THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

London

January, 1965

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN CUMBERLAND

R. S. VENTERS, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

East Cumberland Area Organiser for Postgraduate Medical Education

East and West Cumberland were designated areas under the Organisation for Postgraduate Medical Education, Newcastle Regional Hospital Board, and their development, both as to the facilities provided and the approach to the problems involved, have been different. In planning the new West Cumberland Hospital, no provision had been made for postgraduate education for doctors, though a Nurses' teaching unit, with a library, classroom, office and two small study rooms, had been planned. It so happened that the stimulus created by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, following the conference in Oxford early in 1962, occurred before the completion of the hospital. A plan for an additional postgraduate centre was therefore drawn up and costed, and submitted to the Ministry. Permission to proceed was granted in January 1964, and the building was completed by the end of October, at a cost of £12,000. The original omission of any postgraduate instructional centre and the subsequent rapid action taken to rectify this are noteworthy.

The present centre contains a large seminar room to seat 50-60 people, an office, 17' 6" x 11' 0", a library, 15' 6" x 20' 0", a pantry and two lavatories, the whole leading off the Nurses' Teaching Unit. This accommodation has been in use for three months and the facilities it provides appear adequate apart from the space allowed for buffet meals, which are taken in the corridor which is too narrow for this purpose. Better provision for this important side of the centre's activity is necessary, as a weekly mid-day seminar preceded by lunch and open to local practitioners and hospital staff has attracted considerable numbers. The popularity of these meetings has more than justified this conception.

East Cumberland is holding day courses at monthly intervals on Saturdays and Sundays alternately, and again the attendance has been gratifying. Unfortunately existing accommodation has had to be used, with only minor adaptations, and although this is reasonably adequate in some respects, size and dispersal prevent the cohesion and the development of the atmosphere necessary for really successful postgraduate education.

It is clear that the provision of specially designed accommodation will greatly facilitate the development of an adequate educational programme. The time chosen, and even the actual day, seems less important than the subject, presentation and care taken to develop the proper atmosphere. It is obviously right that district hospitals should make their own experiments to determine the most practicable procedure.
Editorial

R. S. Venters

Postgrad Med J 1965 41: 1
doi: 10.1136/pgmj.41.471.1

Updated information and services can be found at:

http://pmj.bmj.com/content/41/471/1.citation

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/