

One Hundred and Thirty Third  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
South Carolina State Hospital

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1956



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FISHER AUDITORIUM—STATE PARK DIVISION, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL—Dedicated January 15, 1956 Lafayette Park  
Lafayette & Associates, Architects, Columbia, S. C. Photo by Russell Maxey, Columbia, S. C.

## DEDICATION BENET AUDITORIUM—HORGER LIBRARY

Columbia Division

January 29, 1956

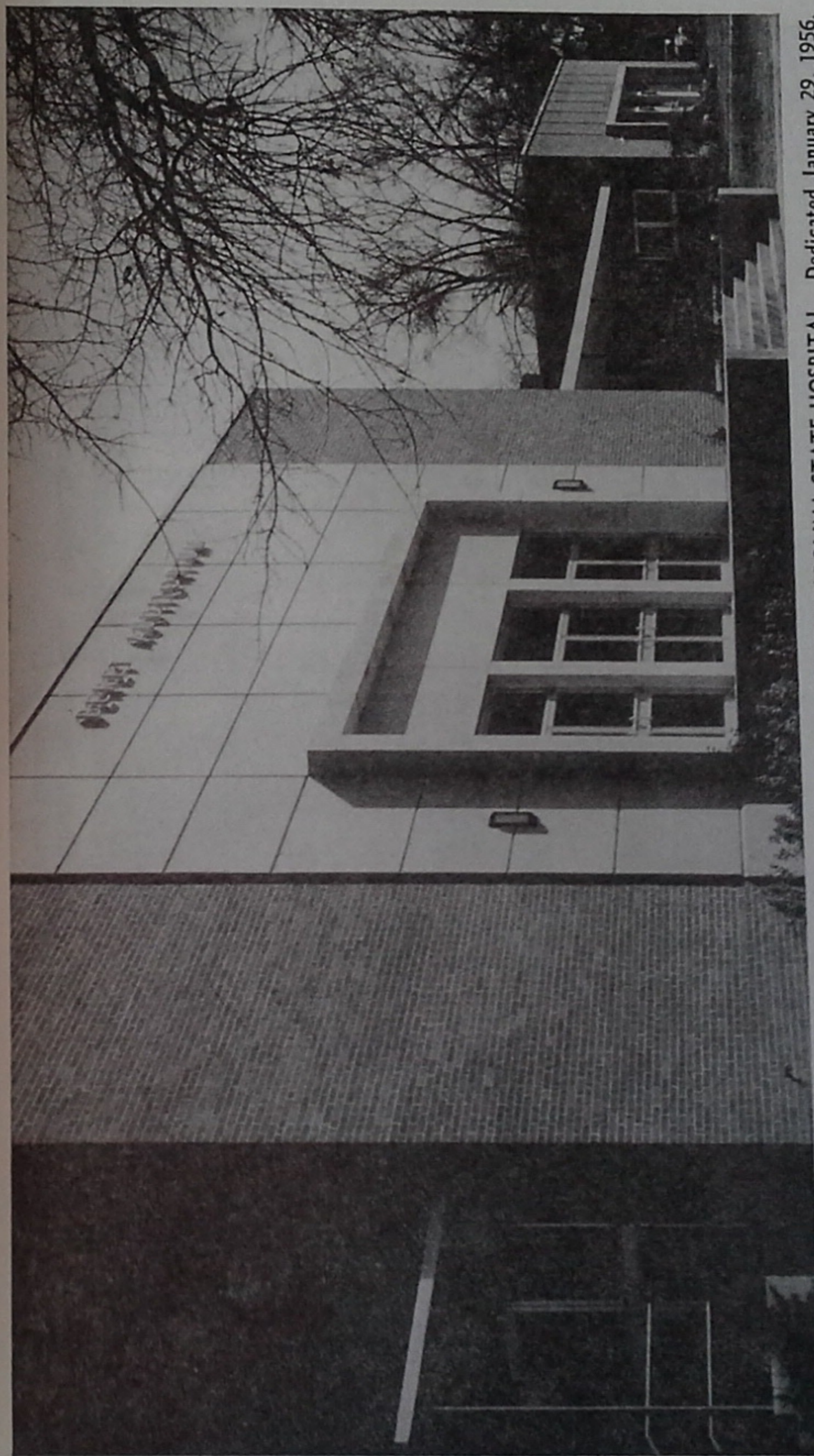
Dedication ceremonies for the new Benet Auditorium-Horger Library at the Columbia Division were held at 3:00 o'clock Sunday, January 29, 1956, with former Governor James F. Byrnes delivering the dedicatory address.

