was delivered by the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Ormrod, F.R.C.P. and was entitled 'The Debate between Psychiatry and the Law'.

At the meeting of the Psychotherapy Section on 14 November, Mr. Paul Brown read a paper on the Management of Out-Patient Co-Therapy for Sexual Dysfunction.

The Business Meeting was held on 15 November. The Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 23 and 24 April 1974 in Southampton (published in *News and Notes*, October 1974) were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

FRANCES A. ROBERTS, formerly of Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham.

W. G. MASEFIELD, formerly Medical Superintendent, Brentwood Mental Hospital [Warley Hospital]. General Secretary R.M.P.A. 1936–1945, President 1947–1948. An Honorary Fellow.

A. R. MAY, World Health Organization Regional Officer for Europe.

The Registrar, Dr. MORRIS MARKOWE, read the following report:

'Much of the College's resources and efforts since the Annual Meeting in July—the last general meet-

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ing—have been directed towards the new headquarters at 17 Belgrave Square. Our sponsors, led by Lord Goodman, continue in their untiring efforts to acquire funds on our behalf, and I am sure the President will have more to say to us about this. The Royal Society of Medicine made it known to us that they would not be prepared to renew our lease at Chandos House beyond 24 December 1974, and it has therefore become urgent to move before Christmas. More work needs to be done on the building than had originally been anticipated—it is being rewired and redecorated. The staff and offices will move into the two top floors on 19 December; work will continue on the rest of the house during the next few months. There are a number of requests for accommodation from various interests within the College which will be considered as sympathetically as possible, and it is particularly hoped to have some common room for members of the College to meet and perhaps be able to have modest refreshment—but this is in the future.

The Council, the Executive and Finance Committee and the Public Policy Committee have been much concerned with problems in the National Health Service. Comments have been requested by the Owen Committee, and these are being submitted following careful and long consideration by the Public Policy Committee and the Executive and Finance Committee. It has been felt that too much emphasis has been put on the question of private beds and that our first priority must be concern with the improvement of service, with teaching, with the provision of better training and with the gaining of skills and knowledge; terms and conditions of service are relevant in so far as they affect these matters.

The Executive and Finance Committee last week declined to recommend how members of the College should react in relation to plans to impose sanctions in certain circumstances. It was felt that this was a matter for the conscience of the individual.

At the request of the Mental Deficiency Section a delegation from the College will be meeting representatives of the D.H.S.S. on 10 December to discuss the mental health services, particularly in relation to mental subnormality, and arising out of the South Ockendon Report.

Council will be receiving proposals about the future role of research in the College. In the meantime authority has been given to the Research Committee to launch our first major project—an evaluation of the surgical treatment of functional mental illness; funds are being sought and a steering committee has been set up. Council has also supported two other research efforts. Firstly Dr. David Walk is undertaking a survey of child psychiatrists in England and Wales; and financial support is being sought for Dr. Peter Brook's proposal to collect information about institutions offering elective periods in psychiatry.

A full programme of accreditation visits is now taking place. Detailed reports from the visiting panels are being carefully considered at meeting of the Central Panel, and their recommendations are submitted to the Court of Electors. So far the results of visits to 28 hospitals have been finalized, and of these 10 have been given full approval, 10 provisional approval, one specialist approval and 5 provisional specialist approval, and 5 have not been approved.

Following queries raised by a member, service on Advisory Appointments Committees has been discussed. It was felt that acquaintance with, or personal knowledge of a candidate should not prevent an Assessor from serving on an Advisory Appointments Committee or from making a fair judgement, so long as he makes his connection with the candidate known to the Committee. College Assessors for Advisory Appointments Committees are selected from lists submitted to Council by the Regional Divisions and Specialist Sections and approved. The appointment to serve on these committees is made in accordance with Statutory Regulations, and the person selected is, unless there are exceptional circumstances, a specialist in the appropriate field.

It has been noted that the pass rate for the Membership Examination has fallen slightly; this is accounted for by the fact that a large number of very senior candidates who had been granted exemptions have now taken the examination, and also the number of candidates who have failed several times is growing. The Court of Electors wishes to ensure that the weaker candidates shall get as much help as possible, and in future when a candidate who has failed more than once wishes to re-enter a special report will be obtained from the clinical tutor or other appropriate person. There has recently been a further meeting of Examiners, and it is hoped to organize another Examinations Forum in the spring, when it is anticipated that further information will be available from the continuing statistical analysis.

Following the discussion at the Annual Meeting, the Executive and Finance Committee, the Public Policy Committee and the Council have given much careful thought to the situation regarding Russian dissenters. I was instructed by Council to write to Professor Snezhnevsky about Dr. Levitt's apparent demotion to a junior position; we have subsequently heard that Dr. Levitt has been granted an exit visa. The President was asked to write about Dr. Semyon Gluzman; this was done and we await a reply from

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Professor Snezhnevsky. Following correspondence between Professor Crofton, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and our President, representations have been made to the President of the Collegio Medico de Chile about reports of ill-treatment and imprisonment without trial of Chilean psychiatric colleagues. No reply has been received so far.

The Public Policy Committee has prepared documents on a number of important issues; these have been approved by Council or by the Executive and Finance Committee and sent to the appropriate body. These include the Report of the Committee on the Working of the Abortion Act (Lane Committee); the Report of the Committee on Hospital Complaints Procedure (Davies Committee); the Report of the Working Party on the Remedial Professions (McMillan Committee), and the Third Cogwheel Report. Comments on the working of the Mental Health Act and recommendations for its amendment have been sent to the Department and have been published in *News and Notes*.

As I am sure most of you will know, Dr. Wilfrid Warren has been elected by Council to succeed Professor W. Linford Rees as Vice-President. Professor Rees's term of office came to an end following the Annual Meeting. The other Vice President, who serves for a further year is, of course, Dr. T. F. Main. We would like to congratulate Dr. Warren on this well-earned honour.

I am also pleased to report that Miss Anna Freud will deliver the Maudsley Lecture in 1975 and that Dr. Neil O'Connor will deliver the Blake Marsh Lecture.'

Following the Registrar's Report the meeting discussed the following motion which had been proposed by Dr. G. A. Low-Beer and seconded by Dr. H. Merskey:

'In view of the evidence that Dr. Semyon Gluzman was convicted in the Soviet Union on the 19th October, 1972, mainly or wholly for exercising his professional opinion, this College deplores his conviction and the severe sentence passed upon him of seven years' deprivation of freedom in strict regime camps and three years of exile, and calls upon the President and Officers to make the strongest possible representations to secure his early release.'

and was introduced by Dr. Low-Beer, who referred to an earlier discussion at the Annual Meeting in July 1974, and to further information which had come to hand about Dr. Gluzman. Professor Hirsch proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Dr. A. Clare:

'This meeting expresses its approval and full support of the vigorous and official action by the College in making such representations as it can to the appropriate bodies when cases are brought to its attention of political persecution of or by psychiatrists and their colleagues in the mental health field wherever this may be.'

Professor Hirsch expressed the opinion that the original motion was too narrow in concept and that psychiatric abuses should be condemned wherever they occurred. He felt that the present method of dealing with these matters was satisfactory and that credit was due to the President and Council for their concern and prompt action. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

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