

As community mental health programmes are developed, there can be no doubt that their closer integration with other health services and the development of a more intimate working relationship between once exclusive professional disciplines will be of inestimable benefit to the mental and physical well-being of the people they serve.

(4) Evaluation of Training and Research Programmes

In Canada -- and I should think in other countries as well -- there is need for a re-assessment of our training programmes for mental health workers and of our present research efforts. As to training, in planning our future staff needs, we must be more ready to clarify the roles and the anticipated contributions of the various professional groups.

In research, which holds so much hope for the future, we must give thought to the balance between basic or fundamental research on the one hand and applied research on the other. We must make certain too that the most pressing problems are being investigated. Medical research is a world-wide endeavour and each new discovery in one country sets off chain reactions of new findings elsewhere until -- in still limited fields of knowledge -- whole areas become charted and known. For this reason, I am particularly pleased to note that one of the plenary sessions of this great Congress is being devoted to this important matter.

Often a whole new era in the history of medicine is heralded by some brilliant discovery. Who knows what research discoveries lie ready to our hand? Who knows how few more segments of medical knowledge might complete our understanding of the laws governing the human body and mind, and answer questions that, since the dawn of time, mankind has asked despairingly? One of the challenges to this Congress is to touch off a quickening of interest in research and to encourage a closer co-ordination of the studies being undertaken in various countries.

(5) Respecting the Integrity of Human Personality

Finally, there is the important matter of individual personality. The Expert Committee on Mental Health of the World Health Organization recently reported on the essential characteristics of modern psychiatric care. High on its list was the need for respecting the personality of the individual. The report said in part:

"In still too many psychiatric hospitals the patient is robbed of her personal possessions, her clothes, her name and ... even her hair".

Respect for the integrity of the individual must be carried beyond mere physical possessions to include as well those spiritual and moral resources that are the precious possessions of the individual patient. It would be a tragic thing if psychiatry should ever come to disregard the validity of spiritual aspirations by looking upon human beings as soulless creatures subject to physical laws alone. Psychiatry must continue to recognize the essential humanity and spirituality of man.