

relating directly or indirectly to psychopharmacology in the amount of \$12 million. During these years the impact which the large-scale introduction of new psychotropic or psychoactive agents has had on hospital, community, and private practice of psychiatry has been enormous.

Just 15 years ago, psychiatry possessed no clearly useful drug treatment—either for schizophrenia or any of the other forms of mental illness. Today, in large measure through the Institute's efforts, the treatment arsenal of the clinical psychiatrist is a powerful one. Collaborative hospital studies—widely hailed as models of clinical research—have helped define the relative value of specified drugs. Drugs have shortened the patient's hospital stay, and they have allowed treatment and rehabilitation in the community of an increasing number of the mentally ill without serious disruption of family relationships and work.

A measure of our progress—

Senator NELSON. May I interrupt a moment? Are these drugs that were discovered through the research of NIH?

Dr. YOLLES. Many of them have been. Many of them are not. But all of them have been involved in grant-supported studies where we have evaluated their efficacy in the treatment of various mental illnesses. This has been going on since early 1948. As a matter of fact, one of the earliest grants of the NIMH dealt with the effect of drugs on human behavior.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Yolles, do you know if any of these drug efficacy studies financed by NIH have been used to support the efficacy requirements in the New Drug Applications of the various drug firms?

Dr. YOLLES. If you do not mind, I would rather have that answered by Dr. Levine, who is more knowledgeable about that specific subject than I.

Dr. LEVINE. Yes. The studies which we support have been used as evidence in NDA applications to the FDA. Most of the psychopharmacologic agents which have come on the market recently have been studied through our early clinical drug evaluation units program and the information from those studies I assume have been included in NDA applications.

Senator NELSON. You may proceed.

Dr. YOLLES. A measure of our progress is reflected in the continuing decrease in the number of Americans residing in the Nation's mental hospitals. Thirteen years ago, that number was well over one-half million. Today, after more than a decade of steady advances in research and treatment, there are 401,000—a reduction of nearly 30 percent. Last year alone saw a decline of 25,000 patients or 5.9 percent, including, for the first time, a decrease of 2 percent in the crucial 15–26 age group. Had the rising mental hospital population seen before 1955 gone unchecked, we would today be confronted by 731,000 patients in our mental hospitals—or nearly twice the actual number. This reduction in hospital patient population represents a saving to the States and communities of some \$5 billion in patient care and capital improvements.

I mention these developments only as background. Other witnesses, I am certain, will discuss specific areas of drug use. I would like to