OVERSEAS TRAINEES

A Working Party has been formed by the Education Committee of the College to study the special problems of overseas trainees in psychiatry. Dr. S. B. Mahapatra, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Leeds University, is acting as its convenor, and the other members of the committee are Drs. S. Bhate, Peter Brook, C. P. Seager, Ashley Robin and L. Tarlo.

The Working Party is in the process of collecting information from a number of sources. Those who are interested in the problem and would like to have their views known, should contact Dr. Mahapatra, Department of Psychiatry, 15 Hyde Terrace, Leeds 2. (Tel.: 0532-451431.)

PROGRAMMES AND MEETINGS COMMITTEE

The Programmes and Meetings Committee invites members of the College to submit papers on miscellaneous topics for presentation at the Annual Meeting, which is to be held in London on 8, 9 and 10 July 1975. Depending on the number offered, the Committee is prepared to make arrangements for parallel sessions to enable as many papers as possible to be read. I shall be grateful if you will kindly let me know if you have a paper which you would like to present at the July Meeting.

C. M. B. PARE.

AT THE FAYRE

By BRIAN BARRACLOUGH
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester

'Said Simple Simon to the pieman
Let me taste your ware'

Last November the new Charing Cross Hospital at Fulham was the scene of a 'Medical Careers Fair'—the purpose being to provide undergraduate medical students with facts and informed opinion about the specialties open to them. Our College was represented, and we went along on the second day to provide some opinion.

Decked out with the stands of the competing interests the hall closely resembled a trade fair. Round the external wall were placed the pharmaceutical industry, community medicine, general practice, anaesthetics, the three Armed Services, missionary medicine, geriatrics, venereology, general medicine, radiology and obstetrics; and occupying the centre were pathology, surgery, committee and higher education, the B.M.A. career services and lastly our own College. Each stand provided a display, some literature, and an expert or two who sat or stood and waited hopefully for tomorrow's specialists to arrive and ask vital questions. In the intervals, sometimes quite long ones, between such questionings, stand-holders inspected rival material and chatted-up rivals. In this way we learned, for instance, that there were in fact no prospects in R.A.F. medicine, so successful was the cadet scheme whereby students who have taken first M.B. are paid £2,000 a year until graduation. Is this successful scheme an entirely reasonable use of taxpayers' money, we thought? What would people say if the College tried the same tactic, borrowing the money from the D.H.S.S.?

The College's stand was of the smallest possible unit, while pathology had six units strung out covered with colour photography, and the Service stands were spread across one end of the hall and very eye-catching. However, the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons displays were on the same scale as our own, so we did not need to feel jealous or paranoid, and anyway our literature was better than theirs. Still, perhaps next time round a better balance might be achieved between the display area allocated to

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125075305436 Published online by Cambridge University Press