



*Editor's Notes*

*The papers in this issue discuss three topics: care for the users of psychiatric services, the troubles of transitional (post-socialist) period, and the problems of homes for the aged.*

In fact, «care for the users of psychiatric services» is not a very precise term, since it is rather, as shown by Darja Zaviršek's and Vesna Švab's papers, the effort to avoid a psychiatric service, at least in the form which is still (and with reason) worrying – that is, to avoid unnecessary hospitalisation in a psychiatric institution. It is worrying for two reasons: first, because psychiatric institutions still seem to operate on the basis of a nineteenth-century model, and second, because it is inferred that psychiatric hospitalisation may also be unnecessary – but of course only if there are suitable alternatives.

*The troubles with transition are dealt with by Srećo Dragoš and Magdalena Paleczny-Zapp. The former starts his treatment of the present conditions by discussing the time between the world wars when political parties were constituted (this is the first part of his contribution), while the latter describes the difficult position of Polish women who seem to be, as in many Eastern and Central European countries after socialism, driven to a kind of social Middle Ages.*

Whoever discusses homes for the elderly inevitably concludes these institutions – not unlike psychiatric ones – are problematic, and that their conditions ought to change, in order for them to cease being mere dumping grounds for the useless and redundant old people. This is also what Ivan Janko Cafuta finds, whereas Stanija Ivajnšč describes a case in which, by way of a certain action, a change has actually occurred, although not on the level of the system, so that such actions are more or less left to inventive and eager workers in the homes.