

Adequate Treatment Needed to Speed Recovery in Mental Cases

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent
Washington—(UPI)—This year, about 220,000 anguished human beings who are unable to continue functioning as normal members of society will be admitted to public mental hospitals in the United States.

What hope does modern science hold out for their recovery? What are their chances of returning to their homes, families and jobs? The answers are found in a mass of statistics compiled recently by the National Institute of Mental Health. And they are not the cheerful answers that Americans are conditioned to expect in medical reports.

The Institute's figures show that a patient who enters a mental hospital today has a 50-50 chance of getting out within a year.

Chances Drop Sharply
But if a patient does not respond to the intensive treatment he is given during the first few months of his hospitalization, he must be shifted to the "chronic wards" to a room for new admissions. And once he is in the chronic wards, his chances of returning to normal life drop sharply.

Patients who do not get well the first year have only one chance in five of ever leaving the hospital. If a person remains five years in the chronic wards, the odds are 100 to 1 against his ever leaving the hospital alive.

The most tragic aspect of this situation, according to Dr. Robert H. Felix, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, is that it need not be.

"The condition of the long-term patients is by no means as hopeless as the statistics suggest," he says. "A great many of them could be restored to normal, productive lives if adequate treatment were available."

The possibilities of salvaging some of the human wreckage from the back wards of mental hospitals were dramatically proved in a recent study at a Maryland state hospital. Seventy-two men who had been in the hospital for five to ten years were taken out of the wards, placed in a convalescent cottage, and given intensive psychiatric therapy. Fifty-five of them responded to the treatment by recovering sufficiently to justify their release.

A similar experiment in California yielded equally heartening results. Why don't all mental hospitals give intensive treatment to the forgotten men and women in the chronic wards? The answer stands out starkly simple in the Institute's

report: Mental hospitals don't have enough money or personnel.

The average expenditure for care and treatment of patients in public mental hos-

pitals is currently \$4.07 per patient per day. That compares with an average cost of \$26.00 per patient per day in general hospitals. Lack of funds is reflected

in, and compounded by, a shortage of trained personnel. The American Psychiatric Association's "minimum" standards for mental hospitals call for 1 physician for every 98 pa-

tients, and 1 registered nurse for every 15 patients. The actual ratio in public mental hospitals at present is 1 physician for every 184 patients, 1 nurse for every 77 patients.

To Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the figures in the Institute's report are "shocking."

"It is obvious," says Flemming, "that we have not yet mounted an effective attack on mental illness in this country. We are beginning to make real progress in the area of research. But in the area of hospital care and treatment, the resources we are devoting to mental illness are disgracefully inadequate."

Quite aside from the personal tragedies and the enormous waste of human resources involved, Flemming points out, it is a "false economy" that keeps public mental hospitals on such lean budgets that they can offer little more than custodial facilities for long-term patients.

To maintain a patient in a hospital all his adult life, even with minimum care, is extremely costly to the public treasury. For a patient with a life expectancy of 30 years, the total cost is nearly \$50,000. A fraction of that sum invested in intensive treatment might enable that patient to become a productive member of society.

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Kilpack Speaks At Club Meeting

Bennett B. Kilpack, assistant superintendent of Bar O ranch for boys, Del Norte county, Calif., spoke Thursday night for the Medford 20-30 club.

Discussing "Juveniles Fight for Status," Kilpack said that much time is spent in research concerning comic books, television and other possible causes of juvenile delinquency, but not enough consideration is given to the juveniles' fight for status in life.

Kilpack is a former senior deputy probation officer for San Mateo county, a former teacher in San Mateo county juvenile hall, former group supervisor at Edgewood orphanage in San Francisco, and supervisor at Hill Military academy, Portland.

This past year he conducted a class in group dynamics at Ashland High school.

Kilpack explained that one of the problems of the correctional institution is to allow the child the chance for positive status.

"Most of the boys we have in care have never had the experience of camping, fishing and trapping," he said, and "through these experiences they have new horizons. It is a most gratifying experience to hear the boys talking to not only the counselors, but among themselves, about plans for the future, i.e. college with future careers."

County Officials Attending Course

County Commissioner Chester Wendt and Assessor Ray J. Schumacher are in Salem attending a tax school regarding new state tax laws.

Officials from counties throughout the state are attending the school.

