

tion. Besides, the medical diagnosis is always supplemented by a consideration of the personality and the environmental factors, which do not, however, enter into the medical diagnoses, but which are often fully as important, if not more so in many cases, as any medical condition that may be present.

III

A variable but not very large proportion of patients go to mental clinics on their own initiative, and a somewhat larger proportion is brought by relatives or friends. But most are brought or referred by various social agencies. In the clinic we are now considering it is at present required that patients be referred by a physician, and that they go through the Red Cross office, in order that the family history and other data may be secured before the patient is seen by the physician in charge. Hence none of the hundred patients are reported as coming on their own initiative or that of relatives. In most clinics this previous reference by a physician is not required, but the agency referring the patient is expected to have the desired information at the time of bringing the patient.

Various school officers, such as a school superintendent, a school nurse, a teacher, an attendance officer, and the student counsellors, referred 14 children to the clinic, many of whom were difficult to diagnose. In some places more use is made of such clinics by the schools, in others less. Where mental as well as physical examination of school children is required by law the mental clinic is more likely to be largely used by school authorities.

The Red Cross itself referred 11 patients, the Social Hygiene Committee 8; the Associated Charities 5, a Home for Girls 4, the Mothers' Assistance Fund 3, and three other local social welfare agencies 4, making a total of 35 referred by organized social welfare agencies. The number and character of such societies or associations, and their appreciation of what such a clinic can do to help them in some of their problems, depend on the organizations existent in the community, and the enlightenment of those who conduct them.

The probation officer is credited with having referred 22 cases to the clinic. This is a gratifying large number to come through such an agency, whether the initiative came from the Court or from the officer in question. In another quite comparable clinic in the same State, only 7 were referred by courts or court officers. The more the Court or its officers turn to the psychiatrist for aid before offenders are sentenced, the less injustice will be done to many a prisoner. Those Juvenile Courts that conduct their own mental clinics, as at Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston, are demonstrating this fact daily.