

The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting, 1982

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held in London on 18 and 19 November 1982 at the Institute of Psychiatry under the Presidency of Professor Kenneth Rawnsley.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The papers presented at the scientific meetings were as follows:

Thursday, 18 November: Morning Session A

The Interface Between Philosophy and Psychiatry: I

Philosophy, psychiatry and law—Professor Anthony Kenny
MRCPlato or MCRPopper?—Dr J. L. T. Birley

The place of psychodynamics in psychiatry: some problems—
Mr B. A. Farrell

Delusions medical and philosophical—Dr K. W. M. Fulford

The logical indistinctness of form and content—Dr
Christopher Howard

Morning Session B

The Value of Longitudinal Studies in Psychiatry

Differences between schizophrenia and borderline schizophrenia: results from an 18-year prospective study of children at risk for schizophrenia—Dr Fini Schulsinger

Long-term admission to children's homes and adjustment in early adult life—Mr David Quinton

The transmission of deprivation—Professor I. Kolvin

Children of alcoholic fathers: their social adjustment and health status over 20 years—Dr Per-Anders Rydelius

Afternoon Session A

What Psychotherapy, With Whom and Why? A Clinical Case Study

Therapists: Professor Isaac Marks, Dr Justin Schlicht and
Dr Peter Hildebrand

Afternoon Session B

The Psychiatrist as a Consultant to Outside Bodies

Psychiatric consultation in the community: some theoretical and technical aspects—Dr Anton Obholzer

The psychiatrist as a consultant to terminal care units—
Dr Colin Parkes

The psychiatrist and the police—Dr Gillian Waldron

The psychiatrist and schools—Dr Bob Jezzard

The psychiatrist and the Old Folks' Home—Dr Marisa Silverman

The psychiatrist and the children's homes—Dr Jorge Thomas

Friday, 19 November: Morning Session A

Psychiatry as Others See It

The pathology of Sir Cyril Burt and his clique—Mr Oliver Gillie

The medical model: a heretic's view—Mr Brian Inglis

Booze boffins' conference: alcohol and alcoholism in the media—Dr Richard Smith

The disappearing psychiatrist—Ruth Boswell

Morning Session B

Addiction and Dependence

Methods and problems in estimating local and national prevalence of problem drug takers—Dr A. Thorley

Problematic drug use: assessing local trends in an urban community—Dr R. Hartnoll

Urgent admissions to an in-patient drug dependence unit—
Dr J. Strang

Alpha House: ten-year follow-up and current research—
Dr I. G. Christie and Mr B. Haddon

Afternoon Session A

Miscellaneous

Interictal psychiatric disorders in temporal lobe epilepsy (34 years of controversy)—Dr E. H. Reynolds

Schizophrenia: the heterogeneity problem—Dr Peter McGuffin

Is schizophrenia transmissible?—Dr T. Crow

Afternoon Session B

The Interface Between Philosophy and Psychiatry: II

The psychiatric differential diagnosis: a logical poser—
Dr A. G. W. Holmshaw

The impossibility of describing mental states—Dr Adrian Grounds

The nature of explanations in psychology and psychiatry—
Dr Jonathan Hill

Report on a philosophy group—Dr Digby Tantam, Dr
Derek Bolton, Dr Alan Lee

Maudsley Lecture

On Friday, 19 November, DR EDWARD HARE, Honorary Fellow, Royal College of Psychiatrists and former Editor, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, delivered the Maudsley Lecture, 'Was Insanity Increasing?' (*Journal*, May 1983, 142, 439–55). The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr J. L. Crammer.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting was held on 19 November 1982

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 21 April 1982 in Liverpool (*Bulletin*, October 1982, 6, 186) were approved and signed as a correct record.

Obituary

The Registrar announced with regret the names of the members who had died since the last College meeting.

