

emergency. He and his entourage walk away leaving the patient unable to answer the questions of her neighbour, and presumably of herself, as to what is wrong and what is going to happen to her.

Fortunately, our faith in the senior members of the medical profession is quickly restored by a view of the same surgeon behaving in a totally acceptable manner. He introduces himself and the two students, talks to the patient, asks her permission before examining her and seeks her agreement for the medical student to repeat the examination.

We then see a similar comparison between a non-productive interview between an overworked doctor in the out-patient clinic and a mother with her young baby who has been waiting an hour for her appointment, and a similar situation where the doctor controls his irritation and greets the patient warmly, putting her at ease and allowing him to pursue the clinical issues to a satisfactory conclusion. These two wrong and right approaches are done exceptionally well and give vent to appropriate feelings of irritation and dismay at the way these students are being taught before the reassuring alternative is produced.

There are three further models of a patient having a rectal examination, another exposing a fungating mastectomy scar and a final one of a joking interaction with an elderly lady who is incapacitated and unable to drive her car.

These stories all provide good talking points and illustrate the importance of many aspects of patient contact. They are convincing interactions and many students would identify, sadly, the wrong version while, hopefully, recognising the appropriateness of the right version.

As far as psychiatry is concerned, the general principles apply but it would be most useful for teaching of liaison psychiatry and other work with medical students during their introduction to clinical work.

(Bronze Award, 1986 BLAT/BMA Film and Video Competition).

Production: Andrew Macaulay and Andrew Powell (St George's Hospital, London).

Distribution: Turnip Video Services, 193 Queens Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8NX.

Format: VHS and BETA (£69); U-matic (£79).

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Sharing Caring (UK, 30 mins, 1987)

'We're not closing a mental hospital, we're building a better service'

It is about time we had some quality television on well-planned community care to balance the image of seedy mental hospitals approaching closure and windswept seashores with lonely silhouettes. The *Sunday Times* Colour Supplement (3 May, 1987) on Community Care excluded satisfied customers!

Dr Donald Dick, once Director of the Health Advisory Service, has seen it all. Back in harness as clinician, he shows

us around his own district services with the deliberateness and charm of a Magnus Magnusson. "You need your day-care and out-patient consultations about as near as the local branch of your bank, whereas for more sophisticated treatments you wouldn't mind travelling to an in-patient unit about as far away as the county court . . . no-one with senile dementia needs to be in a mental hospital."

And as we visit the dispersed facilities, 'Line-Up' are to be congratulated for capturing a vital ingredient so often absent in such documentaries – unpatronising warmth in staff and patient relationships. This is important because the videotape is primarily to engage patients, relatives and the public in discussing how their mental health service might be provided. Community care can appear drab and pointless without paramourcy of the individual.

I would advise anyone who is about to announce the closure of a mental hospital to show interested members of the public tapes like this, which illustrate well what the alternative can be. It is set in rural Dorset, so we need another equally imaginative tape on an inner city service.

I got ideas to think about, and so I suppose other professionals will also. If Sir Roy Griffiths' review of the financing of community care will let them, they intend to put NHS staff into privately owned facilities. Wouldn't that be a good way of closely monitoring standards of care in the private sector? Of the rich variety of occupational activities shown, the market gardening consortium set me thinking about the possibilities in my district.

'Sharing Caring' is the rather sickly title with introductory song to match, but there is a talking point here for staff in the multidisciplinary teams. *It will never be the same again for any of us.* Doctors, nurses and social workers do have different relationships with each other and with their patients. For those who are worried about professional role change, it is reassuring to hear them talking about each other in West Dorset. The new special home helps, essential for domiciliary care of the elderly, add to the skill mix with "bags of good common sense".

I would have edited out the few seconds given to the old guard defending large institutions. Amidst this display of new ideas, he sits there bemoaning the run-down of the mental hospital – like they portray members of the other side in a party political broadcast. Complacency was, of course, the poison in the institution, so it is appropriate that this tape ends on the note "I do not believe plans are ever right – they need constantly to be revised and aligned to changing need."

Production: "Line-Up" for the West Dorset Health Authority.

Consultant: Dr Donald Dick.

Distribution: "Line-Up", Freshford, Bath BA3 6BX.

Format: VHS.

Purchase £46, including VAT, postage and booklet.

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