

children with special educational needs and of the range of various forms of special educational provision and of specialist advisory services available. Specific proposals are made for improvement in training for teachers, together with the provision of a unified advisory and support service within every local educational authority area. With a falling school population and increasing special education provision in ordinary schools it should be possible to organize a considerable redistribution of educational resources to meet these specific needs.

We feel that the Report quite correctly envisages that there should be particular improvements in educational training programmes and a greater involvement of special educational staff with supporting community agencies, including psychiatric, psychological and social work input to the schools.

The Report suggests that the communication of information between and within different professions is often inadequate and needs to be improved. We felt, however, that too much attention has been paid to the patterns of formal communication; good communication in this field must be based primarily upon good personal contact.

In summary, the College Working Party welcomed and supported the recommendations, having specific

reservations about the financial implications concerned, the problems of administrative over-control and the difficulties associated with confidentiality and the dissemination of information and inter-professional communication. We were particularly concerned to try and ensure that in the future there would always be a smooth referral of children with specific educational needs to appropriate medical specialists.

MARTYN J. GAY

Chairman of the Working Party

References

1. *Special Educational Needs. Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Education of Handicapped Children and Young People*, Command, CMMD. 7212, HMSO, 1978.
2. Comments on the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Education of Handicapped Children and Young People—the Warnock Report. Royal College of Psychiatrists, ESCC 2/79.
3. Comments on the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Education of Handicapped Children and Young People (The Warnock Report) 1979. Child Psychiatry Section of the Scottish Division, Royal College of Psychiatrists.
4. *Special Educational Needs. A Consultative Document*. Department of Education and Science and Welsh Office, 1979.

COLLEGE NEWS

THE SECTIONS

Reports to the March meeting of Council show that the Specialist Sections are particularly active in discussing administrative and political questions, although they also organize occasional scientific meetings. Thus *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* has had working parties considering guidelines on the adoption service, on the training of the general psychiatrist in child psychiatry, and on medical manpower. It has contributed to advice on obscenity and film censorship, corporal punishment in schools, infanticide, mental handicap and on the Court and Warnock reports. Its most recent meeting this year was on 'The Troubled Child in Ordinary School'.

The *Psychotherapy Section* arranged training seminars in Leicester in May and June last year, and holds monthly meetings in London: 'The degree of skill in psychotherapy necessary for every psychiatrist' (Dr

I. S. Kreeger); 'Transference—its place in play and theatre' (Dr J. Pedder); 'The psychosomatic syndrome, a failed attempt at self-healing' (Dr M. Tonnesman) are among the most recent.

Forensic Psychiatry has a working party on forensic psychiatry and the prison medical service, and is preparing evidence for the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. Last year it held a symposium on Regional Secure Units.

Psychiatry of Old Age has met quarterly, both for discussion of such questions as the establishment of senior registrar posts in the speciality, policy issues in residential care and a view of the DHSS document *A Happier Old Age*; and for the reading of papers—on 'The supporters of confined elderly persons in the community', and 'Development of psychogeriatric provision for the Mental Aftercare Association'.

Mental Deficiency has a working party on recruit-

ment and training in the specialty, and has also been discussing such matters as dental services and day services for the mentally handicapped. A scientific meeting was held last November.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The agenda of the March meetings of Council and of its Executive and Finance Committee give an idea of the scope of the work undertaken by the College. Advice on the rehabilitation of long-stay patients, and on discrimination against former mental patients was being formulated. An Ethical Working Party had prepared a memorandum on ethical considerations in electroplexy and was considering a code of ethics for physicians caring for prisoners. Comments had been prepared on the official proposals in the Kessel report

on the pattern and range of services for problem drinkers, and on DHSS proposals about the position of art therapists in the NHS. A committee was established to look at the general implications of the Normansfield Inquiry in terms of the need for the training of consultants in management, isolation of some consultants in their professional work, medical audit, and so on. A Special Committee to examine the possibilities of medical audit in the short and the long term was also established. Documents on confidentiality in medical information systems were discussed. This list is far from exhaustive. Many of these matters eventually appear in the *Bulletin* as separate reports. Not all the completed memoranda are published, however, but copies will usually be obtainable from the Secretary of the College.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

Following publication of the notice about the forthcoming elections to the newly-constituted General Medical Council in the June *Bulletin* (p 106), the College has been notified that the undernamed members are standing as Elected Members.

Mohammed Iftikhar Akhtar, M.R.C.Psych.
A. Ali, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.M. (Inceptor)
Thomas Henry Bewley, F.R.C.Psych.

Katharine Farquharson Bradley, M.B., Ch.B.
Farrukh S. Hashmi, F.R.C.Psych.
John Alexander Hatrick, F.R.C.Psych.
Sir Denis Hill, F.R.C.Psych.
Elinor Margaret Kapp, M.R.C.Psych.
Om Parkash Lakhanpaul, M.R.C.Psych.
William Linford Llewellyn Rees, F.R.C.Psych.
Kunal Raychaudhuri, M.R.C.Psych.

AUDIO-VISUAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee of the Education Committee was established last year and has now had several meetings. Its purpose is to review the various methods of audio-visual communication in psychiatric practice, teaching and examination of trainees. Most members of the Committee have some particular expertise or interest in this area and the Committee includes a representative of the Mental Health Film Council and also a representative from the engineering/technical side. The Committee is already drawing up position papers on such things as the uses of television in examinations and the ethical implications of videotaping patients, and is constructing lists of available audio-visual material such as videotapes, tape/slides and films. It is not intended that the Sub-Committee should compete with the AUTF Working Party on the

Uses of Television, as the latter is more concerned with the actual making of videotapes. It is hoped to produce an occasional bulletin of the Committee's activities and perhaps to put on some demonstrations at College or Clinical Tutors' meetings. The Committee are attracted by the idea of setting up review panels for audio-visual material and possibly having 'Film Forums' as the old RMPA Films Sub-Committee used to do. The Committee welcomes enquiries, which should be directed to Miss Jane Boyce at the College address, and also very much welcomes suggestions from Clinical Tutors and others as to what the function of the Sub-Committee should be.

TIMOTHY BETTS
Chairman, Audio-Visual Sub-Committee