

Minutes

The minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting held at the Clarendon Lecture Theatre, Medical School, University of Leeds on 5 April 1989, were approved and signed.

Registrar's report

The College has been occupied over the summer months with producing a number of documents in response to requests from both inside and outside the College.

The Spokes Inquiry was convened to look into the care and after-care of Sharon Campbell following the tragic murder of a social worker, Elizabeth Schwarz. The Inquiry recommended that the College be invited to publish a document on good practice for the discharge and after-care of patients discharged from in-patient psychiatric treatment. A document on good medical practice has been produced by a working party. It was then circulated within the College and the helpful suggestions from the sections and groups incorporated into the final version. This document will now be circulated by the Department of Health to the professional bodies representing the different members of multidisciplinary teams including nursing, social work, psychology, occupational therapy and pharmacy. It has already been sent to general practitioners.

The Mental Health Act Commission in its Second Biennial Report referred to a list of issues upon which the Commission would be focusing over the coming two years. The following two Working Groups were convened to prepare the College's view on these concerns.

A working group representing the sections for mental handicap, old age psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry was invited by the Executive and Finance Committee to prepare a College policy statement on the treatment of patients incapable of giving consent and the restraint and detention of patients who are not subject to compulsory orders. The report of this working group has just been approved by Council.

Another working party was convened to produce the *Guidelines to Good Practice in the Use of Behavioural Treatments*. These had been considered in the past as a controversial issue. Their report is now complete.

A Special Committee has reported on Confidentiality. It is a complex issue and the working party were occupied on the production of this report for over two years. With minor amendments Council have accepted their report as a position statement.

All these reports were accepted by Council on 23 October 1989 with minor amendments and will shortly be available at a low cost to members of the College.

The College continues to maintain and express its concern about the implementation of the White Paper on the future of the National Health Service. There has been insufficient media attention to the position of the Royal Colleges concerning the welfare of patients, education of both under-graduate and post-graduate doctors and of research issues.

The Government has at last produced its response to the Griffiths Report on *Community Care*. This was studied by a working group of the College who were particularly concerned about the 'ring fencing' of money currently used for residential care. The group were also concerned for the on-going medical and social care of the severely mentally ill.

The exceptional summer produced some difficulties for the new part of the College building, on the fourth floor, which was opened just a year ago. It became excessively hot and urgent measures had to be taken to make it bearable for staff to work there.

We look forward to planning for the 150th Anniversary of the origins of the College which will occur in 1991. The College will be organising special publications and events of both a scientific and social nature.

Dr ANN GATH
Registrar

Business Meeting Notes

The President reported that Council had supported the idea of a preliminary College visit to South Africa to collect information on current psychiatric practice with regard in particular to aspects in which the College would wish to see an improvement in two years' time. Three members of the College would be involved in the initial visit planned early in the New Year. The President would report further at the Winter Quarterly Meeting in January.

The President informed the meeting that a press conference had taken place at the College following the re-admission of the All Union Association of Soviet Psychiatrists and Neurologists to the World Psychiatric Association. A site visit by the WPA Review Committee will be made within one year and if the report indicates that political abuse is continuing, a General Assembly Special Meeting will be convened to consider suspension of membership.

Eli Lilly Lecture

Professor George Winokur MD of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Iowa, will be delivering the 1990 Eli Lilly Lecture during the Winter Quarterly Meeting. Professor Winokur will be talking on 'Schizoaffective Disorder Revisited' at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 23 January 1990 in the Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, London. All Members are welcome to attend and details will have been circulated with papers for the Winter Quarterly Meeting.