

Child Psychiatry

The first annual Spring Forum for Child Psychiatry was held in 1963. Although interest in the establishment of programs for children was running high in many civic groups, there was little knowledge about how these programs could be organized and what they could accomplish. The first Forums served the purpose of sharing with the public and with other mental health professionals the experience and knowledge being gathered at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children. Later Forums have provided a means whereby other groups having a vested interest in children and their welfare might express their views, proposals, or the results of their own activities.

This year's program provides us with the results of several successful, newer clinical approaches in child psychiatry and also with some serious challenges to all the mental health professions. Our attention is called not only to areas of progress and hope but also to the vast remaining areas of need and despair. This is the purpose of such a program. It must be left to the ultimate judgment of the reader whether or not this purpose has been fulfilled.

A special word of thanks must go to the Medical College of Virginia and the Department of Psychiatry for their support of this annual event, to this year's participants for sharing their knowledge, and, most especially, to every member of the Virginia Treatment Center Staff who willingly undertook the many time-consuming and often tedious tasks which underlie the visible structure of any successful program.

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