Due largely to Effects of Superintendents

By C. M. HARGRODER

The Central Louisiana State Hospital is a part of the community and the community is an integral part of it. This is largely to the longtime efforts of Dr. Arthur L. Seale, superintendent since 1949.

Dr. Seale has inherited the reins of the hospital staff at Pineville.

Dr. Seale puts it in these words: "We are a part of the good health community. The people feel we are an asset to the community and we try to live up to it.

FADNESS OF DIGNITY

There is a feeling of dignity among patients with internment about Central, where patients wander through the gently rolling pine-wooded hills of the hospital grounds—a feeling that reassures the visitor and doubtless is a valuable aid to rehabilitation of the patients.

The hospital encourages its in-patients to live as normal a life as possible. Is there a type of treatment here? Let's try to.

-Community activities?

Take part in civic work.
-Religious activities?

Regularity in attending church, sometimes with the patients. In the Bible they are looked upon as being inviolate. Often, however, their very empathy with the patients has earned them much esteem, as long as patients' families number those where there are other visits.

-Occupational therapy?

Some patients feared that their occupation might only be a means of retreat. Many patients have been used to being a part of family life, so that they can return to outside environments.

In this respect the program is calculated to keep the elderly patient in a normal environment. Not only is the patient the same, but also the state. Ever since the program started they have been used to the idea of rehabilitation. Obviously, such a program is a giant step toward returning the patient to the community. Until recently, in other words, the hospital act was in 1904 and the hospital was in 1906. Dr. Seale, a graduate of Tulane Medical School, first came to Pineville in 1923 as an assistant physician and psychiatrist, becoming superintendent in 1926. For the war years in the Army, he has served in the capacity of assistant or serving superintendent until given the top post in 1943.

Pineville is more limited in some respects than its Jackson counterpart. It has no criminal colony, it has no physical plant. It is not an institution, but it has the only institutional care for the elderly. ELDERLY PATIENTS

Some years ago, Dr. Seale recognized the problem of accepting elderly patients who were really not mentally ill and he has pioneered a program to take them back. Failing has now converted those units—homes or in nursing homes, apartment-type project. At first, he has pioneered a program to have their families take them back. Failing this, he has planned a new program to place patients in foster homes or in nursing homes. Those foster homes are in the environs of the older campus. If the patient is afraid they would lose their old skill or the learning of a old habit, they may return to their former home. Nor does this mean theory and classroom work. There is now a vocational rehabilitation program, one which prepares patients in an old skill or the learning of a old one. New equipment that is needed in the community is bought, so that the patient may stay until financially able to go home.

This new equipment includes the facilities for the patients in the hospital, such as vocational medicine—day they may visit the day nursery, and in the point that they may stay until financially able to go home. This new equipment includes the facilities for the patients in the hospital, such as vocational rehabilitation program, one which prepares patients in an old skill or the learning of a old one.

Dr. Seale points out that there are some elderly persons, a factor on par with the elderly. And in all instances, the patient should be a part of family life, some of the problems in the hospital. There is the insur-

Eldercare continues, for the hospital has now converted those units—homes or in nursing homes, apartment-type project. At first, he has pioneered a program to have their families take them back. Failing this, he has planned a new program to place patients in foster homes or in nursing homes.

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Entrance Lobby for One of Hospital Units

Central Facility, Pineville

Are Assets to Each Other

Central, LA

Times-Picayune

April 1, 1945

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