

Annual General Meeting 1978

THE Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of General Practitioners was held in Lecture Theatre A of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, London, on Saturday, 18 November 1978.

The President of the College, Dr E. V. Kuenssberg, CBE, took the chair. About 350 members were present.

Honorary fellow

Mr Gordon McLachlan, CBE, B.COMM, CFA, Secretary of the Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust, was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College by acclamation.

Foundation Council Award

The Foundation Council Award was presented to Dr C. R. Kay, CBE, MD, PH.D, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Manchester.

Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancy Award

The Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancy Award was presented to Lord Hunt of Fawley, CBE, DM, FRCP, FRCS, FRCGP, FRACGP, General Practitioner, London, for having made an outstanding contribution to general practice and especially for his work in the negotiations concerning the Medical Act 1978.

The George Abercrombie Award

The George Abercrombie Award for meritorious literary work in general practice was presented to Dr D. J. Pereira Gray, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Exeter.

Fraser Rose Gold Medal

The Fraser Rose Gold Medal for the best performance in the MRCGP examination during the academic year 1977/1978 was awarded to Dr Brian Golden, MRCP, MRCGP, DCH, DRCOG. General Practitioner, Golders Green.

Butterworth Gold Medal

The Butterworth Gold Medal for 1978 was presented to Dr R. Harland, MRCGP, of Belfast, for his essay on the management of hay fever in general practice. A second award was made to Dr M. K. Thompson for his essay on the care of the elderly in general practice.

Upjohn Fellowship

It was announced that the Upjohn Essay Prize was not being awarded in 1978, since the standard of submissions was not high enough. Upjohn Travelling Fellowships were presented to the following:

1. Dr D. S. Filer, MRCGP, London.
"A study to define the content of medico-legal ethics in general practice and to make recommendations about the teaching of this subject."
2. Dr H. I. Humphreys, MRCGP, DRCOG, Llandudno.
"To study the functions and operation of day hospitals."
3. Dr M. J. Jameson, MRCGP, St Albans.
"Knowing the patient. Some uses of age/sex indexing."
4. Dr D. M. G. Jenkins, LMSSA, Dyfed.
"To become more familiar and proficient in the practice of hypnosis with a view to its increased use in general practice."
5. Dr Bridget Matthews, MB, BS, Bath.
"Terminal care units."
6. Dr J. C. Newell Price, MB, B.CHIR, Fleet, Nr Aldershot.
"Marriage and family counselling in primary medical care with particular emphasis on co-operation with marriage guidance counsellors."
7. Dr J. F. Richardson, MRCP, London.
"Transactional analysis in general practice."
8. Dr M. A. Scatchard, MRCGP, Harrogate.
"Manipulative medicine."
9. Dr R. A. Strachan, MRCGP, DRCOG, Sutton Coldfield.
"To gain more skill and insight into the use of small group methods of teaching in a half-day release course."
10. Dr G. B. Taylor, DRCOG, DCH, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
"The creation, use, and financing of a day unit for the elderly on a voluntary basis, without the use of public funds."

Undergraduate Essay Prizes

The Undergraduate Essay Prizes were awarded to the following:

Dr W. D. Ashton, University of Manchester; Dr A.

Elias-Jones, Bristol Royal Infirmary; and Dr Pauline Wald, Cambridge University School of Clinical Medicine.

Astra Research Awards

A first prize was not awarded. Second prize was awarded to Dr Jill Rapoport, and third prize to Dr Ho Yen.

New fellows

The following members of the College were elected to the fellowship:

Adams, W. L.	Harvey, B. C.
Ballantyne, R. W.	Himmelhoch, A.
Bolden, K. J.	Jarvie, N. D.
Boyes, G. M. P.	Johnston, J. S.
Brooks, D.	Jones, R. V. H.
Bruce, J. D.	Keane, W. G.
Bush, J. P.	Kilpatrick, W. G.
Cash, G. N.	Lennard, J. K.
Colville, R. L. K.	McCutcheon, A. R.
Cooling, M. S.	McIntosh, W. G.
Cornford, S. E.	McMullan, J. J.
Darrah, A. C.	MacSorley, M.
Doleman, F. T.	Midha, R. N.
Dunstone, S. M. L.	Mulroy, R.
Emder, H. J.	O'Beirne, P. D.
Ferguson, A. J. A.	Oldroyd, M. J.
Fergusson, R. S. C.	Otlet, A. B.
Fleming, D. M.	Pacy, J. R.
Fowler, G. H.	Richards, S. J.
Frankland, J. C.	Saunders, J. A.
Gates, G. R.	Spencer-Smith, E. M.
Gilbert, R. G.	Steen, P. S.
Goodman, M.	Tellis, M. M.
Greenlees, R.	Wallace, B. B.
Haire, I.	Ward, G. L.
Happel, S.	Whitney, J. D. W.
Harbison, R. F. F.	Wilkie, L.
Hart, C. J. R.	

