EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Working Party of Trainees: Trainees' Expectations of Quarterly Meetings

As the attendance of psychiatrists in training ades has, in the past, been poor at Quarterly eetings of the College, the Working Party of ainees agreed to canvass junior staff and note their pectations of such meetings. Following a pilot idy of the Wessex Region a questionnaire was nstructed.

To reduce the cost of circulation to a minimum, gional delegates on the Working Party were quested to disseminate the questionnaires within ir own Regions.

Replies were received from 173 trainees. This presents roughly a 20 per cent response rate. ble I shows the breakdown by employment ading, and whether or not the respondent was cializing in psychiatry. It also includes numbers o have attended meetings, and those who having ne so once intend to repeat their attendance.

TABLE I

	Specializing	Not specializing	Have attended meetings	Will attend meetings again
nior				
Registrar	41	0	28	26
cturer	6	1	6	6
gistrar dical	78	3	18	17
Assistant nical	4	0	2	1
Assistant search	7	1	1	1
Assistant	3	0	2	2

ue and timing

e meeting should be held:
- In London 31
- Rotating around the Regions 122

e Royal Society of Medicine is:
- An inadequate venue .. 62
- An adequate venue .. 44

e meeting should be:
- Residential .. 89
- Non-residential .. 47

ou prefer residential:
- The meetings should be held in colleges with halls of residence 58
- The meetings should be held in local hotels with conference facilities .. 32

ou prefer non-residential:
- Block bookings should be made in surrounding hotels 24
- The individual should make his own arrangements 38

Social as well as academic functions should be organized at Quarterly Meetings:
- Yes 103
- No 35

The Quarterly Meetings should be re-named and held three times a year during University holidays:
- Yes 89
- No 38

Would you prefer the meetings to be held over weekends:
- Yes 59
- No 72

Content

The meetings should include:
- (1) More internationally famous speakers on their own topic:
  - Yes 137
  - No 8
- (2) More papers from trainees:
  - Yes 81
  - No 58
- (3) More original research works:
  - Yes 96
  - No 35
- (4) More review papers on topics of interest:
  - Yes 127
  - No 12

The questionnaire also included sections inviting spontaneous contributions from the respondents. When these responses are paraphrased in order of popularity they are:

More time for discussion (there was in general a distaste for the reading of prepared statements from the floor, and for the present use of discussants, though some indicated that these might be retained, though used to better purpose). In the same vein there was a call for more workshops, seminars and symposia, along with other experimental procedures to produce a sense of belonging to one unified body. There was also the extremely practical suggestion of coffee breaks and more informal mixing. Possibly to facilitate this there was also a call for shorter presentations.

Nine respondents were openly critical of the lecturing standard, and especially so of the audio-visual aids used. There was, however, a sizeable request for greater use of audio-visual aids. There was a strong vote in favour of less obscure topics,

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and a more practical emphasis to the lectures selected, and it was felt that the provision of summaries and typed references for distribution would be appreciated. Some respondents found the business meetings far too formal and disliked the introduction of politics into these. Better advertising of Quarterly Meetings to trainees, and more encouragement from their consultants and post-graduate tutors to attend was also requested. All the above received more than five spontaneous mentions from respondents.

This information was made available to the Programmes and Meetings Committee, and will be borne in mind by them when planning future meetings. The possibility of making one meeting a year especially attractive to training grades is being explored further.

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* The list of Officers of the Divisions has been held over through lack of space but will be published in the April issue.

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