

The New College Helpline/ Information Service

The recent survey conducted by the former President, Dr R. E. Kendell, found that only a minority of members were taking full advantage of the College Library Service. In October 1998 Council agreed to establish a new Helpline/Information Service to replace the Library Service. This change will mean a refocusing of activities towards providing a modern technology-based information service that will be relevant to the 21st century. Two new members of staff have recently been appointed to carry this redevelopment through.

The improved Service aims to provide:

- (a) A professional, efficient enquiry team.
- (b) Latest access to electronic health information.
- (c) A comprehensive up to date reference collection.
- (d) Open access facilities for all to search the internet and other scientific on-line databases.

- (e) A much reduced, but relevant core stock of psychiatric journals and books.
- (f) A central depository for College information.
- (g) Comfortable spacious reading areas.
- (h) Helpful training sessions on how to use electronic sources.
- (i) A light pleasant working environment for members and other users.

It is hoped that most of the new service will be up and running during 1999/2000. We would welcome any suggestions from Members about the changes to the Service.

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