Ceremonies included the dedication of the Benet Auditorium with recreational and occupational therapy facilities, and the Horger Library to the expanding services of the South Carolina State Hospital.

The spacious Benet Auditorium, also to be used as a chapel pending the construction of a place devoted to religious activities, is a tribute to Hon. Christie Benet, who was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina, December 26, 1879, and passed away in Columbia on March 30, 1951.

Hon. Benet was appointed a member of the Board of Regents (now the S. C. Mental Health Commission) by Governor Richard I. Manning on April 14, 1915 to succeed his friend, Dr. C. Fred Williams who became superintendent of the S. C. State Hospital on May 1, 1915. With the exception of two short periods, Mr. Benet served on the Board of Regents until his resignation January 9, 1948. Much of this time he was chairman. A nationally prominent attorney and former United States Senator from South Carolina, he had the ability, opportunities and interest to be of great service to others. His community and State benefited by his sympathetic, wise leadership and capable judgment, and none claimed a greater part of his time, interest and devotion than his efforts for the mentally ill of South Carolina. In the Benet Auditorium of the new building will be continued accomplishments for the welfare and happiness of those for whom he worked so long.

It is appropriate that the Horger Library should honor Dr. Eugene Leroy Horger, a staff physician from July 17, 1915 until September 1, 1923 when he became clinical director of the hospital, occupying this position until his sudden passing away on October 22, 1943.



BENET AUDITORIUM—HORGER LIBRARY—COLUMBIA DIVISION, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL. Dedicated January 29, 1956.  
Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye & Associates, Architects, Columbia, S. C. Photo by Russell Maxey, Columbia, S. C.



HORGER LIBRARY—COLUMBIA DIVISION, South Carolina State Hospital. Dedicated January 29, 1956. Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye & Associates, Architects, Columbia, S. C. Photo by Russell Moxey, Columbia, S. C.

This beloved clinical director of the S. C. State Hospital was born in Orangeburg County, near Jamison, April 16, 1889. His life was spent in service for the mentally ill. A pioneer in the South in the promotion of hospital care for the mentally ill, he was keenly interested in every phase of medicine and psychiatry. For years he was an associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the Medical College of South Carolina, Charleston, and many of his articles and editorials referable to mental disorders were published in State and National journals. Dr. Horger was an earnest student, an eminent neuropsychiatrist, a kindly man interested in the individual patient and it is suitable that this beautiful, much needed library bear his name. The building first named for Dr. Horger was renamed the Wilson, honoring former Governor John L. Wilson:

Among those especially recognized and welcomed were: Mrs. Christie Benet and only daughter, Mrs. Porcher P. Hopkins; Dr. George Benet, brother of Mr. Benet and chief surgeon of the hospital for more than thirty years; Mrs. Eugene Leroy Horger, all of Columbia. Also Dr. Eugene Leroy Horger of New York City, only son of Dr. Horger.

This program was carried out:

- Presiding*—Hon. George A. Buchanan, Jr., Chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission
- Organ Prelude*—Mrs. Carolyn M. McLendon, Guest Organist
- Special Music*—Hospital Choir of Patients, Mrs. Ernestine M. Owen, Director
- Invocation*—Chaplain William M. Major
- Welcome*—Dr. William S. Hall, Superintendent, S. C. State Hospital
- The Building—Its Purpose and Use*—Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, Clinical Director, Columbia Division
- Introduction of Speaker*—Hon. George A. Buchanan, Jr.
- Dedicatory Address*—Hon. James F. Byrnes, Former Governor of South Carolina
- Special Music*—Hospital Choir of Patients
- Benediction*—Chaplain J. Obert Kempson, Chief Chaplain
- Organ Postlude*—Mrs. Carolyn M. McLendon

He was succeeded by the Rev. Collie L. Moore on October 25, 1955. A graduate of Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia, with an A.B. degree, and of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, with a B.D. degree, Rev. Moore was pastor of several churches and supply chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama. Prior to coming here he was pastor of Bowen Methodist Church, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

The Rev. Alonzo W. Harley, part time chaplain, State Park Division, since October 1, 1954, was transferred on February 14, 1956 to the position of chaplain and recreational aide at Pineland, A State Training School, when the permanent buildings were occupied.

### LIBRARY SECTION

With the occupancy of the new Horger Library Building at the Columbia Division and the library quarters in the new Fisher Auditorium at the State Park Division the scope of activities of the library section was greatly expanded.

The library program for patients has a three-fold purpose: educational—to serve as a source of information; diversional—a source of gratification and pleasure; therapeutic—to help the patient identify himself with a social group, such as book review and general discussion clubs and patient committees.

The therapeutic function of library service has particular significance, since mental patients have basic need for identification with others, for development of group spirit, and opportunity for working together toward a common goal.

#### *Library Service to Patients:*

During the year 1273 individual patients borrowed reading material or visited the libraries to use material in the libraries. Circulation totaled 24,621.

Periodicals were distributed to 68 wards of the two divisions. A total contribution of 48,673 periodicals made this service possible.

The library purchased 375 books and 105 were added to the collection through contributions.

A group of 7 patients rendered valuable service by performing such routine as filing, shelving books, keeping circulation records, sorting contributed periodicals, processing and repairing books.

Educational films and travelogues, totaling 18, were used in the monthly meetings of the library club.

A patient committee assisted in selecting and editing material for the library section of the hospital newspaper.

#### *Medical Library:*

During the year 56 books and 19 journal subscriptions were purchased. Circulation totaled 684 and there were 183 individual borrowers.

The librarian made talks to each group in the orientation course for psychiatric aides and to students in the clinical pastoral training course referable to the therapeutic use of reading material.

The generosity of the many interested individuals, church and other groups in supplying the library with periodicals is greatly appreciated.

### RECREATIONAL THERAPY SECTION

#### COLUMBIA DIVISION

The recreational therapy section at the Columbia Division, composed of a director and volunteer patient aides, assisted by affiliate student nurses assigned bi-monthly, provided a varied program of activities for the pleasure, relaxation and social rehabilitation of the patients.

Affiliate nurses attended weekly classes where recreational therapy and the attributes of leadership were stressed.

On December 11, 1955 this section moved into the beautiful, new Benet Auditorium equipped with spacious and splendid facilities. The large stage with several dressing rooms adequately provide for entertainments of many types. The several ramps affording easy entrance, and the seating capacity of 525 enable many more patients to engage in the various activities. The easily removed and stored seats release ample space for dances and other entertainments. The screen and scenery are electrically operated.

In the auditorium two combination high fidelity record players and broadcasting consoles permit broadcasting from the stage and from the studio throughout the Columbia Division.

Three microphones, an electric Hammond organ, an Everett concert grand piano and two additional pianos complete the equipment.

With one of the pianos and musical instruments already in the hospital a music room was arranged for the patients and former musicians encouraged to use the facilities.

"Palmetto Variety" has developed from a small magazine June 1954 into large newspaper edited, typed and assembled by patients with the director as editor. This newspaper is distributed throughout the United States to many mental hospitals, to chairmen of church volunteer groups and other interested individuals, as well as throughout the entire hospital.

By invitation the recreational therapy director was on a panel at the Conference, National Association of Recreational Therapists in Athens, Ohio, in March 1956, to discuss "Recreation for the Aged in Mental Hospitals."

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Soon after occupying the Benet Auditorium a club for those of 60 years and over was possible because of conveniently located ramps. "Club 60" for the "Dapper Dans" and the "Gibson Girls" is increasingly popular.

The dance program included 115 ballroom, folk and square dances which greatly aided in the development of initiative and courage, and in overcoming timidity of patients.

In the Benet and the Williams auditoriums, and on many wards with patient volunteer projectionists, there were 361 selected movies. The twice a week movies in the auditoriums were preceded by request programs, musical quizzes, musical travelogues, "Stop the Music" games, etc.

Columbia radio stations cooperated by sending advance monthly programs making possible a wide range of entertainment, lectures, symphonies, etc.

The many TV sets throughout the hospital, with seven more secured during the year, afforded diversion and pleasure.

Four hospital-wide variety shows were promoted in the Benet Auditorium, where were also held many bingo parties, with numerous others on the wards. Competitive groups, especially

for those unable to participate in active games, made bingo more interesting. There were 333 such games.

Table games of cards, checkers, jigsaw puzzles, etc., were in constant operation in the dayrooms and in the "play spots" on the grounds. Pool continued to be enjoyed on three wards.

