

THE BULLETIN

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

COLLEGE NEWS

AUTUMN QUARTERLY MEETING

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held in York on 14 and 15 November 1977 under the Presidency of Professor W. LINFORD REES. The meeting coincided with the celebration of the Bicentenary of the 'York Lunatic Asylum', now Bootham Park Hospital, and the occasion was marked by a Reception at the hospital on the previous evening, and by the inclusion in the proceedings of Dr Arthur Bowen's paper on the history of the asylum and hospital.

Scientific Meetings

The following papers were presented:

14 November: The York Lunatic Asylum 1777-1977; 'A Sane Man Decivilized', Dr Arthur Bowen; 'Prevention of Relapse in Affective Disorders', Pro-

fessor R. H. S. Mindham; 'Investigations of the Aetiology of Schizophrenia', Professor Peter Venables; 'Schizo-Affective Disorders; Prospective Study of Schizo-Affective Psychoses, Drug Trials and Family Data', Professor R. E. Kendell; 'Course of Illness', Dr I. F. Brockington, Mrs S. Wainwright; 'The Nosological Problem of Schizo-Affective Psychoses', Dr Felix Post.

15 November: 'The Economics of Mental Illness', Professor Jack Wiseman; 'The Logistics of Mental Health Care', Dr G. M. Carstairs.

In the afternoon Professor Kathleen Jones delivered the Maudsley Lecture entitled 'Society looks at the Psychiatrist'. In proposing the vote of thanks Dr A. L. Bowen paid tribute to the breadth and depth

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of her paper. She had indeed presented a comprehensive diagnosis of our professional troubles. Her detailed analysis of these difficulties came from a person of very great expertise in the field of mental health. If psychiatric illness itself was, as Professor Querido (whom Professor Jones had quoted) had said, a breakdown of social homeostasis, it might be thought that psychiatrists currently were suffering from a similar disability in a professional regard. Professor Jones had suggested that we should treat ourselves, but her own recommendations made it clear that she should be regarded in future as Honorary Physician to the psychiatric household of this country.

At the meeting of the Psychotherapy Section Dr T. F. Main presented a paper entitled 'Psychiatric Defences Against Close Encounters with Patients'.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was held on 15 November.

OBITUARY

Dr MORRIS MARKOWE, the Registrar, announced with regret the death of the following members:

JOHN CHILD BATT, Consultant Psychiatrist, formerly of St. Ebba's Hospital, Epsom.

HENRY VICTOR DICKS, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, The Tavistock Clinic; President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, 1967-68; Honorary Fellow.

MURRAY ALEXANDER FALCONER, Director, Guy's-Maudsley Neurosurgical Unit.

MAY ISABEL PEARCE, Consultant Psychiatrist to Worcestershire County Council.

PETER DUNCAN SCOTT, Physician, Maudsley Hospital; Chairman, Forensic Psychiatry Section.

JAMES SINCLAIR, Consultant Psychiatrist, Lennox Castle Hospital.

CECILE RUTH DONIGER, Psychiatrist, Berkshire Child Guidance Service.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 May 1977 (published in *The Bulletin*, October 1977) were approved and signed as a correct record.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DR MARKOWE read the following Report:

The last general business meeting was the one held during the Annual Meeting in July. The last Quarterly Meeting was the one held in Inverness last May, the Minutes of which you have just approved; they were published in *The Bulletin* in October. A number of the memoranda referred to in my Reports to those

meetings have since been published. These included those on the Responsibilities of Consultants in Psychiatry within the NHS; the Report of the Working Party on Non-Consultant (Non-training) Grades in Psychiatry. Part I of the College's evidence to the Court Committee on Child Health Services has also been published; Part II on Mental Deficiency is to be considered as part of the report of the Special Committee of Council on Mental Deficiency, which will be submitted to Council in January. The memorandum on ECT was considered to be of such importance as to justify publication in the *Journal*.

