

College of Speech Therapists News Bulletin 1945-1950

General background

The CST News Bulletin appeared just as the Second World War was ending in Europe, following postponement of the launch of CST from October 1944 to January 1945 because of continuing rocket attacks on London. A change of government from coalition to a Labour majority in July 1945 led to the planning of a new national health service and its launch on 5 July 1948 (alongside the national insurance scheme discussed during the war) and implementation of the Education Acts (England) 1944; Scotland (1945) and Northern Ireland (1948), in addition to the Children Act (1948). The general election of February 1950 returned the Labour party briefly to power. The immediate post-war years have been characterised as austere, with rationing to continue into the 1950s. The empire was beginning to dismantle and aspects of British life were being nationalised. The beginning of the Cold War resulted in Britain joining NATO in 1949.

Early development of Bulletin

CST Council minute 7(b) of 2 December 1944 shows that the 'question of an editorial committee for the News Sheet was .. discussed and it was proposed by Miss Wilkins, seconded by Mrs Harries and carried that the following terms of reference be approved' - 'That the Committee plan the general lines of the news-sheet in concert and prepare and circulate it to members of the College. This news sheet to be duplicated and issued quarterly and no number to exceed four foolscap sheets in length. It was agreed that the business management remain in the hands of the Executive'. The name 'Bulletin of the College of Speech Therapists' was also agreed at that meeting. It was proposed that the first editorial committee consist of 'Miss Rosser as Editor in chief with Miss Barnes, Miss Topping, Miss Hooper and Mr T Smith'. Each issue was edited by a different member of the Bulletin Editorial Committee (sub-editors), under the overall charge of the Editor-in-Chief and 'circularised' by the final member of the committee. This committee was changed annually.

The purpose of the News Bulletin was stated by Eileen MacLeod (Chairman of Council at the time) in its first issue: 'a link to unite each member with every other member and with the Council on a family basis'. She continued, '.. it is largely up to the members to ensure the success of the Bulletin by keeping the Editor well supplied with suitable "copy".' Initially it was to be issued quarterly, but 'if it proves popular it is hoped, when paper and labour are more readily obtainable, to increase the number of issues to six per annum, and perhaps ultimately to one every month' (No. 1). In the event, the number of issues varied from four in 1945 and 1946 to three in 1947 and 1948 (the reduction

was due to financial and paper restrictions) to five in 1949 and again in 1950 (not the targeted six for the latter). The first issue was limited to two sheets of paper (foolscap size), although this allowance had risen to eight sides by the second issue. Two different typescripts were used, eg compare Nos 1 and 2.

Pleas were often made for more input from members, eg in No. 2 the Editor wrote: 'I conclude by voicing once more the urgent need for more articles, letters and suggestions, in the hope that we shall be so "flooded" with excellent material that it will be essential to publish this Bulletin monthly and so keep us constantly in touch with the profession as a whole'. In a letter from Hester Rosser in No. 2, she asks that members 'make the Bulletin the vehicle of really democratic expression of opinion and of a valuable exchange of knowledge and ideas.' The statement 'the Bulletin provides a useful trial ground for those whose ability in this field is less familiar to the Editors of our more important publication [*Speech*]' may seem to imply 'it's not what you write, but who knows you'?

The Editor of No. 21 rebukes the over three hundred-strong membership for the lack of unsolicited copy for that issue, but feels 'that our Scottish members are entitled to dismiss from this parade of criticism. We will recall the many excellent contributions we have received from over the border...'. He makes some suggestions for 'brighter reading': letters to the Editor, crossword puzzles (not acted upon) and changes of address (!). He continues, 'Write an article for the Bulletin regularly! Get into the habit of sending in an annual contribution. A couple of pages of double spaced typewritten foolscap is a nice yardstick to use'. He finishes, 'There is also the danger that it may be reduced to the level of a circular containing nothing but advertisements and announcements similar to those found in a Ministry of Food Bulletin'. This appeal worked so well that the Editor of No. 22 had to hold over two contributions.

