

The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting, 1987

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at Kensington Town Hall, London on 28 and 29 October 1987 under the Presidency of Dr J. L. T. Birley.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was held on Thursday, 29 October 1987, attended by 64 Members of the College.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting held in the Natural Philosophy Building at The University of Aberdeen, Scotland on 8 April 1987 and published in the *Bulletin*, August 1987 were approved and signed.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR

President, ladies and gentlemen: In the three months since I last presented my Report, the College has been actively involved in many important issues. Principal amongst these has been our response to the new Mental Health Act Draft Code of Practice. Although we were given a short time in which to prepare our comments, we were able to circulate the Draft Code speedily and widely to our membership, through our Divisions, Sections and Groups and the Standing Committee of Council. The Special (Code of Practice) Committee was reconvened and it carefully considered comments as they were received at the College. The Special Committee presented its final Report to the October meeting of Council. Council considered the Report in detail and suggested various amendments. The Report has now been forwarded to the DHSS as the College's response. I should like to take this opportunity to thank members for their swift and helpful replies to our request for their views and thank the Special Committee for all its work in collating these comments and presenting them in a concise, yet detailed, form.

During the summer, the Joint Working Group of the College and the Joint Committee for Higher Psychiatric Training prepared recommendations for submission to JPAC (the Joint Planning Advisory Committee of the DHSS) on training grade numbers for Senior Registrars in Psychotherapy and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The Reports were considered by JPAC at a meeting with College representatives on 3 September. At its October meeting Council received these Reports, together with the welcome news that JPAC had approved the establishment of 16 new Senior Registrar Posts in Psychotherapy and 37 new Senior Registrar posts in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The exact distribution of these posts had yet to be decided. Council congratulated the Working Group on the successful outcome of this exercise.

Council has agreed that the discussion document on 'Community Treatment Orders' should be circulated widely to the membership of the College for comments and should also be published in the *Bulletin*. It has also been circulated to representatives of voluntary and statutory bodies. This document seeks to establish a procedure which would permit, in certain specified circumstances, compulsory treatment for patients outside hospital.

Council has established the principle that, in the event of the retirement or resignation, in a non-election year, of elected Officers of Divisions, or of their representatives on Council, Divisional Executives should elect 'acting' Officers (who might or might not be members of the Executive) to serve in the appropriate capacities until the next election year.

The Constitutional Sub-Committee has made recommendations to Council concerning the definition of a *College Specialist Section* and the establishment of representation for general psychiatry. Council agreed that a Specialist Section will normally be established only where a specific branch of psychiatry can be identified with a cadre of practising specialists, who will have acquired higher training in that specialty, and where, in the view of Council, there exists a substantial body of opinion which the College needs to consult. Council also agreed that this definition applied to general psychiatry. Council therefore endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendation that a Section for General Psychiatry should be established. This recommendation will be referred to the College's Annual General Meeting in 1988. In accordance with a recommendation from the Section for Social and Community Psychiatry, which had

been endorsed by the Executive and Finance Committee, Council agreed that the Section's new title should be 'Specialist Section for Social, Community and Rehabilitation Psychiatry'. Council considered that the new title would reflect the role played by rehabilitation psychiatry in the Section's work.

I am pleased to announce that Council elected the following new Sub-Deans for 1987/88: Dr Fiona Caldicott, in succession to Professor Andrew Sims, and Dr David Julier, in succession to Dr Kurt Schapira. Dr Jim Higgins will, of course, continue as Sub-Dean.

Council agreed that a document prepared by the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section, summarising concerns about the implementation of the Education Act 1981, should be forwarded to the DHSS and the Department of Education and Science and should be published in the *Bulletin*.

Representatives of the College and of the Department of Health and Social Security met for their Annual Meeting on 20 October, at the DHSS. The College contributed three major agenda items: the regulation and funding of community care, confidentiality, and alcohol-related issues. College representatives had prepared briefing documents in support of each item. The Department will forward its report of the meeting in due course.

With the help of its public relations advisers, the College has continued with its various initiatives on the many problems associated with dependence on alcohol and other drugs. In September the President wrote to the Home Office expressing the College's concern at the Government proposals to extend the licensing hours in England and Wales. I am pleased to report that Dr Bruce Ritson was invited to present evidence to the Ministerial working group on alcohol, headed by the Lord Privy Seal. I understand that the recent Panorama programme called 'Our Favourite Drug' had been strongly influenced by the College's press conference on 'Alcohol and Young People'. There will be a Consensus Meeting on Alcohol on 6 November at the College. If consensus is achieved at this meeting, the College will be issuing a press statement. The College's report on drugs and drug dependence, entitled *Drug Scenes*, will be launched at a major press conference on 19 November.

Finally I should like to report that work on the fourth floor extension, which will house the Public Education Department, the *Journal* and other offices, begins this month. The work should be completed by summer next year. In the meantime, staff working on the third floor will be temporarily accommodated in the Members' Room, the Research Unit and the second floor General Office. I should like to extend my particular thanks to members of staff, whose co-operativeness and good humour have ensured that the move has been accomplished with the least possible disruption to the working life of the College.

