

One Hundred and Thirty Second
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

South Carolina State Hospital

AND

Pineland, a State Training School

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1955



Printed Under the Direction of the
State Budget and Control Board

REPORT OF SOUTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Columbia, S. C., July 1, 1955

*To His Excellency, George Bell Timmerman, Jr.,
Governor of South Carolina:*

The S. C. State Hospital is still hard-pressed to meet the demands placed upon it for service to the mentally ill in South Carolina. At the end of fiscal year June 30, 1955, there were 6,038 patients in the State Hospital as compared to 5,929 June 30, 1954. New admissions this year were 2,283 as compared to 2,216 for the preceding fiscal year. These figures indicate that the demands upon the State Hospital are constantly increasing. An examination of statistics, however, reveals that there were 642,419 patients in mental hospitals in the United States in 1954, an average of 409 patients per 100,000 population. The average in South Carolina was only 338 per 100,000 population, more than 17 per cent below the national average.

There are still many problems in the State Hospital but the problem of overcrowding has been partially reduced. During the year four new ward buildings for the acute and chronic disturbed patients were completed at the Columbia Division with a total bed capacity of 608. Two similar buildings, to be occupied in July, 1955, were completed at the State Park Division with a capacity of 304, giving a total number of new beds of 912. This number, however, could not be considered a net gain, because the condemned Taylor Building that housed 265 patients had to be razed. The total cost of construction and equipment of these six buildings amounted to \$4,440,422.20. Contracts were also let for construction of an Auditorium-Library Building at the Columbia Division and the State Park Division. With funds appropriated for renovation of existing buildings, renovation of the Thompson Building was begun after patients were removed to the new buildings. The new Cafeteria, Kitchen and Bakery Building, planned to take care of needs for some years to come, was completed and went into operation September 4, 1954. The cost of construction and equipment for this new building was \$1,281,901.52. The kitchen serves the Columbia Division and the bakery serves both the Columbia and State Park Divisions.

Construction was begun of a new training school, Pineland, near the State Park Division of our hospital, at an estimated cost of \$1,050,000.

For this fiscal year the Commission requested further funds for very needed construction at the State Hospital and at Pine-land. These needs were as listed below:

State Hospital:

Medical Surgical Building—Columbia.....	\$2,000,000.00
Infirmery Building—State Park.....	1,000,000.00
Intensive Treatment Building for Male and Female Patients—Columbia.....	1,000,000.00
Laundry Building—State Park.....	400,000.00
Dormitory, Male Attendants—Columbia.....	200,000.00
Ward Building Male Patients—State Park.....	750,000.00
Ward Building Female Patients—State Park.....	750,000.00
Dormitory, Male and Female Nurses and Attendants—State Park.....	200,000.00
Major Renovations—Columbia and State Park	250,000.00
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Total State Hospital	\$6,550,000.00

State Park Training School, State Park, S. C.:

School Dormitories (2).....	\$ 122,000.00
Colony Dormitories (2).....	315,000.00
Hospital Dormitory.....	240,000.00
Utilities	73,000.00
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Total State Park Training School, State Park, S. C.....	\$ 750,000.00

The Legislature, however, appropriated only \$200,000 for major renovations of existing buildings at the Columbia and State Park Divisions of the State Hospital.

We can no longer think in terms of custodial care of patients at the hospital. Emphasis now must be placed on giving the newly admitted patient maximum psychiatric and medical treatment in order to give him the maximum chance of returning home. The longer the patient stays in the hospital the greater the cost to the state. Maximum treatment will get more patients out of the hospital and cut down on the percentage of those whose illnesses become chronic.

The medical personnel is still inadequate. As of June 30, 1955 there was a total of 743 employees in the medical department.