

The Report on Alcohol and Alcholism, prepared by a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Griffith Edwards, will be published tomorrow and it is hoped that this important statement will be widely read.

The Privy Council has agreed to some important amendments to our Bye-Laws, and details of these will be printed in the *Bulletin*. The principal changes are the setting up of a Collegiate Trainees Committee; the continuation of the category of Inceptorship with the removal of the upper age limit; the extension to five years of the period which can be served by Examiners, and the payment of Examiners who are Council members. The Regional Divisions will in future be referred to simply as Divisions of the College.

The work of the Special Committee on the White Paper on the Mental Health Act, 1959 has been completed and the Report of the Committee will be considered at a special meeting of Council to be held tomorrow. Thereafter a press conference has been arranged for 14 February 1979 and representatives of the College will be discussing the Report with members of the All-Party Parliamentary Mental Health Group.

Comments on Mental Health Review Tribunal Procedures have also been prepared by the Special Committee and these have been forwarded to the Lord Chancellor's Office and to the Health Departments.

The College is considering how it might co-operate more closely with the BMA Mental Health Group. This Group tends to study the same range of issues in psychiatry as does the College but is also involved in

such matters as contractual arrangements for psychiatrists and issues affecting terms and conditions of service. A meeting of College representatives and members of the BMA Mental Health Group will take place next week.

The views of the College have been sought on proposals for the reconstitution of the General Medical Council. If the alterations are implemented this College will have a representative on the new GMC. Details of nomination and election procedure are under consideration.

It has been agreed that a joint liaison group between the College and Professor Peter Mittler's National Development Group for Mental Handicap should be set up. This group will be chaired by our President.

The special two-day meeting of Council members to which I referred in my last report is to be held later this week. One of the matters to be decided is the question of the creation of further special interest Groups within the College and also the possibility of the creation of one or more new Specialist Sections.

The work of the College during the past month has been disrupted by bad weather and transport problems and I am very grateful to all those members of staff who struggled through the snow to keep the College running during the past few weeks.

We are again grateful to the London Hospital for allowing us to hold this meeting here today.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held in Sheffield on Wednesday, 2 May 1979.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Notice by the Registrar

As members of the College will know, the GMC is being reconstituted with Nominated and Elected Members, the latter to be in majority.

Clearly it is most desirable that there should be psychiatrists among the Elected, as well as the Appointed members, and the College hopes that psychiatrists will be strongly represented among candidates. Details regarding the College's Appointed Member are under discussion by Council.

The following particulars about the election have been supplied by the GMC:

It is expected that there will be at least 50 Elected Members (39 for England, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; three for Wales; six for Scotland; and two for Northern Ireland). It is expected that the election will be held during the Summer of 1979 so that the new Council can meet in late September. Nomination papers for candidates for election will be available in March, and the last day for the return of nomination papers is likely to be 3rd May, 1979.

To be nominated as a candidate in any of the four constituencies a doctor needs only to sign a nomination paper and to secure the signature of six other registered medical practitioners resident in the constituency. Doctors who have reached the age of 70 are not eligible. Doctors wishing to stand as candidates or to nominate a colleague should write to the Registrar of the General Medical Council, 44 Hallam Street, London W1N 6AE for a nomination paper and further information as to the procedure.

GERALD TIMBURY
Registrar