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NEWS AND NOTES
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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

THE COLLEGE'S APPEAL FUND

The Appeal Committee set up by the College in 1973 to raise £750,000 required for the purchase of its headquarters at 17 Belgrave Square had clearly embarked on a formidable task. Given the prevailing economic climate, a good deal of determination as well as sensitive and convincing pleading was going to be needed. Of special difficulty was how best to convey the pressing case for advancing the development of psychiatry. The beneficial effects of surgery, for example, are usually tangible and self-evident and, on a more subtle level, the beneficiary feels not only grateful but openly free to acknowledge his gratitude. The same can hardly be said of a depressive illness, let alone alcoholism, paranoid schizophrenia or sexual deviation.

The work of the Appeal Committee has been carried out largely on a private and personal basis without the help of professional Appeal Organizers. Much cannot therefore be said about the details of how help was received and the generosity of those who have made donations. However, it can be stated that so far a total of £520,000 has been raised, a sum which includes one individual donation of £150,000, two of £100,000 and another of £70,000 (£40,000 paid in 1976 and £30,000 payable in 1977). This also includes two assured pledges of £10,000 per year for five years and two further pledges of £25,000 each conditional on the amounts being matched £ for £ by the College. Donations, lump sum covenants and Deeds of

Contents

The Royal College of Psychiatrists:
The College's Appeal Fund 1
M.R.C.Psych. Examinations, Spring 1977 2
Papers for the Annual Meeting, 1977 2
Political Dissenters: An Exchange of Correspondence 3
Research Committee: The Research Register 5
Fifty Years Ago: The Macmillan Report; by Alexander Walk 6
Reports and Pamphlets: Mental Health Services in Europe: A Review of Data Collected in Response to a WHO Questionnaire 8
Correspondence 10
Forthcoming Events 11

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Covenant by Fellows and Members of the College have reached nearly £60,000 with recoverable Income Tax. Taking into account the full scope of covenants over a 5 to 7 year period, the total income would approximate to over £700,000, but we cannot take immediate advantage of these covenanted sums, and intervening interest charges are obviously eroding what the College has achieved, so that about £300,000 is still needed to clear the debt. Clearly, with the present crippling interest rates, the sooner this can be achieved the better.

The achievements of the Appeal Committee have been remarkable and deserve warmest congratulations. This is particularly evident when considered in the light of financial resources enjoyed by the long-established Colleges and also by the observation that none of the other Colleges formed in the last decade has obtained a home of its own. Despite, therefore, starting four centuries late and having to scrabble around for funds, considerable progress has been made. Moreover, the Appeal Committee are vigorously maintaining their efforts to raise further sums and reach the final objective. It need hardly be added that the Committee will be much encouraged, as would individuals and bodies sympathetic to the aspirations of the College, by continuing generous support from Fellows and Members.

M.R.C.PSYCH. EXAMINATIONS, SPRING 1977

The next M.R.C.Psych. Examinations will take place on the following dates:—

Preliminary Test —Wed. 23 March 1977
Membership Examination—Wed. 4 May 1977
(Written Papers)
Membership Examination—Mon. 9–Wed. 11
(Clinical and Oral) May 1977

The entry fees are £25 (resit £15) and £35 (resit £25) respectively.

The closing date for receipt of entries is WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 1977.

Prospective candidates are reminded that late entries will not be accepted and that the College no longer gives exemption from any part of the examinations. Candidates who were previously granted exemption from the Preliminary Test (i.e. before June 1973) are reminded that they must pass the Membership Examination within five years from the date of granting in order to retain their exemption.

In cases where candidates have undertaken part-time or overseas experience in psychiatry, or are required to submit the name and address of their Clinical Tutor or Consultant Chief, the entry forms should be submitted at least three weeks in advance so that the application may be finalized before the closing date is reached.

Regulations and application forms are obtainable from the Examination Secretary at 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. Past question papers are available at 50p and a Reading List at 30p, plus postage, which amounts must be prepaid.

All Members and Fellows are asked to bring this announcement to the notice of any prospective candidates who may be working under their guidance.

K. RAWNSLEY
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PAPERS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1977

The Programmes and Meetings Committee invites members of the College to submit papers on miscellaneous topics for presentation at the Annual Meeting, which is to be held in London on 5, 6 and 7 July 1977. Depending on the number offered, the Committee is prepared to make arrangements for parallel sessions to enable as many papers as possible to be read. I would be grateful to hear from members who have papers which they would like to present. The closing date for the receipt of summaries is 28 February 1977.

C. M. B. PARE
Honorary Secretary,
Programmes and Meetings Committee

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