**General Comments**

1. There are no specific recommendations for Joint Care Planning and Financing of Health and Local Authorities and no reference to any financial allocation for this, as in England.

2. There is an apparent need in Wales for an 'All-Wales' policy in planning the development of mental health services.

3. The progress towards a District-based mental health service is in urgent need of acceleration, and Area Health Authorities should give this a much higher priority than hitherto, e.g. three new District General Hospitals are nearing completion, but none has a psychiatric unit.

4. There is a need for a mandatory requirement on Local Authorities, to produce community facilities for psychiatric patients.

## INSTRUCTION IN RESEARCH METHODS

### Report on Course on Research Methods in Clinical Psychiatry

This course was held at the Institute of Psychiatry, London on 21-23 April 1976 under the aegis of the Research Committee. The course was deemed appropriate for Study Leave applications by the Regional Postgraduate Dean.

Twenty-five psychiatrists attended, mainly from London and the South of England, but with seven from farther afield. Over half were registrars or SHOs, five were senior registrars or lecturers; and four were of senior status. Only two were engaged in full-time research.

The course comprised three lectures every morning and two seminar/discussions each afternoon. Twenty lecturers participated, most being staff of the Institute of Psychiatry.

In general, the participants agreed on the usefulness of the course which was designed to provide them with a broad overview of research rather than to detail any topics. It was stressed that attending a course of this nature did not purport to equip participants to undertake research projects without further advice.

Criticism of the course included the omission of any *systematic* survey of rating scales, and lack of opportunity to discuss research projects in small groups. Some lecturers were admonished for discussing research results rather than methods.

The possibility of holding a one- or two-day course devoted to rating scales might be considered.

MALCOLM LADER

### A Course on Clinical Research and Statistics in Leeds

A course on Clinical Research and Statistics will be held in Leeds during the weekends 18/19 September and 9/10 October 1976.

The course, which will be under the aegis of the Department of Postgraduate Medical Studies at Leeds, is open to all interested medical and paramedical clinicians. It is suitable for all who wish to learn something about the planning of clinical research and the analysis of data, and will be at an elementary level for those with no experience and little or no knowledge of the subjects.

A basic text will be provided and specified material will be read by the students. At the first weekend, tutorials will be held on the set reading, and discussion will amplify the material further. There will be one lecture and practical work. Students will do further reading and prepare a project. At the second weekend, tutorials will be held on the reading and the projects and there will be further practical work.

Detailed information is available on application to: Mrs J. M. Brierly, Dept of Psychiatry, University of Leeds, 15 Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LT, or The Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds LS2 9NL.

Final applications for the course must be posted to arrive not later than 5 September 1976, accompanied by a fee of £25.



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