

## The College

### Autumn Quarterly Meeting 1991

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at Kensington Town Hall, London W8 on 23 and 24 October 1991 under the Presidency of Professor A. C. P. Sims.

#### *Business Meeting*

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, 23 October 1991, attended by 14 Members of the College.

#### *Minutes*

The minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting held at the University of Leicester on 17 April 1991 were approved and signed.

#### *Registrar's Report*

Following the highlights of the Annual General Meeting to celebrate 150th Anniversary in July, the College has been continuing with work along a broad range of activities.

At last the long awaited guidelines to 'Good Medical Practice in Discharge and Aftercare on Vulnerable Patients' has been through Council for the third time after amendments from the general practitioners, psychologists and other members of the College had been included and discussions held over a wide area of other disciplines. The document will be sent to all members in early December.

The Children Act became law on 14 October, but still draft guidance documents have been passing through, with short deadlines, for comment. After 25 of these it is believed that we are near the end but despite implementation of the Act, there are still

issues to be discussed, particularly between the different legislations encountered by psychiatrists. One overlap area that can easily turn into a gap between services is the area between the operation of the Mental Health Act and the Children Act. A small working party convened by the Public Policy Committee has been set up to look at this area and in particular to look at situations where young people are incarcerated, usually for behavioural and social reasons but who may have psychiatric needs and may well benefit from the protection that could be afforded by the Mental Health Act. Alternatively, the applications of the Children Act, particularly as regards quality of parenting, is of interest to a wide range of specialities.

Forensic issues following the adverse reports, particularly concerning psychiatric patients in prison, take up much time but this is concentrated particularly on the working party chaired by Dr John Reed, who is, of course, a former community psychiatrist and Fellow of this College, at the Department of Health.

Audit is now an accepted part of the life of every doctor, including all psychiatrists. The College's own audit exercise on ECT has shown us clearly where improvements need to be made. A special committee set up by Council will see that the recommendations are implemented in the shortest possible time.

In response to the massive changes occurring with the health service, there is a working party already in operation with the Faculty of Public Health, looking at ways in which purchasers may be advised to ensure the higher standards of psychiatric practice.

PROFESSOR ANN GATH  
*Registrar*

## Prizes, Medals and Travelling Fellowships of The Royal College of Psychiatrists

#### *Gaskell Medal and Prize*

This Prize was instituted in 1886 and is named after Samuel Gaskell, Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Lancaster.

The Prize was established from a Trust Fund in memory of Dr Gaskell, but it is now supported almost entirely from College funds. It has increased in value over the years and now stands at £500, although the medal, originally gold, is now silver-

gilt. Many of its holders have achieved distinction in psychiatry.

The Prize has always been considered one of the foremost academic distinctions 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.

Entry forms may be obtained on application to the Dean and should be completed and returned by 31 March 1992. An entry fee of £30.00 is charged, returnable to *bona fide* candidates. The annual examination for the Prize is held in May or June and includes a written paper, a clinical and an oral.

### Regulations

Candidates must (a) have been qualified medical officers in one or more mental hospitals or clinics in psychiatry in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in the British Commonwealth for at least two years; (b) have passed the MRCPsych Examination or an equivalent qualification within the last four years.

### Research Prize and Bronze Medal

The Bronze Medal was instituted in 1882 as an award for a dissertation on a clinical or pathological subject related to mental disorder, submitted to the examiners by a medical officer below consultant status. It was usually published at a later date in the *Journal of the RMPA* and, latterly, the *Royal College of Psychiatrists*. In 1978 the Court of Electors agreed that there should be a new College prize to replace the Bronze Medal and Prize and also the Divisional Prizes which had been available until that time.

The Prize is now worth £500 and the recipient receives a bronze medal. An opportunity may be given to recipients to report their research at a Quarterly Meeting of the College, subject to approval by the Programmes and Meetings Committee. The number of entrants is usually small. Nevertheless, the standard of topics is high and there have been a number of notable names among the winners.

The Prize may only be awarded to Members or Inceptors of the College below the rank of consultant psychiatrist or equivalent at the time the research is submitted. Research involving collaboration between workers, whether psychiatrists or in other disciplines, may be submitted, but the Prize may be shared between no more than two eligible psychiatrists. In each instance where collaborative research is submitted there should be a clear indication of which parts of the research were undertaken by each worker and a statement to this effect signed by all collaborating workers must be submitted.

