

# Clinical Training For Medical Students

—S. Hossain

WHAT is general practice in England, and also is a common knowledge in the Netherlands, France and North America, is now to be followed in Germany and some other countries: medical students will no longer receive clinical training at university. From the winter semester 1977/78 Bochum university is adopting a new way of training doctors. Thereafter, students will do their clinical training at the so-called general hospitals. Hitherto, medical students have had to change universities after the pre-clinical semesters due to the university having no clinics of its own. Pre-clinical natural scientific medicine is already fully developed in Bochum and with around 500 study places is one of the largest pre-clinical training centres in the Federal Republic.

The pre-clinical training in general hospitals is regarded as creating additional study places in clinical medicine as unbureaucratically and competitively as possible. It is envisaged that through following this practice a substantial number of students can be trained without loss of time at the regional hospitals.

The medical experts believe

the experiment of following the new practice will be a help in overcoming the difficulties found in the course of medical studies. Through this experiment they will be able to complete their training in shorter periods without undue problems. The students will thus be able to form a better overall picture of the wide range of illnesses than in the university clinics which are often highly specialised and technical. This however, also means that those just beginning clinical training will no longer be a noticeable burden on the large specialist hospitals. Professors at university clinics will, therefore, be able to devote themselves even more intensely to advanced students who come to them with a comprehensive basic training course already behind them.

The university of Bochum has already entered into a number of contracts with other states in Germany as well as developing countries to implement this pilot scheme. These contracts envisage, inter alia, several students at these medical centres being given the

opportunity of concentrating more thoroughly on specialising the courses of their choice. The federal state of Northrhine Westphalia will meet the costs incurred by the hospitals for teaching and research, the hiring of additional staff or investment in building such as the expansion of lecture rooms etc. A figure of around 53 million DM is estimated for the first ten years of the "Bochum Model" — a relatively small sum compared with the enormous sums involved in the building of university clinics. The regional and federal authorities believe the scheme offers the possibility of creating additional study places as well as the opportunity of receiving clinical training 'on the spot'. It is assumed the Bochum pilot scheme, originally designed to run for eleven years, offers points of departure in the sphere of clinical training of the future.

Examinations are being made whether hospitals in other areas could be converted into training centres along the lines of the Bochum model, thus easing and at the same time, relieving the burden on the universities by creating additional study places in university clinics.