

SOCIAL RESEARCH AT YALE UNIVERSITY: THE
INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RELATIONS.

Origin.

The Institute of Human Relations and "The Human Welfare Group" of Yale University are the results of a development which began first with the desire to expand the scope of medical education, particularly on the side of psychology and mental hygiene (as well as to expand other medical research). Before the Institute was built or projected, there existed (1) the Department of Research in Child Hygiene (dating from 1911), (2) the Institute of Psychology, and (3) the Department of Psychology and Mental Hygiene. It was felt that these should be developed, and that there was a need for the coordination of their work. The conception was further expanded on discussion, however, on the ground that there should be closer relations between the biological sciences and the social sciences, also. Medicine should be aware of man as a sociological animal - in relation to the community and to economic and social causes and consequences. From this the concept of studying human behaviour as a whole was broadened to that of studying human welfare as a whole, by taking account of social, economic and other communal relations, as well as the physiological and psychological study of man. The project was broadened from an Institute of Human Behaviour to an Institute of Human Relations.

(The large part played in medicine and the biological sciences is therefore an outstanding feature of difference from the cooperative research at the University of Chicago. Chicago is experimenting particularly in breaking down the barriers between the social sciences in attacking a problem. The Institute is experimenting in linking up biological research in addition).

Organisation.

The Human Welfare Group.

The Institute is part of the "Human Welfare Group", which is the name currently used as covering the following:

1. The Institute of Human Relations.
2. The Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Nursing, the New Haven Hospital and New Haven Dispensary.
3. Divisions affiliated to the Institute - the Graduate School, the Law School, the Industrial Engineering group, the Divinity School, and certain departments giving undergraduate instruction in biology and sociology.

The investment represented in the buildings and endowment of the Group (mainly the first two) comprises some \$30,000,000: and it is estimated that about \$5,500,000 is still required to complete its equipment.