

Friends of the College Archives NEWSLETTER



Issue 7, Winter 2012

College Archives update

Calling Wales!

The Archivist is appealing to Members and Fellows of the Welsh Division during the 1970s to the late 1980s that may have information relating to some records of the division which went missing in 2004 when the offices were moving from the Postgraduate Medical Centre in Whitchurch, Cardiff. If the original records are not found we are also appealing to members to donate copies of the following records:

1. minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Sub-Committee for Mental Health, and Welsh Medical Committee
2. correspondence of the Division, Advisory Appointments Committees, Mental Handicap Section and Health Advisory Service
3. circulars
4. reports
5. Newsletters.

A full list of records can be obtained from the [Archivist](#) or tel: 0207 235 2351 ext. 6169.

Public Catalogue Foundation

A photographer from the Foundation recently took photographs of the portraits and paintings in the College. The pictures will be opened to the public through catalogues to be published by the Foundation and the BBC's 'Your Paintings' website: www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/

Adopt-a-Book

Adopting a book from the College's Antiquarian Collection offers an opportunity to contribute towards the history and development of psychiatry. The scheme has enabled more than 30 books to be restored

since its inception in 2007. The College would like to thank members who have since donated generously towards this appeal. A [full list of books](#) awaiting adoption is available on the website.

The history of Broadmoor Hospital by Dr Harvey Gordon



Day room at Broadmoor Hospital (c.1860s)

The name of Broadmoor conjures up an awesome reputation, and in March 2013 the hospital will celebrate its 150th birthday. The Victorian era saw the development of asylums, but in the 21st century most of the old large psychiatric hospitals closed. Yet Broadmoor Hospital has shown its durability, although even it too has been affected, now having less than half the number of patients it held in the 1860s. Since the 1970s, the number of beds in medium secure units has expanded and an admixture of harmony and tension exists between general and forensic psychiatry. Additionally, there is now a forensic interface between the high secure and medium secure units, which is also harmonious in part yet tense in regard to which patients should be in which level of security.

Broadmoor's origins in the 19th century as a criminal lunatic asylum were not the same as those of the county and borough asylums, as Broadmoor admitted only through the criminal justice system. However, there was a link with the local asylums in that any convicted prisoners deemed insane and transferred to Broadmoor were in almost all cases transferred to local asylums if still insane at the end of their sentence. This came about from legislation in 1867 and was a considerable source of concern for the local asylums, as patients were not always fully stable or free of criminal tendencies just because their prison sentence had ended. Those found insane by the courts and admitted to Broadmoor were usually conditionally discharged to the community but in some cases were transferred to local asylums. A further issue was that there were patients in local asylums on civil orders who were regarded as dangerous; indeed, there were a number of homicides, the victim being usually a fellow patient, but occasionally an attendant or, rarely, a doctor. In one case a Commissioner in Lunacy was killed. Only after such a homicidal assault and after criminal charges were brought could such a patient be transferred to Broadmoor.

The Mental Health Act 1959 was a watershed piece of mental health legislation and its principles remain largely pertinent today. It rectified some of the early problems at the interface. Sentenced prisoners would no longer be almost automatically transferred from Broadmoor to local psychiatric hospitals at the end of their sentence; their transfer was now dependent on full clinical evaluation. Although previously most patients were conditionally discharged to the community, they would now mostly be transferred to general psychiatric hospitals. Also, Broadmoor and what were now all termed special hospitals — including Rampton and Moss Side, and later Park Lane — could accept civilly detained patients if regarded as dangerous, violent or showing criminal propensities. Later, this criterion would be changed to whether the patient showed a grave and immediate risk to others. In practice, any attempt at such precision is a useful guideline but also problematic and decisions about admission need to reflect an overall judgement on any particular patient. The Act also made other significant changes, in particular the categorisation of mental disorders into mental illness, psychopathic disorder, mental subnormality and severe mental subnormality. Although some patients with personality disorder had previously been admitted to Broadmoor, their numbers began

to increase from the 1940s, and then considerably from the 1960s. The debate as to whether they were amenable to treatment and to what extent they differed from criminals in prison became a part of psychiatry in a way it had not previously been. Even the medium secure units would later not be keen to accept such patients. Nonetheless, such patients find their way into mental health services and the debate is not resolved.

