

At the meeting on October 1st Hans Lobstein who is a committee member of the Ealing Association for Mental Health and is particularly interested to see the mental health field expand into these areas, said: 'I would like to see one or two such centres start to train people to run these groups. It is really very simple. There is an enormous human self-help potential in the community, people who have never felt that they can be of much use to anybody have turned out to be quite effective. Of course we may run into certain kinds of jealousies but we can deal with that later and I hope to have the support of the professions, many of whom recognise the help they can get in this way. There are so many isolated and lonely people even with good and important jobs, and then there are problems of violence and vandalism or the reverse, people who retreat from all human contact, basically they may all have had relationship problems from the word go. NACRO has shown what can be done with the 'New Careers' projects and we need to take that lesson and expand it'.

These Neighbourhood Centres, then, would be available to several kinds of people - those who want to learn more about their own development and growth, to develop their own human potential; those who are lonely or isolated and who may want to make new friends; those living in bad social conditions and unable to find a way out; the potential or actual offender against society's laws who express their frustrations by violence and vandalism; and those on the verge of a mental or emotional breakdown or those recovering from such a breakdown.

The meeting agreed to set up a study group to go into the practicalities of the project and they would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to join in. For further details telephone 01-579 2411 ext.231 or 579 2424 ext.409 (or evenings 579 5589).

After talk of lost, and separated, loves

taste the taste of your mouth in my throat
feel the grip of your hands on my back
and while I listen
to a passing jet
you put on the light
and light another cigarette.

R. G. Hampson