

300 post-mortem examinations are carried out annually, a much smaller number of hospitals will be able to provide for the more advanced training requisite for the Diploma examination. The Board considers that the consultant morbid anatomist or consultant pathologist should be responsible for the training, with the assistance of his senior post-mortem room technician, and the Board will grant recognition to hospitals which are suitable for either or both forms of training.

The following is the five-year scheme of training drawn up and recommended by the Board of Education and Examination for Post-Mortem Room Technicians.

FIRST YEAR On appointment a trainee would be seconded to an area or district hospital pathologist (or morbid anatomist) for three months' introductory training and assessment of suitability at the end of the probationary period.

(a) In the preliminary training school for formal instruction in anatomy and physiology with the nurses in the block, commencing January, May, and September (eight weeks). Daily lectures to include elementary bacteriology, hygiene, and public health (two to three to four hours weekly).

(b) In the post-mortem room instruction in applied anatomy or practical anatomy, including opening and closing the body cavities and reconstruction. Instruments, use and maintenance; cleanliness, etc., in the post-mortem room; precautions against infection, injury, etc.; the taking of specimens—bacteriological, biochemical, histological, and museum.

(c) In the laboratory: instruction as for student technicians. Elementary instruction in bacteriology, biochemistry, histology, and mounting specimens.

(d) Tutorial sessions in the post-mortem room, twice monthly (half-day release). Remainder of year at own hospital.

SECOND YEAR With the area or district hospital pathologist or morbid anatomist for four to six weeks'

instruction in more advanced post-mortem procedures, including work in children and in forensic and neurological work (at special hospitals if necessary). Further experience and training in the laboratory. Tutorial sessions twice monthly. Remainder of year at own hospital.

THIRD YEAR Course of lecture-demonstrations covering the syllabus for the Certificate in Mortuary Hygiene and Technology of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, the course to be held at a technical college or university centre or regional training centre. The course to cover winter and spring terms, once weekly for 20 weeks (minimum) with day release as necessary. Weekly tutorial sessions at a district hospital, leading to Certificate examination in April.

FOURTH OR SUBSEQUENT YEAR At selected and recognized hospital with consultant morbid anatomist for three months' training in advanced procedures, including those in children and in forensic and neurological work, either in special departments or hospitals in which all of this experience can be given. Tutorial sessions, twice monthly on half-day release, the remainder of year at own hospital.

FIFTH OR SUBSEQUENT YEAR Course of lecture-demonstrations covering the syllabus for the Diploma examination. Course held as above and also for the winter and spring terms, 20 weeks (minimum), and at more advanced level. Tutorial sessions, twice monthly (half-day release). Remainder of year at own hospital. Diploma examination in April.

From our experience of all the examinations and of the courses preparing candidates for these examinations we can point to the great advantage to all concerned of arrangements being made with a suitable technical college or university department. Pathologists can then concern themselves solely with teaching.

It is regretted that in the paper by J. M. Yong (*J. Clin. Path.*, 1967, 20, 647) no reference was made to the work of Professor A. L. Latner and his colleagues (Hodson, A. W., Latner, A. L., and Kaine, L. (1962). *Clin. chim. Acta*, 7, 255) on serum alkaline phosphatase using starch gel electrophoresis.

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