

The College library

Work on establishing the College library began in 1980 when the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's book collection was unpacked some six years after the move to Belgrave Square.

Although, initially, emphasis was placed on the historical and antiquarian element of the library (Daniel Hack Tuke's bequest forming the core of the collection) it soon became apparent that there was a demand for other library facilities, particularly an information service to meet the requirements of the public and media, as well as College members and staff. Despite restrictions of space, the library now includes a current collection of mental health and psychiatry books as well as journals, pamphlets and official publications. There is a small reference collection of dictionaries, directories and handbooks, including general reference materials.

The College library is open to all Fellows, Members and Inceptors of the College. Most books may be borrowed, although antiquarian works, reference books and journals are not loaned. A free photocopying service to Members is offered. The library is open from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Computers

Using the College's ICL system 25, we have created an extensive bank of data relating to College policy matters. A printed register of the main College policy documents is planned for 1989.

We have recently taken delivery of a new IBM PS/2 80 with a view to extending our information services. We have already produced a register of psychiatric associations in other countries, and other projects in progress include the computerisation of the College Annual and Council meetings and a new reading list for trainees.

The early history of the office of honorary librarian

1988 marked the 60th anniversary of the official appointment of the first honorary librarian. The College Archivist, Margaret Harcourt Williams, prepared the following notes for the Library Committee meeting last October:

The first formal suggestion that the College (then the Medico-Psychological Association) should have its own library was made in 1864 when the then

President, Henry Monro, recommended that the Association should have a London headquarters and a library. There is no record of any action taken on this suggestion and the next recommendation made about two years later that founding a library would be an appropriate use for the Association's surplus funds did not lead to any action either. However, in the mid-1890s the Association received both a bequest of books from Daniel Hack Tuke and a gift of books from Charles Lockhart Robertson. At the annual meeting in 1896 the organisation of a library was discussed at length and a library committee of Henry Rayner, Fletcher Beach and Henry MacEvoy appointed. Dr Rayner asked for £15 for book repair and cataloguing and was told he could have "£10 to go on with".

In 1895 the Association had moved into rooms belonging to the Medical Society of London at 11 Chandos Street and the librarian of the Medical Society took over responsibility for the day to day running of the Association's library. This arrangement seems to have been satisfactory.

The first reference to the office of librarian is in the minutes of the Council meeting of May 1902. The library committee recommended that a librarian should be appointed "who should manage the library in respect to binding, cataloguing and the recommendation of new books for purchase, subject to the approval of the library committee". However, once again no action was taken, and although the minutes of the 1904 annual meeting record the appointment of Robert Cole as honorary librarian in place of Seymour Tuke there is no reference to Tuke's own appointment. Cole himself does not seem to have developed a role as the Association's librarian, for the bye-laws were not altered to include him among the Officers and in the list of members of the library committee he appears as the secretary or as an ordinary member. Despite this in 1904 the library was described as one of the most useful parts of the Association, with about 1,000 books and members were urged to meet the appeals of the library committee for more books in "an intelligent and liberal spirit".

Until the mid-1920s library committee reports were presented to Council and annual meetings by the secretary of the committee and record details of book purchase and circulation, accommodation, storage and finance. At the May 1927 Council meeting the then President, J. R. Lord, proposed that the bye-laws should be altered to allow the appointment

of an honorary librarian. J. R. Whitwell was appointed as acting honorary librarian until the necessary alterations could be made and he was confirmed as the Association's first honorary librarian at the November 1928 council meeting, a statement which was greeted with loud applause.

Victorian asylums

At the suggestion of Dr T. Turner and with the assistance of Mr C. Priest, photographer, the library is initiating a project to photograph interesting Victorian asylums. We have obtained funds to photograph 20 hospitals in the South-East and hope to extend the work in the future. We welcome Members' suggestions of hospitals with interesting architectural features.

Donations to the library

We are grateful to the members of the College who continue to donate their works to the library. During the past six months the following books have been received:

- Professor P. J. V. Beumont *Handbook of Eating Disorders. Part I: Anorexia & Bulimia Nervosa*
 Dr S. Bhanji *Medical Aspects of Anorexia Nervosa*
 Dr N. Bouras *Mental Handicap and Mental Health: A Community Service*
 Dr J. Bowlby *A Secure Base*
 Dr P. Bruggen *Helping Families: Systems, Residential & Agency Responsibility; Surviving Adolescence: A Handbook for Adolescents and Their Parents*
 Dr A. Burns *MCQs and Short Notes in Psychiatry*
 Professor G. N. Christodoulou *Psychosomatic Medicine, Past and Present*
 Dr R. I. Cohen *Student Psychiatry To-Day: A Comprehensive Textbook*
 Dr M. Cox *Mutative Metaphors in Psychotherapy*
 Dr G. Davies *Stress: The Challenge to Christian Caring*
 Dr S. J. M. Fernando *Race & Culture in Psychiatry*
 Dr C. Freeman *MCQs For Psychiatric Studies*
 Drs A. H. Ghodse and I. Khan *Psychoactive Drugs: Improving Prescribing Practices*

- Dr P. Hall *Perspectives in Psychiatry: The Worcester Lectures*
 Dr K. Hazell *Emotional Stress, Mortality & Expression of Primitive Human Instincts in a Changing World*
 Dr S. C. Hollins *Going Somewhere*
 Dr F. Holloway *Community Care in Practice*
 Dr J. Howells *Modern Perspectives in Clinical Psychiatry, Vol. 10*
 Dr L. L. Iversen *Cognitive Neurochemistry*
 Dr A. H. Jaques *Understanding Dementia*
 Professor R. E. Kendell *Companion to Psychiatric Studies*
 Professor M. Lader *The Psychopharmacology of Addiction*
 Dr P. McKeon *Pocket Examiner in Psychiatry; Coping With Depression & Elation; Multiple Choice Questions in Psychiatry*
 Professor E. Murphy *Home or Away*
 Dr N. S. Richman *Problems of Preschool Children*
 Professor Sir Martin Roth *Handbook of Anxiety; Cambridge Examination for Mental Disorders of the Elderly (CAMDEX)*
 Professor M. Rutter *Assessment & Diagnosis in Child Psychopathology*
 Dr T. E. Sensky *Learning Psychiatry Through MCQ: A Comprehensive Text*
 Professor T. Silverstone *Drug Treatment in Psychiatry, 4th edition*
 Dr M. R. Trimble *Epilepsy, Behaviour and Cognitive Function*
 Dr J. P. Wattis *Psychological Assessment of the Elderly*
 Dr G. Wilkinson *The Scope of Epidemiological Psychiatry*

Lists and publications available from the library

- Books Suitable for a Psychiatric Library 1983-87 (£2)*
Hospital Histories in the College Library
Hospital Inquiries in the College Library
List of Journals in the College Library
Psychiatric Associations of the World (£1.50)

SUSAN FLOATE
 Librarian