

with a number of medical students and young doctors, and I have been impressed by their dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and desire to care, but sadly, many seem to have had little or no training in the technique of interviewing a patient or in the skills of counselling. Many medical schools use videos and "sham patients", but some appear not to do so. I have always tried to take either a medical student or a student nurse on domiciliary visits and I feel that young nurses are much better trained in establishing rapport with the patient, and am enormously impressed by their interviewing skills.

I feel that not only our nursing colleagues but social workers and clinical psychologists should be given more time to contribute to teaching these fundamental skills to medical students at the start of their clinical period. If workshops were set up just for two or three days there could be much interchange and dissemination of knowledge.

Sir Desmond Pond said, in the Maudsley Bequest Lecture in 1963 that he knew many doctors, some eminent and distinguished, who had no idea how to talk to a patient. A distinguished clinical psychologist told me that she considered a certain consultant's ward rounds to be so damaging to the patients as to be a "degrading ceremony". It is sad that, although young doctors are so keen and so good, many should be lacking in fundamental skills of counselling and interviewing.

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## *Revista Medico-Chirurgicala*

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Perhaps you could envisage publishing a paper in our journal or could contact other colleagues who would be willing to submit their papers. As a member of the editorial board I should be delighted to receive your contribution.

DR TRAIAN MIHAESCU  
(in charge of scientific exchange)

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