

Editorial Comment

As the ASF enters its seventh year and a new decade, a number of pertinent observations may be made.

The Foundation has survived the labor of birth and the growing pains of adolescence; now we are faced with the critical transition to maturity. If the role and service of the national headquarters is to be truly effective; if the growth of state and local organizations is to be stimulated, and if membership generally is to merge as an effective voice for action, we must profit from past experience. A great deal has in fact been accomplished since 1964, but frank recognition of our deficits and careful planning for the future will represent the directional pivot for the 1970's.

With publication of this issue, editorial responsibility for SCHIZOPHRENIA will be accepted by Dr. Abram Hoffer. Dr. Hoffer is already aware of the onerous demands of this task, particularly for a physician heavily involved in private practice and a host of voluntary activities. He will need wide support and assistance, and I believe the status of our Journal will rise under his capable direction. To this end I would urge that all persons with "something to say," be it technical or of broad experimental interest, consider our publication as a vehicle for expression.

In the area of practical functioning, the Foundation at the national level has been handicapped by severely limited funds and lack of full time salaried executive directorship. As President and member of the Board of Trustees, I may report that active steps are being taken to overcome both these interdependent obstacles. We are fully

aware that the relationship between head office and the field organization has not been marked by good communication, direction and mutual support. If we are to stand as a cohesive and effective movement dedicated to the relief of schizophrenia, it will be essential that clearly defined policies, programs and procedures be integrated at every level.



While there must be scope for diversity of opinion and action, a major problem is to maintain a functional balance between *science* and *suffering*. The Foundation must merge the common goals of those directly affected by the ravages of schizophrenia, with those involved from the viewpoint of the numerous professions. No one person can act as arbitor or arbitrator—it is a shared responsibility for the common good.

A further source of schism, as I have stated editorially before, lies within the professions themselves. It has been quite apparent, from the submissions to our Journal, that proponents and opponents of particular views concerning etiology, diagnosis and treatment of schizophrenia are so adamant, so divided, and so militant that a productive midcourse can be steered only with difficulty. Whether a midcourse itself is desirable may be debated. It is a policy I favor and have attempted to adopt. However, it is a matter open to debate. *Continued on page 37*

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