

The College

Winter Quarterly Meeting, 1991

The Winter Quarterly Meeting was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on 22 and 23 January 1991 under the Presidency of Professor A. C. P. Sims.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held on 23 January 1991, attended by 37 Members of the College.

Minutes

The minutes of the Autumn Quarterly Meeting held at Kensington Town Hall, London on 25 October 1990 were approved and signed.

Registrar's report

Forensic issues have occupied much of the time of the Public Policy Committee and later the Executive and Finance Committee. Judge Tumin's report on the condition of the psychiatric ill in prisons in the United Kingdom, the Department of Health efficiency scrutiny of the Prison Medical Service, and finally Judge Wolfe's work following the riots at Strangeway have all indicated the need for considerable changes in medical services, particularly psychiatric, to prisoners. Within the College this obviously involves the Forensic Section but also general psychiatrists, many of whom see prisoners on remand.

Other matters that at first sight effect only part of the College can have more general application. This applies to the Children Act, a major piece of legislation with a new concept of parental responsibility. Many situations are taken into account and include children with multiple disability and those who have transgressed against the law. Thus the Child and Adolescent Section have been working with a group from the Public Policy Committee to review the Consultation Papers following the Act. They have

now finished commenting on 21 of these papers, and may perhaps be allowed to feel that they are over the brow of the hill, since there are now only nine left to do.

It is important to work together with other professions for the benefit of the mentally ill. A very constructive document is the consensus statement which has been produced by the Occupational Therapists and the College on Occupational Therapy and Mental Disorders. Another very useful document has come from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on the 'Pharmacists' Contribution to the Management of Substance Misuse'. In order to further co-operate with other bodies, the Nursing Committee has been reconstructed and will now have a higher profile in the College, working closely with the Royal College of Nursing and the United Kingdom Central Committee on Nurse Education.

Following the initiative by Professor Mubbashar from Pakistan, a Special Committee on the place of 'Prevention Psychiatry' has been convened by Professor Paykel and the membership list has now been drawn up. This Committee aims to produce a final report to give to Council in 18 months' time.

The Research Unit with its emphasis on 'Audit' is expanding rapidly with the recent appointment of a part-time consultant and another interview will take place shortly for a second part-time consultant. The newly appointed consultant will be a member of the Audit Working Party and will help the College encourage good practice in audit as well as be in the forefront of research on the issue.

At this time, most things are overshadowed by events in the Gulf. There is considerable expertise within the College to respond to disaster. All over the country many hospitals are on alert for casualties from the Gulf and a list of members able and willing to lend their expertise to these problems is available from the College.

Dr ANN GATH
Registrar