

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

The International Union for Child Welfare, by Pierre Zumbach, *Assignment Children*, UNICEF, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1971, No. 14.

The International Union for Child Welfare is an international non-governmental organization which has, under its umbrella, both national and international member-organizations. These may be official, semi-official or voluntary. Some are Ministries, some are local authorities, some are voluntary agencies spread over 54 countries of all continents with staff either of professional workers from different disciplines or of volunteers.

Some of the IUCW's members are concerned with technical cooperation in developing countries, others are engaged in social work in their own country, still others are concerned with research, but all have as their objective either directly or indirectly the welfare of the child. Indeed, their combined activities cover all aspects of child welfare: emergency relief in times of war or natural disaster, sponsorships, long-term programmes in the field of ante-natal care, nutrition, health, social action, child guidance, remedial care and education for the physically and mentally handicapped, recreational education, development of the child in the pre-school period, preventive work against maladjustment, the fight against juvenile delinquency and the training of specialized workers to deal with these problems.

Within the framework of the pre-school development of the child, the IUCW strives to establish residential and day-nurseries, where local conditions make them essential, as well as nursery schools, mother and baby clinics and welfare centres. The IUCW also devotes its attention to the promotion of new educational methods.

Another priority programme, the vocational training of adolescents, forms the object of a number of studies and projects in which the principal aim is to obtain the best possible social integration of the adolescent through his work.

In order to achieve the objectives which the IUCW has set itself, it is obviously indispensable to have available specialized workers responsible for assisting parents in the upbringing of children and their integration into adult society. This priority demands, above all, the training of professional workers through social study courses applied to the context in which they will serve.

Drugs and the adolescent, *WHO Chronicle*, Geneva, 1971, No. 6.

...The long-term treatment of drug-dependent persons requires the co-operative efforts of physicians, psychologists, and sociologists—to mention but a few of the specialists involved. Unfortunately drug-

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takers often have very little motivation to undergo treatment and many of them openly defend their habits, sometimes with sophisticated arguments, often aggressively. This makes treatment both difficult and unrewarding. The aim of treatment should be to teach the drug-user more constructive ways of satisfying his emotional needs and solving his personal problems. The very high relapse rates reported with all methods of treatment are evidence of the difficulties involved.

The need to prevent the further spread of self-administration of dependence-producing drugs is clear, but the urgency of the situation, particularly in the developed countries, is not always appreciated. The mass media, for example, could be used to counteract dangerously romantic ideas on the benefits of drug taking, although care is needed in using such media since they may produce the opposite effect to the one intended. It is equally important that all measures for the control of drug distribution should be explored.

The prevention of drug dependence in young people cannot, however, be considered in isolation. Success in controlling it will be achieved only when it is accepted as a part of the wider and deeper problem of adolescent adjustment to life in modern society. The transition from childhood to adulthood can be made easier, for example, by the acceptance, by adults, that young people have values of their own. In this way, adults can reduce their own anxiety and counter-aggression, which, if unrelieved, can only serve to aggravate the problem still further.