

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

FARIBAULT STATE SCHOOL & HOSPITAL

Historically, this institution carries the distinction of having developed the first program of psychological study of the mentally retarded. In 1898, Dr. A. R. C. Wylie was employed as psychologist and pharmacist, and soon afterward published a paper on the sensory responses of the retarded.

About 1910, Dr. Fred Kuhlman was employed to head the Research Bureau established here, and in the succeeding decade became world-known for his development of intelligence tests. When the Research Bureau was moved to St. Paul, psychological testing services were provided by members of his staff.

In 1950, after a 30-year hiatus, full-time psychological services were re-established. By this time the functions of clinical psychology, because of developments in the field, had expanded considerably beyond the giving of intelligence tests. Diagnostic testing remains the basic duty, but many techniques are utilized to provide the careful analysis of the patient's intellectual and emotional status from which recommendations as to education, vocational training, or social development can be made. The psychologist participates in closely-coordinated staff efforts toward patient rehabilitation and program development. Moreover, he now participates directly in patient treatment, providing individual or group psychotherapy when this is recommended.

Research continues to be a function which, by virtue of his interests and training, is regarded as one of the psychologist's special contributions in mental retardation. Other services provided are the training of personnel, interpretation of mental retardation and institutional programs to professional and lay groups, and many others. This variety of roles and services demands expert knowledge and continuing contact with new developments in the field of psychology and related professions, mental retardation, and state and institutional programs.

All of the above activities were conducted by the department at the time of the last self-survey in 1955. The department then had a staff of 3. In the past 38 months, however, the senior clinical psychologist has had four different assistants give a total of 13 months service. Because of recruiting difficulties, these psychologists were employed even though their availability was only temporary. Although the department is fulfilling the same functions as before, service in any one area is considerably less than would be desirable.

Many of the special accomplishments in the past four years have been in the field of education. The senior psychologist, as chairman of a special committee, re-edited an outmoded film into what is now titled, "Clinical Types of Mental Deficiency". He edited the proceedings of the "Workshop on Training of Severely Retarded Children" conducted hereby Dr. I. Ignacy Goldberg in 1957. He wrote and obtained financial support for a pamphlet about the institution which could be distributed to the public. He is editing the institution's daily bulletin for employees.

One new activity is the psychologist's participation on the recently-formed

Review Committee, to which he brings his knowledge of individual patients and his recommendations regarding their possible placement from the institution.

Although no research has been conducted in the department since 1956, the senior psychologist has participated in the phenylpyruvic oligophrenia project. He has assisted Dr. Robert Wirt of the University of Minnesota to obtain some inventory data for the development of a child behavior rating scale. He is now assisting a student at the University to obtain data to be used for her Master's thesis.

At the request of the Medical Director, Department of Public Welfare, out-patient service is now offered to welfare workers and families with special problems in mental retardation. The clinical psychologist participates with other staff members in providing the special service needed.

The senior clinical psychologist acts also as Public Information Officer at this institution, carrying out the following activities:

- Appears before service clubs, schools, colleges, institutes, parent organizations, professional groups, community organizations, and church groups.

- Coordinates the schedules of other staff members who participate in this program.

- Communicates to the press, radio, television, and to professional publications news about institution programs and personnel.

- Writes special features.

- Represents the institution at the Conference Committee on Mental Deficiency.

- Maintains a library of mental health materials for distribution to the public.

- Edits the daily bulletin for employees.

- Acts as information officer in case of disaster.