Two-thirds of America's farm families belong to one or more cooperatives.

Back Stairs: Ike's Trip to Canada

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter
Washington—(UPI)—Back stairs at the White House:

The trip of the President and Mrs. Eisenhower to Canada today to meet Queen Elizabeth II at the Saint Lawrence Seaway really is only a matter of a few hours. Yet, largely because of the fierce Canadian pride in the Queen, the seven-hour visit of the President has taken literally weeks of planning and seemingly tons of paper work.

Normally a trip by the President to any point outside Washington seems relatively complicated in the planning stages, but nothing to compare with the pin-point planning when her majesty is involved.

A Duke or Prince
During a special Washington press briefing at the Ca-

nadian embassy earlier this week, a good 10 minutes was devoted solely to the proper way to address the Queen's husband. Various experts explained repeatedly that it

Oregon Birthday Cake Being Cut

Portland—Approximately 30,000 to 40,000 slices of Oregon's Centennial birthday cake, reported to be the largest single confection ever baked, will be offered to Centennial Exposition-goers in Wilcox hall after official ceremonies at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Serving will continue through 10 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

Guest of honor at the official cake cutting ceremonies Friday sponsored by the United Nations Assembly of Oregon, as a feature of United Nations Charter Day, will be assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, Francis O. Wilcox.

Measurements of Oregon's huge birthday cake are: length, 40 feet; width, 4 feet; depth, 1 foot; and height, from the base to a replica of Oregon's Mt. Hood, 7 feet.

The cake and candy-covered wagons weighs 5 tons. Coordinator of production for the cake and designer of gowns worn by the Oregon Birthday hostesses who will serve the cake is Mardi Jacob of Portland. The project required 1½ years of planning. All ingredients, flowers, gowns and time were donated.



TV REPORT—Secy. of State Christian A. Herter, in a televised report on the deadlocked Geneva conference, told the American people that "no agreement is possible" if the Soviets persist in trying to make West Berlin "a slave city."



SOLDIERS WITH BIG HATS—Queen Elizabeth of England reviews guard of honor on her arrival at Quebec City, Canada. Soldiers' hats are the traditional tall, bearskin busby.

Victoria Tourist Slogan Backfires
Victoria, B.C. (UPI)—Victoria's long standing tourist slogan "Follow the birds to Victoria" has backfired. Somebody in the Fraser Valley resort of Harrison Hot Springs had stickers printed for automobile bumpers. They read, "Victoria is for the birds, come to Harrison Hot Springs."



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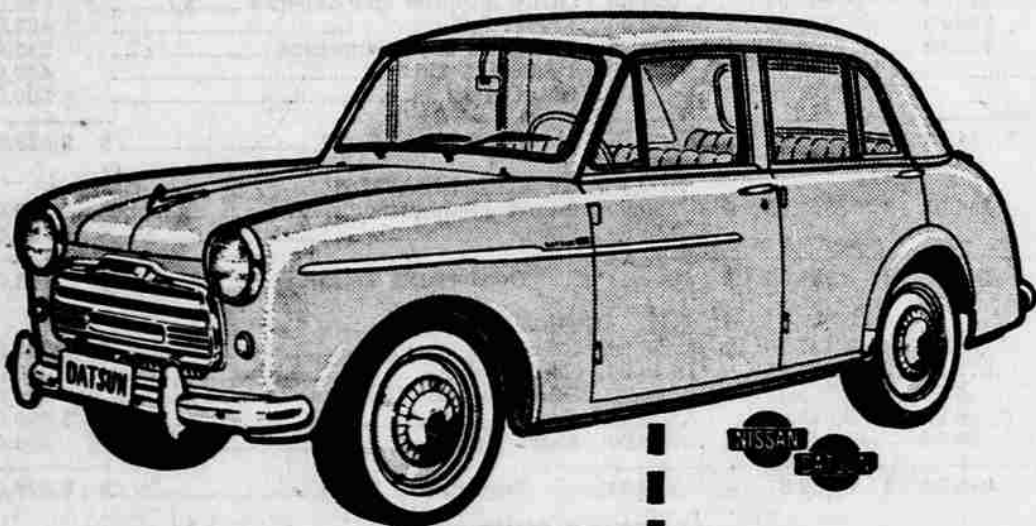
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