

SECTION V

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

The programme of the National Committee is limited by the funds which are at their disposal. The use of funds is largely determined by the donor, who, in most cases, makes his donation for a specific purpose. For that reason, we have not discussed the distribution of funds according to activities, as such distribution may be accepted as being pre-determined. The only change which could be made would be through securing non-designated funds or funds for activities for which, at present, there is comparatively meagre provision.

In the review presented, it has been pointed out that the programme of the National Committee embraces practically all of the items enumerated under the present problem. They are not all covered fully or in equal proportion. This is due to the varying importance attached to the different items and to the funds given for work that is related to particular items.

It is felt that in considering the undertaking of new activities, care must be taken to prevent the work from becoming too diffuse, and that is why there is insistence upon the outlining of definite plans of work with regular reviews of the programme and accomplishments.

It is suggested that consideration be given along one other line—the establishment of mental hygiene upon a sound basis, as part of public health and so supported by public funds.

The future of mental hygiene, in many of its aspects, depends upon its acceptance as an integral part of the work of established public departments. This is particularly true of public health, where mental hygiene should permeate all other hygienes and not be an isolated piece of work.

It has been stated that, in practice, public health is a provincial responsibility. Public health is decentralized in administration; that is, the laws are provincial, but the law places the responsibility of carrying out the law upon the municipality or county.

It is the local administration which is most important in public health, because it is the local administration which, in the final analysis, determine the quality and quantity of public health services.

It is obvious that if mental hygiene is to develop as part of public health, those who are interested in the promotion and the practice of mental hygiene principles must be interested in public health. Therefore, it seems logical for the National Committee to study local health administration, to consider its strength and its weaknesses, the selection of personnel, etc.

Public health is but one of the public services, and in so far as one service must rise or fall with the whole standard of public services, consideration would have to extend to the general field of public administration, but essentially what is suggested is a study of local