THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

London

July, 1965

INTRODUCTION

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Although the University of Wales came into being in 1894 as a federal organization linking the Colleges at Aberystwyth, Cardiff and Bangor it was not until 1906 that an addition to its Charter gave the new University authority to examine for and confer the degree M.B., B.Ch. (Wales). However, medical education may be said to have started in Cardiff in 1893 with the setting up of Departments of Anatomy and Physiology and a lectureship in *Materia Medica* in the University College at Cardiff, which was recognized at that time by London University for its preclinical examinations. In 1909 a Chair of Pathology and Bacteriology was created and a link established between the growing College and the King Edward VII Hospital. This hospital later became the Cardiff Royal Infirmary (370 beds) and, after 1948, was linked with Llandough Hospital (383 beds) as the United Cardiff Hospitals.

With the establishment of Chairs of Hygiene and Public Health, Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Tuberculosis it was possible in 1921 for Welsh graduates to complete their medical education in their own University. Even at that time the clinical Chairs were whole-time; the Chair of Medicine was actually the second clinical Chair in the United Kingdom to be occupied by a whole-timer. This important development was recognized in 1924 by the Rockefeller Foundation who provided the money for a building still occupied by the Department of Medicine.

Following the report of a Royal Commission, the Welsh National School of Medicine became established in 1931 as an independent constituent institution of the University of Wales. The Departments of Anatomy and Physiology,

and the relatively new Department of Biochemistry, remain within the University College in Cardiff and special arrangements exist for maintaining a close relationship between these preclinical departments and the clinical departments of the School. The School of Medicine is, therefore, one of the relatively few independent clinical teaching institutions in the country; almost all its students have spent their pre-clinical years in the University College at Cardiff.

The medical scene in Cardiff in 1965 is dominated by the plans, already well advanced, for the construction of a Medical Teaching Centre on a site of 53 acres not far from the Royal Infirmary. This will comprise the University Hospital of Wales with 793 beds, a Dental School and Hospital and Medical School Departments closely integrated with them. The site will also include a large out-patient department, two Research Institutes, administrative offices for School and Hospital, the Medical School Library and, later, hostel accommodation for medical students. A feature of the plans is a general practitioner centre through which it is hoped that local doctors may become more closely associated with the work of the hospital and school. The pre-clinical departments will remain at the University College and the construction of a new building to house them is already well advanced. The Dental School is scheduled to open in October this year with twenty-five students, later to be increased to fifty, and the new Teaching Centre in 1970 with an annual intake of a hundred students.

So far as postgraduate training is concerned the Teaching Hospital is linked with post-

graduate centres recently set up in Regional Hospitals at Swansea (Morrison Hospital), Wrexham and Rhyl with support from the Medical School, the Regional Board and the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. In each of these places there is an Area Organizer who arranges regular clinical meetings, conferences, etc. Each Area Organizer is a member of the Central Postgraduate Committee of the Medical School with the Postgraduate Dean as the Chairman. A feature of the work in all these Regional Centres is the arranging of activities suitable for general practitioners, often during the lunch hour or at weekends, as well as two-and-a-half day intensive courses. Close links between the centres and the Medical School and Teaching Hospital is maintained by periodic visits from the staff of the School and Teaching Hospital and by the fact that the Heads of Clinical Departments in the Teaching Hospital are appointed by the Hospital Board as Regional Advisers in their specialities.

Links between the Teaching Hospital and Region are further encouraged by the rotation of Senior Registrars under the auspices of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Training of Senior Registrars under the Chairmanship of Professor Forrest. A senior registrar spends two consecutive years in the Teaching Hospital, whether the first two years or the second of his four year period depends on circumstances. The appointments are made by a joint selection committee from the Teaching Hospital and the Region and in various ways the Advisory Committee supervizes the training programme fairly closely. In some instances residential accommodation is available. Unfortunately, it is not possible in every specialty to arrange rotational appointments because the senior registrar establishment is at present confined to the teaching hospital.

