

disagreement with, bodies purporting to be “looking at nurse therapists”.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Barker
Nursing Officer, Behaviour Therapy.

Douglas Fraser.
Senior Clinical Psychologist.

Joint Organisers,
C.C.N.S. Course in
Behaviour Modification & Therapy for Nurses.
Tayside Area Clinical Psychology Department,
Royal Dundee Liff Hospital,
Dundee. DD2 5NF

Dear Sir,

Nurse Therapist Enquiry
Behavioural Psychotherapy 6 No. 1 p.23

As Nurse Therapists working in established posts in the fields of acute and long term psychiatry, and in mental handicap, we would like to make the following points regarding the above proposed enquiry.

Firstly, we are surprised that given that there are in existence recognised training courses for nurses in Behaviour Therapy and Modification, that the Executive Committee of B.A.B.P. still regard it necessary to hold such an enquiry.

We are further surprised that information and opinion is being sought from stated disciplines, which, to our knowledge, have no such recognised training courses in Behaviour Therapy and Modification.

Thirdly, we would like to comment on the fact that although fleeting reference is made in the announcement of the enquiry, to the invaluable opinion of those involved in Nurse Therapist training schemes, nurses themselves are excluded in the initial invitation of opinion from other professional bodies.

If a feeling of paranoia is detected in our statements, may we correct this by saying that it is rather one of indignation that despite the considerable effort made both in instigating and running recognised training schemes, the skills of Nurse Therapist will appear to be denied full recognition from other disciplines.

We consider ourselves neither as a threat to any professional monopoly of therapeutic skills, nor more simply as cut price psychologist assistants. We regard ourselves as Nurse Therapists in our own right, attempting to exercise and expand those skills, by which we as members of the nursing profession may bring about therapeutic change in patients.

We trust that the full strength of our feeling on the way in which this enquiry is being approached, is clearly conveyed in our letter.

Kenneth Greig,
Charge Nurse Therapist.
Charles Gourlay, Mary Tosh,
Nurse Therapists.

Tayside Area Clinical Psychology Department,
Royal Dundee Liff Hospital, Dundee, DD2 5NF.