

The College

Educational strategy

In the latter part of 1992 the Education Committee of the College held an Open Forum on the topic of 'Psychiatric Training: Too Many Subjects and Not Enough Education'. Partly as a result of that symposium and also for other reasons, the Education Committee set itself the task of producing an educational strategy for the College. The Education Committee specifically asked the three Sub Deans of the College, under the Chairmanship of Dr Mike Harris, along with a representative from the Psychiatric Tutors Sub-Committee, a course organiser and a member of the Collegiate Trainees' Committee, to formulate a strategy which could then be considered by the whole Education Committee and later the College. In order to undertake this work I am seeking the views of any members of the College who have an

interest in this area. Specifically I have written to all specialties within the College, seeking their views on those things they see as essential core requirements of psychiatric training at the point of entry to psychiatric training, at the point of transition from SHO to registrar, registrar to senior registrar and the completion of training. There is, of course, a separate committee looking at continuing medical education for those who have completed their initial training. There will be a separate report on the Educational Forum which started this debate, but if you have any views on this subject and would like to contact me please write to me at the College.

MIKE HARRIS
*Sub Dean
Chairman of the Working Group*

Dementia Concern

There will be a joint meeting between the Section for the Psychiatry of Old Age, Royal College of General Practitioners, Age Concern, Alzheimer's Disease Society and Directors of Public Health Medicine on 'Dementia Concern: Services for People with Dementia – Making Them Work' on 30 November 1993 in London. This is a first venture between these

various organisations and will be aimed primarily at purchasers of care. Speakers will include representatives from the various organisations and the meeting will be addressed by John Bowis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. There will also be a variety of workshops. Further information can be obtained from Jean Wales at the College.

Obituaries

Editor: Henry R. Rollin

JOHN ALEXANDER AITKEN, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Borocourt Hospital, Wyfold, Reading, Berkshire

John Aitken studied medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London, and qualified MRCS (Eng) LRCP (Lond) in 1956. After deciding on a career in psychiatry he gained the DPM (Eng) in 1969, was elected MRCPsych in 1971 and proceeded to the fellowship in 1983.

He served as senior registrar at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford, prior to his appointment as consultant to and general manager at Borocourt Hospital, Reading. At the same time he served as a clinical teacher in the University of Oxford and as a clinical tutor to the Reading area.

Aitken did his military service in the RAMC and with the rank of captain worked as clinical officer in psychiatry at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

Over and above his arduous medical commitments, Aitken found time to serve as a magistrate.

DONALD ERIC BROADBENT, formerly member of the Medical Research Council's external staff at the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford

Donald Broadbent, who died on 10 April 1993, aged 66, was recognised, nationally and internationally, as a major figure in applied experimental psychology. He was educated at Winchester and Pembroke College, Cambridge and in between the two he served in the RAF. His career began to take shape, however, when, in 1949, he joined the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit and was able to direct his considerable talents to the pressing psychological problems which emerged as a concomitant of living in an industrial society. He began with the study of the effects of noise on performance efficiency, and the techniques he originated were applied also to the ways in which attention and cognitive function developed. He was the author of innumerable scientific papers and books, perhaps the most important of which was his first, *Perception and Communication*, published in 1958.

In 1958, Broadbent was appointed director of the Applied Psychology Unit at Cambridge, a unit which, due to his leadership, earned worldwide recognition. Then, in 1974, he moved to an analogous unit at Oxford where, as a member of the Medical Research Council's external staff, he was relieved of a great deal of administrative and committee work and so able to devote more of his time and energy to research.

Broadbent's achievements were duly recognised: he was appointed CBE in 1974 and he received doctorates from several universities in England and abroad. In 1968 he was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society, and in 1985 to the honorary fellowship of our College.

If a suitable epitaph to Broadbent's memory were to be sought nothing better could be found than his own dictum: "The test of intellectual excellence of a psychological theory, as well as its moral justification, lies in its application to concrete practical considerations."

MOHSEN SOHBI NAGUIB, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at St Mary's Hospital and St Charles Hospital, London

Mohsen Naguib died suddenly on 12 February 1993 at the age of 43. He studied medicine at Ain Shams University, Cairo, where he graduated MB BCH in 1974. He pursued an early interest in psychiatry at the Behman Hospital, Cairo, and later came to the UK for postgraduate training at the Maudsley where he was in due course appointed senior registrar, becoming in

1982 a lecturer in the Institute of Psychiatry. In that year he gained the DPM and was elected MRCPsych.

He was a dedicated research worker, particularly into the psychiatry of old age, as witness his several highly esteemed contributions to the literature of the subject. Naguib's early death robs psychiatry of not only an established research worker but of an excellent teacher at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. He took a keen interest in College affairs and had recently been appointed a member of the Central Approval Panel as convenor from the Chiltern and Thames Valley Division of visits to the Southern Division. Naguib was a devoted Christian and gave a good deal of his time to the Coptic Orthodox Church of St Mark, London.

He is survived by his wife, Noorah, and their two children.

A.F.S. TANAGHOW

ERIC DOUGLAS WEST, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Sutton Hospital, Sutton, Surrey

Eric West who died on 13 November 1992, aged 73, was educated at local schools in the Sutton, Surrey area, but before he could complete his studies to university entrance level he enlisted in the Royal Artillery. In 1939, aged 20, by then a Staff Sergeant, he was a member of the ill-fated British Expeditionary Force and in the retreat to Dunkirk was captured by the Germans.

West used his long years of captivity to the best possible advantage: He studied German and to such good effect, indeed, that he was able to act as camp interpreter. It was perhaps his own suffering as a POW and that of his fellow prisoners that prompted his interest in medicine in general and in psychiatry in particular. He was liberated by the Americans in 1945.

After demobilisation, West gained additional academic qualifications in order to be admitted to medical school. This done, he entered St Thomas' Hospital where the glittering prizes he won as an undergraduate presaged his subsequent highly successful career: in 1949 he was awarded the Foord Caiger Exhibition in Pathology and in 1950 both the Wainwright Prize in Medicine and the BMA Essay Prize. He graduated MB BS London in 1951.

It was at St Thomas' that West came under the influence of Dr William Sargant, and there can be little doubt that he was instrumental in confirming West's choice of a specialty. The wisdom of his choice is reflected in the two further academic prizes he was to win: in 1958 he was awarded the Planck Prize in Psychiatry at St Thomas', and in 1960, the Gaskell Gold Medal, the most prestigious prize in British psychiatry.

After qualification, West was appointed registrar in neurology at St Thomas' where he became