

League. He sat on the Commission on Industrial Relations, and later chaired the Professional Football Negotiating Committee, and the Transfer Tribunal. He has also crossed the barrier between round and oval, doing the same type of work for Rugby League.

But his work is not all a game. He has been involved in settling the Airline Pilots dispute and British Leyland problems. It is widely understood that he received his knighthood for saving television for the nation when he persuaded the technicians to return to work when there was a serious threat of a shut-down over Christmas – no *Sound of Music*.

His particular interest in the criminal law, the effect of mental disability on criminal liability, was an early stimulant to his current activities. He submitted evidence to the Butler Committee, which seemed to ignore his views. He joined the Mental Health Review Tribunal in about 1970 and has been its Chairman in Trent Region for 20 years. Because of the special hospital in the region, he has seen many changes which have taken place behind the walls.

He has built up a more effective communication between the various components of the tribunals with annual meetings of members, staff, Department of Health and Home Office representatives discussing ways in which the service can be speeded up. This is a particularly important issue since the increase in work arising out of the referrals of people in hospital for assessment, and those long-term patients who are now entitled to regular referral to the tribunals, whether they apply or not.

Because of his perceptive and enquiring approach to the work of psychiatric professionals he has a wealth of experience on all aspects of medical, nursing and social worker behaviour and his shrewd comments about the organisation of the hospital services merit careful attention.

He has put this to good use with two lectures to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, both published in the *Journal*. The first was the Maudsley Lecture in 1981 on 'The Impact of Legal Modes of Thought upon the Practice of Psychiatry'. The second was at the 150th anniversary meeting in Brighton where he spoke about reform of the Mental Health Act 1983. Today he will deliver the Distinguished Guest Lecture on 'The Challenge of Individual Rights.'

I put it to you that Sir John Wood with his multifarious activities including building up the Sheffield Department of Law, his participation in a wide variety of interdisciplinary activities, and in particular, his important contributions to the care of patients detained under the Mental Health Act indicate that he is a psychiatrist at heart and I ask you to welcome him as an Honorary Fellow of this College under Section V.1 of the bye-laws.

### References

- WOOD, J. C. (1982) The Impact of Legal Modes of Thought upon the Practice of Psychiatry (The fifty fifth Maudsley Lecture) *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **140**, 551–557.
- WOOD, SIR JOHN (1993) Reform of the Mental Health Act 1983. An effective tribunal system. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **62**, 14–22.

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## Scottish office

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Karen Addie has now taken up her post as Administrator, Scottish Office, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ

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