

dards of training in all parts of Britain and Ireland. The amended reports are then considered by the Court of Electors before a final recommendation or Approval grading is made, which is then forwarded to the hospital or unit concerned with a report written jointly by the Convenor and Dean.

The role of the Convenor provides both himself and panel members with a valuable and informative insight into teaching and clinical practice in a wide range of psychiatric hospitals and units, considerable organizational experience,

useful acquaintance with the procedure of College business, and a crash course in tactful relationships with colleagues. Despite the demands on time, the Convenors and their panel members will generally agree that involvement in the Approval Exercise is a worthwhile, enlightening and enjoyable experience.

A. M. GORDON,  
Convenor,  
Chiltern and Thames Valley Division

## ***Number Seventeen***

By ALEXANDER WALK

In my article 'Arrival in Belgrave Square' (*News and Notes*, June 1975), I promised that a future issue would contain a description of the College's new headquarters and of the way the house was being adapted for our use. It has taken over four years for the arrangement of the house to be sufficiently settled for the promise to be kept, and even now, as will be seen, further changes and developments are underway.

Number Seventeen is typical of the stuccoed post-Regency mansions intended for a wealthy aristocratic clientele. The entrance has a classical portico and the front door is a decorative iron grille on frosted glass. The house has four floors, and a noble staircase ascends from the ground to the second floor. The ground and first floors, which contain what were the principal reception rooms, have service extensions towards the back of the house, connected by winding back stairs. The basement runs the whole length of the house and emerges nearly at ground level at the back. Here, in what one might call the garden, is a one-storey building which is the caretaker's flat, and beyond a fence is a Mews House fronting Belgrave Mews West.

Entering the front hall the visitor will find the reception area and telephone switchboard by the foot of the main staircase. On the left is the ground floor reception area, which is capable of being used as a single hall or partitioned into two rooms. This may in the future constitute a Lecture or Meeting Hall holding about 120 people, but for the time being one room houses the College's first research project and the other some of the office staff.

The broad carpeted main staircase leads to the two principal 'state rooms'. Facing the square is the Council Chamber, where the decorative coloured wall panelling fortunately matches the furniture brought from Chandos House. Here the Council, Court of Electors and large Committees meet in comfort, and the spacious room has also been used, together with the adjoining Library, for receptions at the time of Annual Meetings.

The second room, allocated to the Library, is well-furnished but is not yet fully operational. Before books could be brought up from their packing cases in the basement the floors of both this and the Council Chamber had to undergo extensive strengthening, and the final placing of books and journals must wait until further shelving has been provided.

The main staircase continues to the second floor, more conveniently reached by lift. Here at the front of the house is the President's room, elegantly furnished by generous donations during the Presidency of Professor Linford Rees; it is also used by the smaller Committees and for other small gatherings. Adjoining is the office of the College Secretary, Miss Natalie Cobbing. Further back is the general office, and that of the Assistant Secretary, Mrs Gail Lloyd, who has responsibility, among other things, for the affairs of the Divisions and Sections.

The third floor is reached by a more modest staircase or by the lift. Here is the Finance Department, served by Mr Marsh and his staff. An adjoining office is occupied by Miss Jane Boyce and her assistant, who organize the work of some of the College's most important Committees (Public Policy, Education, Research, Manpower). Here also are the offices of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, whose Editorial Secretary is Miss Jacqueline Yates, and of the College *Bulletin*, and that of the Services Manager, Mr King.

Down again and through a concealed door on the half-landing, and here we find departments created by the expanding activities of the College—the Examinations Office organized by Miss Jean Scudamore; the Approvals Office, where Mrs Jane Manley arranges the visitation of psychiatric hospitals and sees to the resulting reports; and the office of the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training, of which Mrs Carol Ross is the Administrative Secretary. By the back stairs or lift we return to the ground floor extension, which houses the basic needs of any sizeable organization. Mr J. L. Rodericks and Mr S. G. O'Malley look after membership matters both manually and



***The College Headquarters***

*(From an original drawing)*

with the aid of the new computer. Here also is the College's photocopier, addressograph (now almost obsolete), a duplicator and a new envelope labelling machine.

As we return to the front hall we pass the stairs leading to the basement, and until last month those who cared to descend would find there something like five rooms, of which one was in use as a kitchen, and sundry pantries and cupboards. Redeveloping the whole of this large area has now started, to provide some lecture accommodation, catering facilities, somewhere for members to meet, and a small staff

room. This work should be completed by the end of 1980.

One of the College's first priorities on moving to Belgrave Square was to rebuild a flat for a married couple to act as Caretaker and Housekeeper, and these posts have been very ably filled by Mr and Mrs Brooks.

The small Mews House is at present occupied by a tenant, but in a few years time it will revert to the College. Before then careful consideration will need to be given to its future, with the help, of course, of professional advice.

ALEXANDER WALK

## *The Work of a College Section*

### *Social and Community Psychiatry*

At the Annual Meeting of the College in July 1979 the Social and Community Psychiatry Group was constituted a Specialist Section.

The Group was founded in 1973. An open meeting had been held on 18 June of that year which was attended by 25 members of the College, with letters from 120 others indicating support. The first formal meeting was held in October when the Executive Committee was elected, which first met on 30 November 1973. Working Groups on 'Epidemiology', 'Organization of Services and Review of DHSS Policies' and 'Health Promotion and the Prevention of Psychiatric Illness' were set up.

The Executive Committee has met regularly to receive reports from the Working Parties and has organized a number of open meetings, as on rehabilitation at the 1978 Annual Meeting and the evaluation of services in February 1979.

In March 1977 the Executive Committee reviewed the activities of the Working Parties. The Epidemiology Working Party concluded that they had no further specific projects in hand. The Working Party on Services had been particularly concerned with commenting on papers from the DHSS, and it was agreed that this function would be needed in future. The Working Party on Preventive Psychiatry felt it would be appropriate to stop meeting as a group at this stage.

The activities of the three Working Parties have been summarized by their Chairmen as follows:

#### *Epidemiology Working Party*

Members of this Working Party addressed themselves to the issue of confidentiality of medical records. It was noted that there was a growing problem of doctors' refusal to fill in patients' names on Mental Health Enquiry forms and that this threatened the continuance of record linkage systems. A document was prepared dealing with confidentiality of

medical records and this was undertaken by Professor Wing, Dr Leff and Dr Baldwin. The document was published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, (May 1976, 128, 417-27), and was discussed by Dr Leff at the Quarterly Meeting in the same month.

#### *Working Party on Services*

This Working Party defined its role as discussing 'those aspects of services which were not specifically in the province of other Specialist Sections, although matters of common interest might be seen from different points of view'. A number of specific topics were considered, including:

- (a) The role of the psychiatrist in the Mental Health Care Planning Team. A report on this subject was published in *News and Notes* (December 1975).
- (b) The need for secure provision in the District General Hospital Psychiatric Unit. A working paper on the subject was prepared in conjunction with the Forensic Psychiatry Section.
- (c) In February 1977 a two-day symposium was held on the topic of 'Models of Community Psychiatry'.
- (d) The Working Party was responsible for the organization of sessions at College Meetings, including a session on 'Planning for Mental Health Services' at the Annual Meeting in July 1975 and jointly with the Group for the Psychiatry of Old Age at the November Quarterly Meeting in 1976.

Projects undertaken by members of the Group included preparation of a discussion document on the Relationship between the Community Psychiatrist and the General Practitioner and investigations into the Relationship between Health and Social Services and the Hospital Advisory Service Reports relating to Community Services. Comments were prepared on various official reports.

Finally, the Working Party was responsible for providing