

or jail of that one case, and of whatever suits for damages or other expenses they may have been liable to on account of his misdoings.

These are not exceptional, but average, cases. If one should follow the actual details of any other of the hundred cases, one would find similarly radiating benefits arising from the mental clinic. And they do not stop where the descriptions left off. There are still further radiations which diffuse into the whole surrounding region. The physicians who send patients to the clinic get a little better understanding of the needs of some of their patients, and that understanding spreads in time to other physicians and the laity. Especially if the clinic is connected with a state institution, there is a gradual lessening of the popular notions that insanity is a disgrace, that it is incurable, that the patient is one to be feared or "put away," and that the hospital is a place full of mysterious horrors, to be avoided as long as possible. Such age-long, wide-spread fallacies are replaced by a better understanding of patients and the hospitals, a greater sympathy for them, a more intelligent attitude toward them. Within the past decade such changes have made appreciable growth in Massachusetts, for example, with its more than forty clinics.

All the social welfare agencies, public and private, including the schools and courts, have one more resource in the mental clinic to aid them in their respective fields, and the community is the better for it. As a community it can handle some of its difficult problems more intelligently, more scientifically, more humanely, usually more economically.

The mental clinic is able to take care in the community, through its own social worker or those of the co-operating agencies, of some patients who would otherwise have to be resident in institutions. The cost of care in the community is comparatively slight. Institutional care varies greatly but may be said to average from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per week. Every tax-payer in the State benefits by the difference, whenever patients are saved from going to the institution or can be removed earlier from them because of the mental clinic.

By as much as one of its integral parts functions better, by so much does the State as a whole function better. The more effective functioning of one part serves as an example and a stimulus to other parts.

Although these benefits may seem to spread out pretty thin when we get beyond the patient and those immediately concerned with him, and may seem hardly worth considering, they are none the less real and existent. When, as Dr. Strecker suggests, the benefits to one patient are multiplied by a hundred or a thousand (more than 3,000 patients attended mental clinics in New York State in 1918, and a somewhat