EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

The Division has met on three occasions in the past six months.

In November 1974 there was a meeting in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the new Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead. In the morning there were demonstrations by Dr. Alick Elithorn, Dr. D. R. Pitcher and Mr. P. D. Slade, and in the afternoon five short papers were presented. These were:

Dr. J. D. Hailstone: 'Life with a new kidney: the psychology of survival'; Dr. Fay Fransella: 'Ideas about weight change'; Dr. Alick Elithorn: 'The evaluation of therapeutic change'; Mr. P. D. Slade: 'Problems of reading and arithmetic'; Dr. A. Wakeling: 'Some recent endocrine investigations in anorexia nervosa'.

In February 1975 the Division had a special scientific meeting at the M.R.C., Neurochemical Pharmacology Unit, at the new Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, by courtesy of the Director, Dr. Leslie Iversen. Papers presented were:

Dr. L. L. Iversen: 'The M.R.C. Neurochemical Pharmacology Unit and current ideas about the mode of action of antipsychotic drugs'; Dr. O. Phillipson: 'Measurements of chlorpromazine (Largactil) in plasma samples of schizophrenic patients and correlation with therapeutic responses'; Dr. E. Bird: 'Biochemical measurements on human post-mortem brain tissue in Huntington's chorea and schizophrenia'.

After the meeting members toured round the new Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The Division again met on 15 May 1975 in the new Education Centre at Warley Hospital. After inspection of the Centre, the Industrial Therapy Unit and the new Psychogeriatric Assessment Unit, there was a scientific programme, when the following papers were read:

Dr. Peter Brook: 'Where do psychiatrists come from?'; Dr. Dennis Cronin: 'Case presentation'; Mr. Gian Degun: 'Reality orientation therapy'; Dr. Frank Sebastianpillai: 'Uses and Abuses of Section 136'.

THE 1974 SENIOR REGISTRAR SURVEY

A Preliminary Report

It is known from the Education and Manpower survey of 1971 (Brook, 1973) that some psychiatric senior registrars will not, for a variety of reasons, be aiming for a consultant post in general psychiatry in this country. Some will change to another psychiatric specialty or even to a non-psychiatric specialty, some overseas graduates will want to return to their own countries and some home graduates will emigrate. What is not known is the numbers involved. This is of some importance in manpower planning; if, for example, a substantial minority do not go on to consultant posts in general psychiatry, the number of senior registrar posts will have to be increased so that there are sufficient senior trainees to fill consultant vacancies.

The author was commissioned by the Manpower Sub-Committee to ascertain the career intentions of senior registrars in general psychiatry. To this end a questionnaire was constructed inquiring about the career intentions, career alternatives and such personal and professional details as age, sex, the country of birth and qualification, the type of hospital where most training had been received before the senior registrar appointment, the type of present hospital, higher qualifications and employing authority.

Lists of senior registrars in psychiatry holding N.H.S. posts, but not including those with honorary contracts, were obtained from each Regional and Area Health Authority in the United Kingdom. The questionnaire, with a stamped, addressed envelope, was sent to all senior registrars on the list with an explanatory letter requesting them to complete and return it; if, however, the respondent was working in a psychiatric specialty, he or she was asked to return the questionnaire blank with a covering note giving reasons. A reminder letter was sent a month later, a second letter with a questionnaire was despatched if necessary, and in a few cases a third reminder and questionnaire was sent out.

Results

Response

Of 299 questionnaires sent out, 5 were duplicated and 73 were returned blank because of the respondents' ineligibility. This left 221, and of these 203 were returned completed, a response rate of 91.8 per cent.

The respondents

157 were men.

46 were women. (Seven were in special schemes for re-training married women).

134 were home graduates.

69 were overseas graduates; 68 per cent of these

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