institutions devoted to medical psychology as centres for research and intensive study and treatment of mental disorders, these, together with the less ambitious but yet well found mental clinics, should be in some way co-ordinated or directly attached to where the vast number of sick people are either taken or direct their footsteps, namely, the general hospitals.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder has done much to educate the public as to the right attitude to adopt to this question. Its report contains the message of mental hygiene to the world :—

"Illness of the mind should be regarded as an illness like other illnesses."

"The keynote of the future should be prevention and treatment."

"There is no clear demarcation between mental and physical illness. There are many cases of illness in which it is a question of whether the physical or mental symptoms predominate."

"There is no definite line between the sane and the insane. It is a matter of degree. The degrees of mental instability are infinite."

"The number of persons who could avoid certification altogether would be increased if greater facilities existed for those who are willing to submit themselves to treatment."

"Hence the necessty of making provision in connection with existing institutions, or by the provision of new institutions for the treatment of mental disease from the very earliest moment of the appearance of its symptoms."

It is satisfactory to know that the Mental Treatment Bill is making good progress.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

SOME ASPECTS OF SPECIALISATION AND CO-OPERATION IN THE HEALTH FIELD.

Speaking at the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration of the Department of Nursing Education at Teachers' College, New York, Professor Henry Suzallo, Director, National Advisory Committee on Education, and Visiting Professor of Education, Teachers' College, said :—

If you examine the history of professional service you will find three or four standards which apply to any profession. They certainly apply to the fifteen new specialisations represented here to-night.

First : Every profession is a ministry to a crucial situation. For those assembled here to-night, life itself is the crisis with which you deal. It may be hard to see the sick bed and the death scene as involved in preventive medicine, but they constitute the crucial situation at the end of the road. In physical training, physical health may be the crisis. The sense of ministering to crucial things must ever dominate the conscience of every one who is in a profession. A money return for service rendered must count, but not too much. It may be a large incident but not a primary object.

Society will not tolerate a doctor who will let a man die while he investigates whether or not the patient can pay the bill for the doctor's services. The test of your reaching the professional standard is whether or not it is of greater importance to someone else than it is to you as to how you treat each case. The results of your efficiency in serving others should be greater to others than to your self, though, like a good human instrument, you should be well cared for in return. Feel energised with a great sense of devotion to this duty, and of your real importance to some one else.

Second : A professional deed is never done mechanically. It is not something which you can do from habit or repeated skills. You may have fifteen kinds of skills, but you cannot use them all or in the same way in each professional service. Every human case is a different problem, calling for discrimination and resources, for more knowledge, skill and judgment than you have used in the cases preceding it. This second characteristic of a profession applies very distinctly to the differing members of the group before me. Each of you must have the capacity for intelligent technique and characterful resourcefulness. You must have more skill than you are usually using. You never can do anything the "same old way" in a profession. This obligation calls for more educational foundation than does an ordinary occupation—it means that the members of these groups before me will have to keep on being educated for a long time to come, for the science and art of your new field is growing rapidly. Every new profession has to keep on educating itself. Standards ever go upward. If you are in this work you must keep on studying.

Third : Inevitably, you must operate co-operatively. Specialisation without the co-operative capacity is fatal to all concerned. A new profession rests only on a temporary or transient success if it fails to build up a spirit of co-operation with the other professions closely related to it. It is much easier for members of a new profession to work companionably than for those of an old one to do so, for members of the new profession have no prerogatives to preserve. This is a fact of human nature. Do not worry too much about the attitude toward you of the older professional in the field of health service, particularly the physician. You are saving him a lot of time and a lot of failures. He does not always know it. You do. Serve him all the better. Make up in self-respect for the respect he is too blinded by tradition to give you. Soon each specialist will have his own place of dignity in the field of health co-operation. This condition is bound to come. It must come if effective skill and service are to be rendered to citizens, patients and the public. No one can hold a wrong attitude or prerogative long. The final arbiter is public opinion. If you cannot straighten out some present tangles, do your own duty as you see it, ethically, and leave the tangles for the public to unravel.

Fourth : Every profession has an ethical code. It cannot live and work without one ; but that code should protect all concerned, not just one's own group-interest. If you have a human tool, use it, but don't use it up. Service and human labour are not mere economic commodities. Don't ask people to sacrifice themselves for ever. In your profession's code of ethics there must be something that protects the worker and the fellow-worker, the patient and the public. When difficulties face you, look to your code of ethics ; and also remember that the pay you receive is partly in money, and partly in human satisfactions. The returns for your services run in a series from A to Z. Those from A to M you can buy with money—and you have to have some money ; but those from M to Z no money will ever buy. Be sure you collect both kinds of satisfactions and not merely one. And do not forget those rewards that come from the way you do your job. Fortunately, most of you have been educated at Teachers' College, where, in addition to knowledge and skill, the right attitudes toward your obligations to others and your satisfactions for self have been wholesomely inculcated in your outlook upon the job to be done. I have no fears or reservations in saying that you will practise your respective professions with nothing less than your full, wholesome, educated selves.—*The Nursing Education Bulletin Teachers' College, New York.*

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