over the past ten years reveal common convergent trends in the different national systems in promoting social progress by, among other things, extending their mental health services'.

In providing the data in Tables A and B the study has achieved the first two purposes listed above, and presumably in carrying out the study the third objective was achieved. Those psychiatrists who are interested enough to have read thus far will have contributed towards the fourth purpose. The report is not for sale, but a limited number of copies are available from the World Health Organization, Regional Office, Copenhagen.

D. A. PRIMROSE

CORRESPONDENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING ENROLMENT OF TRAINEES

DEAR SIR,

The Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training issued its First Report in 1975, and is now proceeding to collect information about all senior registrars, lecturers, research workers and other trainees in 'Higher Psychiatric Training' in order to compile a Register of psychiatrists in training. The Register will enable the Joint Committee to advise trainees about its training recommendations and about possible future statutory requirements relating to specialist registration. The Joint Committee has already inspected certain higher training posts and a full programme of inspection will be undertaken over the next two or three years. A form for enrolment of trainees has been prepared and all trainees are now being asked to enrol.

Letters drawing attention to the enrolment procedure have been sent to Postgraduate Deans and to University Departments of Psychiatry and to Clinical Tutors of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Further information can be obtained from: The Secretary, Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training, c/o The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

H. J. WALTON
Chairman

Joint Committee on Higher Psychiatric Training,
17 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PG

SENIOR REGISTRAR POSTS: PROCEDURES AND PITFALLS

DEAR SIR,

How I wish I had read Dr Bewley's helpful report in the June *News and Notes* (pp 17–19) six months ago!

For various reasons I decided about a year ago that I could no longer cope effectively with a full-time registrar post in psychiatry, together with the various domestic and social commitments I had at that time. Through the personal kindness and help of a few consultants in the Leeds and Bradford areas, I obtained a part-time post as a clinical assistant in an energetic and teaching-orientated acute psychiatric unit. However, I was encouraged to obtain a part-time training post under HM(69)/6. With the considerable help and encouragement of the regional community physician, I was duly interviewed and accepted as suitable for this. But I then learned that my husband's work would be taking us to Nottingham. So after taking advice from various consultants, both in Yorkshire and Nottingham, I applied to the Trent Regional Health Authority for a similar post to be approved in that area. After almost four months I discovered that precisely nothing had been done by the Region to obtain the necessary finances. As a last resort I applied for a full-time registrar post in the Nottingham area and have now been accepted. Had I known the various obstacles the part-time application had to overcome, I might well have taken Dr Bewley's advice and done the telephoning round myself.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125076306734 Published online by Cambridge University Press

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!

R. M. Oliver

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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.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY HEADLEY BROTHERS LTD 109 KINGSWAY LONDON WC2B 6PX AND ASHFORD KENT

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125076306734 Published online by Cambridge University Press