

that nursing teams could include nurses working in both areas and that there should be free interchange. In the special fields of mental disorder, paediatrics, geriatrics and midwifery it may be useful to have some nurses working in both hospital and community. It is considered that the health visitor has an important role to play in further development of liaison between these two areas.

The authors are to be congratulated on producing such an optimistic, concise and far seeing report at a time when many members of the nursing profession appear to be concerned about their present and future roles.

D. G. GARVIE

**Out-patient facilities in health centres (1972).**

K. J. BOLDEN. Pp. 12. London: Update Publications Ltd. Price: 60p.

This pamphlet reports an investigation into the activities of some of the health centres where out-patient sessions are undertaken by visiting consultants. Twelve health centres were visited by the author and a questionnaire completed in relation to each. The report gives the answers to the questionnaire in narrative form.

The information given includes the number of medical and non-medical staff, the population serviced by each centre and the specialties in which consultant sessions are available. Some of the detailed information, such as whether or not the health centres possess a microscope, is irrelevant to the main theme.

The report demonstrates that changes have occurred since the publication of the Medical Practitioners' Union report of 1960.

One of the stated aims of the investigation was to find out the problems and difficulties involved in the provision and working of outpatient facilities and to see if lessons could be learnt for the future, but unfortunately there is little information about these aspects. The general advantages of the provision of outpatient facilities in a health centre are discussed and their haphazard development, largely dependent upon personal relationships between general practitioners, local authority staff and consultants, is emphasised.

On the whole the report is disappointing and, at 60p for 12 pages, is expensive. It would have been more valuable to have concentrated on the logistical problems, the types of clinical problem referred and the proportion who have eventually to attend hospital anyway. To have included more information about the actual advantages or disadvantages experienced by general practitioners, consultants and patients would have made it really worth while.

REFERENCE

Health Centre Report (1960). London: Medical Practitioners' Union.

H. W. K. ACHESON

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