

The College

Spring Quarterly Meeting 1990

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held at the O'Flaherty Lecture Theatre, University College Galway on 11 and 12 April 1990 under the Presidency of Dr J. L. T. Birley.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on Thursday, 12 April 1990, attended by 60 Members of the College.

The meeting approved the election of the following Honorary Fellows:

Professor Robert Hugh Cawley, Dr Eric Cunningham Dax, Professor Lee Robins, Dame Rosemary Rue and Professor Michael Shepherd.

Minutes

The minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 24 January 1990 were approved and signed.

Report of Registrar

Here in Galway, we are able to look at activities of the College during the past three months and to get much of it into better perspective. We have continued to be preoccupied with what must seem here to be the parochial problems of the two White Papers. Both of these have enormous impact for the practice of psychiatry within the United Kingdom but may well be a foretaste of things to come here or, at least an opportunity for important lessons concerning medical practice in general and the future of psychiatry in particular.

The Community Care paper on 'Caring for People' following the Griffiths Report has been the major concern. At the same time the Children Bill has passed through Parliament, changing into a very complex Act with implications on not just children but the lives of others in the family as well. To try and understand this, what has been referred to as a "supra-sectional" working group has been set up to build upon the recommendations of a smaller working party formed by the Child and Adolescent Section.

Audit appears to have almost universal application and it is attracting the interest of doctors all over the world. There have been a number of lively

meetings as well as the continued activity of the Research Unit, the Research Committee and the Audit Working Party, the latter concentrating on fostering good practice in audit on the coal face or, as a more appropriate analogy here in Galway, at grass roots.

The College is coming to the end of its deliberations concerning 'The Practice of Psychiatry in a Multi-Ethnic Society'. There has been wide consultation, much discussion and surprising agreement on the essentials.

The many Sections and Divisions in the College continue to maintain a close relationship with the groups concerning the interests of patients and the parents of patients. Notably among the groups with whom we have been working are the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the organisation called RESCARE, concerned with the residential care of people with mental handicaps.

We are delighted to continue our close relationship with the Republic of Ireland and the popularity of the choice of Galway as a place to meet can be seen in the very large numbers of people who will be attending the Dinner tonight.

DR ANN GATH
Registrar

The College Library

Literature searches

A copy of the database *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* has been installed on the Dell computer in the Library. The database provides information on current psychiatric literature as assessed by experts throughout the world who scan over 175 journals.

The Library staff will carry out literature searches or, alternatively, members are welcome to do their own literature searches in the Library.

Sesquicentennial

The Library has had many requests from members preparing papers or talks connected with the College's celebration of its 150th anniversary next year. Those interested in the history of the College and its antecedent associations may care to read the following