



columns

The objects and purposes for which the College is constituted are to:

- (a) advance the science and practice of psychiatry and related subjects
- (b) further public education therein
- (c) promote study and research work in psychiatry and all sciences and disciplines connected with the understanding and treatment of mental disorder in all its forms and aspects and related subjects and publish the results of all such study and research.

Statement of purpose

Within the public policy areas of mental health, community safety and criminal justice, both the ACOP and the Royal College of Psychiatrists share issues of common interest. The purpose of this joint statement is therefore to promote joint working at the national and local level between the ACOP and the College.

Probation officers and psychiatrists operate in a world of changing expectations, mirrored by the concerns of politicians, the public and the media, about the way we manage difficult and often dangerous offenders with mental disorder. Care, treatment, rehabilitation, risk and public protection are issues we jointly need to address. We also need to be seeking to develop evidence-based practice and to work together and in partnership with social care agencies to deliver services that are safe, sound and supportive.

The Government is seeking to achieve greater working across departmental boundaries, and collaboration between the ACOP and the College can contribute to this.

Shared principles

The following shared principles will inform joint working at the national and local levels:

- protection of the public
- achievement of high practice standards
- consistent evidence-based approaches to work within the criminal justice system
- respect for each others' professional roles and contribution
- equal opportunities.

Joint aim

Effective working relationships between probation services and psychiatrists have significant mutual benefits. Of paramount importance is the contribution provided by effective joint working to the establishment of healthier communities and increased public confidence in the ability of both services to provide for their safety. Desired outcomes are:

- to reduce the risk of public harm
- to enhance public safety and public health
- to reduce the fear of crime and its impact on the health of the public
- to contribute to the enhancement of healthy communities
- to promote health care for mentally vulnerable offenders.

Areas of work

Joint working will be led by a joint ACOP/College strategy group that will identify specific areas for collaboration and oversee the work, some of which will be pursued through existing groups. The following potential areas of joint work have been identified.

- (a) Assessment and management of risk
 - confidentiality
 - psychiatrists' involvement in public protection panels
 - substance misuse
- (b) Suicide and self-harm
- (c) Supporting victims
 - victims of mentally disordered offenders
- (d) Mentally disordered offenders
 - diversion of mentally disordered offenders
 - quality of psychiatric court reports
 - severe personality disorders
 - discharge from special hospitals
- (e) Understanding structures, boundaries and roles
 - probation orders with a condition of psychiatric treatment
- (f) Work in prisons
- (g) Local arrangements
 - multi-agency public protection panels
 - local liaison
 - information sharing and protocols.

The joint strategy group will identify a programme of work, reflecting current concerns and priorities. It is envisaged that progress towards shared outcomes will be through task groups, preparation of guidance and joint events.

Annual Elections Council and Court of Electors

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the vacancies of the Court of Electors and for elected members of Council. The relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations are printed below.

The nominating meeting of Council will take place on 23 April 2001 and the last date for receiving nominations will therefore be 21 May 2001.

Extracts from the Bye-Laws and Regulations

Bye-Law XXI The Court of Electors

4. At the first meeting of the Council in alternate years after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, the Council shall nominate a sufficient number of candidates for appointment as Electors to ensure an election, which will be held by a postal ballot of all Members of the College in the manner prescribed by the Regulations. Additional nominations may be lodged with the Registrar between the beginning of the then current calendar year and the end of 4 clear weeks after the meeting of the Council above referred to. No such nominations shall be valid unless it be supported in writing by 12 Members of the College and accompanied by the nominee's written consent to serve if elected.

Regulation XIX The Council

2. Elections shall be held in alternative years to ensure that there are not less than six elected Members of Council and no more than six elected Fellows of the Council subject to the overall condition that no elected Member or Fellow shall serve on Council for more than 6 years in that capacity without a break of at least 1 year. At its first meeting in each alternate College year after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known, the Council shall nominate the necessary number of Members and Fellows of the College to ensure that there are no more than six elected Fellows and not less than six elected Members serving on Council. Any nominee who is proposed and seconded and gives his or her consent in writing to serve, shall be validly nominated.

Any 12 Members of the College may make nominations in writing at any time between the first day of January in each alternate year and the date which is 4 clear weeks after the meeting of the Council at which nominations were made. Nominations other than those made by the Council shall be lodged with the Registrar and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to serve if elected. Should there be more nominations than vacancies, an election shall be held by ballot of the Members of the College. The ballot paper shall not indicate the method of nomination or the names of those nominating. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, these nominees shall be declared elected at the first meeting, whether of the Council or of the Executive and Finance Committee,

after the expiry of the period of 4 clear weeks in this paragraph referred to.

