

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY NEWS AND NOTES

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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

THE FIFTIETH ISSUE OF NEWS AND NOTES

The appearance of the fiftieth issue of *News and Notes* provides an opportunity for editorial comment and explanation.

News and Notes is the lineal descendant of a feature introduced into the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1862 by the new Editors, Lockhart Robertson and Henry Maudsley and entitled *Notes and News*. It contained, besides extensive, often verbatim, reports of meetings of the Medico-Psychological Association, various features of interest, comments on topical matters, some correspondence, obituary notices and announcements. So it continued for many years, as part of the Association's quarterly *Journal*, but in course of time its contents became more stereotyped and virtually confined to the minutes of General and Divisional meetings, comments on current affairs being trans-

ferred to another section entitled *Occasional Notes of the Quarter*; this, however, was discontinued in the early 1930s. A few years later it was decided that the contents of *News and Notes* should in future be issued as a Supplement to the *Journal* and circulated to members of the Association only. The change of title to the *British Journal of Psychiatry* made no difference to this arrangement; latterly the Supplement came out about twice a year.

With the formation of the Royal College in 1971, it became evident that there was a need for the Supplement to be expanded, to take on something of the nature of a Newsletter and to become a vehicle for information, comment and other material, while the body of the *Journal* would retain its more specialised scientific character.

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So in 1972 the Supplement was re-named *News and Notes*, and since June of that year it has appeared on a monthly basis; its circulation is, as before, confined to members of the College.

The principal aim has always been, and continues to be, to inform members of the activities and views of the College and to facilitate communication between the Officers and others concerned with the running of the College and the general membership. We have published a number of letters from the President and messages from the Dean and Treasurer, and members have been able to read the many memoranda and reports which have been prepared by Council committees and working parties. The minutes of Annual and Quarterly Meetings continue to be published, together with the results of the College's examinations and comments thereon.

Personal views on topics of current interest and concern, reviews of reports and pamphlets, obituary notices, news of forthcoming events, a correspondence column, and accounts of study tours have also been included. More recent developments have been reports from the Divisions and of scientific and social meetings of interest. It might be added that improvement of the format by the greater use of differences of type, spacing and colour continues to be sought.

In the future it is hoped to make further improvements in that part of *News and Notes* which deals with communication within the College. We hope to introduce a column of informed comment as a regular feature, and also to publish more informal accounts of our meetings than can be contained in the official minutes.

ELECTIONS TO COUNCIL

The recent ballot for two representatives of the Affiliates on Council has resulted in the election of

Dr Max B. Clyne and Dr Nita Mitchell-Heggs. The following were the voting figures:

Dr N. Mitchell-Heggs	154
Dr M. B. Clyne	131
Dr G. C. Boral	57
Dr J. R. Jaffe	46
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Total	388
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CHILD PSYCHIATRY SECTION

An Announcement

Child Psychiatrists are currently engaged in deliberations on the future of the Child Guidance Services in their areas in Working Parties up and down the country. They may find it useful to know that the Brunel Institute of Organization and Social Studies at Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, have made a study of the organizational problems in multi-disciplinary teams in Child Guidance Clinics, and Child Psychiatrists might find much that is helpful to them in this work. It has not yet been published but can be obtained from the Institute.

The Executive Committee of the Child Psychiatry Section of the College has asked me to convene a Working Party to consider the role of the Child Psychiatrist in the community and his or her relationship to other professions. I would be glad to have comments or contributions from Child Psychiatrists on this subject.

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