The research should be presented in the form of an essay or dissertation with accompanying tables or figures and should not normally exceed 10,000 words

(including tables, references and appendices). A collection of articles will not be accepted as a submission for the Research Prize, but work already published or submitted for a higher degree may be included in the submission if it is incorporated into the essay or dissertation.

The examiners for the Research Prize will be nominated jointly by the Court of Electors and the Research Committee. No prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

Entries 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 the following year.

### Brian Oliver Prize in Mental Handicap Psychiatry

The Prize was established in 1991, from funds donated in memory of the late Dr Brian Oliver, who had been a member of the Mental Handicap Section's Executive Committee and, at the time of his death, was Honorary Secretary of the Mental Handicap Psychiatry Specialist Advisory Committee.

The Brian Oliver Prize is awarded annually under the auspices of the Royal College of Psychiatrists for research in mental handicap psychiatry. Submissions may take the form of an original piece of work or a literature review. The value of the Prize is £500.

Applicants may be trainees in psychiatry (SHOs, registrars or senior registrars) or consultants in psychiatry (within three years of their first consultant appointment). Research involving collaboration between workers, whether psychiatrists or in other disciplines, may be submitted, but the Prize may be shared between no more than two eligible applicants. In each instance where collaborative research is submitted, there should be a clear indication of which parts of the research were undertaken by each worker and a statement to this effect signed by all collaborating workers must be submitted.

Applicants are required to submit, at an early stage, a short summary (between 200 and 500 words) of their proposed submissions for approval by the examiners for the Prize, to ensure that their work falls within the scope of the award.

The research may be presented in the form of an essay or dissertation. Submissions, which may include figures and tables, should not exceed 10,000 words. A concise *curriculum vitae*, together with a list of appropriate publications, should accompany each application.

Recipients of the Prize may be invited to present a report at a Scientific Meeting of the Specialist Section for Mental Handicap Psychiatry.

The examiners for the Prize will be the Dean, the Chairman of the Research Committee and two assessors appointed by the Mental Handicap Section.

No Prize will be awarded if a sufficient standard is not reached.

Entries for the Prize should be submitted to the Dean by 31 March 1992. Preliminary proposals should be submitted to the Dean by 31 January 1992.

### *Laughlin Prize*

This Prize was awarded to the College in 1979 by Dr Henry P. Laughlin, founder and first President of the American College of Psychiatrists. Dr Laughlin was elected Corresponding Member of the RMPA in 1961 and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1976. He has always been a warm friend of British psychiatry and has attended a number of Annual Meetings.

The Prize is awarded to the candidate(s) who obtains the highest marks and the best recommendation from the Examiners in the MRCPsych Examinations. The Prize is awarded twice a year after the Spring and Autumn Examinations and its value is currently £250.

### *Lilly Travelling Fellowship*

This Fellowship, value £7,750, is open to Members of the College working in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland who are of senior registrar or lecturer grade or equivalent, or are consultants within three years of their first consultant appointment.

The award is intended to cover expenses for travel abroad, to one or two centres, for a period of not less than three months, in pursuit of further study, research or clinical training relevant to the applicant's current interests. Applicants should include a *curriculum vitae*, a statement of current interests and planned study abroad, with supporting statements from the proposed host centre and the names of two referees; and confirmation from the applicant's employing authority that study leave would be granted if the applicant was successful.

Applications should be sent to the Dean of the College by 30 April 1992.

### *Morris Markowe Public Education Prize*

This Prize was established in 1989 from funds donated in memory of the late Dr Morris Markowe, Honorary Fellow, and Registrar of the Royal College of Psychiatrists from 1972–1978.

The Public Education Prize will be awarded annually for an article on a psychiatric topic of approximately 1000 words, suitable for publication in a regional newspaper, lay journal, the paramedical press or a general practitioners' magazine. At the time of submission, the article(s) submitted must not have been published previously.

Entries will be judged for topicality and newsworthiness by designated members of the College's Public Education Committee, and a Prize of £200 will be awarded for the successful entry.

The Prize may only be awarded to Members or Inceptors of the College below the rank of consultant or equivalent at the time the entry is submitted.

Entries for the Prize should be submitted to Professor B. Pitt, Public Education Officer, at the College, by 1 May of each year.

### *Natalie Cobbing Travelling Fellowship*

*(Psychiatry of Mental Handicap)*

A Fellowship (value £2,000) will be awarded every two years by the Royal College of Psychiatrists to further the training of specialists in this branch of psychiatry by enabling them to extend their experience with travel to appropriate centres overseas.

