

SECOND SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr W. V. Howells *O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.G.P. (Chairman)*

IT is indeed a privilege to be here. It is due to Dr John Hunt and a small band of people that the College started and has done so well that now after 16 years we have about 8,000 members and associates and we are a Royal College. Initial enthusiasm has enabled us to do a great deal but we are reaching a plateau where it is necessary to think again which way we are going. The aim of the College is to improve general practice. Not many of you will remember the Collins report but it showed how bad some general practice was. We can feel happy if we have helped with the improvements by emphasis on training, education, and research. Although the College has its headquarters in London, it has all the time placed emphasis on having regional faculties. In Wales we now have a South-east Faculty based on Cardiff, a South-west Faculty based on Swansea, and a North Wales Faculty associated with Liverpool and Merseyside. The Welsh Council will co-ordinate all three faculties and has promoted special interest groups where people of like mind and special interests can meet and talk things over. I am sure we will benefit greatly from the results of this symposium.

Laying the foundation—teaching students

Dr P. S. Byrne, *O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.G.P. (Director, General Practice Teaching and Research, University of Manchester)*

Cascellius extracts an aching tooth, Hyginus removes the hairs that hurt the eyes, Hermes is a very Podalirius at the repair of hernia; but tell me Gallus, where is he that may help my harrassed person—Martial, Epigrams, X, No. 6. (Circa A.D. 40).

THIS timeless *cri-de-coeur* is still more powerfully voiced by our present populations. It highlights the ancient continuing distinction between specialist and generalist and yet it emphasizes the special attributes required of the latter. It must be kept in mind in creating our programmes for undergraduates in this presently unique and exciting situation.

The teaching of undergraduates will always be the responsibility of a university and vested in one of its departments. In the case of general practice this will normally be the university department of general practice. The word 'normally' is not used ill-advisedly, for at least ten schools in Britain have at the moment departments in various stages of gestation. Such infants vary in the evidence they betray of planned parenthood, while the parental patterns show social medicine as particularly fertile.

Views on departments vary too. Some regard them as an administrative unit to organize cosy preceptorship schemes. Others regard their function as the provision of a model practice in which teaching and some gentle research may take place. I