

# Editorial Comment

With the current issue Volume 1, Number 1 of the Journal of ORTHOMOLECULAR PSYCHIATRY readers of the American Schizophrenia Association's journal SCHIZOPHRENIA are introduced to its successor of broader scope.

The emphasis will remain upon the illness—schizophrenia—but, as I have expressed editorially before, there is a growing disenchantment with that diagnostic label. We shall not abandon it entirely since it has a certain gross utility, however we do wish to underline that the family of illnesses that represent our prime concern fall within the framework of Orthomolecular medicine rather than psychogenic theorizing.

We wish to acknowledge that schizophrenia does indeed have familial relations with other established disorders of biochemical-metabolic-nutritional origin and that it is treatable and ultimately preventable within that framework.

By bringing our publication within the sphere of the Huxley Institute for Biosocial Research, we in no way dilute our identity or major interest but rather look to a degree of unity and stability arising from a co-operative association with an international movement whose total approach is entirely compatible with our own specific goal.

The co-editors of ORTHOMOLECULAR PSYCHIATRY, Dr. Abram Hoffer, Dr. Humphrey Osmond and I, will continue to rely upon the fund of clinical and research papers that have been attracted to the American Schizophrenia Association's jour-

nal. We welcome, of course, submissions from all disciplines on subjects that contribute to the fabric of understanding bio-social disorders.

Early issues of the new Journal will include reports made at the first joint meeting (London, September 1971) of the British and American Schizophrenia Associations and the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation.

As Chairman of this London meeting, I had occasion to draw on the wisdom of a notable English authority in framing the opening orientation address. May I share this quotation with you—without the comment appended in the full context of my talk. I believe you will find that it stands well on its merits.

Almost exactly one hundred years ago, the

J. Ross MacLean, M.D.

President  
American  
Schizophrenia  
Association



distinguished physician, Dr. Henry Maudsley, wrote as follows:

'The observation and classification of mental disorders has been so exclusively psychological that we have not realized the fact that they illustrate the same pathological principles as other diseases, are produced in the same way and must be investigated in the same spirit of positive research. Until this be done, I see no hope of improvement in our knowledge of them and no use in multiplying books about them.' Now, in our own time, Drs. Sargent and Slater (Physical Methods of Treatment in Psychiatry) give us further parallel advice. Continued on page 7