

Health and Welfare

Munro) today with respect to this matter, but he was not in the house, and I hope later to get an answer to it. I asked him what the government is doing to ensure that we have a sufficient number of medical men in this country. Not only is this vitally necessary today, but it will be of great importance in the implementation of medicare which the government has brought in and which I claim was done in a haphazard way, without due consideration being given to the provinces and without allowing the provinces to have a say.

As I mentioned earlier, great strides have been made in the care of the mentally ill. The hon. member for Hull also made reference to psychiatric wards in general hospitals. Today patients in these wards are covered by hospitalization insurance. In this respect I would be inclined to favour this notice of motion. I feel that a mentally ill patient, no matter where he might be hospitalized, should receive as much care and be given as much consideration as one who is in a psychiatric ward in a general hospital.

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my colleague from Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) with respect to the resolution now before the house. It seems to me most unfortunate that mental illness has traditionally been considered secondary in importance to physical illness. A great deal of progress has been made in diagnosis and treatment. We all know, of course, that a great deal is yet to be accomplished before we can rest assured that psychiatrists have reached the degree of acceptance enjoyed by physicians and surgeons. It is true also that evolutionary factors in hospital management have helped alleviate the shortage of mental health care units. The provision for treatment of the mentally ill in nearly all general hospitals now operating in the land is, to a degree, justifying the earlier decisions to avoid the inclusion of mental hospitals and t.b. sanatoria in the federal hospital insurance program within the scope of the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act.

• (5:50 p.m.)

At that time, it was considered to be preferable to deal with general hospitals, including the chronic, convalescent and rehabilitation institutions, on a basis of urgency. The costs of hospital care were becoming unbearably burdensome both to individuals and to the hospitals. It was of the

utmost importance therefore to take immediate measures to alleviate this situation. In excluding certain types of hospitals, the government had regard for the fact that a certain amount of federal support was already being provided through the national health grants program to general hospitals.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, by far the most neglected area in our mental health program is child psychiatry. It would be most unfair to make a blanket charge that nothing is being accomplished but the development of child psychiatry in Canada has been slow and out of proportion with the incidence of deviant child behaviour. An urgent concern for the disturbed adult has obscured an approach to the problems of child pathology. I should like now to quote from a report on child psychology but I wish to emphasize that millions of dollars are being expended annually in the interests of physical and mental health while precious little has been made available for the treatment of a retarded child. Public spirited citizens have stepped forward to accept this challenge. I should like to refer to the Sunshine Occupational School at Chilliwack B.C., operated by the Society for Handicapped Children which is wholly supported by public subscription. I should like to refer also to the Good Shepherd School in Clearbrook, British Columbia, which functions in a similar way. I know there are many more in Canada, but I wish to make special mention of a school for boys in Langley, B.C., known as Chrisholme.

Eight years ago a group of businessmen in Vancouver became aware of the urgent need for a type of schools for boys possessed of mental faculties making them ineligible for public schools. They purchased a small farm at Langley in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, and proceeded to develop a curriculum without benefit of precedent but with a sincere desire to succeed. The board of directors begged and borrowed to outfit the farm and school and just recently opened a new workshop. All the capital was publicly subscribed. Through the able management of Mr. Tom Hoeflok and his small but overworked staff, the school eventually graduated eight young men and found them jobs in various trades. They quickly became self-supporting respectable citizens. The first graduates commenced their positions in society 18 months ago and not one has left his job or been released. Another six are nearing the graduation date.

These young boys are referred to the school from child welfare and other agencies. I am