Preface

THE PAPERS in this volume were presented at a conference, Social Change and Cultural Factors in Mental Health, held at the East-West Center, University of Hawaii, during the week of March 17–21, 1969. That conference and this volume are second in a series of four planned in conjunction with the Program on Culture and Mental Health in Asia and the Pacific. The background on the origin of the Program, the commonly-felt need for its creation, and its progress and development have been detailed in the preceding volume (Caudill and Lin, 1969) and in the Program's *Newsletter* (Lebra, Editor). Suffice it to say at this point, the Program is both international—encompassing East Asia and Western Pacific—and interdisciplinary—including the fields of psychiatry, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and linguistics. Funding, provided by the East-West Center, the University of Hawaii, and the National Institute of Mental Health (Grant #MH09243), is gratefully acknowledged.

The conference reported on here was planned by my colleagues, Drs. Robert I. Levy and Thomas W. Maretzki, and myself. It was our intention to maintain the high standards established by Drs. Caudill and Lin in the first conference, to provide broad regional coverage, and to include significant new research. At the same time, we were desirous of developing a more focused program goal which might allow for some degree of co-

herence in an assemblage so diverse in terms of disciplines and nationalities. Whether we succeeded or not will be left for the reader to judge in the following pages. We are confident from the comments that the participants gained new insights, new breadth, and new colleagues for further research and interchange. It was also our intention that in this conference the number of Asian participants would be equal to or greater than the number of Western. We further hoped that each presentation would stimulate open and free discussion. Although each paper was read in full, copies were provided for all the listeners, thereby obviating translanguing communication problems. Approximately equal time was given to formal presentation and informal discussion exchange. Most gratifying to all, I believe, was the fact that this conference did not follow the path frequently taken at similar international meetings where a few monopolize nearly all discussion. This was precluded by the great skill exercised by Dr. Levy as moderator and by, among others, the five discussants—Dr. Howard Blane, Harvard University; Dr. Raymond Firth, London School of Economics; Dr. Alexander Leighton, Harvard University; Dr. Chutikul Saisuree, Chulalongkorn University; and Professor Carmen Santiago, Maryknoll College. In addition, Drs. Richard H. Williams, Ben Locke, and Martin Katz of the National Institute of Mental Health contributed much by their participation. The lively discussions following each presentation, although tape-recorded, unfortunately could not be included here because their length would have entailed a second volume, while severe editing would have done gross injustice to the spontaneity which obtained. Special appreciation should be accorded Dr. Leighton for his Herculean task in presenting a final summation during the last hours of the conference.

Following the conference, most of the participants revised (and often lengthened) their papers, in a few cases almost completely. Some of the papers were edited quite extensively, largely to conform in style and length with the others. Like my predecessors, Caudill and Lin, I have refrained from the temptation of adding comments or interpretation. Two of the participants unfortunately did not submit their papers for inclusion; a third paper was dropped as not research-relevant. Although each of the papers contained in this volume has been read by me several times over, since early March of 1969, it was not until July 1970 that there was opportunity to spend an uninterrupted week solely devoted to the manuscript. This took place at a small hotel in a Japanese resort town. It might have been that the discomfort caused by typing while seated on the floor sharpened my awareness, but in arranging the sequence of papers, I was somewhat overwhelmed by the disparity. At one extreme are the efforts from some of the developing areas where mental health research is still in infancy and where even the prevalence of psychiatric disorders may be unknown in the absence of basic census material. At the opposite extreme are the messages emanating from some representatives of the more developed areas; these form a single theme, that time is running out and if we do not quickly learn

to understand and control ourselves, the obvious result will be an early extermination of all mankind. I can only reflect that these seeming disparities accurately depict the present scene and to note that our hope was to bridge a gap, to establish communication, and to understand.

William P. Lebra

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