
The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting, 1995

The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the College was held at the Riviera Centre, Torquay on 4, 5, 6, and 7 July 1995 under the Presidency of Dr Fiona Caldicott.

Scientific Meetings

The Scientific Meetings were held at the Riviera Centre, Torquay.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was held on 5 July and was chaired by Dr Caldicott. It was attended by 67 Members of the College.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Cork on 8 July 1994 and published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, December 1994, were approved and signed.

The Report of the President was received.

The Report of the Registrar and the Annual Report were received and approved.

The Report of the Treasurer and the Annual Accounts for 1994, as given in the College's Annual Report, were received and approved.

The re-appointment of the auditors, new fees and subscription rates were approved.

The Report of the Dean was received.

The Report of the Editor was received.

President's Report

The President, Dr Fiona Caldicott, welcomed members to the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the College. Dr Caldicott reported that it had been an extremely busy year for the College, particularly in view of the Secretary of State for Health's position on mental health services. The Department's ten point plan had dominated much of the work of the College, especially in relation to the supervision register.

Dr Caldicott spoke of the importance of the Chief Medical Officer's report on specialist training. The College would have a major role in the implementation of this in order that a structured training programme could be established for trainees in this country as in the rest of Europe.

The President concluded her Report by stating that she was now beginning the third year of her presidency and she had attempted to maintain a balance of activity within the

College as well as in psychiatric training and continuing education. Dr Caldicott told members that any comments would be welcomed.

Registrar's Report

The Registrar, Professor Christopher Thompson, reported that there were five members who had been included in the Queen's Birthday Honours List: Dr Rosemary Wool CB, Professor Tom Arie CBE, Professor Robert Buglass CBE, Dr Judy Greenwood OBE and Dr George Brown CBE.

Dr Fiona Caldicott had been elected Chairman of the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges, the most senior medical post in the country.

Dr Berrios had retired as the Honorary Librarian and he would be succeeded by Dr I. Pullen. It was further reported that Professor Anthony Clare had resigned from the College as Public Education Director with the Irish Government. He would be succeeded by Dr Mike Shooter.

The Psychiatry of Mental Handicap Section had changed its name to the Psychiatry of Learning Disability Section. It had been proposed that some specialist sections would in future become faculties with representatives on the Executive and Finance Committee. This issue would be considered further at the meeting of Council in October.

It had been proposed that the College should produce a report on the responsibilities of consultants in psychiatry within the NHS and the independent sector. The draft version had been generally supported and the revised version would go to the meeting of Council in October.

A joint statement of intentions has been produced by the College and the Association of Directors of Social Services on an integrated mental health service for children and adolescents. This has been recognised by Council as a great achievement.

It was noted that the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Bill 1995 has had its second reading in parliament and the Bill was currently going through the Committee stage. There had been a large number of tabled amendments, including some from this College, half of which had been accepted.

The revised criteria for the Approval of Doctors under Section 12 of the Mental Health Act (1983) had been received and accepted with one or two amendments.

There had been a proposal for the establishment of two new special interest groups: the first called Women in Psychiatry, the inaugural meeting of which would take place during the Winter Meeting of the College. The second on eating disorders, was to have its inaugural meeting during the 1995 Annual Meeting.

The regulations for the John Hamilton Travelling Fellowship have been approved. The intention was to encourage psychiatrists working in the field of forensic psychiatry to broaden their knowledge and experience through travel to recognised forensic centres.

The register of current College policy statements was being received and recommendations from committees and Sections concerning items which had reached the end of their five year currency were being obtained.

A working group of the Public Policy Committee has published a report on strategies for the management of disturbed and violent patients in hospital. The guidelines were established following the recommendation of the Ashworth Hospital Inquiry. The report sets out a model for the management of patients aimed at the prevention of violent behaviour.

Following the DoH Review of NHS Psychotherapy Services, the College's submission to the Review was endorsed. The submission had been prepared by the officers of the Psychotherapy Section with input from other specialist sections. The response contained a clear statement emphasising the integral nature of psychological therapies and the fact that psychotherapy was a fundamental part of psychiatric practice.

Council had approved the procedural arrangements, Bye-Laws and Regulations for the formation of Overseas Groups. The required number of signatures in support of the establishment of an Overseas Group in the Middle East have been received. Council agreed to this following confirmation of approval from the Privy Council which was anticipated before the summer recess (now received).

