

the ward along with the patient. At Bangalore and Vellore, special studies to test the efficacy of such methods are being done. Use of yoga for many psychosomatic conditions has also aroused great interest in Bombay and other centres.

#### **Contribution of national and international agencies in mental health research**

Medical research has become a complicated affair which requires not only the inclination and talent of a research worker, but also much more in terms of money, equipment, training, etc. Traditionally these have been provided by university departments, but many countries have evolved national research organizations which encourage and support medical research. In India, the Indian Council of Medical Research has, during the last 30 years, made a most significant contribution in the country's effort toward self-sufficiency in research. About 20 years ago, a separate expert group on mental health was constituted which met annually and reviewed ongoing research projects and sanctioned funds for new ones. A new impetus to mental health research was provided by the bold policies of the current Director-General of ICMR, who constituted a national advisory committee on mental health. After the committee's deliberation in 1979, it was decided to form seven research task forces in the several areas of mental health. In 1980 these task forces selected priority areas of research. The list was then finalized by the national advisory committee. About nine topics have been chosen for multi-centred collaborative research. These are:

1. Phenomenology and natural history of acute psychosis;
2. Study of illness behaviour in patients with pain;
3. Factors affecting the course and outcome of schizophrenia;
4. Study of psychiatric problems of the aged;
5. A comparative study of the patterns of childhood and adolescent psychiatric disorders;
6. Training for general health personnel in the delivery of

mental health services;

7. A study of the training programme for the non-psychiatrist primary health care doctors;
8. Study of the prevalence and pattern of drug use in the community and the effects of intervention programme;
9. Development of psychological tests.

This experiment will be watched with great interest in the hope that it will create the necessary atmosphere for more meaningful research in the country.

#### **The contribution of the World Health Organisation**

The World Health Organisation has made a major contribution in promoting mental health research in SE Asia. During the last ten years under the dynamic leadership of the Division of Mental Health, a number of new programmes have been developed. Following the first WHO-sponsored International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia, a number of WHO collaborative research projects have been launched. A number of current WHO collaborative research projects have centres in India. Such collaborative research has brought the local workers in contact with top experts in the international field. It has increased their confidence, provided them with new research opportunities and been a great help in improving the quality of research.

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## **News Items**

### ***The Sunnyside Bicentenary: A Museum***

Sunnyside Museum was officially opened in June 1981 by Lord Southesk to commemorate the bicentenary of Sunnyside Royal Hospital.

The museum, the first of its kind in Scotland, is a worthwhile and interesting place to visit. It is sited in the main building of the hospital which is situated in the village of Hillside, three miles north of Montrose. The display includes lantern slides, an audio-visual show, a strait jacket, photographs, documents, Victorian pastimes, patient art and nursing attire.

The museum is open each Wednesday from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, but visits outside this time can be arranged by contacting the curator of the Museum.

### ***Curt P. Richter Prize in Psychoneuroendocrinology***

The International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology is inviting submissions for their annual prize (sponsored by the Irish Foundation for Human Development) for meritorious research in the area of psychoneuroendocrinology. The sum of \$1,000 will be awarded for the best essay or manuscript of original research or a review including original research from a scientist or physician under 40 years of age on 1 January 1983. Manuscripts should be submitted in quadruplicate to: Gerhard Langer, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Allgemeines Krankenhaus der Stadt Wien, Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik, Lazarettgasse 14, A-1097 Vienna, Austria. Deadline for submission: 2 January 1983.