

The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting, 1988

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at Kensington Town Hall, London on 26 and 27 October 1988 under the Presidency of Dr J. L. T. Birley.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on Thursday, 27 October 1988, attended by 38 Members of the College.

Minutes

The minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting held at Robinson College, Cambridge on 13 April 1988, were approved and signed.

Registrar's report

Since the last Registrar's report at the Annual Meeting in July, the College has been collating the various policy statements we have made on hospital closures and the provision of alternative services in the community. A briefing pack primarily for MPs, peers and journalists has been prepared and this culminated in a press conference held this morning launching the College's briefing papers on 'Caring for a Community'. Copies of the pack are available from the College and cost £2.50 (to include p.&p.).

Two reports of Public Inquiries have been published since the Annual Meeting. The first, the report by Lord Justice Butler Sloss on sexual abuse in Cleveland, has been studied by members of the relevant sections. A document on 'The Child Psychiatric Perspectives on Assessment and Management of Sexually Abused Children' has been in the process of production by a working group for the past 18 months and has now been approved for publication by Council. It is to be also sent to the British Paediatric Association with the suggestion that it should form with their own document the subject of a joint Royal College of Psychiatrists and British Paediatric Association press briefing.

The second report was that of the Inquiry into the

case of Sharon Campbell who killed a social worker. This report contained the specific recommendation that the Royal College of Psychiatrists might produce guidelines for the co-ordination of after-care for certain vulnerable groups of patients. I am chairing a group which has already started work on this.

The Overseas Desk continues to be active. Two Regional Meetings have been organised, one in Cairo in 1989 and another in Pakistan in 1990. The President visited the Soviet Union in September with Professor Priest, who is the United Kingdom representative of the World Psychiatric Association, and other officers of the WPA. They attended a scientific meeting and had some informal discussions with senior Soviet psychiatrists on the application of the Soviet Psychiatric Associations to rejoin the World Psychiatric Association.

A working group on 'Clinical Audit' which I will chair has been set up and Divisions, Sections and Groups will be asked to submit evidence to assist in the work of the group.

The building works in the College will be finally finished on 31 October. Any member of the College will be warmly welcomed to inspect the additions which are principally on the third, fourth and ground floors.

A report has been produced jointly with the Royal College of Physicians on the care of the elderly who have mental illness. This has been approved by Council and will be published by the Royal College of Physicians in January 1989. The lively section of Old Age Psychiatry has now asked for speciality status, which has been approved by Council.

We welcome the 'Special Interest' group in philosophy and psychiatry which having attracted 50 members is now established.

The Special (Unethical Practices) Committee has produced a position statement on "torture and psychiatry". It is recommended that the College should endorse national and international stances against medical participation in torture. In addition we should join in active campaigns to bring about the eradication of torture.

Dr ANN GATH
Registrar