in training should have some experience and training in these subjects. The greatest value of specialized units is probably to provide a place for training. Whole-time posts concerned solely with drug dependence or alcoholism would in general be undesirable, as would a new sub-specialty of psychiatry dealing exclusively with dependence problems. A whole-time posting for a limited period to such a unit would provide a better training experience than working for only a few sessions a week.

Training in drug dependence

Many of the existing drug dependence clinics do not meet the training needs in terms of either the academic or therapeutic aspects. There is a need to upgrade existing facilities and perhaps to bring them more closely within academic departments. With the widespread use of pharmacological agents and the abuse of these, with the development of dependence on some of them, training of a high academic standard is required.

The present pattern of treatment of dependence problems has implications for the provision of training. The staffing arrangements in some clinics are often not conducive to training. However, there are alcohol/drug addiction treatment units, including some in the provinces, where training can be established and where there are links with University Departments of Psychiatry. There would appear to be a need for up to six senior registrar posts in drug dependence attached to the appropriate academic units, which could be used to rotate senior registrars through the units.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Working Party on Women in Psychiatry

The first meeting of this small working party, set up under the auspices of the Education Committee, was held recently.

The terms of reference of the working party are primarily to seek information regarding the opportunities available for women to work, either full- or part-time, in psychiatry; to identify factors which prevent full utilization of the skills of those women already in the specialty, or which deter recruitment to it; and to make recommendations to the College relevant to the above.

To this end we would request any information or comments on:

(1) Employment, types of post available, ease of access to them, and the possibilities of advancement to higher grades.

(2) Training facilities; both introductory, for the Membership and for specialist accreditation. Difficulties experienced by those in 'non training' posts is of particular interest to us.

(3) Administrative difficulties experienced in the setting up or implementation of part-time posts, with particular reference to HM(69)6 posts.

(4) Personal difficulties experienced by individual women, whether related to the above or to financial anomalies, alternative child care facilities, etc.

The membership of the working party is as follows: Dr Pamela Ashcroft (Chairman), Dr Dorothy Black, Dr Anne Bolton, Dr Kerry Bluglass, Dr Peter Brook, Dr Elinor Kapp, Dr Margaret Smith.

We would welcome as wide a body of opinion as possible, and hope that colleagues within the College will draw the attention of non members to our terms of reference.

Information and comment should be sent to:

Working Party on Women in Psychiatry,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PG.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125076306515 Published online by Cambridge University Press