Content

Generally the early Bulletins consisted of a short editorial, followed by College notices, detailed Area and District news, letters to the Editors and short articles. As the Bulletin (and College networks) developed more articles and more Area/District news appeared. Also included in most issues were information about useful publications and 'news from individual members' (or 'Personalis column', E Hazel Potts, Editor No. 4). It appears that enclosures accompanied at least some of the Bulletins, but none survives.

HQ

The 'very precarious' (No. 7) financial position or 'acute financial plight' (No. 14) of College and its early problem of accommodation and furnishings permeate the first issues. 'The year 1947 is an important milestone in the history of Speech Therapy - The College is firmly established as an Examining Body, employment is assured for all members and salaries are to be raised all round. If any member cares to show her appreciation of these benefits by giving a donation for 1 year, 3 years or 7 years, the treasurer will be delighted to receive any amount, however small' (No. 9). Miss van Thal, Miss Peachey, Dr Stein and Miss Kingdon Ward gave 1/- for every £1 raised above the Southern Area target of £100 towards Queen's Gardens furnishings (as well as their own contributions) (No. 12). Mrs Farnall Thurston gave a second £200 towards the running expenses of the College (No. 9).

Miss GL Birch was appointed full-time Secretary to the College and began work on 1 January 1946. She replaced the joint honorary Secretaries (Miss Swallow and Miss Wood). Mrs Moggridge (CST secretary) resigned [ex Miss Birch?] and Mrs Mackowie (Clerk to the Examinations Board) replaced her in early 1950. At this time, HQ staffing was increased by the employment also of a full time senior clerk and a part time clerical worker 'for the activities of the College are expanding so rapidly that casual clerical help is no longer enough. We hope to acquire an Adressograph (sic) machine to lighten the routine work..' (No. 19). Major Pounsford (retired Inland Revenue official) was employed as Appeals Secretary (No. 7) and was not to be remunerated until he had raised some funds (at his own request). The possibility of a CST library is mentioned in Nos 3 and 17.

Miss Fleming in a letter in No. 7 explained the problem of College's accommodation. From 86 Harley Street there were several temporary moves (including to 27 Southwick Street, W2 - see No. 6) before College settled at 68 Queen's Gardens, W2 for some years.

'Royal patronage is not the same as the Royal Charter; therefore, we are not entitled to prefix "Royal" to the title of our Organisation' (No. 13). Members are berated for their poor return of forms by Miss MacLeod as Chairman of Council (No. 17) in 'In considerable dispraise of membership' and by Joan van Thal as Chairman of Council (No. 19), who also mentions the Ministry of Health Committee of Enquiry into Training and Recruitment of Speech Therapists which sat from summer 1949.

Miss E Wood was made Fellow (No. 17), as were by thesis Miss Allen ('A study of behaviour problems which are associated with defects of language and articulation in young children') (No. 18)

and Miss Butfield ('An introduction to aphasia with special reference to re-education rehabilitation and resettlement) (No. 21). Mrs Murdo Mackenzie (Chairman of the Examinations Board) was made an Honorary Fellow (No. 18).

CST outwith HQ - Areas and Districts

News from the four College Areas (Northern, Midland, Southern and Scottish) appears in most issues, usually as notices of future meetings or reports from past meetings (sometimes including short or long summaries from speakers). The original areas and districts appear in No. 1. The Scottish Area seems to have developed by No. 6, although there were meeting of speech therapists there before then. In Midland, districts had to be abandoned because of small numbers and large travelling distances (No. 6) while the number of districts in Southern Area proliferated over the period (eg seven by No. 8). Northern Irish news is also included in several of the later issues during this period. Refresher courses are mentioned in London in 1947 (Nos 10 and 11) and in Scotland in 1947 and 1950 (although they are reported as annual events) (Nos 10 and 22).

Clinical and professional

Some early articles and letters to the Editor discuss the question of the intelligence of children with speech impairments and with stammers. This issue was debated following an AGM (No. 12). Later issues were more concerned with hearing impairment/lip-reading and cerebral palsy. Nasal sigmatism received attention in 1950.

Rosalyn Carrick (Editor of No. 6) noted that 'One still comes across people who are entirely oblivious of the fact that there is such a thing as Speech Therapy, and one is alarmed to find gross ignorance in the unexpected quarters.' The same theme is repeated in a letter to the Editor by Franklin Brook in No. 23. [... and 70+ years on?]