In the United Cardiff Hospitals, so far as medicine is concerned, there is some form of organized activity for the young postgraduate on four days of the week, usually in the late afternoon. Hospital departments participate in this work which includes neurological demonstrations, ward rounds in general medicine, lectures and clinico-pathological conferences.

In surgery, in order to provide a wider field of training than would otherwise be possible, there is an internal rotational scheme for surgical registrars each of whom spends a period of six months attached to each of four surgical firms. The especial requirements of those preparing themselves for the primary

F.R.C.S. examination are catered for by an arrangement with the Department of Anatomy in which each S.H.O. spends two sessions per week as a demonstrator. There are also weekly lectures, case conferences and seminars.

The Department of Anaesthetics also has its own programme for postgraduate instruction which includes weekly staff meetings, seminars and library sessions. An important feature of the training in this department is a rotational scheme for junior staff so that each young postgraduate can acquire a full range of clinical experience including work in paediatrics, at the Regional Cardio-Thoracic Centre at Sully Hospital and at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Rhyl-lafar.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology periodically runs a short part-time course for Registrars in the area. The instruction lasts for eight weeks and consists of clinical work, lectures and discussions for 2 hours on each of two evenings a week. In this department there is an honorary registrar post super-numerary to establishment, recognized for training by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The post can be held for a year, is residential (with free board and lodging) and is normally held by a graduate from overseas.

The Department of Child Health holds weekly postgraduate rounds at which general practitioners, registrars, paediatricians from the Region and others take part and once a month the Welsh Paediatric Club holds meetings to which outside lecturers are invited. These are attended by general practitioners, public health medical officers, health visitors, midwives, social workers, etc.—in fact anyone interested in problems of child health. The department takes part in courses for the D.P.H. and the D.T.C.D. (below).

The Dental School has already started training programme for the primary and final F.D.S. for its junior staff through the medium of regular seminars and clinical meetings. When the School becomes fully established the present arrangements will be extended to include, for example, instruction in teaching methods for its part-time teachers, some of whom are already enrolled.

There are in Cardiff three forms of activity suitable for general practitioners. The School of Medicine organizes twice each year a number of short 'refresher' courses, each lasting from 3 to 5 days, for a limited number of practitioners many of whom come from outside Cardiff. There is also a weekly meeting for local

practitioners; a buffet lunch in the hospital is followed by a lecture, symposium or discussion. Clinical attachments lasting a week or a fortnight are also available in certain clinical departments including the University Units.

An experimental venture this summer is the holding of a residential postgraduate week or "summer school" at the new Cardiff City Teachers' Training College on the outskirts of the City. Four courses will be held concurrently, one in renal disease for consultant physicians and surgeons, another in pædiatrics and mental health for Assistant and Senior Assistant Medical Officers employed by Local Authorities, and two for general practitioners, one in obstetrics and gynæcology and another in anæsthetics. Doctors joining the courses will live together in the hostel. In the evenings there will be lectures and seminars on subjects of mutual interest.

The Welsh National School of Medicine offers two postgraduate diplomas. One of these in Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (the D.T.C.D.) occupies the first 6 months of each year. It is designed especially for graduates

from overseas and is run by Professor A. C. Cochrane largely at the Regional Cardio-respiratory Centre at Sully Hospital. This course for 24 graduates is usually heavily over subscribed. It includes a clinical attachment to an appropriate hospital during the Easter period.

Instruction for the D.P.H. is supervised by Professor C. R. Lowe. This is a part-time course for 12 graduates covering a period of 2 years intended for Assistant Medical Officers of Health in the area. It occupies two full days work each week for six terms; epidemiological methods and statistical techniques are particularly emphasized.

In all clinical departments of the Welsh National School of Medicine there are good facilities for research work. Honorary Clinical Assistantships can usually be arranged and graduates from overseas can be accommodated.

All the postgraduate activities outlined above are supervised by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Professor A. G. Watkins (Child Health), at 34 Newport Road, Cardiff.