

Psychotherapy Section

Report of the Executive

The task of keeping up-to-date on all matters concerning psychotherapy within the College is a considerable one, and the Executive has made some small progress in keeping abreast of these developments.

Close liaison has been maintained with the Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training—Psychotherapy Specialist Advisory Sub-Committee (JCHPT-SASC). The question of training in psychotherapy is often in our minds and numerous requests for advice are received from both within and outside the College. However, as yet it has not been possible to prepare a satisfactory list of training establishments in psychotherapy.

The Section's contribution to the College's Reading List has been submitted for publication and our thanks are due to the several members who have helped with its compilation and production.

The place of part-time posts for Consultant Psychotherapists in the NHS has been discussed over a long period, and after liaison with the DHSS Observer who attends the Executive's meetings, a report by our Chairman has been prepared. We are soon to circulate the results of our own survey of the number of Consultant Psychotherapists and Psychiatrists with a special interest in psychotherapy in the NHS. Our results will show that there are more people in post as Consultant Psychotherapists than appear in the DHSS statistics, and when we have our final results more active discussion with the Department about the need for more training posts will ensue.

The threatened closure of psychotherapy units is causing concern and we have made representations on this matter to the Council, the Public Policy Committee and other interested bodies.

The Section continues to be represented on the Committee for Statutory Registration of Psychotherapists. Although the Executive was actively involved in the early stages of the report and contributed to the final version, it seems unlikely that the report will be considered by Parliament at present. The Section is also represented on the Joint Committee between the College and the British Psychological Society which recently considered this issue further. The Executive has also considered a request from the International

Federation for Medical Psychotherapy inviting affiliation of the Section to the Federation. It was not thought feasible that the Section should join the Federation as a group, but Dr. Murray Cox has agreed to liaise between the Federation and the Section.

In the Summer of 1978 a series of five one-day seminars on various aspects of psychotherapy was held at Leicester. This series, organized by the Executive in conjunction with the Midland Division, proved to be popular and successful. The Executive has considered the possibility of arranging further such courses and is open to suggestions on this topic. There has been moderate support for organizing a two-day event, possibly residential, for the Section, but we depend on the views of the membership and their support. Our experience in organizing the Leicester series underlines the importance of *local* enthusiasm and support.

Our representative on the British Association for Counselling (Dr. C. Lucas) reported the rapid development of the Association and cautioned on the potential danger of this development in isolation from psychiatry. The Executive has encouraged the opening of a dialogue with the Association, and an important step in this direction was to invite the Chairman of the Association to address the Section. The meeting arranged was poorly supported, but despite this it is hoped that the dialogue will continue.

On behalf of the College, Dr. Alan Cooklin and Dr. Mark Aveline prepared comments on the DHSS document, 'Marriage Matters'. This was approved by Council and was published in the *Bulletin* in March 1980. Concurrently, the President has asked the Executive at the request of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, for views regarding training in psychosexual counselling. The Section was represented recently on a Working Group arranged between the RCOG/RCGP/RCPsych and will be actively involved in future developments in this area.

The Section has continued to arrange and hold about nine open Scientific Meetings per year on various topics. It is hoped that the innovation of holding the May meeting at the College will prove convenient for members.

D. COLIN JAMES,
Honorary Secretary

Scientific Meetings 1980

Wednesday 11 June, 8.15 p.m.

The value of the behavioural approach to combined marital and neurotic problems: Dr. John Cobb.
Central Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday 10 September, 8.15 p.m.

Why do neurotics suffer so much?: Dr. Warren Kinston.
Venue to be announced.