

## PREFACE

Representing converging interests in the social sciences and medicine, the Workshop on Social Science and Health in Canada was convened in conjunction with the meetings of the Canadian Learned Societies in Toronto from June 3rd to 4th, 1969. The Workshop, jointly sponsored by the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Sociology of the University of Toronto, was supported by a grant from the Ontario Mental Health Foundation. In January of that year an informal planning group drawn from across the country consisting of social scientists and physicians, recognizing the absence of an appropriate forum, felt it would be timely to review the state of the field, to initiate a dialogue among social scientists themselves, and between this group and a few interested physicians. Such a workshop, it was hoped, might be attended by a dozen to two dozen interested scholars. As plans for the workshop developed, however, it became apparent that there was a much broader circle of interest, which resulted in over 70 individuals participating in the two-day workshop. Subsequently, a second workshop attended by over 90 participants was held in Winnipeg in 1970; a third is planned for 1971 to be held in Montreal.

With one exception the papers in this volume were presented at the first workshop and provide a review of the state of this new field in Canada. This appraisal, on occasion unusually

frank about the difficulties posed by interprofessional collaboration, raises questions about the sociology of health, briefly etches trends in research, evaluates existing sources of financial support for new research ventures and provides vignettes of three social sciences in medicine teaching programs. The paper by Professor R. A. Cleghorn and his colleagues reviewing the contribution of the behavioral sciences to health care was based on an address given at the official opening of the new Medical Sciences Building of the University of Toronto on October 8th, 1970.

On several occasions participants at the Workshop vigorously debated issues raised by speakers who had presented papers. From these discussions several recommendations were proposed that, when presented to the group at the conclusion of the Workshop, were unanimously endorsed. These recommendations adapted from the rapporteur's summary included:

1. There is a need for a sharper definition and clarification of what actually constitutes the field of social science and health.
2. More able social scientists should be attracted to work in the field.
3. Both basic and applied studies are required. In most research studies there is a need for greater clarity in the definition of concepts, in the formulation of hypotheses, for better use of accepted methodological procedures.
4. There should be closer and more critical scrutiny by social scientists than hitherto of their ongoing and proposed research studies. Existing provincial and federal granting research review panels should be augmented by appropriate social science representation.
5. Consideration should be given to priorities in the types of research studies that are undertaken.
6. There is a need for a recognized Canadian journal or scholarly outlet that might serve as a focal point for the field.

7. There is a need for a Medlars type of compendium of ongoing research studies in the field.
8. Monies for research purposes have been too limited or their terms of reference too restrictive. Program development grants for research and training purposes are required to give impetus to the field.
9. Several research institutes (of their counterparts) are required to attract and retain skilled scholars.
10. Traditional teaching methods were recognized as ineffective and a program of ongoing critical evaluation should be initiated involving existing programs.
11. The syllabi for behavioral science programs along with appropriate staff and student evaluations should be circulated.
12. An informal newsletter should be periodically circulated.
13. Follow-up meetings should be scheduled every two or three years.

During the interval between the convening of the Workshop and the publication of these papers, several of the recommendations have been acted upon, specifically the subsequent meetings of interested scholars, the more comprehensive scope represented in the bibliography and a new sense of common purpose of those in government and the academy.

The papers in this volume are dedicated in memory of Mary P. Hendrickson of the University of Alberta who was responsible for initiating interest in the Workshop. She corresponded with many individuals whom she felt might share similar interests, and chaired the planning sessions for the Workshop. Because of an unsuspected terminal malignancy she was unable to attend the meeting in June. Her academic career, foreshortened at age 35, will be remembered by members of the World Health Organization International Collaborative Study of Medical Care Utilization, her colleagues and students in Edmonton, and her numerous friends in Canada and elsewhere.

Her sense of scholarly craftsmanship, her concern for creative interdisciplinary collaboration and her warm vital sparkle are missed by those who knew and respected her.

Mary Hendrickson would be pleased that this slim volume represents a modest beginning for the sociology of health in Canada. She would be dissatisfied that there is so much more to be done. That is her legacy to us.

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