Outdoor sports included croquet, volley ball, horse shoes and goal back. Civic, commercial and church teams from the Columbia Softball League played the patient teams 27 times on the home field. Groups of personnel, interns and ministerial students provided continuous opposition for the patient teams throughout the summer.

A daily program of selected music was broadcast to wards, on the grounds, in dining halls and to assembled audiences in auditoriums.

Highlights of seasonal festivities were the Halloween Cabaret dance in the women's dining hall with about 800 attending. A floor show by patients, the young women in formals, two cake walks and talent from WCOS TV station were extra features. The Christmas dance music was contributed by an orchestra of the Columbia Federation of Musicians, Local 21, American Federation of Musicians, led by Professor Ben A. Gardner. The dining hall and the Benet auditorium were gaily decorated for both occasions, and refreshments were served at the Halloween dance.

Christmas decorations were ordered and distributed by this section to the Columbia and the State Park Divisions. After the holiday each ward supply was inventoried and returned for recreation storage.

The Columbia College choir presented a delightful concert, and there were three one act plays by the Dramatics Department, University of South Carolina.

There is still need for a station wagon for transportation of workers and equipment; a grand stand for the athletic fields; and additional softball area; and a swimming pool.

#### STATE PARK DIVISION

The well equipped new Fisher Auditorium occupied early in January 1956 permitted expansion of activities with Leon M. Elam as director of recreational therapy. The diversified pro-

gram provided wholesome relaxation and entertainment for both active and passive patients.

For those engaged in details and unable to attend regularly scheduled programs, there was a weekly movie on Thursday afternoon at five o'clock in the Fisher Auditorium, and a dance every Saturday morning at which refreshments were served.

Every Wednesday at the dance patients having a birthday during the week were given special recognition.

Bingo every Tuesday was enjoyed; and movies were shown in the auditorium every Thursday and on alternate Mondays.

Softball teams of patients afforded entertainment for many; and a group of all stars from the various groups engaged the psychiatric aide teams with good results.

Two games a week were played by the personnel teams, a number of games being with teams from Columbia and Little Leagues.

Two talent shows were presented, featuring variety acts by patients from the various buildings.

In keeping with the policy to have as much live entertainment as possible there was presented "Four Keynotes—Sammy Cook and His Band in Gala Rhythm and Blues Show", enjoyed by over 600 patients.

On Monday, February 20, 1956 in the Fisher Auditorium appeared the internationally known Massie Patterson and her equally famous Carib Singers in a Calypso Carousel. This group of native singers, dancers and musicians are organized to bring to Americans the great, but neglected folk music of the Caribbean Island.

A dance contest featured the annual Halloween dance in the old recreational hall with most of the patients in costume. Favors were given, and refreshments served.

At Thanksgiving was a gala festival, including a 50 car parade through the hospital grounds for the enjoyment of all patients. Allen University band furnished the music for the parade and during the coronation of the State Park Division patient queen, who with her attendants rode on a decorated float. The Booker T. Washington intra mural football game was played.

Many ward parties were held during the Christmas holidays, and each patient received at least one gift, due to the generosity

of individuals and church groups. Wards and the recreational hall where the Christmas dance was held were beautifully decorated.

A number of radios and several TV sets afforded diversion and pleasure.

Games of cards, checkers, puzzles, etc. were provided for those not interested or able to participate in other activities.

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The occupational therapy section moved into the new quarters in the Benet Auditorium in January 1956 where there are facilities for expansion of activities with many more patients and in more areas of the hospital.

Interest in occupational therapy in the Allan and Saunders Buildings, Columbia Division, continued with an increased number of patients participating.

With the new equipment more and improved work was done by the men with the popular woodworking. Ceramics continued very popular with men and women, and some of the products were in the professional group.

The section had an exhibit at the YWCA Craftsman Fair from which six of the ceramic pieces made by patients were selected for exhibition at the Columbia Museum of Art for a month.

The hospital was kept supplied with "throw rugs", and every two weeks four dozen bedroom slides were completed for ward use.

The watch making and repair project proved well worthwhile for both patients and the hospital personnel.

A small garden of vegetables and flowers for a group in this section provided occupation and enjoyment.

On tour through the hospital many visitors had an opportunity to go through this section.

At the State Park Division occupational therapy activities are limited, but plans are in process for expansion.

### PSYCHOLOGY SECTION

There was marked progress in the psychology section during the year with the securing of additional psychologists with diversification and extension of their professional activities.