

3. Title: An Investigation of Clinical and Psychometric Techniques in the Study of Cerebral Dysfunction

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OBJECTIVE

1. Development of a clinically valid, brief, Thai mental status questionnaire for measuring mental changes in a conscious patient secondary to disruption of brain function by a defined neurosurgical lesion. (The mental status questionnaire* described here is a tool which will be useful to the general physician.)

2. To describe the shifts in symbolic formulations concerning illness as made by the patient and patient's family during the course of the patient's illness.

DESCRIPTION

See last year's report.

PROGRESS

Criteria for rating organic factors in the translated form of the Mental Status were developed, and all mental status forms were rated by two investigators (HCH and WB). These ratings are being correlated with the independent results of psychological tests. During the next two months it is anticipated that Dr. Charas Suwanwella will rate mental status recorded in the original Thai so that the reliability of the translated mental status may be checked against the original. All indicators are that the mental status as developed is an adequate clinical instrument for assessing organic mental changes in a Thai population.

At present a design is being developed to apply this instrument to a large enough population at Srithunya Mental Hospital so that we may assess its sensitivity in identifying organic illness in a population where mental status is sometimes abnormal for non-organic reasons. The nature of the population available at Srithunya Mental Hospital should maximally stress specificity of the instrument in identifying organic factors, and the population size permits a statistical test of the worth of this brief mental status.

Analysis of data relating to symbolic re-organization following brain disease or injury may have to wait until after 1 September 1969, but if at all possible the goal will be to complete this work while Thai psychiatric and neurologic colleagues are available to help.

* Available in Thai or English upon application to the Chief, Department of Neuropsychiatry.