

Plymouth Center Library acquires significant historical collection

by Elizabeth Ring, Ph.D.
Psychology Director

The Plymouth Center Library has been fortunate to receive an outstanding collection of books and historical documents from the former Wayne County Training School. Of immense historic significance, it consists of a substantial number of older books, monographs, journals, offprints, and mimeographed papers from its professional reference library.

Also included are copies of the Superintendent's monthly reports (1926-1969), minutes of its Administrative Board (1919-1972), the governing ordinance, committee reports and resolutions, memoranda, correspondence, and numerous programs of professional meetings.

Announcements of open houses, holiday celebrations, special events, and similar memorabilia are also contained in the collection.

Thanks to the action of the Board of Wayne County Auditors on November 21, 1978, these remarkable materials, which might otherwise have been lost forever, will now be cared for and preserved for posterity.

The Plymouth Center Library is able to provide adequate space to house them, the services of its skilled librarian to oversee their proper organization, care and use, and the additional safeguard of strict State procedures relative to accounting for them.

Plymouth Center is an ideal location in which to house the Wayne County Training School collections. It is located within Wayne County on lands formerly a part of that historic institution. Thus, its former professional reference library will continue to be conveniently accessible to Wayne County citizens, and a significant element of County history will be carefully

preserved in its original form, available as needed to the County.

We have only begun the task of cataloging and indexing the mass of materials received. The historical documents, compiled into 42 volumes of 200-400 pages each, totalling some 15,000 pages, spanning the years 1919-1972, represent an accumulation of authentic source materials of great value to the study of services to the mentally retarded as they developed in this country.

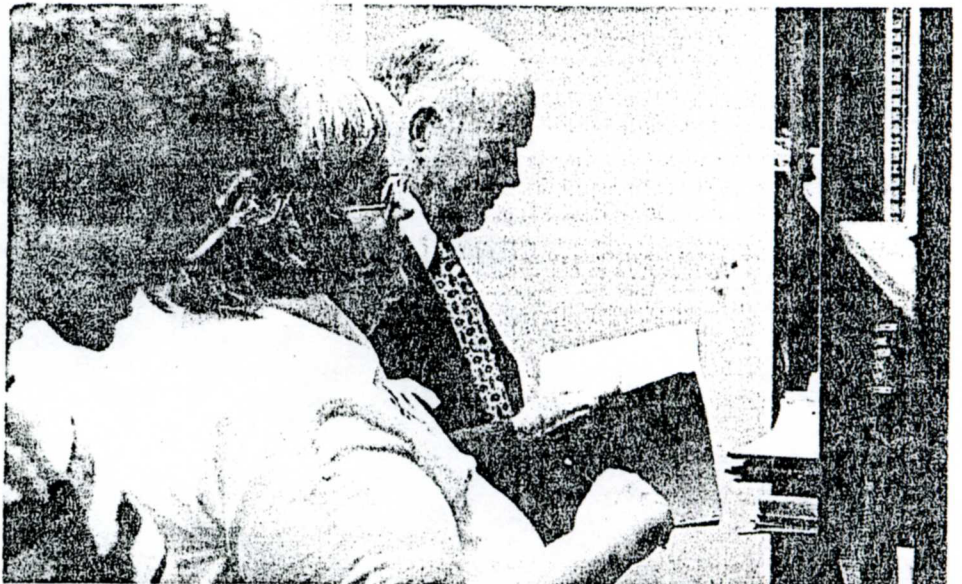
The establishment of the Wayne County Training School was a highly significant event. Those responsible for its development characterized it as unique and different — turning its back on the traditional practices of the past and following a call to the future. It strove for excellence and assembled a clinical and research staff of outstanding ability to lead in the search for new

and better methods. Its influence was very great and it maintained a position of professional leadership for many years.

It is rare indeed to find so comprehensive a collection of documents, so carefully assembled and so painstakingly maintained as one finds here. Dr. Robert H. Haskell, the Wayne County Training School's first Medical Superintendent, who served from 1926 until his retirement in 1955, was himself firmly convinced of the historic significance of this institution. He early directed the systematic compilation and preservation of all materials deemed likely to be needed by the "future historian" for study.

"We always endeavor," he wrote in May of 1935, "to look upon this monthly report as a conscientious chronological record of the develop-

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The acquisition process involved looking through the shelves in the library of the former Wayne County Training School. Dr. Elizabeth Ring, center, along with Center librarian Chris Bartz, left, and Administrative Assistant George Ebling, right, examined many of the volumes.

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ment of the Training School that will lend itself in future years to any historical investigation that one may choose to make . . ."

