

Reporter Visits State Home for Mentally Deficient

Staff Works To Develop Child Minds

(Continued from Page One)

have no relatives to care for them, or because of physical infirmities which make it difficult for them to live outside an institution.

650-Acre Site

Fairview occupies a 650-acre site southeast of Salem, and the view is fair, indeed. It overlooks the Salem municipal airport and rolling Willamette Valley farmland. The central "campus" where the children live looks like the campus of a fresh-water college, with old fir trees and perfectly manicured lawns setting off the white frame "cottages." The 12 old cottages are named for members of the Board of Control, and in a circle in the center are a kitchen and dining unit, shops and sheds, and an enclosed playground for younger children.

A second circle has started. It includes the new \$166,000 hospital which replaced the old hospital which burned in May, 1949, the new 100-bed Snell Cottage for the youngest children, the \$121,000 laundry, and will include the school now being built in the shell of the burned hospital.

Some Run Away

Children have the freedom of the campus. There are no barred windows, no locked doors, no guards. There is no escape problem. "Some run away," Dr. Hill admits, "but it's no problem. They always come back." Most run-aways are boys who want to see the world.

"When they run away, we always ask ourselves, 'What have we done that made them want to run away?'"

These children are neither dangerous nor potentially dangerous. The "defective delinquent" group is taken care of by the state hospital in Salem. A few Fairview kids have been in trouble, but, Dr. Hill says, citing a case, they are not criminals.

The case was that of a little boy who stole money.

"Why did you steal money?" the psychologist asked.

"To buy candy to give to the other kids so they'd play with me," the child explained.

"Why wouldn't they play with you?"

"Because I'm different, I guess."

"Now," says Dr. Hill, "you can't tell me that kid's a criminal. We get him here, free from the competition he can't meet, and he can become a useful member of society."

Fairview children are segregated by physical age, mental age and by sex. Men and women eat separately, go to separate classes, and live in different worlds. Dances, shows, picnics and other social events are "co-ed." "It makes for better counseling," Hill says, "and anyhow we just have to do it. They have to be dressed and helped all the time, and it's less complicated this way. Still, I think we have less segregation of that type than any similar institution in the country."

Snell Cottage, a fireproof brick structure, houses the infants. They live there regardless of the degree of mental deficiency. After they



LEARNING TO BE a good messenger isn't as easy for the children of Fairview as it might be for children in conventional schools. A student studies the instructions written on the board in one of the school's make-shift classrooms. If she studies hard, she may be paroled and find a job on the outside.

reach school age and the mental differences within the group become more apparent, they are separated into the brighter and duller groups.

Many Go Barefooted

Idiot and lower grade imbeciles live together in bare buildings with a minimum of furniture. Many go barefooted all the time and never leave the building. Most are not detained. They don't leave because they don't know enough to leave, or because they have physical infirmities which make it impossible for them to leave.

In Jones Cottage, where male idiots live, there are 85 children. Only 23 are able to line up for the march to the dining hall. The rest must be served meals in the cottage, and some must be spoon-fed by hospital aides.

In a barren room the "Jones boys" sit on hard benches and stare at the floor. Some are middle-aged. Some sit on the floor and bounce balls or hop like bunnies and make gurgling noises. One youth of perhaps 20 sits on the edge of a bench, with his ankles strapped and with a muff like a huge boxing glove over his hands.

Biter and Scratcher

"A biter and a scratcher," says Dr. Hill. "The minute we untie him, he mauls himself and the other children. Before we put him in restraints, and we hated to have to do it, we'd keep getting these hospital patients with horribly clawed bodies or with nasty bites." He has been sitting like that for years, and will continue to as long as he lives.

This is the minority group. Most are "morons." To be a moron at Fairview is to be an aristocrat of sorts. A moron looks like anybody else and acts like anybody else, until he is asked to think. He can play games and listen to the radio.

"Listening to the radio," says Dr. Hill, confirming an old suspicion, "is their chief recreation. They follow all the soap operas."

"Sitters" cluster around the shabby dayrooms or sit on the porch. A toothless and unshaven old character hobbles down the porch with his cane tapping the floorboards. "Hello, Dr. Hill, hello, Dr. Hill," he cries.

Dr. Hill puts his arm around the codger and introduces him as Frank, the oldest boy at Fairview. "I 83, I 83," jabbars Frank, who came to the institution from the state hospital when Fairview was established in 1908. He is one of Fairview's few living "charter members."

Frank shakes hands all around. Others crowd up to greet Dr. Hill and to meet the stranger. Inside an old man with a corncob pipe and a bad case of the shakes weaves a beautiful rug. Old men lie on their bunks and sleep or day-dream.

"You're good boy, aren't you, Ralph?" asks the doctor, patting another old codger on the head. "I got the heartburn, doctor," another tells him. "They feed me too much."

