

this stage are a result of emotional and physiological change or the reflection of impacts with current civilization forces, the adolescent period should be subjected to greater scrutiny, because it is not at all unlikely that the beginnings of delinquent and neurotic behavior may be found here regardless of childhood influences. The program of care for this group is entirely inadequate. The Jewish community must begin to extend the period of childhood beyond the sixteen year level, especially during the present economic crisis.

Recently, in attempting to make an enumeration of Jewish attitudes and characteristics observed in the family situations of problem children under treatment, it was made evident that certain workers themselves are not free from the conflict of being members of a minority group. The interpretation of symptoms and problems in the light of the Jewish background of the families seemed to play a relatively unimportant role. It was difficult to determine from the analysis whether this was due to an unconscious impulse on the part of the worker to discard what were considered Jewish characteristics or to a lack of knowledge of Jewish content, resulting in an unawareness of the implications of the phenomena observed. It is difficult to conceive how Jewish social case work of any variety can justify itself without a fundamental concern for Jewish background aspects as revealed in the treatment process. It is not at all conjectural to assume that emotional release for a Jewish patient might result in a healthy attitude toward Jewish group life and the role that he would play as a Jew. The background of a people must be known and felt before it is possible for the therapist to distinguish in the content of the individual between reality and fantasy; and the desire

on the part of many to escape being Jewish cannot be treated adequately by those who themselves are subject to the same escape mechanism.

In the past few years there has entered with increasing force into the thinking of a good portion of Jewish social workers the urgent need for participation in social change in its wider aspects. Much confusion has resulted from an attempt to utilize the professional job itself as a vehicle for effecting this change. There is, of course, the definite possibility of contributing to social improvement by rendering testimony of inadequacies in the environmental situation on the basis of actual experience in the case work job. However, this seems not to have been the dominant concern of many case workers. These changes have often been considered too insignificant to merit attention, even though the case worker through the individual agencies or in cooperation with larger social service bodies could make distinct contributions in this direction.

The social worker, and especially the practitioner, through the relationship established and the interpretation of content, liberate the client to make his own choices in the governing of his own life by removing emotional blockings. The introduction of any political bias on the part of the therapist makes this free choice impossible. A commitment to any party that calls for proselytizing may make it difficult for the case worker to carry out his professional responsibility in an objective and therapeutic manner. Furthermore, the zeal with which proselytizing is carried on within the agency itself frequently results in interference with that smooth functioning within an organization that makes for the tranquility and peace that are requisites for effective case work activity.

Within the limitations of the "sick environment" there is a job to be done with the "sick personality." That job should not be interfered with. It is not the business of the case work therapist to attempt to adjust any human being who is his client either to a status quo society or to a changing social order; it is for the patient to make his choice on the basis of his own attitudes, convictions and pro-

clivities. The job of the therapist is to contribute to the patient's emotional growth by the release of conflicts and repressions, and not to encourage the externalization of inner conflicts upon the social order. Consummate skill and maturity are required to maintain detached in the therapeutic relationship and at the same time to participate in social change action.

THE PROBLEM CHILD IN THE INSTITUTION

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The Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society is a cottage plan institution for so-called "normal dependent children." Located in the hills of Westchester County, it has an average population of three hundred fifty. The set-up is similar to that described in Dr. Slawson's paper, individualization being the keynote of all treatment. The personnel is carefully chosen and trained by specialists in Child Guidance and the various Departments cooperate closely with one another. The Child Guidance Department, organized ten years ago, is the integrating unit for the entire institution, consulting with parents, cottage mothers and teachers and in general guiding the child's life. Its Staff consists of two psychiatrists, four resident psychiatric social workers and psychologists, and a clerk.

Since the inception of this Department the number of admissions of children presenting serious behavior difficulties has steadily increased, so that now approximately one-third of the

total population is of that type. Experience indicates that this is the maximum ratio of seriously maladjusted children which can safely be absorbed in a normal group.

There is, of course, an element of chance in the treatment process. However, many boys and girls who came to the institution seriously maladjusted are today real assets societally.

The Child Guidance Department has used the psychoanalytic approach with marked success. Another valuable aid is the play technique, which is used with younger children who do not talk freely and are thus given an opportunity to act out and express their emotions. Other modifications of psychoanalysis have been evolved and successfully used by various members of the Child Guidance Staff. With the resolution of conflicts children are given the opportunity to return to normalcy and become cooperative units rather than destructive, anti-social members of the group.