

unique to a therapeutic community, for sharing emotions and support.

I have explored some of my own difficulties confronting death both at personal and professional levels, and attempted to place these in the social contexts of the therapeutic community and society at large.

I have learnt that if I relinquish some of my status I am not destroyed by the anger of patients and if I allow myself to empathise with their pain I am not engulfed. Similarly I believe that my ability to communicate with patients and confidence to withstand their criticism were enhanced by working at The Lodge.

I began this account by raising questions about my role at The Lodge and wondering how I might contribute to the assessment and treatment of the residents. It seems, on reflection, that what was required most were very basic human qualities such

as caring, common sense, courage, self-confidence, and a degree of introspection. I would recommend that all training psychiatrists spend a period at a therapeutic community if they have the opportunity. Some of us may need to rediscover those skills, and may even be surprised that others will value our contributions.

References

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Saudi Arabian Diploma and Fellowship in Psychiatry

The Diploma and Fellowship Examinations in Psychiatry were held at the King Saud University, College of Medicine, and King Khalid Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in October/November 1992.

The training programme is based on the Royal College model and is organised by Dr Abdulrazzak Alhamad (Co-ordinator for Diploma and Fellowship Programmes in Psychiatry), Dr A. Al-Subaie, FRCP (C), and Dr Fateh El Aleem M. Abdul Rahim, MRCPsych.

The Fellowship Examination was taken by four candidates, of whom three passed: Dr Daad M. Mardini, Dr K. AlSabhan, and Dr M. AlSawaf.

The successful candidates will now take on senior registrar status.

The examiners were Dr Abdul Elkarim Ahmed Osman, MRCPsych, Professor M. Fakh El-Islam, FRCPsych and Professor Greg Wilkinson, FRCPsych.