PROFESSOR R. G. PRIEST
Registrar

Introduction of Honorary Fellow

Professor Nigel Walker was unable to attend the Annual Meeting in July 1987 and was presented at this meeting.

Professor Nigel David Walker (introduced by Professor John Gunn)

It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce to you today a man who is both a distinguished academic social scientist of international repute and someone who has enhanced psychiatry by his interest and his studies in our discipline, Professor Nigel Walker.

If there should be anyone who is unaware of Professor Walker's academic distinction let them briefly peruse his curriculum vitae. He began his education in China, yes China, at the Tianjin Grammar School where his father was Consul. Tianjin, formerly Tientsin, is also famous for the education of Chou En Lai, irrelevant, I think, but interesting. Unlike Chou, Nigel Walker continued his education at the Edinburgh Academy and completed it in the formal sense at Christchurch, Oxford. Nigel Walker holds no less than five Doctorates. One is in philosophy, two are in letters, and he has two honorary doctorates in law. The acquisition of the PhD from Edinburgh university after he had finished his formal education, conducted, as he puts it in his 'spare time', gives a hint as to why we are embracing Professor Walker in our College today. The thesis was on the concept of the unconscious.

In fact Nigel Walker did not start life as an academic; he began as a civil servant in the Scottish Office in 1939 where he stayed, apart from army service, until 1961 when he left at the age of 44 to take up the post of Director of the Penal Research Unit at Nuffield College, Oxford. For 12 years he taught and researched at Nuffield until in 1973 he became the Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge. He was Director of the Institute between 1973 and 1981.

His first admitted foray into the written word was a poem called 'Delphi' which won the Oxford Chancellor's Prize for Latin Poems, and that was published in 1936. Was that the beginning of an interest in psychiatry I ask myself? Certainly the dual interest in psychiatry and criminology was evident by the time he was working at the Scottish Office. By 1957 he had written a short history of psychotherapy which has been translated into two foreign languages, and at that time (remember he was working in his 'spare time' for his PhD) he was producing articles for *The Listener* on hypnosis, on theories of psychoanalysis, and on science and the Freudian unconscious.

Nigel Walker's best known writing has been in the field of criminology and it has made a major impact on criminology teaching in this country. Recently he was President of the British Society of Criminology. However Nigel Walker does not write exclusively for criminologists. He is eclectic and writes books which find themselves on the shelves of lawyers, doctors, social workers, and interested laymen. Several of his books are now regarded as classics in their

field. *Crime and Punishment in Britain* is still used as a textbook of criminology; two volumes, one written with Sarah McCabe, on *Crime and Insanity in England*, still give by far the best historical and empirical account of that topic. No forensic psychiatrist could begin to study his subject without reading these books. His latest book on *Sentencing, Theory, Law, and Practice* is yet another *tour de force* and will, no doubt, also become required reading. In his so-called retirement he is writing further books.

Outside this country he has been honoured with Visiting Professorships at Berkeley, Yale, Stockholm, and Cape Town.

Nigel's calm rationalism, tempered with humanity, has had a considerable impact on the sentencing debate in Britain. For 10 years he was on the Home Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Penal System, and many psychiatrists will know his very considerable contribution to the Butler Report on Mentally Abnormal Offenders.

Another strong theme to Nigel Walker's work has been probation and social work. He chaired the Home Secretary's Advisory Council on Probation and After-Care between 1972 and 1978; for four years he was President of the National Association of Probation Officers.

I cannot be quite sure when I first met Nigel Walker. I think it was probably on the telephone, if you see what I

mean, when as an incredulous young researcher I was requested in a polite and deferential way by Nigel to play the role of expert while he gleaned a few more facts for his latest review.

Nigel is a man without pomposity, of considerable wit and charm, a man who always underestimates his own contributions. One of the things which endeared me to him before I even knew him came from the blurb of one of his books which pointed out that he was running a joint class of prisoners and graduate students in Oxford prison discussing sentencing policy!

Perhaps my warmest memories of Nigel will remain for the time during the three years he and I spent on a Howard League committee set up to discuss dangerousness which was chaired by Jean Floud, who was then Principal of Newnham College. Saturdays spent in delightful surroundings in stimulating company with superb cuisine reassured me that the academic life had its compensations after all. One of those very considerable compensations is discourse and fellowship with Nigel Walker.

Mr President I have the honour to introduce to the Honorary Fellowship of this College, Nigel David Walker, Emeritus Professor at the University of Cambridge, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws, Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Letter to the President

DEAR DR BIRLEY

It was a pleasure and an honour to be with you and your colleagues at the Royal College of Psychiatrists meeting in London in October. It was a very special honour for me to receive the Certificate for my Fellowship in the College and I am most appreciative.

I was also pleased to hear that the College continues its strong stand and excellent work against the use of psychiatry for political purposes. I am confident that without the work of organisations like the College I would not be free today. We must continue to work for major changes in

the Soviet Union and not settle for cosmetic revisions made to satisfy the West.

Thank you again for all of the support that you and the College have given to me and to my colleagues and friends in the Soviet Union. I look forward to working with you in the future.

ANATOLY KORYAGIN

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