Broadmoor's interaction with general psychiatry, though mostly regarding adult patients, also has historically embraced the two ends of the age spectrum. The youngest patient ever admitted to Broadmoor was only 10 years old, although such cases were exceptional. Crime rates are much reduced in the elderly but criminal behaviour does occur. The oldest patient ever admitted to Broadmoor was over 80 years old. Nowadays, a very young or very old patient is not likely to be admitted.

A further difference between the local asylums and Broadmoor has been the gender balance. Women have been slightly in the majority of admissions to local psychiatric hospitals but they have made up only about a quarter of admissions to Broadmoor. Since 2007, there have been none at all, as Rampton is now the only high secure facility for women.

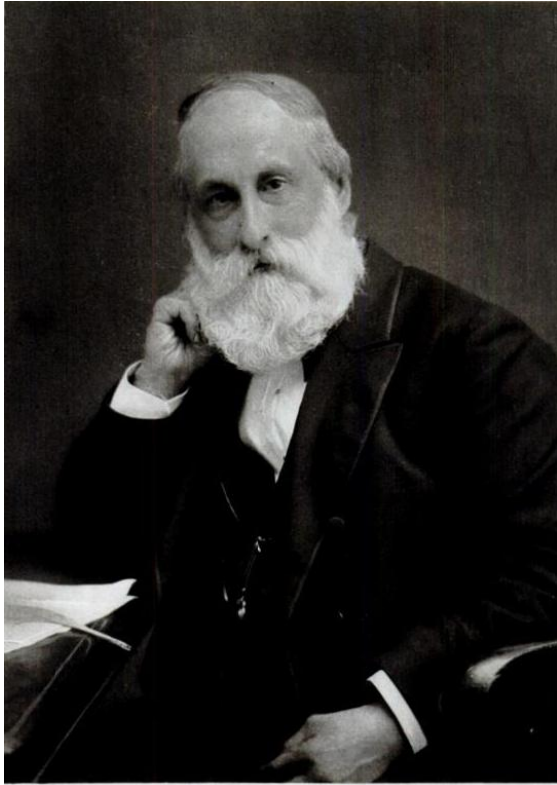
The modern British psychiatrist does not face the dilemma of the psychiatric assessment of a defendant charged with murder who in the past might have faced the death penalty, which was suspended in 1965 and abolished in 1969 in Britain. Broadmoor played a unique role as an alternative to the death penalty and psychiatry's contribution is an important one.

The practices of general and forensic psychiatry are similar but not identical. In particular, their approach may diverge over the issue not of the severity but of the nature of the mental disorder, i.e. not only whether the patient has recovered but whether they are likely to relapse if discharged. This is partly why length of stay is longer in forensic psychiatry.

A copy of the book Broadmoor: An Inside Story by Dr Harvey Gordon can be ordered at a discount by emailing dcpsychologynews@gmail.com and sending a cheque for £17.50 to Psychology News, 4 Newell Street, London E14 7HR.

The making of the Antiquarian Collection

The College Library was formally founded in 1895 thanks in most part to the generous donation of books bequeathed by Dr Daniel Hack Tuke to the then Royal Medico-Psychological Association.



Dr Daniel Hack Tuke

After much sorting out of this large collection, in 1896 the newly formed Library Committee reported to Council that 'about 700 volumes were worthy of retention in the library although 350 of these required repair' (Council Minutes, 1896). The books were catalogued using a card catalogue system and print-outs of the book list were distributed to Members so that they might request a book by post.

In 2002, the library underwent major refurbishment, made possible by a generous gift in memory of the late Dr Josephine Lomax-Simpson. The library collection was extensively culled. The Tuke collection, along with other books of historical and valuable note, became known as the Antiquarian Collection and was moved to their current position in the Members Room. As it was then realised that the collection was valuable, lockable cupboards with alarms were used.

