

Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of General Practitioners

THE 23rd Annual General Meeting of the College was held at Imperial College, London, on 20 November 1976. At this meeting the President of the College, Professor P. S. Byrne, CBE, retired and Dr E. V. Kuenssberg, CBE, was installed as the new President. A portrait of the outgoing President was presented to the College by the North-West England Faculty. About 250 people were present.

Election of Honorary Fellows

Mr A. Evans, Chartered Accountant to the College, and Mr John Mayo, the College Solicitor, were elected Honorary Fellows of the College.

New Fellows

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Barlow, D. T. C. | Kendall, E. J. C. |
| Barton, D. G. | Keng, Lim B. |
| Bisset, J. | MacKenzie, E. P. |
| Crane, J. | Millard, F. W. |
| Edmonds, R. W. | Patterson, J. S. |
| Finnegan, D. P. | Richards, R. M. |
| Flacks, B. | Starte, G. D. |
| Ford, H. K. | Tanner, C. P. |
| Frank, P. I. | Trigg, K. H. |
| Gang, S. | Waine, C. |
| Harte, J. D. | Webb, R. |
| Jones, D. H. | Williams, E. I. |

Upjohn Travelling Fellowship

Upjohn Travelling Fellowships have been awarded to the following:

I. K. Campbell, B.Sc, MB, BS, DRCOG, King's Lynn, Norfolk, to study the prevention of atherosclerosis in general practice by health education and screening, utilizing nursing staff.

L. P. Dobson, MRCGP, Guisborough, Cleveland, to study self-actualization and emotional disorders in general practice.

G. P. H. Mason, MRCS, LRCP, Banbury, Oxfordshire, to study domiciliary terminal care services.

J. E. D. Meads, MRCGP, DRCOG, Cullompton, Devon, to study behaviour therapy techniques in the management of anxiety states in general practice.

N. T. A. Oswald, DRCOG, Cambridge, to study the aims of vocational training: how some university departments have sought to fulfil them.

H. H. Ronn, MRCP, Westbury, Wiltshire, to study acute and chronic myocardial ischaemia.

J. G. Surridge, MA, BM, B.Ch, DRCOG and C. P. Vartan, MRCP, Bournemouth, Dorset to study gastroduodenoscopy for general practitioners by direct referral.

A. J. Tulloch, FRCGP, DRCOG, Wendlebury, Oxfordshire, to study investigation of ways of improving shared care of chronic disease by hospital and family doctors.

D. E. Tunnadine, BA, MRCGP, DRCOG, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, to study unwanted pregnancy—accident or illness? A study of women requesting termination of pregnancy.

D. L. Watson, MRCGP, Taunton, Somerset, to make a comparative study of vocational training organizations.

James Mackenzie Prize

The James Mackenzie Prize, which is awarded once every five years, was given to Dr M. C. Stone, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Leigh, for his research on lipids and his use of the nephelometer.

Butterworth Gold Medal

The Butterworth Gold Medal was awarded to Dr J. L. Stevens, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Aldeburgh.

Fraser Rose Gold Medal

The Fraser Rose Gold Medal for the best performance in the MRCGP examination was awarded to Dr C. R. Hartshorn, General Practitioner, Ross-on-Wye.

Other prizes

The Upjohn Essay Prize for 1976 was awarded to Dr C. J. Leonard, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Chipping Norton.

The undergraduate essay prizes were awarded to: Mr David Kernick, Welsh National School of Medicine (first prize), Miss Andrea Penketh, St Mary's Hospital Medical School (second prize), and Mr Peter Norris, Oxford University Medical School (third prize).

James Mackenzie Lecture

The James Mackenzie Lecture was delivered by Dr John Fry, OBE, FRCGP, on "Common Sense and Uncommon Sensibility".

Membership of Council

There was an election for membership of the Council in which the following were elected: J. F. Burdon, J. P. Horder, D. H. Irvine, and D. H. H. Metcalfe.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Dr S. J. Carne, presented the financial report. Expenditure had increased by approximately 25 per cent, but by economy the deficit was kept down to about £10,000. The voluntary annual subscription by members had reached the sum of £15,000, which exceeded all expectations. As a result, the College showed a surplus of about £5,000, and as a result of increased subscriptions on 1 July 1976 a surplus was hoped for in the coming year. He pointed out that the system of paying subscriptions by voluntary direct debit on 1 July each year gave the College additional interest on subscriptions.

The report and accounts were adopted.

Chairman of Council's Report

The Chairman of Council, Dr J. A. R. Lawson, delivered his report.

Number 15 Princes Gate

In September 1976 the Council had decided unanimously to enter into negotiations to purchase number 15 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7, subject to a satisfactory surveyor's report.

