

## FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION

A report on a test showing to an unselected lay audience, mainly parents, based on 17 questionnaires (copy attached). No introduction was given to the film except to state that it is the fourth in the Mental Mechanisms series, and to explain that comments would be invited after the showing in order to help the Department of Public Health to decide upon the usefulness of the film. The questionnaire was given immediately after the film, with no intervening discussion.

### Summary of Questionnaire Replies.

#### 1. Did the film affect your feelings in any way?

- 9 reported no subjective feelings
- 4 reported pity for the boy, or regret "that such retarding of children's normal growth should occur".
- 1 "It reminds me of my own mistakes as a parent". This person recommended that the film be shown to other parents in Home and School groups.
- 3 Reported that the film "reminded" them of earlier feelings of depression, and one of these expressed a feeling of depression as a result. All of these three indicated, in replies to other questions, a feeling that the film would be definitely helpful to the average person. The only qualification was that one of the three would like the film to have shown John treated and cured.

#### 2. What would you say was the main idea the film succeeded in putting across?

- 4 That parents should make more effort to understand their children.
- 4 That children need affection and a feeling of security.
- 1 That feelings of guilt may develop in early childhood and may affect the child's later life.
- 1 That all children in the family should be treated equally.
- 1 That many children feel unloved
- 1 That John "didn't think he had the right to happiness because of his hate of his brother".
- 2 Gave confused answers or missed the point.
- 3 No answer.

Summary: 12 out of 17 expressed one of the basic ideas of the film. Only one appeared to have obtained a complete misconception and this was a perfectly harmless one.

3. Do you feel that any parts of the film are difficult to follow?

14 said "no difficulty."

1 said "last narration and sequences."

2 No answer.

4. In what way do you think the film can be helpful to the average person?

4 Film can help parents to avoid the same mistakes.

4 Can help parents realize the need to give children affection and a sense of security.

2 Helpful in many ways.

2 Should be shown fully to the public.

1 Should be shown to Home and School groups.

1 Makes one realize that treatment is available.

1 Teaches parents to treat children equally.

Summary: 15 out of 17 made it clear that they believe the showing of the film to parents will be useful.

5. What criticisms have you of the film?

10 No criticisms

3 No answer

3 Would like to see John treated and cured

1 Film gives no positive advice, leaves you frustrated.

Summary: Four out of 17 persons would like to see a more positive ending, and three of these specify that the film should show John treated and cured. No other criticism was expressed and 13 out of 17 made no criticisms.

General Summary: The questionnaires indicate that the large majority of this lay group understood the film, and believe it useful to parents. There is no evidence that misconceptions were conveyed, or that disturbing subjective feelings were aroused. Only one person explicitly reported feelings of depression, and both this person and the other two who said they were "reminded" of earlier feelings of depression, believed that the film would be useful "to the average person." Four persons out of 17 felt that the film should have a more positive ending.

It should be remembered that this showing was to an unselected general audience, and that no preparation for the content of the film was given. In so far as a conclusion can be drawn from the reactions of a single group of small size, it would be that the film can be shown to the general public even in the absence of a proper introduction and qualified discussion leadership, without harmful emotional reactions or misconceptions, and with a good deal of benefit.

Stanley Rands

Division of Health Education.

Division of Health Education  
Sask. Department of Public Health  
Regina

Date.....

Place.....

F I L M   E V A L U A T I O N

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- Your valuable assistance is much appreciated -

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FILM EVALUATION

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