

a range of different patients and physical illnesses, and the various services available to them within the community. A handbook with supporting information is available with this section.

Mental Illness and Handicap. Seven case-studies examining the care and treatment provided by community based services for mentally ill and mentally handicapped people in a way that reflects modern nursing techniques and complements existing teaching material. A handbook is available with this section (note—the original broadcast series consisted of eight case studies but Programme 6 is not available for copyright reasons).

Centres for Special Care. Five documentary programmes looking at the work of a number

of centres which provide specialist services and care within the community.

All the above recordings are available through the normal services of the Medical Recording Service Foundation on standard tape and cassette. A summary of each type and a booking form is obtainable from: Community Care Series, Medical Recording Service Foundation, Kitts Croft, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3EH, Telephone: Chelmsford (STD 0245) 421 475.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES

Vocational training schemes have been approved for the purposes of the M.R.C.G.P. examination at the following centres: Hereford, Hull and Swansea.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

Sir,
Members of the College with an interest in medical education may like to hear of an important venture of the British Medical Students' Association.

The intention is to devise an undergraduate curriculum which will be clearly related to the professional needs of doctors of the future. It will start from first principles: what society will want from its doctors must determine the goals of medical education. There must be ways of measuring the achievement of these goals, and of correcting failure to achieve them.

To attempt this enormous task, a national organisation is being forged, and a timetable has been constructed to keep the organisation under pressure.

So far, the activity has been based on medical schools, where groups of medical students, often working with students of other health professions and with medical teachers, have been preparing papers for criticism and development. From October, these local groups will be looking at specific problems in the community—road accidents, ischaemic heart disease, chronic depression, the effects of poverty on health, to name but a few.

In this work the BMSA is aware that it needs help, and that much of this help can come only from general practice.

The Royal College of General Practitioners has given its support to the undertaking, and I represent our Education Committee on BMSA's Advisory Panel. I would ask two things of members of the College: that they help in any way they can if approached individually; and that anyone especially interested contact me so that I can pass his or her name on to BMSA.

The venture is an exciting one. To think in these constructive terms is a challenge we would avoid to our own cost.

CONRAD M. HARRIS

Darbishire House Health Centre,
Upper Brook Street,
Manchester, M13 0FW.

DIFFICULTIES WITH DEPUTIES

Sir,
I was gratified to read your second editorial in the September issue entitled *Difficulties with deputies*.

I hope that gradually our profession can come to a more reasoned approach to deputisation in general practice.

I would be very interested to know the origin of this editorial which, in content, was very similar to my introduction of Motion 245 at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association in Folkestone this year. This motion was met with either fear or horror at the meeting and a motion to pass to the next business was rapidly carried.

I am pleased to hear that the cause is being taken up in other quarters.

DERMOT LYNCH

19 Wensleydale Road,
Hampton,
Middlesex.

REFERENCES

- Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* (1973). *Editorial*, 23, 612–613.
Lynch, D. (1973). *British Medical Journal Supplement*, 2, 142.

All the editorials in the Journal are written by general practitioners in active practice. Most are