The Council and the Executive and Finance Committee have considered a number of important issues, and memoranda have been approved and will be published: on Women in Psychiatry; on the Provision of a District Service for General Psychiatry its Special Interests and Related Specialties—Medica, Manpower Priorities; and on Nursing Staff Needs for the Hospital Services for the Elderly Mentally Ill.

Evidence is currently being prepared for the Department of Education and Science inquiry into the Use of Corporal Punishment in Schools; the Home Office Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship; the First Interim Report of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Working Group of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; and the Report of the (Zangwill) Committee on the Conduct of Behaviour Modification Programmes. We are pressing the DHSS for information about the setting up of Regional Secure Units and the use to which resources allocated for this purpose are being put. We have also sought the Department's advice about a statement contained in the COHSE Report on the Management of Violent or Potentially Violent Patients—it is said that their legal advice indicated that 'compulsory treatment without consent, whether Section patients or informal, is probably unlawful and that therefore members are advised that under no circumstances should they give or participate in such treatment, and "treatment" here includes ordinary medication'. We have asked the DHSS for an authoritative legal opinion about this. Both the Executive and Finance Committee and the Public Policy Committee have expressed concern about the Circular (HM(77)79) on the Joint Assessment of Offenders, which has been brought to their attention by a member of the College, and this is still under discussion.

Council and the Executive and Finance Committee have been involved in discussions about the Irish Division's lack of influence and prestige in matters affecting psychiatry in Ireland, and we have felt that the College must do all it can to help our Irish colleagues to achieve the same sort of recognition and

status as has been accorded to the Scottish Division in its relationships with the Scottish Home and Health Department and the Scottish Royal Colleges. Already there are signs of improvement, and recently the President attended the Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Division in Dublin and was able to report some of these developments and to assure the Division of our concern. We all look forward to the Quarterly Meeting in Dublin next spring.

At the Sixth World Congress of Psychiatry organized under the auspices of the World Psychiatric Association the amendment to the College's resolution on Dissenters put by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists was passed by a narrow majority. Following the Hawaii meeting the Declaration of Hawaii has been published and member societies of the WPA are being invited to comment upon, contribute towards, and make nominations for two committees, one to review the abuse of psychiatry and the other on ethics.

Also during the Hawaii Meeting this College held a Reception for its members from Britain and overseas who were attending the Congress in order to bring our members together, to discuss the College Appeal and ways in which members living abroad can be involved in this and other College activities. It was by all reports a very happy and successful occasion.

I am very pleased to report that at the recent meeting of Council an application from the Group for the Psychiatry of Old Age to become a Specialist Section was supported and approved for submission to the next Annual General Meeting.

Finally, I wish to express on behalf of the College, and especially on behalf of all of us who have attended this memorable meeting, our thanks to those whose hard work and generosity has made it possible. To our hosts on Sunday night, especially the District Management Team, at 'The York Lunatic Asylum' we are most grateful for the splendid Reception, and the Museum authorities and the University for the arrangements for our papers and lunches. For the Dinner last night in such a magnificent setting we are truly grateful to the Governor of the Merchant Adventurers' Company. To Dr Bowen who has done so much to make it all possible and for his learned and fascinating paper yesterday, and to all his helpers, we give our thanks and congratulate Bootham Park Hospital on its Bicentenary.

Social Functions

The Reception on the evening of Sunday, 13 November, offered to the College by the Hospital and the District Management Team, attracted a large attendance of members and their wives, and a most enjoyable and memorable time was spent in these historic surroundings.

On 14 November Members and guests attended a Dinner at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall.

The President and Mrs Rees entertained the Maudsley Lecturer, Professor Kathleen Jones, and Officers of the College, to lunch on Tuesday, 15 November.

OUR PRESIDENT HONOURED

We offer our warmest congratulations to the President of our College, Professor W. Linford Rees, who was awarded a C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List.