

North-West Division, 1980-81

The years 1980 and 1981 have given the North-West Division a stimulating variety of influences experienced in the make-up of the Executive Committee and the interaction within the membership, Inceptors to Fellows in the ordinary meetings and two Annual General Meetings.

Dr Susi Shafar demonstrated the need in psychiatry for a sub-consultant career grade in a lively 'Special Topic' at the Business Meeting of January 1980. Topically 'Tardive Dyskinesia' was debated by Dr A. Gibson and Professor Malcolm Lader.

Dr D. A. W. Johnson perhaps catalysed an increased interest of younger members in the Executive, the Council and other structures by posing 'why their remoteness?' at that Manchester meeting. Elections in March brought the average age of the Executive Committee down by at least ten years.

Our first Trainees Day was successfully organized by Dr Frank Margison in March.

Professor Neil Kessel introduced the topic 'Future Pattern of Hospital Provision in England', (DHSS 1980) at the subsequent Business Meeting. Grossly inappropriate new units have since been pressed upon some of us. Through the Executive Committee, the Division has supported the local resistance to regional and national level.

The Fellow on Council, Dr Mike Cashman, and Member Dr Michael Forth gave a good account of supra-Division activities at each Meeting.

The 1980 Annual General Meeting continued the excellent Academic Session of the Presentation of Trainees Research.

Rainhill Hospital with its purpose-built Unit was the site in October 1980 for a meeting on 'Alcoholism'. Not a single

psychiatrist responded when Richard Hoy, Area Psychologist, asked for a 'typical psychiatrist' to raise his hand, reflecting clearly the alcoholic's difficulty in self-awareness. Dr W. Cochrane demonstrated how a long drinking history produces an abnormal immune response in genetically susceptible people, using liver as a model.

1981 has seen a great deal of activity in the Division. Professor Taylor, Dr Pinkerton, Dr Thursfield and Dr Shirley Leslie extensively covered child psychiatry in January.

The Year of the Disabled resulted in a symposium 'Rehabilitation in the Eighties' from much groundwork by Dr Angus Campbell and Professor David Goldberg, at the University Department of Psychiatry in Manchester. An audience of 250 professionals from relevant fields, academics and their students heard some exciting ideas for progress. Dr Douglas Bennett left us with the concept of readaptation as a possibility for all, despite handicap, given time and care.

There is mounting work in preparation for the College Spring Quarterly Meeting, 20 and 21 April 1982, in Liverpool. Proposed academic sessions include 'Nurses in Liaison Psychiatry', 'Psychiatry and the Elderly', 'The Teaching and Evaluation of Psychotherapy' and 'Forensic Psychiatry'.

We are pleased to report a greater involvement of trainees in the Division's activities including the Dinner held recently in Chester, attended by almost a hundred people. Chief guests were Professor Sir Desmond and Lady Pond. Our Chairman, Dr David Enoch, thanked Sir Desmond for his leadership, especially during his years as President.

IAN B. COOKSON

Honorary Secretary, North-West Division

Forthcoming Events

The College's **Forensic Psychiatry Section** will be holding a meeting at Alverston Manor Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon on 19 and 20 February 1982. All members of the Section will be notified and applications dealt with on a first come basis. Information: Dr Paul Bowden, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AZ.

The **Institute of Family Psychiatry** is holding a two-day course in family psychiatry for trainee psychiatrists on 17 and 18 June 1982 at the Institute of Family Psychiatry. Information: The Secretary, Institute of Family Psychiatry, The Ipswich Hospital, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3TF; telephone Ipswich (0473) 214811.

The **New Therapies Working Group** (Gestalt, TA, co-counselling, bioenergetics, psychodrama, etc) invite col-

leagues of any grade in psychiatry who are experienced or interested in these therapeutic approaches to attend a one-day meeting on 18 January 1982 at the Central Office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1. Information: Dr W. Falkowski (or his secretary, Sonia Thompson) Springfield Hospital, 61 Glenburnie Road, London SW17 7DJ; telephone 01-672-9911.

The **3rd Annual Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Psychiatry Conference** of the London Hospital Medical College will be held on 29 January 1982 on the theme 'Pregnancy, Parenthood and Sexuality'. Information: Postgraduate Education Secretary, The London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, London E1 2AD.

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