

## THE NEW BYE-LAWS

Members will have noted in my report to the Quarterly Meeting held on 7 February 1979 that the Privy Council has approved alterations to our Bye-laws. The most important of these refers to the creation of the Collegiate Trainees Committee. The background to this is described in Dr John Hamilton's article which follows. Collegiate Trainees include Inceptors and also Senior Trainees who have held the Membership of the College for not more than three years. Appropriate nomination papers and ballot papers have been prepared and the new Committee will have been elected by the time of the Annual Meeting in July.

The other changes to the Bye-laws are relatively minor but nevertheless important. The word 'Regional' has been dropped from the official title of the Divisions, and the Child Psychiatry Section

becomes the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section. There is now no upper age limit for entry to Inceptorship. Examiners may serve for five years (instead of the previous maximum of three years); members of Council who are examiners may now receive fees for participating in the examinations, though not for other purposes.

The process of producing new Bye-laws and having them approved by the Privy Council is lengthy and costly and requires a great deal of work and attention to detail. The College is grateful to all those who have helped. It is not likely that we will be going back to the Privy Council in the near future, but the Bye-laws will continue to be reviewed and suggestions for future changes are welcomed.

GERALD TIMBURY, *Registrar*.

## THE COLLEGIATE TRAINEES COMMITTEE

The Privy Council's acceptance of the College's request to change the Bye-laws to allow the constitution of a Collegiate Trainees Committee marks the end of a period of representation of trainees on College committees which began at the College's foundation with a mere two Affiliates on the College Council.

At that time, in 1971, there was a feeling among trainees that under the College's constitution, as insisted on by the Privy Council, this representation was inadequate. The number of Affiliates (ex-members of the RMPA who were not qualified to become Foundation Members of the College) was destined to diminish; Inceptors had no rights of representation whatsoever; the class of Inceptor itself was to end after ten years; and new Members were less likely to be successful in elections than their more senior colleagues. Trainees believed that they had something to offer and that they were after all the 'consumers' of the training activities of the College. Existing RMPA members felt they had been disenfranchised by the new structure.

Following pressure by the Association of Psychiatrists in Training, the College agreed to set up a Trainees Working Party in 1973 as a sub-committee of the Education Committee, and whilst this has functioned well in the discussion of matters affecting trainees it has been constrained in promoting its views by its low place in the College hierarchy of

committees. Furthermore, it is not a democratically elected body, representatives often being nominated *ad hoc* by a Division Secretary.

Similarly, the trainees who have been co-opted on to Standing Committees, Specialist Section Executives and Divisions' Executive Committees have been selected rather than elected, and some trainees feel they are there by 'grace' rather than right.

The new Bye-laws provide for the establishment of the Collegiate Trainees Committee as a Special Committee of Council, with direct responsibility to Council and it will therefore function as a 'Junior Council'. It will be composed of one Senior Trainee and two Inceptors elected by and from these categories in each Division; the Scottish and Irish Divisions will have two Senior Trainees and four Inceptors each. A Senior Trainee is defined as one who has passed his Membership examination and was registered as a Member not more than three years ago.

Senior Trainees and Inceptors will be the junior representatives for that Division and two of their number will sit on their Division's Executive Committee: which two of the three (or six) these are will be agreed by themselves or failing that be decided by the Division Executive. Elections of junior representatives will take place every two years; should a junior representative become a Member of the College or pass the three year period defining a Senior Trainee he will be permitted to continue as represen-

tative until the next election. No Inceptor or Senior Trainee will be eligible to stand for election more than twice in the same category.

The junior representatives from each Division will then come together to form the Collegiate Trainees Committee. Their brief will be to consider and advise Council on all matters affecting training and trainees in psychiatry.

It is suggested that the Committee will normally meet at the same time as College Quarterly and Annual Meetings. The Dean and Sub-Dean will be ex-officio members and the Affiliate representatives on Council will be co-opted to the Committee. The Committee is to elect from amongst its junior representative members three Officers, namely a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary, each of whom will hold office for two years; one of these Officers must be a Senior Trainee. The three Officers will sit on Council, and a Senior Trainee who is an Officer of the Committee will sit on Council's Executive and Finance Committee.

An elected representative of the Committee will sit on each of the Standing Committees and the Specialist Section Executive Committees. On all bodies of the College on which junior representatives sit they will have equal voting and other rights to the other committee members. Alternates are permitted

provided that they are elected members of the Collegiate Trainees Committee.

It is not proposed to alter the representation of Affiliates by co-option of one or two of their number on Council, but the emphasis on trainee representation will now clearly be by the new procedures and it is hoped that these changes will give trainees a more influential role in the College structure. The Bye-law disallowing renewal of registration for the Inceptorship after the age of forty has been deleted, as have the Bye-laws which state that the class of Inceptorship should vanish in 1981 and that the register of Inceptors can be closed at the end of any College year. From now on Inceptors will be allowed to attend all rather than only scientific meetings of the College, though without voting rights. The annual subscription for Inceptors remains low (currently £10) and for this they also receive the *Journal* and *Bulletin*.

It is expected that the Collegiate Trainees Committee will come into being soon after the Annual Meeting in July.

Times change with the change of personnel on committees: I hope today's trainees will recognize that the new committee has been constituted after full discussion with and agreement from the Trainees Working Party and the Association of Psychiatrists in Training. The former has committed suicide to be reborn: APIT lives on.

JOHN R. HAMILTON.

## THE COLLEGE AND THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

### *The College's Appointed Member*

Under the new arrangements for the reconstituted General Medical Council the Royal College of Psychiatrists will be entitled to appoint a member. At its meeting on 14 March 1979 the College Council agreed that the following procedure would be adopted for the appointment of this member.

Fellows and Members of the College are eligible for appointment, and the name of any Member or Fellow willing to be appointed should be forwarded to the College, supported by the signatures of six Fellows or Members and accompanied by the nominee's consent. All members of the College have already been notified of this procedure and have been asked to submit any nominations by Friday 15 June 1979.

In the event of there being more than one nomination Council will elect the College appointed member either at its meeting on 20 June 1979 or by postal ballot of Council members immediately thereafter. The person elected will be invited to attend

future Council meetings if he or she is not already a Council member.

Because of the timing of the General Medical Council elections and the considerable cost of conducting a postal ballot of the full membership of the College, Council has agreed to this system, but the procedure will be reviewed before the next appointment in five years time.

### *Elected Members*

In addition to the appointed members the General Medical Council will also have members elected by the whole medical profession. Among those standing for election will be Sir Denis Hill, and the College Council has agreed to recommend to members of the College that he should be supported. If any other member of the College is standing for election I would be glad to hear from him so that his name can be recorded in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

GERALD TIMBURY  
Registrar