Psychological Association had not been able to obtain the status of Royal College, the Society was still holding itself in reserve as the nucleus for a College. Ten years, a modicum of time in history, brought the result. From the happy outcome the benefits accumulate and all can now see the promise ahead.

By the 1960s, the course of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists was remarkably like that of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry in the U.S.A. Having changed the constitution of the American Psychiatric Association, the two hundred American senior psychiatrists who constituted the GAP had to ask themselves the question, what now? They resolved to set up working parties on matters of urgent topical interest and to harness progressive opinion to establish new worthwhile targets, publishing their findings in the form of reports. The Society came to the same conclusion. Having successfully campaigned for a Royal College, it was left with a surplus of talent and energy. It was decided to set up working parties on a number of topics; some of the resulting Reports have already been published —'The Place of Dynamic Psychiatry in Medicine', 'The Organisation of Psychogeriatrics', 'Medical Administration in Psychiatry'; further Reports will shortly be available on 'Psychiatric Education' and 'Architecture in Psychiatry—Brief for an Architect'. The Society sponsors contributions on special subjects and Reports are available on 'Nosology of Psychiatry', 'The Royal College of Psychiatrists', 'Psychiatry and Architecture—Review of the Literature', and 'Family Psychiatry for Child Psychiatrists'. All SCP Reports are issued free to psychiatrists, but only members can contribute to the Reports. Each Report benefits from the opinion of a distinguished adviser.

The constitution of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists is remarkably democratic. The officers and a representative from each Region of England make up the Committee with additional members from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire. The Agenda and Minutes of its Executive Committee are sent to every member of the Society and any member can attend the Executive Committee. The report of every working party is sent to the whole membership for comment; thus every member can have a say in each Report. The entrance fee is modest—£2 a year (income tax rebate is allowable as the Society is a charitable body). Its membership is open to psychiatrists of senior registrar or higher grade in the Health Service or of comparable grade elsewhere (application to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. J. C. Little, at Crichton Royal, Dumfries, Scotland). It has 400 members, of whom about 15 per cent are from abroad.

The appeal of the Society is essentially to progressive psychiatrists who want to 'blaze the trail', innovate and move psychiatry forward. The Society supports the Psychological Medicine Committee of the British Medical Association as the mouthpiece of psychiatrists on medico-political and service matters. It supports the Royal College as the professional organization for psychiatrists, and all its members belong to the College. Yet it feels able as a free agent to monitor, encourage and give a lead to a body which may be forced at times to move at the speed of its slowest members. It is glad not to be an alternative to the College; it hopes to prove that it is its spearhead.

JOHN G. HOWELLS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

Improved Clothing for Long Stay Patients

Considerable improvements in the arrangements for providing clothing for patients in the long-stay hospitals are being introduced in the Region. Ultimately, long-stay patients in the Region's psychiatric and mental handicap hospitals will be able to choose from a wide selection of suits, coats, dresses and other garments identical to those in High Street shops. Arrangements have been made with about 30 manufacturers, many of them household names for quality and styling, to supply hospitals with clothing. This includes suits, coats, jackets and raincoats for men, and fashionable dresses, skirts, coats and blouses for women, as well as underclothing and shoes. A hospital 'clothes shop', where patients can select and be fitted for garments, is scheduled to open its doors at Harperbury Hospital.

It is hoped that similar 'shops'—with their own shop windows, counters and display areas—will eventually open in other long-stay hospitals in the Region. Some patients in long-stay hospitals are able to go out and purchase their own clothes from ordinary shops; others, however, are dependent on the hospital supplying them.

The Board have reaffirmed their policy that long-stay patients should have their own personal clothing comparable with that worn outside hospitals. Clothing

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has been found to play an important part in the care of long-stay patients, having a marked effect on morale and personal comfort.

South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

Special Conference on the Mentally Handicapped

A special two-day conference for staff working in the South East Metropolitan Region's mental handicap hospitals will be held in June. Its purpose will be to give an overall picture of the progress which has been made in the care of the mentally handicapped, and to highlight some of the most urgent priorities and problems facing the Region.

The conference will review the progress made in the development of smaller units for the mentally handicapped throughout the Region, the attempts to reduce overcrowding in the larger hospitals, the new patterns of multi-professional care, and the development of staff education and training. It will provide an opportunity for doctors, nurses, administrators, therapists, social workers and others engaged in the mental handicap sector to exchange knowledge and experience of recent advances in the field.

Views on Regional and local policies affecting mental handicap services will be discussed, and the conference is expected to focus on such subjects as patients' earnings, occupational and industrial therapy, the design of units for the handicapped, and liaison with local service organizations. It is planned to stage an exhibition of equipment and materials from various mental handicap hospitals to reflect some of the major changes which are taking place in the quality of life for patients, and examples of the modern, fashionable clothing now available in long-stay hospitals.

UNIVERSITIES AND TEACHING HOSPITALS

St. Thomas' Hospital, London

The Department of Psychological Medicine at St. Thomas' expects to take responsibility later this year for an adult psychiatric and psycho-geriatric service in a district of north Lambeth at present served by West Park Hospital.

Additional facilities at the South Western Hospital, two miles from the Embankment site, will include 50 beds for adults, a psycho-geriatric unit of 20 beds, and a psycho-geriatric day hospital for 30 places. A psychiatric day centre is established within the precinct, being administered by Lambeth Borough Council. The present in-patient unit at the Royal Waterloo Hospital, which was established by Dr. Sargant 25 years ago, is due to move to the new St. Thomas' Albert Embankment building in 1974–5. It will be situated in the first floor of the Tower Block, with 26 beds designed specifically for the treatment of psychiatric patients. The out-patient treatment centre 'Scutari' is adjacent and on the same floor as the main general out-patient clinics, with all the consequent advantages. The extra accommodation will allow the hospital to promote active community policies while continuing its traditional role.

Although removed from the main complex in its initial stages, the South Western Hospital site has numerous advantages. It is well placed in the district both for access of patients and relatives, and for the staff to patients in their homes. Other assets are the presence on this site of the Geriatric Department with 180 beds, the general medical beds and a ward for the treatment of chronic respiratory failure, attached administratively to the central intensive therapy unit. Not only will the psychiatric patients be treated in an essentially heterogeneous medical milieu, but general medical opinion will be available, especially for the elderly. Patients requiring special investigation will be admitted to the Embankment Unit. It is anticipated that for this stage, and for the subsequent development of the District Service, St. Thomas' will be linked with Tooting Bec Hospital.

The general aim of the service will be to attempt to give early active treatment to out-patients of all ages with a view to avoiding admission to hospital and subsequent life disruption. In preparation for this policy, the out-patient services have recently been re-organized to include specialized clinics, additional to the large out-patient ECT and follow-up services; these include clinics for patients receiving antidepressant drugs, lithium carbonate, behaviour therapy, hypnosis, group and individual psychotherapy. A weekly post-graduate session is devoted to the detailed discussion of patients whose illnesses have failed to respond to modern methods of treatment.

Important aspects of this new development are the teaching and research opportunities which will form the topic of a later report.

University of Dundee

In Dundee there are six main areas of research interest within each of which several staff are actively engaged. These are:

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