

MRCPsych course: for example, knowledge of the organization of the Health Service Education, housing, etc. Trainees should acquire experience at an early stage and this can be consolidated as the career proceeds.

Management courses, though not compulsory, should be highly recommended by the JCHPT and should, if possible, be incorporated into senior registrar training schemes.

Consultant Appointments Committees should be advised to look closely at candidates' level of training, experience and attitudes towards management.

It is recognized that while knowledge can be taught by didactic lectures, skills and attitudes can best be learnt by experience. Nevertheless, it is not sufficient for trainees to sit in on Division meetings; it is necessary for them to have an opportunity of feedback sessions with a knowledgeable supervisor who can discuss not only the tasks dealt with at the meeting, but the process of decision-making. This is akin to trainees discussing psychotherapeutic activities with a supervisor.

More formal skills training can be obtained by simulation exercises carried out during regular training sessions.

Who should do the training?

At present, the NHS offers little management training for psychiatrists or other doctors. Very few psychiatrists possess the necessary expertise to provide such training, but those who express an interest should be utilized and given specific training to be teachers. It is suggested that a suitable individual be identified in each region to organize appropriate management courses. The support of the Regional Medical Officer, the Regional Postgraduate Dean and the College Regional Adviser should be obtained and arrangements made to approach the National Health Service Training Authority, which has funds available for allocation to the training of health service staff.

How should training be arranged?

There should be phasing of training so that early stages

form part of the MRCPsych courses while later stages should consist of regular regional sessions organized on a day-release basis or in blocks according to local requirements. Two or three day sessions have the advantage of providing opportunities for simulation exercises, feedback sessions and participation of other medical personnel and other professions.

Recommendations

1. Council should give serious consideration to the support of management training as part of the education of a potential consultant psychiatrist and continuing thereafter.
2. The basic management skills of all psychiatrists usually obtained by experience could be enhanced by some specific management training.
3. Psychiatrists anticipating joining in more formal management activities should be encouraged to attend specific management training courses to enable them to participate more effectively and constructively in such activities.
4. Management training should become part of MRCPsych courses and the JCHPT should be requested to pay attention to management training for senior trainees.
5. Consultant Appointments Committees should also be asked to evaluate the training experience of applicants for posts.
6. Psychiatric Tutors should organize discussions of the process of management activities experienced by their trainees as part of the review of their psychiatric experience. If necessary this may mean inviting a specialist to help.
7. Management issues should be considered by the Programmes and Meetings Committee for a session at a future Quarterly Meeting of the College. There should also be a formal lecture at one of the Maudsley Bequest sessions on the role of management training for psychiatrists at regular intervals. Mr Robert Dearden of the NHS Training Authority is suggested as a possible speaker.

Winter Quarterly Meeting, 1985

The Winter Quarterly Meeting was held in London on 5 and 6 February 1985 at the Royal Society under the Presidency of Dr Thomas Bewley.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Blake Marsh Lecture

On 4 February, Dr Annalise Dupont, Lecturer at Aarhus University, Denmark, delivered the Nineteenth Blake Marsh Lecture—'The Ecology of the Mentally Retarded'.

Eli Lilly Lecture

On 5 February the First Eli Lilly Lecture was given by Dr Seymour Kety of the National Institute of Mental Health, Washington, USA, entitled 'Recent Contributions of Neuroscience to an Understanding of Mental Disorder'.

BUSINESS MEETING

Registrar's Report

It is nearly three months since I presented my last