

The involvement of general psychiatrists in psychotherapeutic training enhances this. Many general psychiatrists will wish for further psychotherapeutic training as part of their continuing medical education – this will enable psychotherapeutic skills to cascade down to trainees. Convenors of College approval visits should demonstrate the importance

placed on such experience in their recommendations and requirements. This in turn will need to be backed up by greater attention to psychotherapeutic issues in the membership examination.

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## Locum consultants

The College continues to receive reports of a national shortage of suitably qualified psychiatrists able to carry out locum consultant works.

It has been agreed that the College will forward, to relevant College Regional Advisers, the names of those consultant psychiatrists who have recently retired and who have contacted the College because they are willing to undertake locum consultant work on a short-term basis.

If any retired member is interested in this type of work, could they write to the Secretary, enclosing a brief curriculum vitae, together with some indication of the geographical area where they would be willing to work. It would also be helpful to know the length of locums which they would be prepared to fill.

*Psychiatric Bulletin* (1993), 17, 698

## Membership examination

At the end of last year, I invited further nominations for both Boards of Examiners, through Regional Advisers and academic departments. As a result of this, I have learnt that some colleagues have been discouraged from allowing themselves to be nominated because of problems in obtaining appropriate leave from employing authorities. I would draw your attention to the reply from the Chief Medical Officer for England and Wales to our immediate past President (*Psychiatric Bulletin*, 1992, 16, 317), referring to paragraphs 250 to 252 of the Terms and Conditions of Service and making it clear that examining falls within study leave entitlement and that all employing authorities can grant additional periods of study leave for this purpose.

I would also draw attention to the wish expressed by the Chief Medical Officer in the same document, that NHS units should not charge for “facilities made available to further post graduate medical education”.

As I will shortly be inviting further nominations to the Boards of Examiners, and for suggestions for additional centres to host both MRCPsych Part I and Part II Examinations, in view of the increasing number of candidates, I would be grateful if members could note the contents of the Chief Medical Officer’s letter.

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