This series of Bulletin was written in the background of the development and first three years of the National Health Service. Issues of remuneration are often noted: superannuation and salary scales (eg Nos 5, 6, 9, 10, 13); income tax relief (No. 14); National Insurance scheme (No. 17); salaries, conditions of work and the Whitley Council (eg Nos 19, 21 and 24). By whom speech therapists should be employed was also discussed (this became a recurring theme in the profession): school health service or education department (eg No. 5).

International

The International Conference on Speech Therapy (Amsterdam 22-27 August, 1950) is advertised in several 1949 issues (No. 17 on) by Joan van Thal. Reciprocal recognition was accomplished in 1949 with the Australian College of Speech Therapists and it was hoped to achieve 'something similar with the South African Society for Logopedics' in 1950 (No. 19).

Lighter moments

An abridged play by "M.D." was published in No. 8 ('The lighter side of speech therapy'). Occasional 'Loose Talk's appeared - see page 2, No. 20; page 3, No. 21 and page 9, No. 22. Finally there was a 'True story' told in No. 8.

Of the time....

Miss W Kingdon Ward reports in No. 18 on a talk given at the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics by Dr Earl R Carlson, who was a 'specialist in Cerebral Palsy and is himself a spastic'. There is some discussion of the price of the 1945 Conference Report: 2/- (No. 2), 6/- (No. 5) but finally 5/- seems to have been agreed (No. 6). A summary report of that conference appears in No. 2. Prices had risen by the 1948 Conference, of which the report cost 8/9 (including postage) (No. 22).

Miss Potts (in No. 8) gives some advice on treating blankets in speech clinics with DDT in powder form as 'a precautionary measure against the spread of head lice etc.', despite no evidence of 'live stock'. The speech therapist should be able to perform the process herself, after demonstration by the Sanitary Inspector.

Some articles and reports mention audio-visual aids, eg lantern slides (eg No. 2), epidiascope (No. 3) and the use of 'speech recording apparatus' is described in an article by Joyce Wilkins (No. 16). A Research Committee appears among College committees in 1946 (No. 8) although it was 'in abeyance' in 1949 (No. 18). Among the topics suggested as 'of particular interest' in 1948 was 'The psychological implication of speech defects, particularly in relation to the lateral 's'. The other two were 'cerebral dominance (sic) in relation to stammering and speech defects' and 'visual and auditory imperceptions' (No. 12). The Scottish area members received a 'most enlightening talk' (No. 12) on modern methods of treating mental illness, which were 'convulsion treatment, insulin coma treatment, and pre-frontal leucotomy'.

Advertisements

The first job advertisement appeared in No. 14 and this section expanded greatly from No. 15 onwards (comprising almost half of that issue). Members were able to take advantage of this service for professional matters (change of address, books wanted or for sale, etc) at 1/- per line or part of a line (No. 15). Eventually the advertisement section separated from the main body of the Bulletin and was paginated afresh (No. 22 onwards). During this period this section was organised by Catherine Renfrew. It was hoped that all speech therapy jobs would be advertised in this publication (No. 18) so that 'we shall be able to afford a more frequent issue' (job advertisements at 2/6 a line).

Linda Armstrong April 1999 [edited October 2020]

