

our design. TINlib offers unrestricted record size as well as repeatable fields of up to 1,000 characters. The sophisticated retrieval facilities, including free text searching, are particularly applicable to our needs.

The minutes under consideration cover Annual meetings 1841–1970 and Council meetings 1887–1971. This database treats each meeting as a separate record within which eight fields are available. In practice not all of these fields are used in every record. However the first four fields are always used for they cover the year and title of the meeting, the exact date, the place and the source of this information, for example

Meeting title and number: 1893 52nd annual meeting

Place: Buxton, Derbyshire

Date of the meeting: 1893 July 28

Source: Journal of Mental Science Vol XXXIX pp 588–60

The other four fields allow for details of attending members, reports of officers and committees, appointment of new committees and other business to be recorded.

The minutes themselves cover a variety of topics. Attending members include those who gave papers or who took an active part in an Annual meeting in some other way; the reports field records that a report was presented by a particular officer or committee, with a precis of the information where this is other than routine. The small committee field includes committee names and dates. Other business consists of matters arising in general discussion at the meetings.

Conclusion

In spite of limitations, both systems are proving useful. Records covering almost 150 years are now accessible. Topics can be pinpointed and where the computerised abstract does not offer sufficient detail, the enquirer can be directed to the original minute or discussion document.

Although the amount of data abstracted to build up these databases in order to create a comprehensive record of College development is very great, the task is almost complete. Members of the College are welcome to consult this information by contacting the Library.

Acknowledgement

The success of the Policy Index is largely due to the efforts of Mrs Mary Greene, Senior Library Assistant, whose knowledge of the College has proved invaluable in compiling the database. Thanks are also due to Vanessa Cameron, the Secretary, for her support and helpful suggestions.

Reference

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS LIBRARY (1989) *Statements, Guidelines and Policy Documents of the College.*

SUSAN FLOATE

Librarian

MARGARET HARCOURT WILLIAMS

Archivist

Election of President

Notice to Fellows and Members

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights under the Bye-laws and Regulations, as follows:

Bye-law XI

The President shall be elected annually from amongst the Fellows.

Regulation XI

- (1) As soon as may be practicable after the first day of January in any year the Council shall hold a nomination meeting and shall . . . nominate not less than one candidate and not more than three candidates . . .
- (2) Between the first day of January in any year and the date which is four clear weeks after the nomination meeting of the Council, written nominations, accompanied in each case by the nominees' written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than twelve Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
- (3) An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The nominating meeting of the Council will be held on 19 January 1990 and the last date for receiving nominations under (2) above will therefore be 16 February 1990. Dr J. L. T. Birley is in his third year of office as President and is therefore ineligible for re-election.

Election to the Fellowship

Candidates for election to the Fellowship are considered annually by the Court of Electors.

Candidates may not make a personal approach to the College for election, *but must be nominated by two sponsors, who must be Fellows of the College.*

Sponsors should *apply in writing* to the Registrar for the relevant forms. Completed nominations should be submitted to the Registrar by 30 September

in any year, for considerations by the Court at its meeting the following February.

Eligibility of nominees

- a. Candidates must either be Members of the College by Examination of more than five years standing, or Members who have been granted exemption from Examination.
- b. The Fellowship is ordinarily awarded to a Member for unusual distinction in teaching, research, and/or administrative ability, or for exceptional service

to patients, especially where the supporting services have been inadequate. Sponsors are therefore asked to indicate any factors which go beyond the carrying out of consultant or academics duties by the candidates of their choice.

All sponsors and all successful candidates will be notified by letter of the decision of the Court of Electors.

Individuals elected to the Fellowship become entitled to use the designation FRCPsych after they have paid the prescribed registration fee.

Study tour to Hungary, 29 May–4 June 1989

GEOFFREY WALLIS, Consultant Psychiatrist, Fulford Grange Hospital, Rawdon,
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Under the streets of Óbuda, which means Old Buda, on the west bank of the Danube, is a beautifully displayed and preserved group of Roman public buildings. They were at the boundary of the Roman Empire. Later Hungary became an outpost, from the opposite direction, of the Ottoman Empire and the Russian annexations.

It still is a political and cultural bridge between East and West Europe but to the resentment of Hungarian psychiatrists, the Russians have maintained a hold on Hungarian psychiatry by frequent surveillance visits by Russian psychiatrists in high office and by stipulating that Hungarian psychiatric libraries should contain the works of Lenin and Stalin, and that the syllabus for Hungarian psychiatric trainees should include the Russian language, whereas the Hungarian language approximates, if to any languages, to Finnish with some impact from the Turks. Russian psychiatrists had heard of our study tour and Professor Zharikov and a younger colleague came from Moscow to two symposia which the Hungarians and ourselves held jointly in Budapest. Silvery haired, charmingly mannered and persuasive Professor Zharikov, in an out of context address at the first of these symposia, emphasised that psychiatrists visiting Russia were welcome to see any patients in their hospitals. He maintained that he had received no report from a team of American psychiatrists who had visited Russia although several months had elapsed since that visit. Our Hungarian hosts felt that they had gained a point over the Russians in having the Royal College of Psychiatrists to visit them and the Editor of our *Journal* could have

increased any Russian chagrin by observing in the second Budapest symposium that whatever the rights and wrongs of the matter if one wished to have one's work communicated worldwide one had to write in English or have access to translation into that language, and that nobody outside Russia knew of any Russian psychiatric research. Professor Zharikov continued to smile benignly.

Meanwhile outside psychiatry – some psychiatrists believe there is such a place – Russian influence was waning. We saw enough Red Stars on the buildings to realise how pervasive and repressive they must have been but they had become fewer. Imre Nagy, hanged for democratic activities in 1958 in a house very close to where some of us were accommodated in Pest, the flat part of Budapest to the east of the Danube, had been rehabilitated and was awaiting a funeral service with full honours in Matthias church. Russian soldiery was little in evidence in Budapest because most of its reduced strength was garrisoned unprovocatively elsewhere in the country. We were told that the Hungarians did not want it to retreat altogether because they hoped it would help to defend against an invasion, which they thought to be by no means impossible, by Rumania's repressive Ceausescu. Moreover the Hungarians were concerned about their many kinsfolk in Transylvania, which is the part of Rumania adjacent to its border with Hungary. Very ironically Hungary was taking down its frontier fence with Austria while Ceausescu was building a wall between Hungary and Rumania to stop a flood of Hungarians returning to their country of origin.