Every aspect of the origin, development, and operation of the Training School is extensively described and abundantly documented. With rare objectivity and absolute honesty, negative facts have been conscientiously included by Dr. Haskell in order that the problems which beset this institution, its mistakes and its failures, could also become material for scientific study.

It is these early volumes that constitute the most uniquely valuable aspect to the collection. They are neither a massive compilation of important records nor a simple chronicle without analysis or interpretation. Dr. Haskell constantly reflects, reminisces, evaluates, and synthesizes, and what has been ultimately produced is a coherent and utterly absorbing history of this institution as it rose through its early years to a recognized position of national leadership.

Only a few are able to achieve in what they write that quality of communication referred to in Laurence Sterne's novel, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*: "Writing, when properly managed . . . is but a different name for conversation." Dr. Haskell's style achieves this, and a reading of these volumes leaves one with the feeling that one has been treated to an opportunity for personal conversation with him.

The carefully maintained records of this gifted administrator and of the exceptionally able and dedicated governing group of civic-minded and socially responsible Wayne County administrators and citizens are of lasting historical and scientific value. The action of the Board of Wayne County Auditors in enabling their preservation in original form is one for which scholars and investigators everywhere will always be deeply grateful.

Those who wish to study the general development of thought and practice in services to the mentally retarded will also find much of interest in the volumes from the Wayne County Training School's reference library. Space considerations dictate only a brief sampling of what has thus far been received.

The first 50 or so books and monographs which have been indexed bear publication dates spanning the years

from 1912 through 1966, with only five having post-1950 publication dates. Included are such recognized milestones as a second (1914) edition of Tredgold's *Classic Mental Deficiency* and Stanley Powell Davies' 1930 *Social Control of the Mentally Deficient*, and numerous other older works of great interest.

There is a copy of Goddard's 1914 *School Training of Defective Children*, a report on his study of special classes in the New York City Public Schools (which includes an appendix of sample lists of questions set for licensing teachers and inspectors of ungraded classes 1909-1912).

Terman and his collaborators' 1917 edition of *The Stanford Revision and Extension of the Binet-Simon Scale for Measuring Intelligence* (the companion monograph to his 1916 *The Measurement of Intelligence*), and a first edition of Arnold Gesell's 1941 *Wolf Child and Human Child: A Narrative Interpretation of the Life History of Kamala*, *The Wolf Girl* are included.

Volume 2 of the *Proceedings of the First (1930) International Congress on Mental Hygiene*, containing a major paper by Evelyn Fox of England describing a comprehensive system of community services to encompass even the more severely retarded and the ensuing discussions by leading authorities from the U.S. (Wallace of Wrentham) and other countries is also among these first volumes catalogued.

Certification recommended

Achieving certification under the Federal standards for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) has, at times in the past, been an elusive goal for Plymouth Center.

Frustrated with the possible loss of millions of dollars, Plymouth staffers have worked long and hard to earn the coveted certification.

In the exit interview, following their annual survey in June, a team from the Department of Public Health announced that they would be recommending that Plymouth Center receive ICF/MR certification.

Randy Phillips, R.N., spokesman for the survey team, told Plymouth's professional, supervisory, and support staff that "It is our considered opinion

that you are in compliance to the degree that it is possible for us to recommend continuing certification."

Speaking of the ICF/MR standards as being the foundation upon which to build a quality program, he continued by saying, "It is my feeling that you are now at the point of having made excellent progress towards those basic standards. Now this is not to say that you do not have problems . . . You are, however, in our opinion, in substantial compliance. There is few, and I mean very few items of non-compliance."

The official notice of the continuation of certification is expected sometime during August.

D.M.H. Director appointed

Dr. Frank Ochberg, former associate director of the National Institute of Mental Health, has become the director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health. His appointment was effective August 1st.

"Dr. Ochberg is highly respected in the national psychiatric community and brings very strong credentials to the directorship," Governor Milliken said in announcing the appointment. "He has assumed a leadership position in national mental health affairs, has shown his ability to administer a mental health system, and is committed to decentralized mental health care."

"His interests and activities have ranged from advising the United States Secret Service on work-related stress to serving on the National Committee for Patient's Rights and being a volunteer physician at a neighborhood free clinic."

Ochberg is a native of New York who was graduated cum laude from Harvard with an A.B. degree. He received his M.D. degree from John Hopkins University in 1965, and served his residency in psychiatry at Stanford from 1966 through 1969.

"... where there must be boarding in common . . . routine and formality, and restraint, and repression of individuality, where . . . influences of the true family relation cannot be had, all such institutions are unnatural, undesirable, and very liable to abuse. We should have as few of them as possible, and those few should be kept as small as possible. The human family is the unit of society."

Samuel Gridley Howe, 1866