

PART-TIME WORKING IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Isobel Allen

Policy Studies Institute, London (1992)

214 pages. Price £15.00

The results of this study of 1263 doctors who had received vocational training for general practice deserve wide consideration. The book logically presents the background to the study, the method and the results, using tables extensively. Doctors write eloquently about their stress, overwork, anxiety and apprehension, and these feelings are felt by all ages and both sexes. There is evidence that a substantial minority of men and women general practitioners working full time find such work arduous and are concerned about their future in full time work.

The demand for 'less than full time work' comes from a large percentage of women, mainly giving children and domestic commitments as their reason, but many men also want to consider it in order to keep up their interest in other branches of medicine. The need for more careers advice, information and counselling in all areas of general practice and during training is highlighted.

Failure to address the changing balance between the sexes in general practice will have serious implications for the future of our profession and this study clearly shows the areas that must be acted upon not only by government and medical leaders, but also by all general practitioners.

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LEARNING MEDICINE 1993

Peter Richards

British Medical Journal, London (1992)

102 pages. Price £4.95 (£4.45 to BMA members)

It was a pleasure to review this book. This is the 10th anniversary issue and Professor Richards has amassed a wealth of detail and wisdom in these 100 pages. The subtitle is *An informal guide to a career in medicine*. The author begins by questioning why we choose our medical careers and finishes with a brief description of the wide variety of career opportunities. Professor Richards writes in an easy fashion and the prose is broken up by apt and often amusing line drawings. As befits a professorial work, we are also entertained by a wide selection of learned quotations.

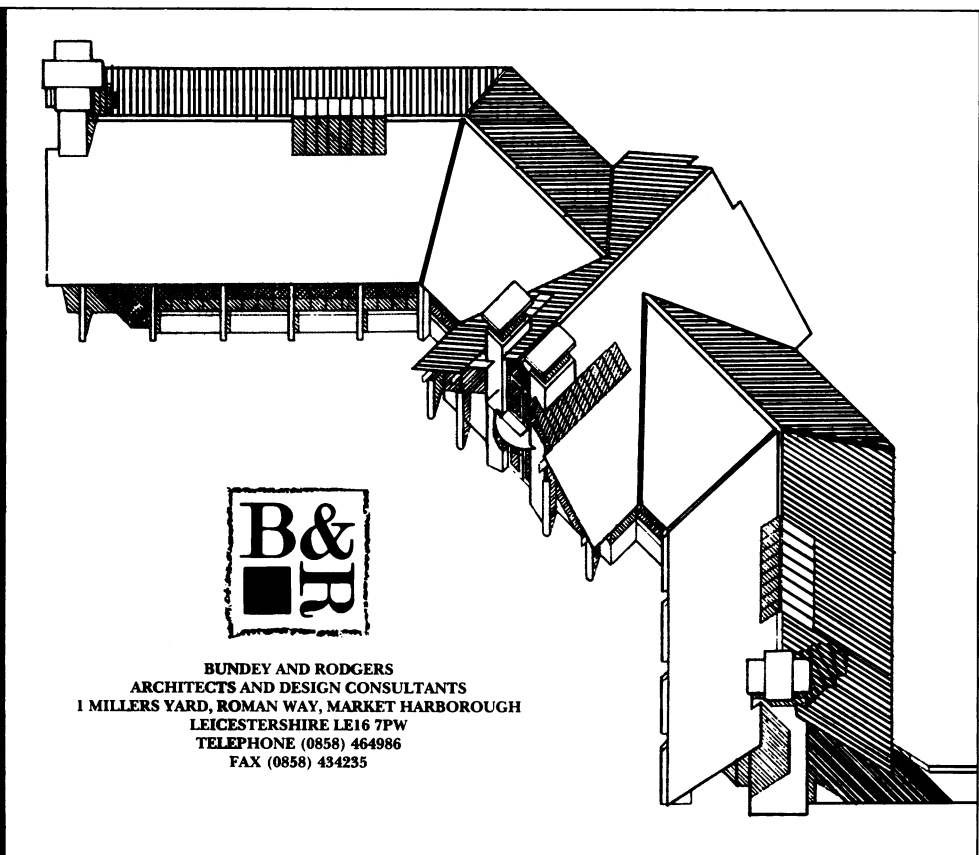
Few of us in medicine are not now involved in teaching and many of us have been approached for advice relating to a choice of medical career. This book can be wholeheartedly recommended by all of us to anyone contemplating a medical career. The BBC television series *Doctors to be* gave a mixed view of the life of a medical student and young doctor. Many must have questioned their career choice and there is much in this small book to help clarify this important career decision.

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