The Yugoslav government is considering at present what steps should be taken in long-term planning for care of its psychiatric patients since the economy has effected sufficient recovery and the problem has become sufficiently urgent to necessitate some action. In the spring of 1961, the writer was visited by Dr. Herbert Kraus, Yugoslavian undersecretary of state for health, to discuss whether there were any sensible alternatives to the erection of large mental hospitals. Vrapče, for instance, has been reconstructed so that it now houses 1,296 patients. Dr. Kraus raised a serious question as to whether this type of care was maximally efficient. Various alternatives were discussed, but it was clear because of the cultural factors, the traditions and inclinations of the Yugoslav psychiatrists and, most interestingly, because of the unique administrative structure—to be discussed shortly—that an on-the-site visit would be required. This occurred in the summer of 1961 but unfortunately coincided with the Belgrade Conference (which failed to take account of the writer's visit) and therefore, the present report limits itself in general to Croatia where those interested conducted their own Zagreb Conference. Because of the surprising autonomy within each region this proved to be less of an impediment than might have been anticipated.

As long ago as 1954 in the special issue of *Neuropsihijatrija* dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the Vrapče Mental Hospital in Yugoslavia, Dr. J. Glasser stated that "in the whole country the lack of psychiatric beds is most acute: so much so that the hospital has to admit a far greater number of patients than corresponds to its capacity. The authorities have realized the importance of this problem, and they are endeavoring to improve the state of things by erecting new hospital buildings, but much time and large amounts will still be necessary to bring about a normalization of the circumstances." Since that time, the population of Yugoslavia has increased by approximately 1,500,000 persons (to a total of 18,500,000) and there has been a strong trend toward urbanization. Both of these factors make more acute the problem of psychiatric care. Vrapče Hospital, the largest in Yugoslavia, exemplifies the situation.
"At the beginning of the Second World War in 1941 there were 1625 patients in the hospital, while at the end of the war there were 643. Actual famine was reigning there, so that a large number of deaths were caused by inanition. The constant terror exercised by the fascist police made normal work impossible. On account of such circumstances three physicians and a large number of hospital employees joined the National Liberation Army. In the autumn of 1944 the Ustasi police took away 106 patients and killed all of them, while in the spring of 1945 the hospital suffered from an air raid which caused the death of 37 patients and 9 employees. On this occasion many buildings were either destroyed or heavily damaged."

In addition to the staff at the Vrapče Mental Hospital there are 10 psychiatrists at the 1,500-bed University Hospital who are primarily concerned with administering psychotherapy. One hundred beds there were for mentally ill and neurological patients as of 1961. There are a mental hygiene clinic, an alcoholic clinic, an after-care clinic and also a service for school children and neurotics. A waiting list exists, as is true at virtually all Yugoslavian hospitals. The average length of stay in the University Hospital is two months. Not only psychotherapy, but also ECT, insulin and pharmaeotherapy are used. Approximately 30 out-patients a day are seen, with an average of two or three new patients daily.

The treatment of all diseases is hospital-centered, but a secondary source of care is in the polyclinic services which serve a particular district and cover not only ordinary medical care but also sanitation, psychiatry, etc. The Committee on Recommendations has suggested that psychiatric care be under a Department of Psychiatry.

A sufficient number of medical candidates, among the 1,000 medical students in Zagreb, are planning to go into psychiatry. Four hundred new students are registered in the class admitted in 1961. There is more stress on sciences (physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology) in the high schools (gymnasia) than in the United States. Eight years of schooling is required (which is the minimum needed to get into a nursing school). Beyond this, there are four years in the gymnasmium and six years in medical school for medical candidates; but in 1961 the requirements were reduced to five years plus one year of internship. Students begin seeing patients in the third year.