Registrar's Report

PROFESSOR GERALD TIMBURY presented the following report:

The Executive and Finance Committee has met on four occasions since my last report. The Court of Electors met on 11 October and Council on 20 October.

The Court of Electors admitted a further 128 Inceptors. Recruitment to the grade is most gratifying and is helped by the continuing success of trainees' days in the Divisions, organized by representatives of the Collegiate Trainees' Committee. The Working Party dealing with the review of the Membership Examination has held nine meetings and is continuing its work in the hope of producing recommendations next Summer.

Council have elected Professor Michael Gelder as Junior Vice-President. Dr Jose Jancar now replaces Professor Tom Lynch as Senior Vice-President.

The President introduced to Council a discussion paper on 'The Future of the Consultant', with particular reference to the appointment of consultants with special interest in a branch of psychiatry; the relationship of the consultant to other grades of staff and other disciplines, and to continuing medical education. This paper has been sent to the College Divisions and Sections for further debate and comment.

Council have agreed to increase and strengthen the membership of our Standing Joint Committee with the British Psychological Society.

The Public Policy Committee has prepared comments on the Government circular on *Care in the Community*. These comments express our continued reservation about the practicability of diverting funds from the psychiatric hospitals to promote community care when many hospitals are already underfunded and also the will of local Authorities to provide appropriate community services.

Now that the Mental Health (Amendment) Act has received Royal Assent, the Public Policy Committee Working Party is continuing to meet regularly to discuss with the DHSS arrangements for the implementation of the new legislation. We also hope to persuade the DHSS to support College research to assess the working of the Act.

Council again discussed the request of the Research Committee that there should be a College Research Unit. There was strong support for the principle of sponsored College research and discussion is continuing on the details of this proposal which may form the basis of a public appeal for funds.

The College has also indicated to the DHSS that in conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners we would like to engage in operational research on the interface between psychiatry and general practice. The Research

Committee is also discussing projects on ECT and the effects of unemployment on mental health.

Council supported a request from the Nursing Committee that we should write to the new national nursing bodies, urging them to establish psychiatric nursing committees.

Council received a report from the President of continuing College activity to help sick doctors. Discussions have been held with other Colleges with a view to the possible extension of the scheme which we already operate with the Association of Anaesthetists and the Association of Surgeons.

The Education Committee has elected the new Dean, Dr Birley, as its Chairman, and Professor Seager, one of the Sub-Deans, as Secretary. The Committee have discussed with Professor Cawley, the Chief Examiner, the revision of the Membership Examination.

Council have elected Sir Martin Roth and Professor Rawnsley to be Associate Editors of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* for a period of five years.

The Collegiate Trainees' Committee have set up Working Parties on Manpower, Education, and Political Issues in Psychiatry. The Committee has noted with regret the lapse into desuetude of the Association of Psychiatrists in Training.

There is no major news to report from the House Committee. The Members' Room is being used with increasing frequency. Mr and Mrs Farley have been appointed to succeed Mr and Mrs Brooks as House and Catering Superintendents.

Finally, may I thank Dr Murray and his colleagues for allowing us to hold our meeting at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Honorary Fellows

SIR DOUGLAS BLACK, President of the Royal College of Physicians; DR D. L. DAVIES, former Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry; and PROFESSOR R. O. JONES, former President of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, had been elected to the Honorary Fellowship at the Annual Meeting in July 1982, but had unfortunately been unable to be present on that occasion. It had therefore been agreed to make the formal presentation of the parchments of Honorary Fellowship and to introduce these new Honorary Fellows at the time of the Autumn Quarterly Meeting. Professor Rawnsley expressed the College's very deep regret at the recent and untimely death of Dr D. L. Davies.

In introducing SIR DOUGLAS BLACK, Professor W. I. N. Kessel referred to his very distinguished career and his close personal and professional links with psychiatry. He had long been a leader in medicine and was an outstanding President of the Royal College of Physicians. His Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists would be a great asset and it was to be hoped that this warm, modest and

kindly man would be able to share his wisdom and experience with his new College.