In accordance with EU Legislation, the UK Government was required to nominate the Competent Body which would be responsible for ensuring standards of postgraduate medical education and training of medical specialists. Council endorsed the recommendation that the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges should be designated as the Competent Body.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Professor I. Kolvin, informed the Meeting that he wished to focus on two themes. Previously, he had drawn attention to the financial system at the College which needed to be upgraded. He said that he was pleased to report that under the direction of Mr P. Taylor, the Finance Officer appointed last October, the systematisation and computerisation of the College's Finances was now well advanced.

However, referring to the accounts section of the 1994 Annual Report, in recent years there had not been a balance of College Income with Expenditure. Partly this was due to increased committee work in relation to changing professional circumstances, compounded by the reluctance of some Trusts to meet the expenses of committee members. Also this situation was partly due to the new initiatives in Scotland and Ireland. Such new activities were reliant on income derived from annual subscriptions. However, the funds generated by these subscriptions had not been able to keep pace with developments.

In order to remedy this situation, the Officers and senior professional staff had set in motion a series of short- and longer-term measures to control expenditure. Every facet of the College's expenditure had come under scrutiny and sensible methods of controlling expenditure, which would not damage the orderly and efficient functioning of the College, had been sought.

With regard to income, the College was currently exploring a range of income generating initiatives so that eventually the College finances could become less dependent on subscriptions. However, in the short term, it was with reluctance that the Executive and Finance Committee had endorsed one significant proposal – a more than usual increase in the level of subscription for the 1996 annual year.

Dean's Report

The Dean reported that there now seemed to be a consensus with regard to implementing the recommendations of Dr Calman's report. He thanked Professor Paykel, who was leaving office as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training, for his distinguished contribution to this office. He was being succeeded by Professor Francis Creed.

The Dean reported on the College Diploma and said that Professor Scott would be bringing options to a meeting of the Court of Electors in the Autumn.

The piloting of a College Log Book owned by trainees was underway, and the Education Committee was presently reviewing its remit in the light of changes to Postgraduate education.

He also reported on progress with the monitoring of the recommendations of the earlier Rawnsley Report on Training and the Provision of Services for Ethnic Minorities.

Editor's Report

The Editor, Professor Greg Wilkinson, reported that there were currently about 4000 paid subscriptions to the *British Journal of Psychiatry (BJP)*, 3000 of which were from overseas. There were plans to expand on an international level although there was a degree of competition with other journals of a similar type being published abroad. He said it was important that only the highest quality of work was published. The targets set for response time had now been achieved: a decision would

normally be given within three months to individuals submitting papers, and papers would be published on average six months after acceptance. In the future, it was planned to promote the journals and books on the internet, and to develop an electronic publishing programme.

The Editor thanked Dr Kerr for his continuing excellent work for the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, the *Journal of Trends of Psychiatric Practice*.

Professor Wilkinson congratulated Professor Sims, the Editor of *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, the *Journal of Continuing Professional Development (APT)* on the success of *APT* with over 1000 subscriptions. There were plans to expand the size of this journal from four articles to six per issue.

Book publications had been very successful this year, especially the *College Seminars* series. A textbook of general adult psychiatry is planned for publication next year with Professor Wilkinson and Dr G. Stein as editors.

Professor Wilkinson concluded by emphasising that the *BJP* will continue to reflect the work of psychiatric specialities.

Election and introduction of Honorary Fellows

The following were unanimously welcomed to the Honorary Fellowship

Professor Chester M. Pierce (introduced by Dr Thomas Bewley)

Professor Chester Pierce is an American born in 1927. He is a member of a family of high achievers, his brother being a member of President Reagan's Cabinet for eight years. His father, at the age of twelve, was sent by himself to New York from the Southern States to earn his living. This he did initially on the staff of the Plaza Hotel, and then, for the rest of his life, at the Glen Cove Country Club. By moving his family, with difficulty, to a white area with good public schooling, he ensured that they benefited from an excellent education, which led to Chet Pierce becoming a student at Harvard. After graduation Professor Pierce considered training as a surgeon, but

was advised that his prospects, being black, were abysmal. He therefore trained as a psychiatrist in Cincinnati. This was interrupted by two years in the US Navy (where he had further psychiatric training). He later returned to Cincinnati as a member of the Faculty. He then moved to Oklahoma for eight years, before moving to his present post at Harvard, in 1965. He holds a unique post being a Professor in three Faculties: Medicine, Public Health and the Graduate School of Education. He is also Consultant Psychiatrist to the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Professor Pierce's research has encompassed the effects of artificial and extreme environments. This interest started when he was in the Navy, where he was initially involved in recruiting people to work at the South Pole and in submarines. His biomedical research on humans and penguins in Antarctica