

# Treat Symptoms, But Disease Still Rages

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

A child's capacity for repetition is one of the wonders of the world. I have been telling "boom-boom" stories to my children for the last five years. Boom-boom is a mythical gorilla who lives in the jungles with

his wife (appropriately named "grump-grump). The stories are made up as they go along much in the nature of the Dr. Dolittle series.

I keep suggesting to my children (after we have told the "boom-boom" story every night in a row for 100 nights) that it

would be good to hear another bedtime story. "Wouldn't you like to hear about Peter Rabbit? Or maybe something soothing like Dracula and the wolf-man?"

BUT they answer back in chorus: "No, we want

## Perspective

more boom-boom." And so boom-boom it is. Children have an amazing capacity for repetition.

Many adults are like that. They never want to get off their routine. Like the little boy on the merry-go-round who after five rides had just about worn his daddy out. "Dad," he says, "I'd just like to live on this old merry-go-round. Wouldn't you?"

There's a lot of people like that — living on a merry-go-round. The fact that it isn't going anywhere is no great drawback, just as long as it keeps going.

A young housewife came to the counseling center recently. She had spent a fortune on doctor's bills. "He says I'm not psychotic," she moaned. "He said all I needed to do was keep busy."

NOW I don't know what the good doctor had in mind, but that's an excellent example of treating the symptom and not touching the disease. Keep busy — and you can chase the symptoms underground but the disease still rages.