Applicants must submit an account of their previous experience in this field and a reasoned account of their training needs and how the subject might benefit from their use of the Fellowship. They must also submit evidence in the form of published or unpublished work that they would be an appropriate recipient of the Fellowship.

1. All applicants must possess the MRCPsych.
2. All applicants must be working in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.
3. Applicants may be of senior registrar or consultant status within three years of appointment.
4. Applicants must submit:
  - (i) a *curriculum vitae*
  - (ii) the names of two referees
  - (iii) a proposal as to how they might spend their time, with confirmation, if possible, from their host centre(s) abroad
  - (iv) an account of original research, published or unpublished papers or reviews in the field of mental handicap or psychiatry

In the case of joint research, the exact contribution of each author must be made clear.

5. Successful candidates will be expected to submit a short report to the College on their use of the Fellowship.
6. The awards will be made by a panel consisting of the Dean and two assessors nominated by the President and Chairman of the Mental Handicap Section respectively.
7. In the event of none of the applications being of a satisfactory standard, no award will be made.
8. Applications submitted after 31 March 1992 will be taken as applications for the following Fellowship.

### *President's Essay Prize*

The President's Essay Prize was offered for the first time in 1991, as part of the College's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

The Prize, value £200, will be offered for an essay of 2,000–3,000 words. The topic for 1992 is the stigma of mental illness and what should be done about it.

Applicants are expected to include a critical review of current relevant literature and on this to base some original comments and conclusions.

Entry is open to all Members of, or Associates with, the College\*, without restrictions as to age or seniority. Entrants should include a brief *curriculum vitae* and send their submissions to the President, at the College, by 31 March 1992.

Judges for the Prize will be the President, the Dean and the Chairman of the Public Policy Committee.

**\*"Members of, Associates with, the College" means that applications can be received from "registered Members and Fellows of the College" as well as the "registered Affiliates, Honorary Fellows, Correspond-**

**ing Fellows, Corresponding Associates, Inceptors, New Affiliates and New Associates".**

### *The Peter Scott Memorial Scholarship*

The Peter Scott Memorial Scholarship is awarded from funds subscribed in memory of the late Peter Scott, CBE, and is awarded biennially.

The Scholarship is intended to encourage young doctors or medical students to further their studies in the field of forensic psychiatry or delinquency by enabling them to carry out research, to travel, to write, to complete a research project or to suggest any other relevant activity. The value of the Scholarship is up to £1,000, and any member of the medical profession, or medical student(s) may apply. More than one Scholarship may be awarded.

Application forms are obtainable from the Education Department at the College and should be completed and returned by 31 March 1992. The successful candidate(s) will be required to supply a subsequent report and may be asked to present a paper at a meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

*Psychiatric Bulletin* (1992), 16, 56–57

## Appointment of consultant locums

Problems have arisen from the appointment to locum consultant posts of doctors who have been insufficiently trained or experienced to be appointed to a substantive consultant post. Problems arising from the appointment of locums have been compounded by legislation making it more difficult to employ doctors indefinitely in posts without apparent security of tenure. For these reasons the Court of Electors of the Royal College of Psychiatrists has considered the principles to be observed in making appointments to locum consultant posts and has made the following recommendations.

1. No doctor should be appointed to a short-term locum consultant post who has not been sufficiently trained to assume all the responsibilities of a consultant. This limits those eligible to:
  - (a) recently retired consultants
  - (b) senior registrars within a short time of completion of training for whom only three months locum consultant experience is recognised for the purposes of higher training
  - (c) fully trained senior registrars or others suitably qualified and experienced, who are not yet ready to commit themselves to a permanent consultant post, or who would never wish to do so

- (d) those trained under other comparable systems recognised by the College (e.g. overseas) but whose training has not necessarily been identical in form and content.
2. The criteria of eligibility for appointment to consultant status produced by the College are respected by employing authorities (with statutory support) and are designed to provide acceptable standards for the safety and care of patients. It would therefore be wrong to waive them for short-term appointments. A statement of these criteria is sent to all College Representatives on Advisory Appointments Committees.
3. These guidelines should apply to all locum posts. Where it is anticipated that the locum arrangement will last for more than three months a full Advisory Appointments Committee should be convened.
 

If the locum arrangement has lasted for more than three months an Advisory Appointment Committee should be convened to decide whether the arrangement should continue. Locum arrangements should not normally be continued beyond three months unless there are explicit and defined reasons.
4. No appointment should be confirmed until the local consultants or their representatives have