

A PROTOTYPE TRAINING COURSE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

This course is a new effort to fill a very important gap. No one believes any longer that the undergraduate medical course trains a man to be a general practitioner. Specialists receive 5-15 years further in-service training. General practitioners have only the compulsory pre-registration year, such other house appointments as they may themselves add, and the possibility of one year as a trainee assistant. It has been assumed hitherto that they can pick up the skills of their special role by trial and error. The Nuffield Wessex scheme (two years) is the only other recent attempt to fill the gap.

The course takes place for 2½ hours every Wednesday afternoon—two sessions, divided by tea. Usually, each session starts with an introduction by an invited speaker (sometimes a specialist, sometimes a general practitioner), but the main business is discussion.

The main heads are:

Practice organization	10 per cent (total 12 hours)		
Social medicine	20 per cent	24	„
Ethical and medico-legal matters	10 per cent	12	„
Clinical:			
(a) Psychological and psychosomatic medicine	20 per cent	24	„
(b) General clinical subjects	40 per cent	48	„

The programme for the first 10 sessions was:

<i>1st Hour</i>		<i>2nd Hour</i>
14 October	ETHICAL <i>Doctor–Patient Relationships:</i> <i>What are they?</i> Dr Donald Beaugie, general practitioner	SOCIAL <i>The Role of the Family Physician in the Community</i> Dr Ann Cartwright, Research director, the Institute of Community Studies

	<i>1st Hour</i>	<i>2nd Hour</i>
21 October	<p>CLINICAL (Psychological and psychosomatic) <i>Psychiatric Situations in General Practice</i> Discussion opened by Dr G. P. Hartigan, psychiatrist</p>	<p>CLINICAL (Psychological and psychosomatic) <i>G.P.'s Problems in Dealing with Neurosis and Psychosis</i> Dr John Hambling, psychiatrist, accompanied by members of his seminar</p>
28 October	<p>ORGANIZATION <i>Planning of Premises</i> Dr G. S. Adams, general practitioner</p>	<p>ORGANIZATION <i>Practice Administration</i> <i>Stationery, card indexing, secretary, receptionist, Appointments systems</i> Dr J. D. Wright and Dr Kenneth Lown, general practitioners</p>
4 November	<p>CLINICAL <i>Deformities of the Lower Limbs and Walking Problems in Children</i> Mr F. G. St Clair Strange, orthopaedic surgeon</p>	<p>CLINICAL <i>The Management of the Chronic Neurological Invalid</i> Dr Richard Barter, consultant in physical medicine</p>
11 November	<p>CLINICAL <i>The Electrocardiogram Theory and Practice</i> Drs M. H. K. Haggie and J. M. Lipscomb, physicians</p>	<p>CLINICAL <i>The Electrocardiogram Theory and Practice</i> Drs M. H. K. Haggie and J. M. Lipscomb, physicians</p>
18 November	<p>CLINICAL <i>Immunization</i> Dr David Cannon, medical adviser, Wellcome Research Laboratories</p>	<p>CLINICAL <i>Common Infections and Contagious Diseases</i> <i>The G.P.'s Special Responsibility</i> Dr P. A. Crowley, M.O.H. for Tunbridge Wells</p>
25 November	<p>CLINICAL (Psychological and Psychosomatic) <i>Psychosomatic Illness from the General Surgeon's Standpoint</i> Mr M. R. Williams, surgeon</p>	<p>CLINICAL <i>The Acute Abdomen at Hospital and at Home</i> (Tape Recording by Mr V. J. Downie, surgeon) Dr R. I. McIntosh, general practitioner, opened the discussion</p>
2 December	<p>SOCIAL MEDICINE <i>The Problem Family</i> Dr K. M. Fraser, psychiatrist</p>	<p>SOCIAL MEDICINE <i>The Old Person in the Family</i> Dr D. O. Davies, general practitioner</p>

<i>1st Hour</i>		<i>2nd Hour</i>
9 December	CLINICAL <i>Low Back Pain</i> Dr Basil Christie, consultant in physical medicine	CLINICAL <i>Back Strain in Miners</i> Dr W. B. Rowntree, Divisional Medical Officer, National Coal Board
16 December	CLINICAL <i>Hypertension</i> <i>Early Diagnosis and Assessment</i> Dr John Glover, physician	CLINICAL <i>The Management of Hypertension in General Practice</i> Dr Leslie Gimson, general practitioner

The course is supported by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, the College of General Practitioners and the Ministry of Health.

Publications

Copies of the following College publications may be obtained from the Journal Office, Prospect House, Dartmouth.

The Complications of Measles	2s.
Memorandum for the Guidance of Trainers	1s.
Accident Management	6s.
Emotional Disorders in General Practice	3s.
Training for General Practice	2s. 6d.
Nutrition in General Practice	7s. 6d.
Arthritis in General Practice	5s.
Migraine in General Practice	5s.
Mental Health and the Family Doctor	5s.
Rehabilitation	5s.
The Aetiology of Congenital Anomalies	7s. 6d.
Epidemic Winter Vomiting	1s.
Problems of Stress in General Practice	3s. 6d.
Family Doctor and the Care of the Aged	4s.
An Obstetric Survey	6s.
The First Year of Life	3s.
On Undergraduate Education and the General Practitioner	2s.
Forensic Medicine	3s. 6d.
Problems of Sex in General Practice	6s.
The Art and the Science of General Practice	7s. 6d.