

own difficulties and in their approach to the handling of their patients' problems.

Discussion

The chief aim of the seminars was to give the participants not only knowledge of, but insight into, the work of their colleagues; this was achieved. Personal maturation was also observed. This was of course very pleasing but more important was the evidence of professional growth. Such evaluation is inevitably impressionistic and based on the way individuals report their cases, showing how they handle situations and relate to patients. Many of them, in finding their professional feet, were achieving a better understanding of their role and recognizing that a wider range of options was available to them.

A more valid form of evaluation is provided by external appraisal by the Balint group leaders' workshop at which the proceedings of individual sessions (usually available verbatim in typescript, or occasionally videotaped) are discussed. One of the later sessions of the St Bartholomew's and Hackney Hospital Vocational Training Scheme was presented in this way and the workshop was favourably impressed by the sensitivity and application demonstrated by the trainee participants. The impact was all the greater because at that time Balint-type trainees' groups were a rarity and it was widely held that they defied so many of the ground rules of conventional Balint groups that they could not be

expected to produce worthwhile results. The experience of the St Bartholomew's and Hackney Hospital Vocational Training Scheme has helped to encourage the formation of several other trainees' groups run on Balint lines in London and elsewhere.

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Correction

Figure 6 from Dr Clifford R. Kay's James Mackenzie Lecture 1979, which appeared on page 17 of the January issue of the *Journal*, is reproduced below with colour added (See *Medical News*, page 183).

Figure 6. Size and composition of lipoproteins. (This figure is reproduced from an article by Dr Maurice Stone which appeared in the February 1978 issue of *Modern Medicine*.)

