

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

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.



On Admission

Ready to Go Home

This young woman on admission had no organic disease so far as the doctors could discover. She was just discouraged. Her outlook was one of black despair.

When ready to go home her outlook has changed. Hope has come once more and with it health and strength. She feels as though she were born again.

Has she a message for Christian people?

LIGHT THROUGH DARKNESS

Sometimes what seems to be an evil is really nature's attempt to heal. Pain and inflammation may be necessary in order to get rid of a splinter. Fever may be a means of destroying hostile organisms. So also mental suffering may be part of a process of getting a new start in life. Some of the most severe mental disorders are thus not evils but attempts at re-organization which tend either to make or break. Through suffering may come life and out of darkness light.

This is the message of the sufferer. It is the message she gives to those who have tried to help her. Service and understanding go ever hand in hand. Helping persons in distress brings also blessing to those who give the help. Through dealing with the more pronounced human ills we get light upon ordinary human nature. Such is the conviction upon which the Chicago Council of Clinical Training bases its program of service and study at the Elgin State Hospital.

THE MIND AND THE BODY

We know little to-day about the relationship of body and mind. There are those who believe that mind begins and ends with the body. Others believe that spirit precedes the body and survives it. Of this we can be sure, that mental attitudes are important. The doctors tell us that wrong mental attitudes are back of nearly half the troubles that are brought to them for treatment. Certainly in most of those who come to our mental hospitals the difficulty cannot be explained in terms of organic disease.

The Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students believes that the attempt to un-

derstand and help the sick of soul is a task too big for any one professional group. It believes that in this task the student of religion has much to learn and much to contribute.

Students from nineteen different theological schools and twelve different church bodies have already taken advantage of this opportunity at the Elgin State Hospital. Most of them are now pastors of churches.

CO-OPERATIVE INQUIRY

The Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students places its students only where there are trained theological supervisors. It is not content to place them merely under the care of other professional workers. It believes that students of religion should not only become acquainted with other workers and their achievements but should be seeking the answer to questions which the doctor and the social worker do not usually ask. It seeks thus to build its program of instruction upon a program of inquiry. Among those connected with this movement who have already contributed to the task of finding and interpreting the facts are Dr. Cabot and Mr. Dicks in their "Art of Ministering to the Sick," Dr. Dunbar in her "Emotions and Bodily Changes" and Mr. Boisen in his "Exploration of the Inner World."

In order to carry forward and enlarge this program the Chicago Council needs \$1,800.

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Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer.