

The College

Autumn Quarterly Meeting 1990

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at Kensington Town Hall, London W8 on 24 and 25 October 1990 under the Presidency of Professor A. C. P. Sims.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on Thursday, 25 October 1990, attended by 38 Members of the College

Minutes

The minutes of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting held in the Sandringham Room, Birmingham Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham on 10, 11 and 12 July 1990 were approved and signed.

Registrar's Report

Members of the College will remember that a Report on the 'Discharge and Aftercare of Vulnerable Patients' was produced by the College in response to the Spokes Inquiry following the murder of Isabel Schwarz by a patient Sharon Campbell. Council recently decided that the guidelines in the report were no longer workable in the present situation and it has been decided to look at the problem afresh and produce a further document that will make recommendations operable under the Health Service, now and in the future.

A preliminary visit to South Africa by three representatives from the College took place in February this year and their report was presented to Council. The report is available and a summary will be printed in the *Bulletin*. A subsequent visit it planned for 1992.

Public Education Committee have produced a plan for a public awareness campaign on depression with a working title 'Depression, Define it, Defeat it'.

The funding to start the campaign, which will later be self-funded, has been agreed by Council.

The College has been looking critically at sponsorship of meetings in response to an EEC directive questioning the involvement of the pharmaceutical industry in medical education. New guidelines have been made out by the College and these, with the evidence that was sent to members of the European Parliament, are available if members would like to write to the College.

In the November *Bulletin*, an explanation of the General Medical Council's Register of Specialists will be given and the procedure outlined for registration as T(Psych). It will be up to members themselves to contact the General Medical Council if they wish to be registered as such. All consultants appointed through the usual procedure would be eligible for this status, as would senior registrars who have completed four years of higher training.

Following the report of the Special Committee on 'Ethnic Issues' a Special Careers Counselling Committee has been set up to advise those who are concerned about their future in psychiatry, particularly in relation to ethnic issues.

The College has as yet little of the pomp of some of our sister Colleges. However, in response to considerable demand, it has been decided, by Council, that there should be a ceremony to welcome new Fellows at the Annual General Meeting. At present the Fellows are invited to come to the Annual Dinner as guests of the College but there is no particular ceremony. Many make considerable efforts to come to this first annual meeting after their election and it was considered that it would be very nice to mark the occasion with a ceremony. This will take place for the first time this July.

We are striving to adopt a greener image. As part of our efforts, we are trying to prevent waste and would be grateful if you would return your badges at the end of the meeting so they can be re-cycled for the meetings scheduled to celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 1991.

Dr ANN GATH
Registrar