M.R.C.PSYCH. EXAMINATIONS

The Court of Electors have approved the following amendments to the regulations for the M.R.C.Psych. Examinations:

1. The Research Option

The following amended regulations for the Research Option supersede those previously in force:

Candidates for the Membership Examination may, subject to the following conditions, submit a dissertation describing a research project carried out by themselves, or under certain prescribed conditions jointly (see Notes 1, 2 and 3). This dissertation shall replace the second (essay) written paper of the Examination.

1. A title and brief outline of the proposed research project shall be submitted to the Court of Electors at least 15 months before the examination. This application shall be accompanied by a statement from a suitably qualified person agreeing to supervise the project and confirming that appropriate facilities are available. The Court of Electors may appoint an additional supervisor(s), and if the candidate is unable to nominate a supervisor he may ask the Court of Electors to do so.

2. At least three months before the date of the written papers the candidate shall submit three typewritten copies of his or her dissertation, which shall consist of not less than 5,000 words and not more than 10,000 words. The dissertation shall be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor(s) confirming that the work has been satisfactorily completed.

3. The candidate shall submit his application forms and fee not later than the closing date for receipt of applications.

4. Before the date of the written papers candidates will be informed whether their dissertation has reached the required standard. Successful candidates will be excused the second (essay) written paper of the examination. Unsuccessful candidates may proceed immediately to take both papers followed by the clinical and oral examination.

5. No dissertation which has already been published or submitted elsewhere for a higher degree or diploma would be acceptable.

6. If a candidate fails the clinical and oral examinations, the Court of Electors shall decide whether the same dissertation may be submitted for a second attempt. If a candidate is allowed to re-submit a dissertation at a second attempt he shall indicate clearly the extent of any revision he has made.

Notes

(1) The aim of the research option is to encourage trainees to acquire more searching and critical approaches and to foster interest in clinical data, literature, the teaching of psychiatric practice and research. The dissertation will be expected to show that the candidate has learned relevant research techniques, their practical application, and the critical evalution of results.

(2) There may be instances where research is carried out jointly, either by two or more candidates, or a candidate and his supervisor(s) or co-worker(s). Each such case will be considered individually by the Court of Electors and, if accepted, the candidate will be required to write up the dissertation independently, stating clearly his contribution to the joint work, and the statement shall be confirmed by the supervisor(s).

(3) Published papers or papers submitted for publication to scientific journals are not acceptable.

2. Scottish Examination Centre

After the end of 1977 the M.R.C.Psych. Examinations will no longer be held in Edinburgh. With effect from Spring 1978 the Scottish Examination Centre for the Preliminary Test and Membership Examination will be *Glasgow* and candidates will be advised of the actual venue nearer the time.

THOMAS BEWLEY, *Dean*

MEETING FOR TRAINEES

A meeting to introduce Trainees to the Royal College of Psychiatrists will be held on Tuesday, 20 December, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Southampton. Dr E. B. O. Smith and a representative of the Association of Psychiatrists in Training will be in attendance. The programme will include films, and lunch will be provided. Please assemble at 10.15 am. Further information is available from Dr David Gill, Knowle Hospital, Fareham, Hampshire.

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