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PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION OF BIRMINGHAM GRADUATES 1955-63

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FROM June 1955 to December 1963 inclusive, 781 men and women graduated in medicine from the University of Birmingham. They have recently been studied in respect of the pre-registration house-officer appointments they held and of the time that elapsed between their graduation and full registration with the General Medical Council. It is thought that the findings may be of some interest, particularly to those engaged in medical education.

Registration

Of the 781, six are not fully registered. The details are given in Table 1. One of the six graduated in 1962 and completed his pre-registration year within 13 months, but has not yet fully registered despite the fact that he has since held a senior house officer appointment in anaesthetics, a trainee assistantship in general practice and a hospital clinical assistantship. The interval between graduation and full registration of the remaining 775 ranged from 13 to 67 months, but 53.3% were fully registered within 13 months of graduation and 82.8% within 15 months. Much of the delay in full registration will be seen from Table 2 and Fig. 1 to be due not to delay in completing the two pre-registration house officer posts but to the fact that a certificate of full registration was not mandatory for the work in which they were engaged immediately thereafter (e.g. another house officer post). Where late registration was attributable to delay in completing the pre-registration year the reasons varied and are referred to in detail below.

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.

Year of Graduation	Sex	Number of Pre-Registration Posts Completed	Reason for not obtaining Full Registration
1960	M	1	Killed in a road accident
1960	M	2	Practising in Canada
1961	M	1	Practising Dentistry
1962	M	2	Oversight
1962	M	0	Practising in Uganda
1963	F	1	Marriage

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

Months after Graduation	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
Completion of Pre-registration Year	684	46	12	4	—	2	16	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Full Registration	430	177	53	17	19	10	19	9	5	2	6	3	4	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1

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

FIG. 2.—First pre-registration house appointment held by 781 men and women graduating in medicine from University of Birmingham 1955-63.

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

FIG. 3.—Hospitals in which Birmingham medical graduates 1955-63 held their pre-registration house appointments (U.B.H. is United Birmingham Hospitals and Birmingham R.H.B. is hospitals administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board).

pre-registration year—one worked as a schoolmaster and another in the pharmaceutical industry.

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