

Substantial improvements have been made in the institution by the enlargement of the social service departments and expansion of the recreational therapy work. Recent appropriations have made available a higher ratio of employees to patients which, of course, increases the therapeutic value of the institution. Plans now are being made for the improvement of the occupational therapy and educational departments. Within the past year a special unit has been developed for the treatment of addicts, mostly voluntary and probationer patients, who show promise of profiting from increased psychiatric attention, more home-like privileges, and partial segregation from the older recidivist type of patient.

Addicts Anonymous

Worthy of special mention is the great interest shown by a group of sincere patients in developing an association in the hospital known as "Addicts Anonymous". Patterned after the successful Alcoholics Anonymous, members of the latter organization from Lexington and Frankfort have developed the hospital chapter to the point where responsible leadership from among the patients is available. A secretary has been designated to handle the affairs of the organization and to publish inspirational material for the institutional use of members. A number of patients who have relapsed and been readmitted for treatment again have left and, with the local chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous in their home towns, are apparently making successful adjustments.

There is enough similarity between the personalities and problems of alcoholics and drug addicts to indicate that what has been helpful with the first group may well be helpful with the second. The development of the experimental chapter of Addicts Anonymous at the Lexington hospital will be observed with great interest.

Research

A progress report on the Lexington hospital would not be complete without mentioning the research which has gone on continuously since the hospital was opened. Considerable light has been thrown on the nature of drug addiction in both animals and human subjects, but important questions still remain to be answered in the field. A number of new drugs proposed as substitutes for morphine or as supplemental drugs to

*Editor's Note: In a letter to the Editor dated March 29, 1948, Dr. Vogel comments as follows: "Wherever Alcoholics Anonymous chapters are interested and willing to help addicts we think that probation officers should seek and accept their help. A number of our patients have received very great assistance from Alcoholics Anonymous chapters in their home towns."