

and Sections on 'Patients First' has completed its work and comments have been submitted to the DHSS. The report of the working group on Organizational and Management Problems of Mental Illness Hospitals is being studied by the Public Policy Committee. Preliminary comments will be made to the DHSS at our annual informal discussion with Departmental officials which was held this year on 25 July. [A brief summary will be appearing in the *Bulletin* shortly].

A discussion paper on Medical Manpower in the psychiatric specialties prepared by the Manpower Committee is being circulated to Divisions and Sections for comment. College comments have also been submitted on the report of the Blennerhassett Committee on Drinking and Driving.

The Court of Electors has given preliminary consideration to draft comments on a possible future College Diploma in Psychiatry and on training in general practice for psychiatrists. These documents, when further revised, will be circulated within the College for wide discussion.

Council has agreed to publication of the report of a joint working party on Ethical Guidelines for Behaviour Modification Programmes which was chaired by Professor O. L. Zangwill. The working party had representatives of the College, the British Psychological Society and the Royal College of Nursing.

A draft memorandum entitled Ethical Considerations of Electroplexy prepared by the joint ethical working party was discussed by Council. After careful consideration Council decided not to publish the memorandum at this stage, but it was agreed that the new Memorandum and the 1977 College Guidelines on ECT would be reviewed when the results of the current ECT research project were available. In view of correspondence in the medical and national press Council discussed whether a statement on the use of unmodified ECT should be published but decided that there was no need to add to the President's statements in the medical press.

A new edition of the *Handbook for Inceptors and*

Trainees is in press and should be available soon. [Now available.]

Council has agreed to increase our contribution to the World Psychiatric Association to 2 dollars per head for Members and Fellows of the College resident in the United Kingdom.

Arrangements are in hand for members and subscribers in North America to receive their *Journal* more quickly by using air freight to New York. The possibility of making similar arrangements for India and the Far East is being investigated.

Work has started on the modernization of the basement premises at 17 Belgrave Square, and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of this year. It will be followed by redecoration and renovation of the main entrance hall and staircase. The new accommodation will provide two lecture rooms, improved catering facilities, additional offices and staff room.

During the last few months a number of College staff have, unfortunately, suffered ill health, and a great deal of work has fallen on remaining staff members. College members are extremely grateful to all our staff for their loyalty and hard work. Arrangements are in hand to make certain additional appointments.

Finally the College's thanks are due to Dr McGrath and all the staff at Broadmoor Hospital whose very special efforts have resulted in an outstandingly successful meeting. The medical staff, the patients, the administration, the catering staff and volunteers, and the Friends of the Hospital have worked very hard and we are most grateful to them all for such a happy meeting.

DR McGRATH thanked Dr Timbury for his kind words and expressed the pleasure of all at Broadmoor at having been able to welcome members of the College, including some from overseas who had attended.

Correspondence

'*Trahison des clercs*'

DEAR SIR

I have heard recently some senior psychiatrists refer to mental hospitals as 'bins'. There may be others who do so. They should stop it, at once.

It is offensively derogatory and unfair. The bulk of the in-patient care and treatment of the psychiatrically ill is carried out in the mental hospitals. They have a great tradition and most are admirable. They are as essential to psychiatry as are the general hospitals to medicine and surgery. That a few have been the loci of scandals may in part be attributed to the dismissive attitudes of those who, as a result of artificial

boundaries of clinical responsibilities, have no part to play in them.

The anti-psychiatry movement is vocal and aggressively led. The public is uncertain what to think about psychiatric provisions and psychiatric treatment. Recruitment to the specialty has fallen off. The care of the aged is placing an ever-increasing burden on hard-pressed staffs. It is a *trahison des clercs* so to denigrate the institutions of one's specialty and work of one's colleagues, and especially so at a time of such very considerable difficulty.

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