Honorary Officers

Fellows and Members of the College are reminded of their rights in connection with the forthcoming elections for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian. All Honorary Officers are eligible for re-election, although the Librarian, Dr Ian Pullen, does not wish to be re-elected.

The nominating meeting of Council will take place on 23 April 2001 and the last date for receiving nominations will therefore be 21 May 2001. The relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations are printed below.

Extracts from the Bye-Laws and Regulations

Bye-Law XII The Other Honorary Officers

1. The Council shall, in accordance with the Regulations, make its nominations for the offices of Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian at the first meeting after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known. Written nominations for the

above Honorary Offices, accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may also be lodged with the Registrar at such time as may be prescribed by the Regulations, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than 12 Members of the College who are not members of the Council.

2. The Dean, Registrar, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian shall be elected from among the Fellows, by the Members of the College, in each case in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Regulations.

Regulation XII Election of the Other Honorary Officers

1. The method of electing the Honorary Officers other than the President, the Vice-Presidents, Sub-Deans and Deputy Registrars shall be the same as that for electing the President, save that nominations from Members of the College who are not members of the Council shall be lodged with the Registrar between the first day of June in any calendar year and the date which is 4 clear weeks after that meeting of the Council which is the first held after the name of the President for the next ensuing College year has become known.

Extract from College Regulations

Membership under Bye-Law III 2(ii) categories (a), (b) and (c)

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has recently been given leave by the Privy Council to extend this Bye-Law, and is now able to offer Membership without Examination to the following three groups of doctors:

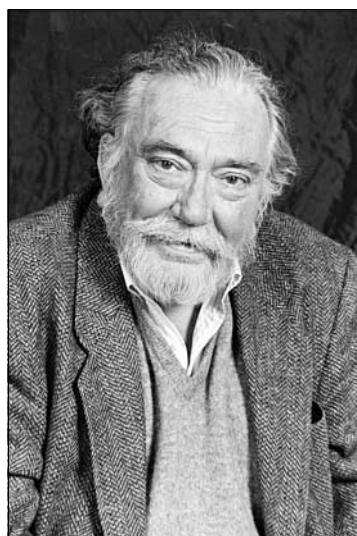
- (a) medical graduates of exceptional distinction – up to a limit of eight per College year and 100 in all at any one time;
- (b) qualified medical practitioners who qualify in the European Economic Area (EEA) and who are on the specialist register of the General Medical Council or the Medical Council of Ireland and who are in specified grades prescribed by the Regulations;
- (c) qualified medical practitioners who qualify outside the EEA and who are on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council or the Medical Council of Ireland and who are in specified grades prescribed by the Regulations.

To nominate an individual under this Bye-Law please contact Dr Anne Dean in the Department of Postgraduate Educational Services, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, and the relevant forms will be forwarded to you. The closing date is 30 September 2001.



columns

obituaries



George Frederic Spaul

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Towers Hospital, Leicester

George Spaul was born in London on 5 March 1925. Having attended Willesden County School he obtained the Bucknill

Scholarship and proceeded to University College Hospital from 1943–1948, part of the time being spent in Leatherhead, to where the hospital had been evacuated. The scholarship was very significant, as Dr Bucknill, the originator of the scholarship, was a very distinguished psychiatrist.

He qualified MB, BS (Lond) in 1948 and his first house officer post was at the Towers Hospital, Leicester, starting on the 'appointed day' – when the NHS was first started.

He did his National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, becoming a junior specialist in psychiatry, and entered his formal psychiatric career as registrar at Shenley Hospital. He became a senior registrar at Belmont Hospital in 1954 where he came under the influence of Dr Maxwell Jones, his Unit at Belmont being the progenitor of the Henderson Hospital. This was George's first contact with the concept of the therapeutic community. He then attended the Tavistock Clinic course in group therapy.

He became a senior house medical officer at the Coppice Hospital, Nottingham, working with Dr Keith Woddis, and had further experience of

group therapeutic techniques. In 1965 he was appointed at the Towers Hospital as a consultant and remained in the Leicester area for the rest of his professional career, retiring in 1987.

I had the good fortune to join him at the Towers in 1967 and worked with him in a true partnership up to his retirement. He embarked on setting up the Francis Dixon Lodge (FDL), a therapeutic community in the grounds of the Towers, which is still very active and is a proper tribute to his foresight and clinical acumen. He undertook lecturing and group work for the Midland course in group work and family therapy, as well as being the consultant for the Samaritans, Cruse and the Marriage Guidance Council. He continued work at the FDL until 1992, on a part-time basis after his retirement from general psychiatry.

George was a founder Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1971 and then became a Fellow in 1980. He was a very competent and most caring psychiatrist with whom it was a pleasure to work. His patients could always rely on his integrity, knowledge and compassion in dealing with their problems.