The possibilities for constructive work that are opening within the College could provide a powerful antidote for some of the pessimism being engendered. The great majority of practising psychiatrists are established within or affiliated to it. In this sense it is unique among organizations of its kind. It has already been successful in uniting in common efforts people of varying shades of opinion. But there will be a more compelling need than in the past for psychiatrists to pool their experience and wisdom and learn from one another. If retreat into the cultivation of individual patches of garden were to become a common response to prevailing uncertainties, British psychiatry would soon show signs of parochialism and stagnation.

There is room for everyone within the College to contribute to raising standards of postgraduate training and to resolve the problems of recruitment. As a recent conference, in which our representatives participated, made clear, we are particularly well placed for attracting women to train in psychiatry. We should seize the opportunity that presents; there is a case for offering special part-time courses of training for women on a nationwide basis.

Through the College's Committees and the channels of communication and advice they have created the Mental Health Services can be developed even within existing constraints. Scant as resources are, the claims of psychiatry are strong and have to be made known. The potentialities of the College for developing certain kinds of research remain to be realized. John Romans has spoken of the 'excitement of curiosity . . . in the market place of the community of scholars'. At their best our meetings, large and small, have had something of this spirit. It will need much effort to infuse it into the work of the College at all levels and in every Region.

Our new President, Professor W. Linford Rees, and his Officers will need the wholehearted support of the membership in the many tasks that face them.

I am confident that the College has before it a future rich in promise and achievement.

MARTIN ROTH.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

At the last meeting of Council it was agreed that the actual voting figures for the election of the President should be published. The result of the recent ballot was as follows:

	Valid votes
Max Hamilton	249
Thomas Forrest Main	379
Desmond Arthur Pond	406
Felix Post	135
William Linford Rees*	511
William Henry Trethowan	401
	2,081

* Elected.

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