

mentally handicapped men are a shaming indictment of our inability to translate our ideologies into practice at the point where they matter. It tells of the progressive policies of management floundering on the blunted sensibilities of an over-worked nursing staff rendered immune by their situation, of good intentions worn down by the sheer enormity of the task and of uncomplaining patients caught up in a system of which they know no different.

Why in an age of apparent enlightenment, ten years after Ely, amidst a mounting pile of reports and recommendations, when so many improvements in services for the mentally handicapped are a matter of common sense and humanity, are we failing to make the expected progress. The senior author, a psychologist, sees the subnormality hospital as the microcosm of society's attitudes towards the mentally handicapped and in a penetrating analysis cites prejudices rooted deep in the history of their segregation, inter-pro-

fessional rivalry and resistance from the medical and nursing professions as the main barriers to reform. It is, of course, all of these and more. Of equal importance are difficulties of transforming one system of care into another, inadequate funding, and above all our failure to establish an unequivocal national policy.

But to regard these two books as entirely indicative of the present scene would be to be too despondent. The past decade has seen the agonizing and as yet incomplete evolution of a new philosophy of care; throughout the country the beginnings of a new service have been emerging—albeit falteringly. It is to this new growth that we must look for the real evidence of progress.

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## *The College*

### *The College's Medals and Prizes*

#### *Gaskell Medal and Prize*

In addition to the medal the award attached to this prize is £150. The annual examination for the prize will be held in April or May 1981. Entries should be sent in by 31 March 1981.

The Prize has always been considered one of the foremost academic distinctions obtainable in clinical psychiatry, and members are asked to bring it to the notice of suitable candidates at their hospitals who may be eligible to compete.

Full particulars of the Regulations are given below, and entry forms may be obtained on application to the Dean.

#### REGULATIONS

The examination must be held in England according to the terms of the Trust.

Candidates must produce evidence of (a) having been qualified officers in one or more psychiatric hospitals or clinics in psychiatry in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in the Commonwealth or in the Republic of Ireland for at least two years; (b) having passed the M.R.C.Psych. examination or possessing any other degree or diploma in psychological medicine.

Candidates must be over 23 and under 35 years of age on 1 January of the year of the examination.

The examination includes a written paper, a clinical and an oral.

An entry fee of £5 is charged, returnable to bona fide candidates.

#### *Research Prize and Bronze Medal*

A College Prize is awarded for Research and the winner receives the College Bronze Medal.

The value of the prize is £150. A limit of two such prizes will be awarded each year. No prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

The Examiners for the Research Prize are nominated jointly by the Court of Electors and Research Committee.

Entrance for the Prize is limited to Members (or Inceptors) of the College below the rank of Consultant Psychiatrist (or equivalent).

Reports of research carried out by candidates for the Prize should be submitted to the Dean by 31 March of each year. Reports received after this date will be accepted as entries for the Prize for the following year.

#### *Laughlin Prize*

This prize is awarded to the candidate who obtains the highest marks and the best recommendation from the Examiners in the Membership Examination. The prize is awarded twice a year after the Spring and Autumn Examinations. The value of the prize is currently £50.