The following Australian members were elected to the fellowship:

Adams, W. L.	Himmelhoch, A.
Bush, J. P.	Harbison, R. F. F.
Cooling, M. S.	Harvey, B. C.
Dunstone, S. M. L.	Pacy, J. R.
Emder, H. J.	Wilkie, L.
Greenlees, R.	

James Mackenzie Lecture

Dr W. W. Yellowlees, MC, FRCGP, General Practitioner, Aberfeldy, Scotland, delivered the 1978 James Mackenzie Lecture, "Ill fares the land" (January *Journal*, p.7). He was given a standing ovation.

Business meeting

In the afternoon the Chairman of Council, Dr M. J. Linnett, took the Chair.

Chairman's Report

Dr Linnett delivered his report. He began by stating that the College was healthy, and was growing. "Whereas only two years ago we had 7,812 fellows, members and associates, this year we have 8,458." He emphasized that a quarter were now under the age of 35 and that the rising number of young doctors joining the College was especially welcome, since they were our most precious asset.

The future of the College

In every faculty the four papers published in the March 1977 issue of the *Journal* had been discussed. Faculty responses had varied but the debate about the future of the College was continuing. The theme of continuing education and the need for College members to honour their undertaking to maintain standards of clinical practice already commanded wide support.

Council had agreed that those faculties who were interested in developing new ideas should be encouraged to 'do their own thing'.

NHS Vocational Training Regulations

The draft Regulations for Vocational Training had been received by the College, and the Council was glad to note that in general they followed the lines suggested by the College and the other general practitioner bodies.

The examination

During the last year 788 candidates had sat the MRCGP examination with a pass rate of 70.2 per cent. Council had advised the Board of Censors that the standard of the examination should be raised since it had become clear that a small proportion of the candidates were passing the examination with inadequate knowledge and skills. The evidence for this had come from the panel of examiners and from some vocational training schemes which were carrying out continuous assessment.

Council had also advised the Board to ensure that in future the examination would require all candidates to demonstrate adequate knowledge of the principles and practice of child care, reflecting the increased responsibilities of general practice for the care of children.

Research

The Research Division Executive had been ably chaired by Dr Clifford Kay. The Leigh Clinical Research Unit was a welcome addition to the Research Division. The Director, Dr Maurice Stone, was a general practitioner working in a health centre, and an international authority on blood lipids and vascular disease.

Confidentiality

The debate on confidentiality at the previous Annual General Meeting had precipitated detailed work. Council had now appointed a Working Party to consider confidentiality in all its aspects and to make suggestions.

Other organizations

During the year the College had established useful dialogues with other organizations, including the Association of Medical Secretaries with whom it was exploring ways in which help could be given to improve the training of reception and secretarial staff.

The Journal

Dr Linnett said that Council greatly appreciated the success of the College's publishers, Update Publications Limited. The increased advertising revenue they had obtained had lowered the deficit on the *Journal* substantially, and thanks were due to Dr Abraham Marcus and his colleagues. The transfer had meant much extra work for the Honorary Editor and his staff, including the library and the new subscription department, but all were to be congratulated for maintaining standards throughout the year.

15 Princes Gate

The Chairman of Council reported that one of his most gratifying experiences recently had been to be able to sleep in one of the new rooms in 15 Princes Gate. The two buildings now communicated and the space for accommodation and offices had been reorganized. He made special mention of the help and advice of Mrs E. V. Kuenssberg and Mrs S. J. Carne, whose eye for detail and sheer hard work had been much appreciated.

He expressed the thanks of the College to Mr James Wood, who had faced many problems during the year with his characteristic imperturbability. He had led the College staff whose loyal support had made all these changes possible.

Dr Donald Irvine

Dr Linnett noted that this was the last Annual General Meeting at which Dr Donald Irvine would be Honorary Secretary of Council. He paid tribute to him on his own account, on behalf of all his predecessors as Chairman of Council, and for Council for the loyalty and strength of the support he had given. Dr Irvine was a remarkable man with an ability to dissect an issue, a clarity of thought, and a fluency as an advocate, which he had used to the advantage of the College on many occasions.

The meeting rose to give Dr Donald Irvine a standing ovation.

Conclusion

In conclusion the Chairman, Dr Linnett, referred to the recent death of Dr George Abercrombie, who had been

the first Chairman of Council of the College and also its third President. In the fifth James Mackenzie Lecture Dr Abercrombie had said that his work in his practice had been with "men, women, children, individuals one at a time" and that he had always been deeply concerned with "what will happen to this, to *my* patient". Patients were where the work of members of the College started, continued, and where it would end.

Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer presented his report and announced that despite considerable recent inflation the College's finances had remained in balance. It was, however, necessary to consider an increase in the annual subscription in order to generate further income, and this had been approved recently as a recommendation to the meeting by the Council.

Dr Carne drew attention to the improvement on the *Journal* account which he thought was due first to the quality of the *Journal* itself, and secondly to the energetic advertising promotion obtained by Update Publications Limited.

Dr Carne noted that the purchase of Number 15 Princes Gate had already proved financially successful, as the investment advisers to the College had reported that the money had appreciated more in that form than had it been left in stocks and shares in the City of London.

The Honorary Treasurer's report was approved.

President of the College

Dr E. V. Kuenssberg was unanimously re-elected President of the College for the year 1978/79.

College Council

Dr Donald Irvine read out the list of faculty representatives elected to Council, and an election was held in which the following nine candidates participated:

Dr M. Drury, Midlands; Dr P. Freeling, South London; Dr J. Fry, South London; Dr J. A. R. Lawson, East Scotland; Dr C. J. Leonard, North and West London; Dr B. W. McGuiness, Merseyside and North Wales; Dr L. Newman, North-East London; Dr E. Robertson, Merseyside and North Wales; and Dr H. J. Wright, Yorkshire.

Drs Drury, Freeling, Fry, and Lawson were elected.

Resolutions from Council

The Honorary Treasurer moved a series of composite motions affecting the future subscription to the College, the main feature of which was that the annual subscription of a fellow, member and associate, subject to the exceptions shown, would change from 1 July 1979 to £40, from 1 July 1980 to £45, and from 1 July 1981 to £50.

The motions as printed on the agenda paper were passed.

Workload

Dr J. Tudor Hart, South-West Wales Faculty, moved:

"That the Royal College of General Practitioners should undertake a formal investigation into the variation in workload in general practice throughout the United Kingdom."

There was discussion in the meeting about the appropriateness of the use of the word 'formal' and an amendment to omit it was proposed and carried. The motion was then lost.

Postgraduate education

Dr Midha, South-West Wales Faculty, moved:

"That the Royal College of General Practitioners should establish a minimal acceptable level of postgraduate educational requirements for general practitioners."

After discussion in which Dr D. Irvine and Dr J. S. Marks spoke against the motion, the motion was lost.

Postgraduate study

Dr Midha, South-West Wales Faculty, moved:

"That the Royal College of General Practitioners should make representations, through appropriate negotiating bodies, to establish postgraduate study as an integral part of a general practitioner's normal duties. Appropriate periods of adequately remunerated study leave should be incorporated into the terms and conditions of service of general practitioners."

Dr D. Irvine supported the idea behind the motion which he unfortunately considered premature and thus had to oppose. This motion was also lost.

Clearing house for overseas students

Dr Robin Steel, Midland Faculty, moved:

"That the Midland Faculty Board urges the College to take the initiative in setting up a joint meeting with representatives of the British Medical Association, the Department of Health and Social Security, the British

Council, and the Association of University Teachers of General Practice, to consider the setting up of a clearing house to facilitate overseas medical students seeing British general practice and British medical students seeing general practice in other countries."

He noted that a growing problem existed in placing overseas medical students. He declared a personal interest and had had students from many countries to his own practice.

In a lengthy debate, Dr J. S. Norell noted that increasing numbers of medical students, coupled with the small staffing of many university departments of general practice, was causing great strains in placing British medical students, quite apart from overseas medical students. Dr K. J. Bolden emphasized the importance and value to overseas students of visiting selected practices in which high standards could be demonstrated, but he did not consider the practices needed to be as highly selected as those for vocational trainees. Dr Irvine urged that this matter should be investigated and the motion was passed.

Lottery

Dr George Swift, Wessex Faculty, moved:

"That this meeting regrets the decision of Council to reject an offer of money which could have been made available from a lottery and wishes that the matter be referred back to Council to clarify whether any future offers would be accepted or rejected."

Dr J. F. Burdon, South-West England Faculty, reported that lotteries in South-West England were failing and were being withdrawn. The motion was lost.

Appointment of auditors

Messrs Price Waterhouse were re-appointed as auditors.

Spring General Meeting

It was announced that the Spring General Meeting of the College would be held on 22 April 1979 in Cardiff. A warm welcome awaited all those attending.

The meeting ended at 16.30 hours.

1978 Annual General Meeting Symposium Your team — for promotion or relegation?

IT was a powerful team that Captain Keith Bolden from Exeter assembled to go into bat at the Annual General Meeting Symposium of the Royal College of General Practitioners on Friday, 17 November 1978.

Dr T. Stewart

The innings was opened by Dr T. Stewart of the Sonning Common Health Centre, who defined the team in