I write this not just as a personal complaint about the difficulties I have found but because I have met many women who have had similar problems.

I have no children and so I can probably just about cope with a full-time job, though I can hear some of my male colleagues say that in that case I should not be given the extra finance for a part-time job—you just cannot win! One thing that strikes me as unfair is the regional differences—why should I have obtained so much help from the Yorkshire Region and so little from the Trent Region?

Another irritating factor is the attitude of some male colleagues who give you the impression that they are of the opinion that somehow obtaining a post under HM(69)/6 is getting in by the back door or that you are in some way below the standard of applicants for full-time posts. The Royal College's present stipulation that part-time trainees must have the equivalent experience in hours to the full-time trainees means that a woman starting psychiatric training at five sessions a week will have to do six years before she is eligible to take the Final Examination for the Membership. This, together with the difficulties of obtaining a post under HM(69)/6 makes it no easy task for a woman to become psychiatrically qualified on a part-time basis.

A year ago I would not have said that there was discrimination against women in psychiatry, but now I am beginning to wonder. The problems that I myself and other women colleagues have had to contend with are enough to make any of us become that male fantasy of the aggressive woman consultant —if we ever get there!

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Association for Family Therapy

An Association for Family Therapy is being formed, in collaboration with MIND, and the Inaugural Meeting and Conference will be held at Imperial College, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, on 30 September and 1 and 2 October 1976.

Inaugural Meeting: Thursday 30 September at 2 pm. This will be open to all those who wish to hear the aims of the Association and participate in its formation. The programme will include an introduction by Dr Alan Cooklin, Chairman of the Association, an overview of the development of the practice of family therapy by Dr Robin Skynner, and demonstrations through films and simulated methods of techniques of work with families by the staff of the two-day conference to follow. There will be opportunities for general discussion, a business meeting to adopt the proposed constitution of the Association, and a social evening. *Fee:* £3.75, to include tea and buffet and drinks at the social evening.

Conference on Family Therapy—Launching, Supporting and Exploring: Friday and Saturday, 1 and 2 October. The programme will consist of Plenary Sessions, Workshops on areas selected by participants from a prepared list, and Application Groups. The latter, led by experienced family therapists, will meet three times during the conference for group discussion and the exploration of aspects of the conference themes through experiential and simulated techniques. *Fee* (including coffee, lunch and tea each day): £16.50 for members of the Association of Family Therapy; £18.50 for non-members.

Inquiries about the Association should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Miss Di Johnson, 20 Ryder Street, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9BT. Applications to attend the Inaugural Meeting and/or Conference should be sent *immediately, enclosing remittance,* to The Conference Secretary, MIND (NAMH), 22 Harley Street, London, W.1.

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