

# THE BULLETIN

## OF THE

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

#### COLLEGE NEWS

#### WOMEN IN PSYCHIATRY: REPORT OF A WORKING PARTY OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

##### Introduction

The proportion of women among practising doctors has been rising steadily over the past decade. In some medical schools over 50 per cent of the students admitted in 1975-76 were women, and it is anticipated that by 1980 50 per cent of all medical students may be female. The financial investment of the nation in its future doctors is likely to receive a poor return unless women doctors are able to make a major contribution to the delivery of medical care.

Psychiatry has traditionally attracted a higher proportion of women practitioners than other

medical specialties, and various theories have been advanced to account for this. Similarly, there has been speculation about the needs and wishes of women working in psychiatry, based not upon empirical facts but upon assumptions drawn from scanty evidence and the occasional statements of an articulate minority. About 23 per cent of all psychiatric staff are women but only 13 per cent are Consultants. These figures exclude para 94 Clinical Assistant appointments, which grade performance for many women working in psychiatry is the only one available to them for their career. At this time of

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