Professor G. F. M. Russell introduced PROFESSOR ROBERT JONES. He was already well known to many members of the College through his many visits to the United Kingdom which had been of great benefit to British psychiatry. He was always prepared to help his colleagues and was particularly knowledgeable in the field of psychiatric training in many countries and forensic psychiatry. Professor Jones had played a major role in establishing the high standards of Canadian psychiatry and was the founder President of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and a former President of the Canadian Medical Association.

Dr J. L. T. Birley said he was particularly pleased to be paying tribute to DR D. L. DAVIES at the Institute of Psychiatry where he had spent most of his professional life and where he had been the longest serving Dean. He had pioneered many developments and practices at the Institute which were now widespread, including rotational training schemes. He had been an outstanding teacher and administrator and had inspired students, both home and overseas, with enthusiasm and curiosity. He was well known as a great and internationally acknowledged authority in the field of alcoholism and his influence had been world-wide. The College had suffered a sad loss in the death of its new Honorary Fellow.

Reports from Trainees' Meetings

North East Division Trainees' Day

On 29 September 1982, 40 trainees assembled at Durham University for the second North East Division Trainees' Day.

The theme for the morning session was the organization and function of the College and the relationship between the College and the individual trainee. Our opening speaker was Dr Kurt Schapira (Sub Dean), who gave an "Introduction to the College"—a tour through the maze of committees and sub-committees which at first bewilder the new recruit. He was followed by Dr Frank Margison (then Chairman of the Collegiate Trainees Committee), who spoke about the way in which trainee representation occurs within the College and the nature of the links with other bodies such as the BMA, the HJSC and the GMC. The morning was brought to a close by Dr Surya Bhate (Chairman of the Overseas Trainees Sub-committee), who presented some of the difficulties encountered by groups of overseas trainees.

The afternoon began with Dr Simon Baugh (St James' Hospital) introducing a video presentation of 'Formulation Technique'. The discussion which followed centred around a concept of formulation not as a rigid scheme requiring close adherence, but as an adaptable framework for the critical presentation of clinical material. With regard to the Membership Examination, there was general agreement that some formal teaching with supervised case practice is desirable, but often difficult to obtain for trainees working away from teaching centres.

For the final part of the day the meeting split into three groups. The areas for discussion were manpower considerations, training and education and the Membership Examination. In the final plenary session the group leaders summarized the views expressed and more general comment was invited. It was apparent that the majority of trainees

wanted to discuss the examination and the current reform proposals. There was a split in opinion as to whether the MRCPsych should signify the accumulation of a certain amount of knowledge or whether it should be an indicator of an individual having achieved a level of experience and competence sufficient to qualify him for admission to higher training. Those holding the former view supported the suggestion that the examination could be taken after only two years in psychiatry, however, the danger of creating a two-tier system of 'early' and 'late' exam takers was felt to be a real one. Those in favour of tying the membership to general professional training, with a minimum requirement of three years' clinical experience before sitting, also voiced interest in a continuous assessment procedure.

With regard to the content of the examination, there was general approval of the emphasis of the Preliminary Test being shifted away from the basic sciences to include a clinical component. The possibility of video-taping or viewing candidates in the Membership met with anxious looks, chiefly on the grounds that the clinical part of the examination may often resemble an interrogation rather than a clinical interview, and would hardly present a true picture of clinical ability. The notion of standardization of examiners met with grunts of approval.

There was general satisfaction expressed with the level of teaching and training. Some trainees felt that they would welcome more direct, even unfavourable, comments from their Psychiatric Tutors. The working of the College Approval Panel appeared to be well understood, and most trainees had been involved in visits at some time.

A particular difficulty experienced by most trainees on entry to psychiatry is a lack of access to information about the organization and representation of juniors, this being again most acute in peripheral hospitals. One suggestion was that an information pack containing the necessary details