Dr Lawson reported that the original asking price of this property was so high that the Finance Committee decided that no offer could be made. Subsequently a proposal emerged that the College might consider the purchase of a 950-year lease at a ground rent of £650 a year, on payment of £150,000 down and 12 annual payments of £15,000 each—a total payment of £330,000, interest free. The freehold would be made available to the College when the owner eventually vacated his flat within this 12-year period.

The Investment Committee had been unanimous in advising that property was now the best hedge against inflation, as opposed to other types of investment. The Finance Committee therefore examined the proposal and noted that the College had enough invested money to make the initial payment of £150,000 plus a total of £22,000 fixtures and fittings and a 950-year lease of a total of ten car ports which is also being offered.

Such a sum would approximately halve the amount of money the College has invested in stocks and shares, with the resulting drop in investment income of about £10,000 a year.

Annual donations and payments under covenant to the Appeal Fund are more than enough to meet the £15,000 annual payment. This, of course, would become much less in real terms if inflation should continue, and at, for example, an inflation rate of ten per cent a year, the present day value of the last payment would be reduced by about a third.

The Finance Committee also noted that during the last 14 years the value of the freehold property of number 14 Princes Gate had increased from the purchase price of £170,000 to a current estimated value of £650,000. During the same period the Stock Exchange index had remained remarkably constant.

On financial grounds alone, therefore, the Finance Committee strongly recommended to Council the purchase of number 15, in order to protect the College's assets.

The Chairman emphasized that none of the money required to finance this project would come from members' subscriptions. It was also clear that there would be other benefits accruing to the College from this purchase, for example, the increase in residential accommodation could be of considerable benefit, especially to younger members and their families.

The Journal

Dr Lawson reported that the General Purposes Committee had decided *nem. con.* that the contract with the present publishers should be terminated and that a negotiating team had been formed to consider other methods of publication.

This team recommended to Council in September that the offer by Update Publications Limited should be accepted.

The Council approved this decision and the eight accompanying conditions for negotiation *nem. con.*, and Update Publications Limited would publish the *Journal* from January 1977.

Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice

The Chairman noted that the work of this Committee was "gradually settling down" and would become increasingly important in view of the fact that the NHS (Vocational Training) Bill had passed through Parliament.

Hospital posts

Dr Lawson commented on "one of the important debates in Council" on the document *Hospital Posts Recognized for the MRCGP Examination*. A working party of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice has now been formed to look at posts in vocational training schemes other than in the practice year. The Council, after full debate, decided that, in view of this working party, the subject should not be pursued further at present.

Reports

The examination

The number of applicants for the MRCGP examination had continued to rise. Last year 740 doctors sat this examination.

Research

A new study on attitudes to pregnancy was being organized by the Manchester Research Unit of the College, and was to be a joint project with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The initial response had been gratifying and 2,100 doctors had been sent the documents.

The Council had decided to set up a research division of the College to which it would delegate research, executive, and managerial functions, and this division would replace the Research Committee of Council. Policy decisions would of course remain with Council.

Medical Recording Service Foundation

The Chairman noted that the Foundation was moving to new premises and congratulated Drs John and Valerie Graves on their work.

The Royal Commission on the NHS

Every member of the College has been invited to contribute views, either individually or through the faculties, and all such comments would be carefully considered.

John Hunt Fellow

Dr J. P. Horder was retiring as John Hunt Fellow at the end of 1976 and Dr Lawson paid tribute to his "patience, tact, personal charm, and professional integrity", which had been invaluable.

Conclusion

The Chairman concluded by thanking Dr Donald Irvine and emphasized how much the College owed to him for his work. He thanked the College staff for their support and he hoped that members of the College would put their views forward for consideration on all the current issues of the day.

"The task for our College today is as great as it was when it was founded; we must tackle it through the faculties, particularly in the field of continuing education where so much must be done if standards are to be raised throughout the country."

This was Dr Lawson's last report at the end of his three-year term as Chairman of Council, and the meeting rose to give him a standing ovation.

Motions from Council

The Honorary Treasurer proposed the following motion:

"That the existing Byelaws 2(C) and 2(D) (iv) of the Byelaws of the College shall with immediate effect be varied so as to read as follows:

2(C) An associate, before admission, shall pay an entrance fee of an appropriate amount based on the annual subscription and also depending on the date of admission, but he shall not be called upon to pay any subscription until 1 July following his entrance to associateship. The appropriate amount shall be determined as follows:

| <i>Date of admission</i> | <i>Entrance fee unless eligible for a reduced subscription</i> | <i>Entrance fee for those eligible for a reduced subscription</i> |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 July | £35 | £10 |
| 1 October | £30 | £8 |
| 1 January | £20 | £6 |
| 1 April | £10 | £4 |

Corresponding associates shall pay no entrance fee.

