

ENTERTAINMENT

MENTAL HEALTH QUACKERY

Scientologists stage protest

By LOUISE LAGUE

Some 30 pickets smiled in a freezing wind yesterday noon as they marched outside the Shoreham Hotel to protest the methods of the World Federation for Mental Health and the National Association of Mental Health, which were meeting inside.

The pickets, members of the Church of Scientology, were smiling because, according to Rev. Keeneth J. Whitman, the church's minister of public relations for the eastern United States, "we are a happy and enthusiastic group engaged in self-help."

This principle, they charged, is counter to the WFMH and NAMH practices of "electric shock, sterilization, and enforced commitment, which is a violation of every God-given right."

The church group, which sponsored its own conference on mental health quackery in the Forum Room of the Shoreham on Monday, asked for and was denied permission to address the joint WFMH and NAMH conference. They have been picketing at the hotel for the past three days and were to return again today for "more picketing and other surprises."

The statement issued by the Scientologists yesterday read, in part: "We do not attack psychiatrists or the infant science of psychiatry, we do, however, as a Church, and cognizant of the spiritual nature of man, abhor as inhumane and degrading, violent physical treatment for spiritually or mentally caused ills."

The Church of Scientology offers help to disturbed persons thru "two-day communication and free spiritual counselling. "There is a charge however, for training courses to "learn about life" and a money back guarantee for those who do not feel they have been helped.

A MENACE

In their statement yesterday, the scientologists asked

professional psychiatrists to make the same guarantee.

Some of the WFMH and NAMH delegates stopped at the picket line to discuss practices with the Rev. Mr. Whitman and Rev. Ann Ursprung, a s s i s t a n t guardian of the

Church of Scientology of the eastern United States.

Inside the Shoreham, the Conference's press office was i s s u i n g reprints from "Today's Health" which called the Church of Scientology "a dangerous cult" and a "menace to mental health."