

"JUNIOR JURY"

- by John Cumming, M.D. -

When I spoke of the necessity of a community centre on the broadcast on Tuesday night I am sure that there were many people in Indian Head who agreed with the need. That this need is felt is demonstrated by the amount of activity which is already present in such organizations as the Indian Head Legion concerning just such a project. However, I hope that the remarks were not construed as a move away from the importance of the family. Most of us will agree that the family today is not what it was once reputed to be and this is certainly to be regretted. The change, however, has been brought about by powerful social forces and to hope that the home can be generally returned to the status it once held, is, it seems to me, wishful thinking. Our responsibility is to provide a new setting for family life which will restore some of the old value but which will not run counter to the powerful social forces which have brought about these changes.

One town in Saskatchewan has fused an expansion of its High School into the fields of home economics and woodworking into its community centre. Built around a large central floor which can serve as an auditorium, dance floor, or for badminton or basketball, it has numerous smaller meeting rooms used by various groups. Hobby work of all sorts goes on in these rooms too and the library housed in one of them with space for a reading room. This provides a setting wherein the activities of the whole family are provided for—part of the time in an evening might be spent with the father and son working together on a wood working project, while later they might engage in separate activities, but in a setting which is unified and which maintains rather than threatens family integrity. At the present this seems to be the only answer to the threats to family life. We cannot go back—we must, if we are to recover what we have lost—go ahead.