
Occasional Paper

Annual Census of Psychiatric Staffing. 1995. OP34. 31 pp. £5.00

The latest edition of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' manpower census enumerates the psychiatric staffing in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as at September 1995.

Information is collected via the College's regional advisory structure and is, therefore, independent of the data provided by the Department of Health. The returns are presented by region, by grade, and by speciality. Valuable information is, therefore, provided on the current staffing shortages in the speciality. In addition to information on posts occupied, it also shows the number of vacant posts and those occupied by locums.

This is the third annual census and a changing pattern is now emerging showing an increase in

the number of consultant vacancies but a steady albeit gradual increase in the number of posts. The most recent census does show some suggestion of recruitment difficulties in the training grades. Differences between regions and between specialities are also emerging.

The census should prove useful to those responsible for planning services and to personnel directors and others who have the responsibility of recruiting to psychiatric posts.

Occasional Papers may be purchased at the College or by mail order. Further information and telephone orders: Kerstin Sayoud, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG (Tel: 0171 235 2351 ext. 146). Cheques should be made payable to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Library stock

During August, the Library was able to effect a partial closure to carry out a partial stocktaking (partial due to inability to advertise it in advance, and exigencies of limited staff needing also to continue to run the telephone enquiry service).

The worrying result of this work was that a considerable number of items appear to be missing from the College Library. We would urge all members to please check their office/hospital/home book shelves in case items from the

Library – overdue, overlooked . . . – may have taken up residence there. We should be happy to have any items returned. We do not have an 'amnesty box' like public/student libraries, but I am sure reception will function just as well!

The Library is only enabled to be as comprehensive as it is through the generosity of members in donating their own publications: please be as generous in returning loans!

E. M. NOKES, Librarian