

behavioral sciences

PSYCHIATRY

Treatment gap may widen

At least two-thirds of the children under 18 in the United States who need psychiatric care are not getting it, according to a study by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The study analyzed the latest available figures (for 1966), and found that 473,000 of the 70 million children in this age group received some treatment at a psychiatric facility. But, it concluded, 1.4 million children should have received care that year. This figure is based on an estimate that two percent of all school children need some kind of psychiatric help.

If the child population continues to grow at its present rate, there will be nearly 78 million children under 18 by 1975. The study notes that if the supply of mental health professionals does not increase at an even faster rate, there will be a great shortage of trained personnel to provide services even at the current level.

PSYCHOLOGY

More Negro Ph.D.'s needed

A call for increased integration of Negro psychologists into the mainstream of their profession and into the university faculties is sounded by six authors in the Feb. 1969 *AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST*.

The writers, Lauren Wispe of the University of Oklahoma, Joseph Awkard of Florida A&M, Marvin Hoffman of the Field Foundation, Philip Ash of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Leslie Hicks of the American Psychological Association and Janice Porter of Temple University, surveyed Negro psychologists.

They discovered that only 93 Negro psychologists had earned doctorates at the leading universities in the years from 1920 to 1966, compared with 9,914 whites.

Among the ten most highly rated psychology departments, according to the 1964 study by the American Council on Education, there were only eight Negro doctorate winners, as compared with 3,767 whites.

The authors call for a great increase in the opportunities for promising Negro candidates to study in the leading doctoral programs. They note that nearly half of the respondents in the survey felt that race had been a limiting factor in their careers as psychologists.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Roman art treasure found

Archaeologists in France have unearthed statuary from the reign of Augustus (B.C. 27—A.D. 14), according to Prof. Claude Vatin, of the University of Clermont-Ferrand, who is in charge of the digging.

The objects—hundreds of pieces, including many finely sculptured wooden statuettes and numerous less-refined wooden heads—had been found by workmen in the Puy-de-Dome region in south-central France while they were laying foundations for a new building. The sculptures were lying at a shallow depth in marshy ground.

Prof. Vatin says the objects were ancient devotional offerings used in some religious service. The excellent

condition of the objects was attributed to the peaty ooze in which they were enveloped, and to the carbonaceous gas present at the site.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Perchance to dream

Dr. William C. Dement of Stanford Medical School reports that studies of dreaming cats lend support to the theory that schizophrenia may be the result of a biochemical defect.

Dr. Dement believes that an abnormality in the function of a key brain chemical called serotonin may give rise to abnormal behavior by allowing patients to dream while awake.

He used a drug which prevents the brain from producing serotonin, and found that it caused cats to hallucinate, attack other cats and behave with the mixture of normality and abnormality of the mentally ill.

Brain wave recordings of the cats showed that the electrical pattern during the abnormal behavior was identical to that of cats which are dreaming while asleep. The experiment is described in the current *STANFORD M.D.*

SOCIOLOGY

Murder in the cities

Fifteen U.S. cities recorded more than 100 murders or non-negligent manslaughter cases during 1968, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual uniform crime report.

New York led the list with 904, compared with 745 recorded in 1967. Chicago followed with 647, an increase of 95 over 1967.

The next thirteen cities were Detroit, 389; Los Angeles, 349; Philadelphia, 262; Houston, 246; Baltimore, 239; Washington, D.C., 195; Dallas, 192; Atlanta, 183; St. Louis, 180; Cleveland, 176; Newark, 109; Boston, 102; and San Antonio, 100.

Of the fifteen, Boston, Newark and San Antonio joined the list in 1968 after recording fewer than 100 murders during the previous year.

EDUCATION

Token effort

The U.S. Office of Education reports that a new way of teaching severely disturbed children has been tried with success by one of its subsidized institutions.

The method is a system of rewards under which a child, by learning, earns tokens which may then be used to buy privileges, such as a movie or a walk outside.

The Central Midwestern Regional Educational Laboratory of St. Ann, Mo., has applied the technique for the past 18 months. Dr. Robert L. Hamblin, head of the project, says that the idea behind it is to reinforce good behavior and nonpunitively discourage bad behavior.

The "token from the teacher" system has been tried on autistic, pathologically shy and over-aggressive children. The laboratory reports a diminishing of maladjustments in each category.