Correspondence.

Post-Graduate Training.

To the Honorary Editor of the Journal of the Post-Graduate Medical Association.

DEAR SIR,—As one who has travelled a long distance in search of post-graduate training, may I be permitted to offer some criticism and suggestions regarding such matters in London.

At the start I must explain that I spent four months in Vienna, and if I keep referring to the methods of the American Medical Association there I hope I will be forgiven, as I feel that the system there is almost ideal. On the other hand, I also feel that the teachers and the material in London are second to none in the world, and were they made fully available I believe that London would become *the* only centre for post-graduate work.

To my mind the primary requirements of post-graduate work in London are :—

(1) A central meeting place for post-graduates for the exchange of ideas and for social purposes, but more particularly for the passing on of unbiased opinions about the various courses available. It is not reasonable to expect a medical colleague or an official of the Post-Graduate Medical Association to give a bad report on a certain course, but the post-graduate himself can and will give his own frank opinion to a fellow post-graduate of the courses he had attended.

(2) There must be definite teaching, as opposed to mere attendance at treatment clinics where the overworked honorary is expected to say a few words if he has the time. For this, of course, the teacher must be paid, but there are probably many of the younger men who are thoroughly qualified to undertake this work, and would be willing to do so for say one or two guineas an hour. There must also be patients who attend solely to be the objects of this teaching, and this may

present difficulties which, however, can probably be overcome by various inducements.

(3) Each course must be offered separately, so that every post-graduate can make up exactly the programme he or she wishes to select. Here again the American Medical Association system in Vienna works admirably.

(4) It must be a "continuous show." Men from the Colonies have a habit of landing in London at all sorts of odd times, and a man who has given up a £1,000-a-year practice does not want to wait in idleness for two or three months until the next course starts. In Vienna you can be putting in six hours a day of concentrated practical work within four days of your arrival.

(5) If possible, cadaver surgery—not as it is at present understood in London—should be readily available. This may take time to develop, but surely the Fellowship is the right body to start the movement.

(6) The concentration of the teaching clinics into one (or perhaps several) groups. The Fellowship would be the centre, and here the courses and tutors available would be posted. Then one would hear less often the well-known criticism that "one spends most of one's post-graduate time in London riding about on a 'bus."

These are just my own thoughts on the subject, but I write them with the keen recollection of the weeks of intense "detective" work which I performed in search of the worth-while in London post-graduate work, and in the hope that in the end they may benefit others.

Very truly yours,

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