2(D) (iv) A member or associate who, on the date the subscription is due, has been fully registered less than five years, or is still undergoing vocational training for general practice, shall pay £10."

The motion was passed.

The Honorary Secretary of Council proposed the following motion:

"That the existing Byelaw 10(A) (ii) (a) of the Byelaws of the College be amended by the deletion of the words in brackets ('including if possible at least two women members')."

The motion was passed.

Special motion from Council

The Honorary Secretary introduced the following motion:

"That the Special Resolutions of the predecessor College passed on 19 November, 1961, concerning the Research Foundation and on 19 November, 1966, concerning the Education Foundation shall cease to have any effect and the assets of the Research Foundation Fund and the assets of the Education Foundation Fund shall be amalgamated into a new Scientific Foundation Fund ('the Fund') and in relation thereto the following provisions shall apply:

- The Fund shall form part of the assets of the College but such Fund and the income thereof shall, subject as hereinafter provided, be kept separate from other funds of the College and be applied towards the object of the College only in or towards undertaking or assisting others in undertaking or encouraging the carrying on of education and research in medical matters with a view to the improvement of general medical practice in any field.
- The Council may from time to time set aside from the assets of the College as additions to the Fund further moneys or investments but, except with the

Reports

sanction of the College in General Meeting, the aggregate amount or value (determined at the time or respective times of transfer) of such additions shall not exceed £300,000.

- c) The Council on behalf of the College may accept grants, donations, legacies or bequests to the Fund whether the same are unconditional or made subject to any lawful trusts or conditions not inconsistent with the purpose for which the Fund may be applied. If any portion of the Fund is now or hereafter held subject to any such trusts or conditions as aforesaid the same shall be complied with.
- d) The powers of investment of the capital of the Fund and also of the income of the Fund not immediately required for expenditure, and the variations and transpositions from time to time of investments of the Fund, shall remain vested in the Council which may determine in cases of doubt whether grants, donations and legacies to the Fund should be treated as capital or as income.
- e) The Council shall establish a Scientific Foundation Board and such Board shall, subject to the Charter and Ordinances of The Royal College of General Practitioners and subject to the overriding control of the Council, have the following powers and duties:
 - i) To control the expenditure of the income of the Fund.
 - ii) To allocate the income of the Fund (but not any portion of the capital thereof except with the previous sanction of Council) among the various education and research projects from time to time being undertaken or proposed to be undertaken or supported by the College or for education or research awards (including scholarships, fellowships, grants) so long as such application shall fall within the purposes for which the Fund and the income thereof may lawfully be applied as hereinbefore provided.
 - iii) To administer funds awarded for similar purposes by other grant-giving organizations or individuals so long as such purposes are those for which the income of the Fund itself could lawfully be applied as hereinbefore provided.
- f) The Council may make and from time to time vary regulations as to the number of members of the Scientific Foundation Board and as to the appointment and retirement thereof and as to meetings and proceedings of such Board. Provided always that:
 - i) The Board shall include non-members of the

College selected in relation to their standing and suitability but at all times a majority of the Board must be members of the College.

- ii) No resolution of the Board shall be valid or of any effect unless a majority of the members of the Board present at the meeting and voting thereon are members of the College or unless such resolution is confirmed either by Council or by a subsequent valid resolution of the Board.
- g) The first members of the Board shall be nominated by Council and shall number not less than seven of whom at least four shall be members of the College, with powers to co-opt others from time to time to assist in particular projects. At its first meeting the Board shall elect its Chairman and other officers, provided always that the honorary treasurer of the Fund shall normally be the Honorary Treasurer of the College. Among the officers so elected there shall be an assistant honorary treasurer of the Fund who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of allocations made.
- h) The Board shall have powers to establish a consultative panel or panels to include both members and non-members of the College so that it may obtain the best advice on any project, provided always that such a panel or panels shall have no power to allocate or control the expenditure of the income of the Fund.

The foregoing provisions may be varied only by the College in General Meeting or by the Council with the previous sanction of the College in General Meeting."

The motion was passed.

There were no motions from the faculties.

Appointment of auditors

Mr A. Evans, who has acted as both auditor and adviser on financial matters to the College since its inception, had expressed a wish to resign. The College has therefore appointed Messrs Price Waterhouse as auditors for 1977/78. Mr Evans will continue his long association with the College as its investment manager.

Annual Spring Meeting

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Exeter in 1977 from 15 to 17 April.

The meeting ended at 15.30.