Issue	Date	Editor	Pages	Articles etc
1	March 1945	Kathleen M Allen	4	KM Allen: Importance of Sense Training in Speech Therapy (summary) The Bookshelf (books also listed in Nos 2 and 5)
2	June 1945	Mary Topping	6	brief summary of the 1st annual conference Mary Topping: Notes on the Treatment of Speech Defects in Young Children
3	Sep 1945	Thomas Smith	4	Obituary: Miss Elsie Fogerty Anne H McAllister: Speech Therapy in Scotland
4	Nov 1945	E Hazel Potts	6	Margaret B Williamson: Notes on the position of a speech therapist in an in-patient psychiatric hospital list of College committees' members
5	March 1946	Kathleen M Allen	8	Margaret Barnes: To be - or not to Be!
6	June 1946	Rosalyn Carrick	5	BRMA = Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries
7	Sep 1946	Thomas Smith	5	letter from Miss Fleming re: College accommodation and finance letter from Kingdon Ward re: early 20th C speech therapy
8	Dec 1946	E Hazel Potts	8	list of College committees' members
9	March 1947	Rachel Storrs	8	Joyce Mitchell: Notes on Speech Therapy in Ireland Report from AGM 21.9.46, including open discussion on speech disabilities arising out of war conditions military and civilians letter from Kingdon Ward re: early 20th C speech therapy
10	June 1947	Catherine Renfrew	E 4	new header with HQ address detail about Queen's Gardens furnishings Moor House school recently opened
11	Sep 1947	Thomas Smith	7	letter from Mabel Oswald re: her early speech therapy jobs Miss J Dakin: Some notes of speech therapy (a) in a general hospital Joan F Sutcliffe: Case Comparison
12	Feb 1948	E Hazel Potts	8	list of College committees' members Miss J Dakin: Some notes of speech therapy (b) with a head injuries unit ME Morley: Some figures concerning stammering
13	June 1948	Rachel Storrs	9	Doreen Pollack: Speech therapy in New York ME Morley: Some figures concerning stammering part II DM Braithwaite: Thought while relaxing NM O'Driscoll: Speech defects and disorders among school children in the county of Dorset 1946-1947

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14	Oct 1948	Pamela Strahan	8	list of College committees' members Report from International Conference on Speech Therapy, September 1948 WE Cooke: Further statistics re: school surveys Catherine E Renfrew: Cases of neurological origin in the school clinic job advert and list of recent appointments
15	Jan 1949	Elizabeth Stark	8	KE Jones: Case history Maud T Wohl: Speech therapy services in the county of Dunbarton E Crawford: Types of cases referred to a hospital clinic in Glasgow area
16	April 1949	Franklin Brook	8	Joyce Mitchell: Speech therapy in Northern Ireland Katherine de Hirsch: The language disorder clinic, Babies Hospital Medical Centre, New York Joyce L Wilkins: The use of speech recording apparatus in speech therapy Ernest Douglass: Group speech therapy for stutterers Arthur Tolfree: How to stimulate male recruiting
17	July 1949	Rachel Storrs	10	Miss Frances Wilson appointed CST Press Officer Pauline M Marland: Speech defect in cases of cerebral palsy due to Rh factor Report on talk by Miss Shimmin on research procedure (given to Southern Area meeting 12.3.49)
18	Oct 1949	Pamela Strahan	9	list of College committees' members ME Morley: Unintelligible speech persisting into adult life Ena Greig: The employment of puppets in speech therapy Edna Brewitt: report on a visit to the Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham
19	Dec 1949	Catherine E Renfrew	10	Edna Butfield: Cases treated in Bangour Hospital Muriel W Ferrie: Free Speech: a personal note on the State Medical Service Ruth Bennett: A case history
20	March 1950	Elizabeth Stark	10	Joan van Thal: MBE in New Year Honours Recommendations on case load Elma L Crawford: A stutterer's club J Burlo: Speech therapy in Malta Jean RS Sinclair: Westerlea School for Spastics Edinburgh Summary of lecture by GEM Hallett on orthodontics NM Betts: Work among the hard of hearing
21	May 1950	Franklin Brook	11	Hester Rosser: Carlson House School for Spastics, Harbourne, Birmingham TR Francis: The Children's Hospital Clinic - Kingston-upon-Hull

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22	July 1950	Sheila M Snellgrove	10+4	Margaret Ashworth: On the use of hearing aids in school clinics Rachel Storrs: A visit to the Dame Hannah Rogers School for Cerebral Palsied Children Margaret Swale: Nasal sigmatism - comparisons sought
23	Oct 1950	Pamela Strahan	13+1	list of College committees' members Joseph P Blank: My adventure in freed speech (reprinted from The Reader's Digest) Miss Ferrada: A short informal account of life in Spain as seen by a speech therapist Christine Collier: two cases of late onset stammering Edna Brewitt: Nasal sigmatism
24	Dec 1950	Catherine E Renfrew	10+4	[Renfrew ?]: A case study