"It's the same way in every cottage and on the walks between

buildings. Children of all ages run up to Dr. Hill for a friendly word. "They're children," he says, "and they want affection just like 6-year-olds anywhere. They'd love to sit on somebody's lap and be coddled."

A teen-ager stops the doctor to show a picture of a horse she has colored brown. He admires the picture and sends her on her way.

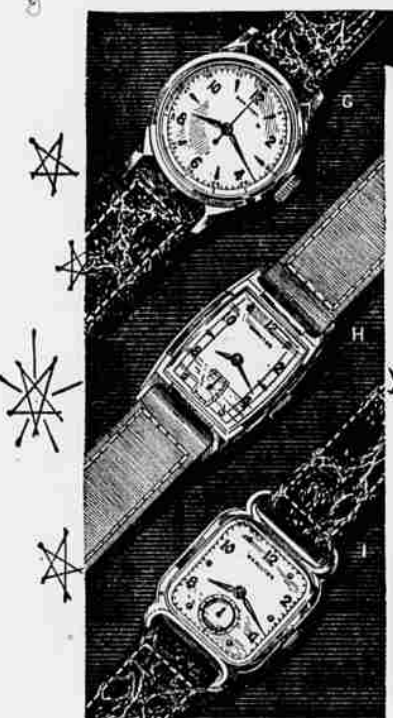
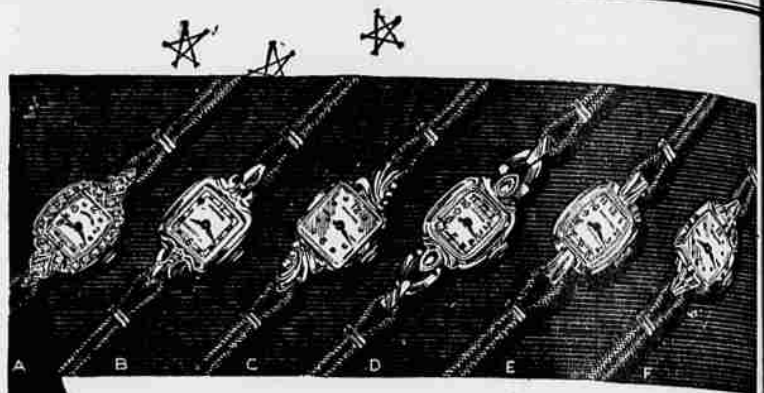
Free of Frustrations
He thinks most of the children are happy. They don't want much and they are free of the frustrations of the outside world.

Some of the brighter ones, of course, realize they are in an institution, and they are smart enough to know why. A nurse who used to work at Fairview recalls one afternoon sitting on a bench waiting for her boy friend. One of the brighter girls came up to ask, "What are you doing?"

The nurse told her she was waiting for her boy friend, who would take her to a dance. The nurse said she could all but see the wheels go around as the girl digested this bit. Then she said: "Gee, I wish I was like you."

CUSTOM QUALITY PHOTO FINISHING IN AT-10 OUT AT 5:30
Wittshire's NEXT TO REG-GUA

Laraways PRESENTS AMERICA'S FAVORITE "AMERICAN MADE" WATCH . . .



The Present: Time

AND NO PRESENT LIKE THE TIME BY Hamilton

Watches famed for accuracy and dependability—the choice of generations of railroad men—every one of these famed watches has the superb Hamilton movement that is the crowning achievement of skilled watchmaking. Give one of these smart new Hamiltons to that special someone this Christmas—have it laid away now—and they'll have a wonderful time for a long time.

- A. Diamond 14k white gold \$300.00
- B. Women's 14k gold watch \$71.50
- C. Women's 14k gold watch \$71.50
- D. Women's 14k gold-filled \$67.50
- E. Women's 10k gold-filled \$57.75
- F. Women's 10k gold-filled \$57.75
- G. 14k gold-filled 18 jewels \$71.50
- H. Men's 14 karat gold-filled \$71.50
- I. Men's 10 karat gold-filled \$60.50

Credit? Why Certainly! No Interest! No Carrying Charge!

"Eugene's Finest Jewelers Since 1909"
Laraways THE HOUSE OF DIAMONDS
1016 WILLAMETTE ST. (Next to McDonald Theatre) DIAL 4-3203

- OTHER FAMOUS NAMES:
- ★ ELGIN
 - ★ GRUEN
 - ★ WYLER
 - ★ OMEGA
 - ★ BULOVA
 - ★ LONGINE

by... Jefferson

ALL WOOL GABARDINE 19.70

SLACKS at Joe Richards

CORRECT FITTING TRIM TAILORING

- FINE WOOL
- FIRMLY WOVEN
- EXPERTLY STYLED



IMPORTED DONEGAL TWEEDS 14.95

Alterations at no Extra Charge

HEAVY RAYON SHARKSKIN 11.95

ALL WOOL GABARDINE 16.95

ALL WOOL SHARKSKIN 19.95

Joe Richards "Sunshine Corner" MEN'S STORE Broadway and Willamette

