

SECTION IV

HOW THE PRESENT PROGRAMME MEETS THE PRESENT PROBLEM

In previous sections, the development of the National Committee has been outlined, and a description given of the present organization and programme, followed by a statement of the present problem of mental hygiene in Canada.

The previous sections are statements of facts. This section will be devoted to a consideration of the programme of the National Committee in relation to the present problem.

EDUCATION

Training of Leaders.—The research programme of the National Committee has attracted graduate students, and the research work has provided a field for training and instruction. The National Committee has secured a considerable number of travelling fellowships, thus permitting promising individuals to go abroad for study. In these ways, leaders are being trained and developed, leaders for mental hygiene and leaders for other fields, with an understanding of mental hygiene.

The National Committee secured the funds required to make possible, with the co-operation of the Ontario Government and the University of Toronto, a post-graduate training centre for physicians in psychiatry and also for nurses.

Undergraduate.—The National Committee has promoted mental hygiene instruction in universities. This has been accomplished by making personnel available as part of the research programme. The combination of research and teaching has worked to the advantage of all concerned. There can be no question that instruction, as now carried on is a long step in advance of what it was a few years ago.

Instruction for undergraduate professional groups seems so desirable that it may be accepted. From all of these groups would come those who are attracted to the field, and the desirable material should be selected for further undergraduate and post-graduate instruction.

Beyond this, it may be asked if certain groups may not be selected for major attention, considering the opportunities which their profession brings to them. It appears that the medical practitioner, the nurse and the school teacher are those who have the best opportunities to promote mental health. The physician and the nurse who go into public health have an even greater opportunity. It might be well, then, for the National Committee to give particular attention to these groups.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene in the United States is active in the field of medical education. They have made