limited period if he wishes to return to clinical practice. But there is also the need in the Department for permanent staff trained in psychiatry. The DHSS is large enough to employ a small group of doctors virtually permanently in psychiatry, although some will go on to become involved in other aspects of administrative medicine. At Region and Area again a psychiatric background would be very valuable for specialists in Community Medicine, but it must be emphasized that their role would then be that of a Community Physician. This is not the place to expound on the work of the Community Physician in any detail, but his essential role is to balance the enthusiasm of the various specialists whose duty it is to develop their own particular part of the service. I see this as a complementary role to that of a psychiatrist. If I had been trained as a psychiatrist I should still look to consultants practising in the District for the planning of the psychiatric service.

All psychiatrists, certainly of consultant status, should have an opportunity through the Cogwheel system of voicing their views, and the Health Care Planning Team should be the appropriate forum for developing these ideas into a coherent plan.

I have so far skated round the problem of social psychiatry, and yet this is another area where Community Physician and psychiatrist should collaborate. Social psychiatry is the study of the impact of the social environment on the aetiology and treatment of abnormal behaviour. I would expect the Community Physician whether at District Area or Region to be concerned with social psychiatry and to turn for help to either a University department or a clinical consultant psychiatrist. I do not believe it would be possible to attract psychiatrists of consultant calibre in every District, or even every Area, to deal with social psychiatry on a whole-time basis. Indeed, were one to contemplate such a post it would be worth considering whether training in some other discipline—like social anthropology would be more relevant.

References

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

M.R.C.Psych. Basic Science Examination

The next three-term course for the first part of the M.R.C.Psych. Basic Science examination, arranged by the Department of Psychiatry of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, will commence on Tuesday, 10 May. Interested applicants should write to Dr Malcolm Weller, Department of Psychiatry, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF.

M.Sc. in Psychiatry

The Department of Psychiatry at Manchester University offers a three-year course of training for the degree of M.Sc. Candidates will normally participate in a three-year rotational training scheme, for which there are at present 22 posts, attached to The University Hospital of South Manchester, Manchester Royal Infirmary (Gaskell House), Forensic and Alcoholism posts at Prestwich Hospital, Adolescent Psychiatry at Parkside Hospital, Macclesfield, and Child Psychiatry at Booth Hall Hospital.

The aim is to educate candidates in the scientific foundation of psychiatry and the methodology of research, and to equip them with the clinical knowledge needed to lead a therapeutic team.

Applications, in writing, should be sent to Professor W. I. N. Kessel or Professor D. P. Goldberg at University of Manchester Department o Psychiatry, The University Hospital of South Manchester, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8LR

King's Fund Centre

The King's Fund Centre has set up a Long Term Care Team to help develop better services for mentally ill, mentally handicapped, elderly and disabled people living in hospitals or in the community. Its activities include conferences, residential workshops and study groups, publications and an information service, and it encourages exploration of new ideas through experiments and projects. The team works on a multi-disciplinary basis with all levels of staff, particularly those concerned with the day-to-day life of people in long-term care. The Centre has mounted a small exhibition at its new premises, setting out the work the team is already doing, indicating future plans, and inviting workers to make their own suggestions. The exhibition is open from 9.30–5.30, Monday–Saturday. Further information on this and on forthcoming conferences and workshops is obtainable from The Long Term Care Team, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

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