

Further details may be obtained from Laurence E. Burns, Hon. Sec. EABT, Department of Clinical Psychology, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9QN.

Advertisement

FOR SALE: "Renadress" — multiple addressing system, comprising of 700 plastic frames, frame holders and spirit applicator. Ideal for addressing large numbers of envelopes quickly and efficiently for clubs, associations etc. Enquiries and offers to John Ferguson, Secretary B.A.B.P.

Correspondence

Dear Sir,

Nurse Therapist Enquiry (Behavioural Psychotherapy, 6 No. 1 p.23)

We have several reservations concerning the nature of this enquiry, the manner in which it is being conducted and the authority with which it has been mounted.

The following points are at issue:

- (1) Have the Executive Committee of the B.A.B.P. been invited by the G.N.C. to institute this enquiry or, alternatively, have they (the Executive) approached the G.N.C. for approval to mount such an enquiry?
- (2) Have the B.A.B.P. been approached by or have they themselves approached the J.B.C.N.S. or the C.C.N.S. in respect of this matter? (particularly with regard to questions 2 and 3 listed on their announcement).
- (3) Why, in the list of professions invited to surrender opinions or evidence were nurses (as distinct from trainee and trained nurse therapists) not included?
- (4) What is the objective of the enquiry?
- (5) To what extent does the Executive Committee of the B.A.B.P. consider that it is **appropriate** to publicise an enquiry into a branch of nursing without (a) making explicit the intention of the exercise (b) informing their readership whether or not this "enquiry" meets with the approval of the governing body of the nursing profession.

We would be grateful for clarification of these issues particularly in view of the fact that we currently organise the only **approved** course which undertakes to train nurses in behavioural methods in mental handicap, acute and long term psychiatry and therefore consider it our duty to make representation to, and if necessary express our

disagreement with, bodies purporting to be “looking at nurse therapists”.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Barker
Nursing Officer, Behaviour Therapy.

Douglas Fraser.
Senior Clinical Psychologist.

Joint Organisers,
C.C.N.S. Course in
Behaviour Modification & Therapy for Nurses.
Tayside Area Clinical Psychology Department,
Royal Dundee Liff Hospital,
Dundee. DD2 5NF

Dear Sir,

Nurse Therapist Enquiry
Behavioural Psychotherapy 6 No. 1 p.23

As Nurse Therapists working in established posts in the fields of acute and long term psychiatry, and in mental handicap, we would like to make the following points regarding the above proposed enquiry.

Firstly, we are surprised that given that there are in existence recognised training courses for nurses in Behaviour Therapy and Modification, that the Executive Committee of B.A.B.P. still regard it necessary to hold such an enquiry.

We are further surprised that information and opinion is being sought from stated disciplines, which, to our knowledge, have no such recognised training courses in Behaviour Therapy and Modification.

Thirdly, we would like to comment on the fact that although fleeting reference is made in the announcement of the enquiry, to the invaluable opinion of those involved in Nurse Therapist training schemes, nurses themselves are excluded in the initial invitation of opinion from other professional bodies.

If a feeling of paranoia is detected in our statements, may we correct this by saying that it is rather one of indignation that despite the considerable effort made both in instigating and running recognised training schemes, the skills of Nurse Therapist will appear to be denied full recognition from other disciplines.

We consider ourselves neither as a threat to any professional monopoly of therapeutic skills, nor more simply as cut price psychologist assistants. We regard ourselves as Nurse Therapists in our own right, attempting to exercise and expand those skills, by which we as members of the nursing profession may bring about therapeutic change in patients.

We trust that the full strength of our feeling on the way in which this enquiry is being approached, is clearly conveyed in our letter.

Kenneth Greig,
Charge Nurse Therapist.
Charles Gourlay, Mary Tosh,
Nurse Therapists.

Tayside Area Clinical Psychology Department,
Royal Dundee Liff Hospital, Dundee, DD2 5NF.