

Comments

- (a) The point prevalence survey of registrars in psychiatry shows that 9% of UK graduates have been in training grades over five years compared to 25% of overseas graduates. Both these groups require careful appraisal of their examination performance as well as any personal difficulties they may be encountering. A smaller but much more worrying group are the ones who have been in psychiatry over eight years (UK graduates 1% and overseas graduates 10%). This particular group should be considered 'stuck' and may merit special attention.
- (b) With examinations in any country, indigenous candidates do better as a group (Cawley, 1986) compared to those coming from other countries. Success in the Membership examination is a minimum requirement for advancement to a senior registrar grade. Overseas trainees, however, continue to pass Membership even after eight years of being in psychiatry and a proportion fail to achieve this. A training in a specialty such as psychiatry for such a long period is likely to make it more difficult for these doctors to move to other branches of medicine as was envisaged in the document *Plan for Action*. This group therefore will require either an extension of their
- contracts or guidance regarding taking up staff grade posts.
- (c) It is anticipated that in the near future registrar rotations will be regionally managed. This will provide opportunities for Regional Medical Officers, Post-graduate Deans and, above all, academic departments and course organisers to begin to create a data bank which will lend itself to careful analysis of the registrars in training in the Region as well as those who seek jobs having completed registrar training in other regions. Such a procedure will help to identify the trainees most in need of counselling and career advice.

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References

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Conference report

Seminar on overseas doctors in the United Kingdom

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The training of overseas doctors mainly from the 'third world' is a subject which has featured in various dialogues on postgraduate psychiatric education in the United Kingdom in recent times. The issue was again brought into focus on 18 November 1989 at the School of Postgraduate Medicine and Biological Sciences, University of Keele, Stoke-on-Trent at a seminar which examined pertinent key areas. Five topics were covered by speakers familiar with 'third world' training needs.

In an opening paper, Dr Digby Tantam (Manchester) informed his audience about post-graduate training opportunities for foreign doctors, borrowing heavily from the well-organised Manchester training scheme he co-ordinates. Dr John L. Cox, Professor of Psychiatry at Keele, gave a succinct update on the special psychological diffi-

culties confronting foreign doctors in 'alien' Britain. Dr Bipin Upadhyay (Stoke-on-Trent) a trainee of Afro-Asian background on 'A trainee's view' offered peers some useful practical advice. Dr O. O. Famuyiwa (Lagos, Nigeria) called for positive changes in attitude towards the curriculum to make the UK training structure more relevant to developing countries, and in a thought-provoking address, Dr Neil Holden (Nottingham) dwelt on the significance and feasible modes of international collaboration.

The enthusiastic participation of delegates completely annulled the effect of small audience size and the pooled information obtainable from the seminar should be a rich fountain of guidelines for those with an interest in and commitment to overseas doctors in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.