

The Automation of a National Research Project in Higher Education

M.D.Buckley-Sharp

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Over the past four years, the Medical Education Research Group at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School has been concerned to devise and develop techniques of automation to be applied to medical education. Our extensive experience, working with more than eighty departments throughout the country has enabled us to assess some of the practical, political and ethical problems associated with assessment on a large scale.

Although our studies have been concerned with assessment technique, we have come to think that assessment can be more widely employed as a method teaching in its own right. Until quite recently, we have confined our activities to multiple choice questions, but we recognise that this is a restriction, and we are taking steps to enlarge the scope of our procedures to cover other areas. This is something which will be required of any national group set up to coordinate research into higher medical education.