SCOTLAND

Introduction

The recent reorganization of the National Health Service in Scotland has provided an opportunity for psychiatrists to take part in the planning and development of health services at both area and national levels.

National Health Service Planning

The Scottish Health Service Planning Council was set up under the NHS (Scotland) Act 1972 to advise the Secretary of State for Scotland on the exercise of his functions under the Health Service Acts. The Council may offer advice either at the request of the Secretary of State or on its own initiative; and it has the duty of keeping under review the development of the Health Service in Scotland as a whole and in the various parts of Scotland. The Council comprises one member appointed by each of the 15 Health Boards, one member appointed by each of the four universities in Scotland which has a medical school and six officers of the Scottish Home and Health Department. The Secretary of State has power to appoint other members.

NHS reorganization has encouraged and allowed a shifting of emphasis from functions and services to patient groups. Issues of delivery of health care by the new integrated health services can be tackled in a systematic way taking account of needs of specific patient care groups and the available resources for each group. This concept of *Programme Planning* covers preventive, curative and rehabilitative aspects and involves substantial inter- and intra-disciplinary co-operation.

A Programme Planning Group is an important flexible part in the structure of the processes of health planning that are being established in Scotland, its role being essentially to involve people drawn in from professions and interests relevant to the patient care system under consideration. The group is not an executive body charged with the allocation of resources or with the implementation of long-term plans, its job rather is to take a wide, thorough and reliable look at a chosen health problem or sector of the services and to advise on the policies relating to the provision of services.

The Scottish Health Service Planning Council together with the Scottish Advisory Council on Social Work have established a programme Planning Group whose terms of reference are to advise both councils on the policy relating to the provision of health and social services for the mentally disordered in Scotland. (Mental disorder will encompass mental deficiency and mental illness.)

The Planning Council will be looking to the relevant National Consultative Committees for representatives to serve on programme planning groups.

The National Consultative Committees are set up by the professions engaged in the provision of care or treatment under the Health Service Acts. Formal status recognizing that such committees are representative of the professions has been accorded to the following:

National Medical Consultative Committee
National Nursing and Midwifery Consultative Committee
National Dental Consultative Committee
National Pharmaceutical Consultative Committee
National Para-Medical Consultative Committee (Therapeutic)
National Consultative Committee of Scientists in Professions Allied to Medicine
National Optical Consultative Committee

The National Medical Consultative Committee has already set up specialty sub-committees, of which psychiatry is one, and membership of the sub-committee in psychiatry is established now,* as is membership from NMCC of psychiatrists for the Programme Planning Group on Mental Disorder.

While the formal relationship of the psychiatric sub-committee is to NMCC and thus indirectly to the Planning Council, it is hoped that it will also become a less formal source of advice on psychiatric affairs to other bodies, including the Scottish Home and Health Department.

Local Health Service Planning

Planning at the local level in Scotland will be the overall responsibility of the Health Board for each area. Many Health Boards in Scotland have already established Programme Planning Groups in mental health services, drawing membership in much the same pattern as the Planning Council, that is mainly from the Area Consultative Committees and appropriate local authority departments and other bodies.

* The Specialist Sub-committee on Psychiatry held its first meeting on 10 June under the chairmanship of Dr G. C. Timbury. With one exception its twelve members are all Fellows or Members of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. They are: Drs J. W. Affleck, I. Clark, H. C. Fowlie, J. D. Haldane, I. M. Lowit, D. A. Player, D. A. A. Primrose, R. A. Robinson, G. C. Timbury, Professor H. J. Walton, Drs P. B. Whatmore and W. Yellowlees.

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It is possible to consider a similar pattern of programme planning for psychiatric services on a very limited scale at District level within only one or two of the large areas in Scotland.

Though emphasis has been placed in this paper on the Programme Planning concept in relation to mental health services, and thus mainly to the adult psychiatric and mental deficiency services, it is already the case that psychiatrists are becoming involved with Programme Planning Groups for other groups of patients or services. Programme Planning Groups for Child Health and for the Care of the Elderly at national or local level already have as members psychiatrists drawn from the appropriate Consultative Committee structure, whether National, Area or District.

'NORMS' FOR MEDICAL STAFFING OF A PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICE

Two errors in the above Memorandum (*News and Notes*, October, pp 4–9) have been pointed out to us and are regretted:

1. On p 8, column 2, the penultimate paragraph of the section headed '*Consultant establishment*' is incomplete. It should read:

'The manpower implications of these proposed targets for England and Wales would be as follows:

(a) one (wte) consultant for each AHA (T) = 19

(b) one (wte) consultant for each AHA = 98 (includes a)

(c) one (wte) consultant for a population of 200,000 = 250 (includes a and b)'

2. The reference on p 5, column 2, to 'the Institute of Analytical Psychology' should have been to 'the Society of Analytical Psychology'.

A NOTICE TO READERS

There must be many College members who attend conferences, symposia, etc, in various parts of the country in the course of each year, and reports on some of these might make interesting contributions to the pages of *News and Notes*. The Editors would therefore be pleased to hear from anyone who has attended, or is shortly to attend, such a function, so that they may decide whether to invite the member concerned to submit a report for possible publication. Please write to: Dr T. A. Kerr, St Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3XT.

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