Pre-registration Appointments

During the period 1955-63 there were just over 200 pre-registration house officer appointments locally available. Of these about one-fifth were in the United Birmingham Hospitals and the remainder in hospitals administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. There was therefore no shortage of posts, as in none of the nine years in question did the graduates exceed 100. Of the 200 appointments, one-tenth were in obstetrics and gynaecology and the remainder almost equally divided between medicine and surgery. It was surprising, therefore, to find that the majority of graduates chose to do a surgical post first (Fig. 2). The reasons for this are not clear, and the only known factor that may have influenced graduates is that one or two hospitals have difficulty in obtaining house surgeons and in order to do so promise a house physician’s appointment on condition that a house surgeon post is held first.

86.0% of the pre-registration house officer appointments were held in the United Birmingham Hospitals or in hospitals administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, 12.0% in hospitals elsewhere in the United Kingdom and 1.9% abroad (Fig. 3). The latter were in the United States of America (8 posts), Nigeria (7), West Indies (5), Malaya and Singapore (3), Canada (2), Eire (2) and Pakistan (2).

It is traditional for graduates to wish to hold house officer appointments in their teaching hospital, though this desire is probably less
TABLE 1.
SIX GRADUATES NOT FULLY REGISTERED IN 1965.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Graduation</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Number of Pre-Registration Posts Completed</th>
<th>Reason for not obtaining Full Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Killed in a road accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Practising in Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Practising Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oversight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Practising in Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2.
INTERVAL BETWEEN GRADUATION AND (a) COMPLETION OF PRE-REGISTRATION YEAR (b) FULL REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months after Graduation</th>
<th>Completion of Pre-Registration Year</th>
<th>Full Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 37 39 41 60 61 67</td>
<td>684 46 12 4 — 2 16 1 1 — 1 — 1 1 1 — 1 2 — — — — — — — —</td>
<td>430 177 53 17 19 10 19 9 5 2 6 3 4 1 1 3 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIG. 1.—Interval between graduation and (a) completion of pre-registration year (b) full registration of 781 Birmingham medical graduates 1955-63.

strong than it was. 26.7% held one post and 26.2% two posts in the United Birmingham Hospitals. Those graduating in June held 41.9% of their pre-registration house officer appointments in the United Birmingham Hospitals, while those graduating in December, nearly all of whom were referred candidates, held only 27.8% of their posts in their teaching hospital. The less able student, therefore, appears to have more difficulty in obtaining, or less desire to hold a house officer appointment in his teaching hospital.

The time taken to complete the pre-registration year is shown in Fig. 1 and Table 2. It will be seen that 91.6% had done so within 13 months of graduation. This is due to the fact that all pre-registration appointments in the United Birmingham Hospitals and in hospitals administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board commence at the end of the first week in July and January. Most of those who took longer than 13 months held their pre-registration posts elsewhere in the
United Kingdom or abroad, and the starting dates often entailed some waiting. The other reasons for delay in completing the pre-registration year were numerous, but among women graduates it was usually due to marriage and pregnancy. Illness was responsible in some instances and one or two graduates undertook other work before commencing their pre-registration year—one worked as a schoolmaster and another in the pharmaceutical industry.

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Pre-registration and registration of Birmingham graduates 1955-63.
A. G. Whitfield and A. N. Allan

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