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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

THE past two months have been a period of intense activity for the College. A number of developments have taken place which are likely to have far-reaching implications for British psychiatry, although some will require time to reach fruition.

Arrangements are in progress for a conference to be jointly sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security and the College on certain aspects of the future organization of the Mental Health Services. The Chairmanship will be shared by Sir George Godber, Chief Medical Officer at the D.H.S.S., and Professor Sir Martin Roth, President of the College. It is intended that details of the conference will be circulated to the Divisions for further discussion so that the problems raised can receive a national airing.

The President will shortly be meeting representatives of the Affiliates of the College to discuss the problems of trainees, in particular those relating to career structure, training facilities, and their role in the College. This informal contact is preliminary to the establishment of a joint working party from the Court of Electors, Education Committee and Clinical Tutors, the aim of which will be to improve communication with junior psychiatrists. As regards the next stage in the accreditation of hospitals and the improvement of training facilities, letters will be sent out shortly asking hospitals to submit details of their future training programmes.

To encourage the expression of various bodies of opinion within the College through the medium of the *Journal*, an invitation was extended to the Association of Psychiatrists in Training, and an article by their Chairman appears on page 7.

A memorandum expressing the views of the College on the Report on 'The Framework for Government Research' (Rothschild Report) is

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