Also at this time the College library secured a grant of £10,000 from the Wellcome Trust

towards the cost of restoring the antiquarian book collection. This grant was not enough to restore all of the books, but books are slowly being conserved at a rate of about nine per year thanks to the 'Adopt a Book' scheme run by the Archivist.

Books from the Antiquarian Collection may not be borrowed, but can be viewed by appointment with the Archivist. The library is currently checking that all the books are correctly registered in the library catalogue, which uses the Heritage Library Management System. This catalogue is available on the College website, and can be searched by both College Members and members of the public. It is hoped that through the online catalogue more people will become aware of this historical collection.

Sources

Bewley T. *Madness to Mental Illness: A History of the Royal College of Psychiatrists*. RCPsych Publications, 2008.

No author. Proposed library of the Association. *J Ment Sci* 1863; **9**: 151-2.

Book review

Trinity's Psychiatrists: From Serenity of the Soul to Neuroscience

Marcus Webb

Trinity College Dublin, 2011, €5.00, pb, 142 pp.

ISBN: 9781871408614

This short volume is a most helpful, brief history and guide to the lives and thoughts of psychiatrists connected with Trinity College, Dublin (TCD). Marcus Webb is well-placed to write this, being himself emeritus fellow and previously professor of psychiatry at TCD.

Our journey starts with John Stearne (1624-1649) who was TCD's first Regius Professor of Medicine, and the founder and first president of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. His book *Animi Medela (The Cure of the Mind)* made recommendations more about 'mental hygiene' than the treatment of severe mental illness, but he approved the appropriate medical use of 'opium, tonics, sedatives, barley-water and crocus'.

The first hospital in the country for the care of the mentally ill was St Patrick's, founded by virtue of a legacy from Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), a TCD graduate, the satirist author of *Gulliver's Travels* and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral. His motives are not clear, although his philanthropic purpose was, and the links between the two institutions remained important. St Patrick's, or Swift's Hospital as it was also known, could not provide for the increasingly clear need for

arrangements for lunacy, and the Quaker community, following the example at York, established the 'Bloomfield Retreat for persons afflicted with disorders of the mind'; John Eustace, who qualified at TCD, was its superintendent from 1813. Eustace descendants have continued to care for the mentally ill.

A whole study could be written on the involvement of Irish psychiatrists with the Medico-Psychological Association and its successor organisations. For example, James Duncan (1812-1885) and Oscar Woods (1848-1906) were presidents in the 19th century; as was Conolly Norman (1853-1908), who nominated the first woman member of the Medico-Psychological Association, Eleanora Fleury.

Leaping forward, Thomas Bewley (1926-), also from a family of doctors and psychiatrists, qualified at TCD in 1950, and was President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (1984-1987). The well-remembered Anthony Clare (1942-2007), famous for his knowledgeable and witty media contributions, was Medical Director of St Patrick's Hospital and clinical professor in psychiatry at TCD. In his younger years, as spokesman for the Association of

Psychiatrists in Training, he made a huge difference to the training scheme of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

This book is both entertaining and a wonderful resource for those interested in Irish and British psychiatry.



Dr Thomas Bewley

Gresham College lectures

The Lost Hospitals of London: Bethlem Hospital – Worth a Visit?

Speaker: Colin S. Gale, Bethlem Archivist, Bethlem Royal Hospital

Monday 19 March 2012 at 13:00, Museum of London

Bethlem Hospital was an integral part of London's charitable provision for the poor in medieval and early modern times. Hand in hand with public benevolence went great public interest in the objects of charity. Until 1770, the hospital was open at specified times of the week to any member of the public who wished to see inside. Bethlem Hospital was by no means the only early modern hospital to permit this level of public access to its inner workings, but it is probably the best known for having done so. The memory of Bethlem's display of the misery of its patients for entertainment and gain is a powerful metaphor to this day.

For more information see: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/London-Wall/Whats-on/Adult-events/GreshamCollegeLectures.htm

Contributions to the newsletter

Brief articles, letters and notices of events are welcome. Please send contributions to the [Archivist](#), Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PG.
