

THREE ALLIES IN A
COMMON CAUSE

THE STATE
THE MEDICAL
PROFESSION
THE CHURCH

This leaflet is prepared for the Chicago Committee of the Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students, Inc. The national organization has headquarters at 2 East 103rd Street, New York.



The Elgin State Hospital
Dedicated By the State of Illinois
To the Welfare of Its People
For Their Relief and Restoration
A Place of Hope
For the Healing of Mind, Body and Spirit
Where Many Find Health and Happiness Again

The state provides hospitals for the mentally ill.

Physicians in increasing numbers are devoting themselves to the mentally ill.

What are the Christian churches of America doing for this large group of sufferers?

Ever since Jesus went around healing the sick and casting out demons the Christian Church has recognized its responsibility for the care of the sick. The Protestant churches of America are today supporting some 380 hospitals, but of these only three give special attention to the mentally ill. And the number of privately endowed mental hospitals is very few.

Mental sufferers are cared for almost entirely in state institutions. Here, with few exceptions, they are left without religious ministrations other than formal religious services conducted by ministers who have made no study of the experiences of mental patients.

The Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students is seeking to rectify this situation

What steps can Christian people take to co-operate with the state and the doctors and to make their contribution more effective?

With the co-operation of the Elgin State Hospital the Chicago Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students has set up a training center at Elgin. There students have direct contact with patients. They serve as attendants on the wards. They participate in programs of music, outdoor games and dramatics. They help with services of worship.

They study particular patients and spend eighty hours in group conference on the experiences with which they are confronted. Thus they learn the part that religion plays in human life and the means by which mental illness may be prevented and mental health achieved. They also come into close contact with the doctors and learn to understand their point of view and the limits of their own special field.

How does such training help?

No one wants his minister to be a psychiatrist, but every one wants him to understand the laws of spiritual health. The true minister of religion must be a wise friend who knows what is in man. Going in and out among his people, it is his task to talk with them about their personal problems. In his pulpit he preaches to them about the end and meaning of life. What professional worker is in better position to save them from mental illness and to help them to find the way of life?

Already more than 300 have had this training. Most of these are in the pastorate. Their clinical training helps them to recognize and deal intelligently with incipient difficulties. It also helps them to know when to call for help.

In order to carry forward and enlarge its program the Chicago Council is appealing to Christian people for \$1,800.

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Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer.