

**The Role Of The Clinical Psychologist**

Psychology, the science of mental life, both of its phenomena and of their conditions, is traditionally as old as man himself, for man philosophized about the nature of mind earlier than he did about matter. From out of this subject matter, created by the thinkers of the past, have evolved the modern fields of psychology.

With the increasing complexity of modern civilization has arisen the clinical psychologist, a student of human behaviour and one equipped to apply scientific principles to an intensive study of the assets and liabilities of an individual, the purpose being that of aiding the re-adjustment or furthering the wholesome development of the person.

The clinical psychologist forms part of the treatment team in the mental hospital or clinic. In this setting his role is similar to that of the radiologist who supplies the doctor with x-rays and their interpretation. By means of various forms of tests the psychologist obtains a dynamic picture of the person's personality functioning as a totality in specific situations. He presents the psychiatrist with interpretations which aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and rehabilitation of the mental patient.

The role of the clinical psychologist is by no means restricted to the analysis of the mentally ill. Because of his knowledge the psychologist may act in an advisory capacity or be employed full time in educational systems, welfare agencies or business and industry. Functioning in these latter roles he provides information regarding specific persons and environments or the analysis of vocational or situational problems; that is helping persons become adjusted to new surroundings or endeavoring to find them a job or school which would suit their assets, and investigating physical arrangements to determine whether they provide satisfactory conditions for the worker.

The revisions in the Mental Health Department have brought a clinical psychologist, Mr. E. G. Nichols, to Prince Edward Island. Under the present program psychological services are provided to the department of Mental Health, Welfare, Education, and D.V.A., as time allows, through the facilities at Falconwood and the Mental Health Clinic in Charlottetown.

**Ellen's Diary**

Continued from page 2

... We saw Boulder Dam and the amazing beauty of Lake Mead—the man-made lake, on the way out. The colors of the rocks are unbelievably beautiful shading from almost pure white to black.

We may visit the Grand Canyon on the way home. There was a howling blizzard there when we passed its entrance in November. Likely it will be free from snow by this. The Painted Desert is also a lovely sight.—We stopped there to have tea, I recall. . . . We are going to Santa Anita Races Saturday—Not that I myself am a racing fan but they say the track and surroundings are beautiful. We saw Islanders the other day—a young couple from Montague. It was most unusual to see a P. E. I. license plate down town. We expect to leave presently, and driving in leisurely fashion, which will allow us time to stop over for visits here and there along our route of travel we should reach home before June the first."

What a lovely letter it was! Written by the hand of an artist who never lost the touch, in the baking of innumerable loaves, the mixing of numberless cakes, the sewing of miles of seams and all the work and care that goes to make up the life of a wife and mother on a busy and hospitable Island farm.

"And so you're going away, Ellen?" James comments. "And who's to milk your cows 't the mornin'?"  
Until tomorrow— — Diary— — Good-night. . . .



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