



questionable. To borrow from Burns (2000), how do they know that any of these features are necessary or make a difference? The so-called 'model' has not been adequately defined. At present, the terminology of crisis intervention, or home treatment as it is otherwise known, is inadequate and confusing and prevents

adequate conclusions being formed. What is needed is a well-defined model with tightly defined components followed by extensive testing of model fidelity. What the authors are reporting on here is the characteristics of those who were selected for their particular hybrid version of home treatment and day hospital,

which limits the external validity of the research.

BURNS, T. (2000) Psychiatric home treatment. *BMI*, 321, 177.

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## the college

### Thirtieth Annual Meeting

July 2001

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the College, held jointly with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, from 9–13 July 2001.

#### Business Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists was held on Wednesday, 11 July and was Chaired by the President John Cox. It was attended by 109 members of the College.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Edinburgh on 5 July 2000 were approved and signed.

The formal Report of the Treasurer and a summarised version of the Annual Accounts for 2000 were received and approved. The re-appointment of the auditors was approved. The new fees and subscription rates from 1 January 2002 were approved.

The Registrar reported the following new appointments and results from elections.

#### Honorary Officers

The new Honorary Librarian was Dr D. Tait.

#### Members of Council

Dr R. Ramsay, a Member, had been elected to the membership of College Council. Dr R. Jenkins and Professor R. Murray, Fellows, had been elected to the membership of College Council.

#### Members of the Court of Electors

Dr D. Bhugra, Dr S. Kraemer, Professor H. Lacey, Dr C. E. Rowe and Dr P. R. Snowden had been elected to the Court of Electors.

#### New Chairmen/Secretaries of Divisions

Dr C. Halpin had been elected as Chairman of the Irish Division. Dr D. Coia had been elected as Chairman of the Scottish Division. Dr D. McGovern had

been elected as Chairman of the West Midlands Division, and Dr H. Thorley as Secretary of that Division.

#### New Chairmen/Secretaries of Faculties and Sections

Dr S. Bailey had been elected as Chairman of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr T. Zigmond had been elected as Chairman of the Faculty of General and Community Psychiatry. Dr G. Lloyd had been elected as Chairman of the Section of Liaison Psychiatry. Dr S. Davenport had been elected as Chairman of the Section of Social and Rehabilitation Psychiatry, and Dr F. Winton as Secretary of that Section.

### President's Report

#### Introduction

The President reported that it had been a challenge to know how to focus his President's Report at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College, particularly in a year that had included the thirtieth anniversary of the College; the celebration of a new millennium; '2001: A Mind Odyssey – Journey into New Therapeutic Space'; and a year in which the pace of change within the medical profession and in the renegotiation of the boundaries with governments and the public had been breathtaking. All was changing and all had changed. Yet the College, which had had to look inwards and outwards had, the President believed, renewed its core commitment to its core tasks – standard setting, training and education, research and public education.

Professor Cox's report would therefore sample those activities that he wished to communicate at this point to College members, and which should be placed within the full account of College activities contained in its 'new look' Annual Review, now published in December.

#### Politics

This had been the year of the National Service Frameworks in England for Adults of Working Age, Older People and, thanks to effective and shrewd College lobbying, for Children. It had also been the year when we had begun to face up to the issues of devolution and the new roles of the Welsh, Scottish and Irish Divisions as well as the future responsibilities of College officers within these new political contexts. As Professor Cox wrote in 'Corridors of Power?' (2001), much of his time was rightly devoted to the public education of governments and to lobbying on behalf of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals – and fundamentally on behalf of our patients and carers. Never before in his experience had mental health services achieved such a priority within the public policy and financial commitment of governments, and within a specific context of restoring and rescuing the NHS.

He believed these 'corridors of power' had indeed been traversed by himself and other officers to good effect; such diplomacy and advocacy was undoubtedly an art that, like a musical performance, required rehearsal, good timing, risk taking and a healthy recognition that it was, at the end of the day, only the art of the possible.

It was, however, a totally new and welcome situation for Government to appoint a National Director of Mental Health who was a psychiatrist, but could have been a nurse or psychologist. This individual needed the College to fulfil the public goals of implementing the Government's policies in England, and must therefore work with an elected President of a Medical Royal College. Informal contacts with Senior Civil Servants and indeed with Ministers had been numerous, and would continue, Professor Cox hoped, with the new-look Government.