MEDICAL EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN THE EEC

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND MANPOWER IN THE EEC

Proceedings of a Symposium
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Preface

Many of the issues that have become sources of increasing concern to the medical profession throughout Europe of late have been those relating to medical demography and medical education in the broadest sense. When the Advisory Committee on Medical Training in Europe was established by the EEC some 10 years ago, it became evident that there was considerable variation in the programmes of undergraduate medical education established by the various member countries; and even more particularly, striking discrepancies became apparent in relation to procedures concerned with the admission of students to medical schools and university faculties of medicine. Thus some member countries had for many years adopted a programme of strict control on medical-school entry according to academic and other criteria, in order to make certain as far as possible that the facilities available for training were adequate to educate the students admitted, and also in order to restrict the output of doctors so as to bear some relationship to the health-care needs of the country. By contrast, in other countries no such *numerus clausus* had ever been operated, since the political view was strongly held that all young men and women who were capable (according to their school performance) of benefiting from medical education, should be given that opportunity. The result of this policy had been a massive increase in the number of students studying medicine and in the output of doctors. There was also evidence that the increasing establishment of health-care programmes controlled both administratively and financially by government had imposed some restriction upon the development of health services in certain countries, with consequential fears of medical unemployment and wastage of skilled medical manpower, expensively trained usually at public expense. In the European scene, too, significant differences had emerged in relation to the philosophy, content and duration of programmes of training in individual specialties in medicine.

The Stresa symposium, held in October 1982 through the inspiration and initiative of the Fondazione Smith Kline and its Director, Dr Ghetti, brought together a number of experts from many European countries to discuss these problems and to propose some solutions relating to the entire field of medical demography, medical economics, health-care development and education, at

both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In each session, opening contributions were given by a medical educator on one hand, and by a medical administrator or health-care economist on the other. The extensive and well-informed discussions that followed were recorded and edited. The result, we believe, is a publication of considerable importance and topicality which will be of major interest to doctors throughout Europe who either play some part in medical education at a particular level or who are involved in the organization and planning of health services, as well as to those who are involved in committees concerned with the regulation and delivery of medical education, not only in the EEC, but also throughout Europe. The book should also be invaluable to health-care economists in bringing to their attention medical views as well as those of their colleagues upon controversies of the moment. Hopefully, too, it will appeal to a wider international audience since many of the problems exposed in this volume are being experienced in all developed and developing countries.

Newcastle upon Tyne, Oxford and London, 1983

J.W.
T.B.

Fondazione Smith Kline

The Fondazione Smith Kline is an independent institution founded in 1979 by Smith Kline & French S.p.A. of Milan, a subsidiary of the Smith Kline Beckman Corporation of Philadelphia, USA.

In this way, the Smith Kline group wishes to show that in Italy, as well as through Smith Kline Foundations elsewhere, it desires to assist with the problems, needs and expectations of the countries in which it is active.

The Fondazione Smith Kline, which was granted legal status by a Presidential Decree dated September 9, 1982 and which operates autonomously, is governed by a Board of Directors which delegates the implementation of its resolutions to an Executive Committee. The areas of interest that have so far received attention are university medical education and health economics. The role of the Fondazione is that of a 'service agency', meeting point, information centre and instrument to facilitate exchanges between academics and other experts in its chosen fields of interest.

The symbol of the Fondazione Smith Kline—a jet of water on a background of a plant structure—is intended to represent the inexhaustible capacity of man to change and develop when he is both sensitive to nature (the plant structure) and attentive to the diffusion of new ideas (the jet of water).

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