

## The College

### Autumn Quarterly Meeting 1991

The Autumn Quarterly Meeting was held at Kensington Town Hall, London W8 on 23 and 24 October 1991 under the Presidency of Professor A. C. P. Sims.

#### *Business Meeting*

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, 23 October 1991, attended by 14 Members of the College.

#### *Minutes*

The minutes of the Spring Quarterly Meeting held at the University of Leicester on 17 April 1991 were approved and signed.

#### *Registrar's Report*

Following the highlights of the Annual General Meeting to celebrate 150th Anniversary in July, the College has been continuing with work along a broad range of activities.

At last the long awaited guidelines to 'Good Medical Practice in Discharge and Aftercare on Vulnerable Patients' has been through Council for the third time after amendments from the general practitioners, psychologists and other members of the College had been included and discussions held over a wide area of other disciplines. The document will be sent to all members in early December.

The Children Act became law on 14 October, but still draft guidance documents have been passing through, with short deadlines, for comment. After 25 of these it is believed that we are near the end but despite implementation of the Act, there are still

issues to be discussed, particularly between the different legislations encountered by psychiatrists. One overlap area that can easily turn into a gap between services is the area between the operation of the Mental Health Act and the Children Act. A small working party convened by the Public Policy Committee has been set up to look at this area and in particular to look at situations where young people are incarcerated, usually for behavioural and social reasons but who may have psychiatric needs and may well benefit from the protection that could be afforded by the Mental Health Act. Alternatively, the applications of the Children Act, particularly as regards quality of parenting, is of interest to a wide range of specialities.

Forensic issues following the adverse reports, particularly concerning psychiatric patients in prison, take up much time but this is concentrated particularly on the working party chaired by Dr John Reed, who is, of course, a former community psychiatrist and Fellow of this College, at the Department of Health.

Audit is now an accepted part of the life of every doctor, including all psychiatrists. The College's own audit exercise on ECT has shown us clearly where improvements need to be made. A special committee set up by Council will see that the recommendations are implemented in the shortest possible time.

In response to the massive changes occurring with the health service, there is a working party already in operation with the Faculty of Public Health, looking at ways in which purchasers may be advised to ensure the higher standards of psychiatric practice.

PROFESSOR ANN GATH  
*Registrar*

## Prizes, Medals and Travelling Fellowships of The Royal College of Psychiatrists

#### *Gaskell Medal and Prize*

This Prize was instituted in 1886 and is named after Samuel Gaskell, Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Lancaster.

The Prize was established from a Trust Fund in memory of Dr Gaskell, but it is now supported almost entirely from College funds. It has increased in value over the years and now stands at £500, although the medal, originally gold, is now silver-