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POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH-WEST

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BRISTOL University has done much to sponsor and direct various postgraduate activities both in Bristol itself and throughout the South-West Region. There is a strong Council for medical postgraduate matters with wide representation, and the University has its separate Medical Postgraduate Department; in the most vigorous stage of its advancement this department was in the capable hands of the late Dr. Arthur Gale. More recently, the University has appointed selected consultants in various Area Hospitals to the University post of Area Organizer, and has set up area committees under the chairmanship of each of these organizers.

Throughout the Region the University has been keen to take full advantage of the financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Health for refresher courses for general practitioners: in particular, many courses in obstetrics have been sustained in this way. Yet practitioners' appetites for obstetric courses have been insatiable, and now further experience is being offered in the form of locum posts in specially approved obstetrical units. Refresher courses in other topics are in less demand, though those arranged within a University Hall of Residence have special appeal to practitioners working in the more remote parts of our region.

Sir George Pickering's clarion call found the South-West Region in an advanced stage in its preparations to put into effect many of his recommendations. There is no doubt that within a year or so most of the important hospitals in this region will have organized schemes for the further education of the house officers and registrars, and will be serving the intellectual needs of the keener local practitioners.

Exeter, which has its own University, has recently appointed Dr. D. Mattingly as Director of its Medical Postgraduate Institute and we in Bristol will strive to succour this interesting enterprise in all ways possible.

The list of flourishing units in this region is long and impressive; in most of these, research and postgraduate education are being pursued side by side. In compiling this special Bristol number of the POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL the editor's difficulty was not that of obtaining papers suitable for publication but in selecting from the abundance a few that represented a fair cross-section. For this reason articles from many energetic and progressive units have not been included—nonetheless we hope readers will find plenty of substance in the articles selected.