

THE SCRIBE'S COMPETITION

First entry

From Dr D. Bardon:

Please find enclosed entry for competition set by you in the March number of the *Bulletin*, 1978. I enclose cheque for £5 post-dated. As you will understand, having just retired I am somewhat embarrassed financially, but I hope that with the next jump of the index link, my account will meet the cheque.

In the event of winning I shall not, of course, accept either the first or second prize, as I hear that members of the HAS MD team are not allowed to smoke, and anyway I would have to carry a large Winchester of paraldehyde round with me to enable me to sleep in those noisy provincial hotels.

As you do not specify the post to be advertised, perhaps the competition could be run in heats for all the grades from SHO to Consultant. This would give the *Bulletin* a serial quality that would be something to look forward to.

Anyway, I think I shall start the ball rolling with an ad. for a Consultant. I suppose the money does go to the College?

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
D. BARDON

Herts, Bucks and Ox. Area Health Authority Beauchamp Mental Hospital

Applications are invited for the post of JUNIOR CONSULTANT (NO INCREMENTS) at the above hospital. The vacancy has arisen as a result of the compulsory retirement of the former medical superintendent who had devoted a long career of unostentatious service to the hospital, which serves a mixed rural and urban area. There are four well-known hunts in the catchment area* and although the hospital stables have now been re-instated as an Intensive Rehabilitation Facility, accommodation for a horse can be obtained locally. The urban component of the catchment area comprises three University Towns, one Oxbridge, one Redbrick and one Glasshouse type, three overspill high-risk new-short-stay agglomerations, and numerous picturesque villages in which the average age of the healthy inhabitants is 102.

The New and the University Towns are evenly divided between the six multi-disciplinary teams on readily comprehensible parameters. As the University

* Rough shooting in season.

Chairs of Psychiatry have all recently been abolished because of financial stringency there is ample opportunity for on-going meaningful dialogue between the holders of consultant posts at the hospital and academic staff. Student patients are willing to provide books from the various libraries in return for professional services.

There are many opportunities for dynamic and organic research into interactional and interface phenomena, both centrally and peripherally.

Out-patient accommodation will shortly become available at the Psychiatric Unit in the New District General Hospital which is an integrated rationalization of ten other hospitals under PUKE and RETCH.

Travelling time under the new consultant contract counts for 6 extra 'A' rate UMPS a week.

The hospital, the design of which is based on a French Chateau in the Loire, is unique in having a crenellated water tower from the top of which can be seen on a fine day with binoculars the old Great Northern, Midland, London and North Western and Great Western Railway Lines, all of which can be used for going to town for conferences, analysis, study leave, etc. On call arrangements can be made with colleagues at the quarterly meeting of the Multi-medical Disciplinary Advisory Committee which meets in the Community Nurses Offices on a rotational basis in the six urban districts covered.

Twenty-four copies of application within next six months to the Assistant Personnel Officer, Syd Blackball, Mentmore Towers, Whipsnade, UBET 6UP, stating place of birth, religion, political affiliation and willingness to give anaesthetics for abortions on Saturday afternoons at the DGH.

Applications will only be acknowledged on request.

The Scribe's Adjudication

Ezra comments: Dr Bardon has done well. One sympathizes with his reluctance to join an HAS tour in a provincial hotel. It is believed, however, that arrangements are now being made for HAS teams to be more comfortably accommodated in the hospitals they visit, using for this purpose the minimal nursing dependency rehabilitation ward situation (as Salmon puts it).

Dr Bardon will receive in lieu of first prize a golden handshake on his retirement in the shape of his post-dated £5 cheque returned to him (a move initially suggested by the bank).