

Number of Cases Placed on Probation in 1938

Women - 780
Men - 764
1544

Number of Cases on Probation Dec. 31, 1937

Women - 1025
Men - 874
1899

TOTAL CASES HANDLED ON PROBATION IN 1938 3443

FIRST DISPOSITION OF CASES PLACED ON PROBATION IN 1938:

Place at Resthaven	83
Placed at McCracken Home	68
Other Homes and Sanitariums	759
Home on Probation	278
Left Jurisdiction of the Court	26
Placed at Rancho Los Amigos	284
Returned to Jail	11
Transferred to Medical Wards	2
Cases Dismissed, Committed or Died Before Leaving Psychopathic Ward	<u>33</u>
	1544

FINAL DISPOSITION OF ALL CASES:

Committed to Patton	49
Committed to Norwalk	57
Committed to Camarillo	79
Committed to Sawtelle	9
Died	508
Left Jurisdiction of the Court	90
Dismissed as Rehabilitated	279
Dismissed (Social Adjustment)	136
Dismissed to Federal Government	13
Miscellaneous Dismissals	67
Cases Disposed of Before Leaving Ward	33
Cases Remaining on Probation, December 31, 1938	<u>2123</u>

3443

OFFICE ROUTINE AND FIELD WORK:

Visits to Patients at Home	762
Calls at Sanitariums	990
Accompanying Patients to Rancho and Clinics, etc.	165
Interviews and Reports at Office	11462
Letters and Telegrams	1407
Face Sheets	1266
Court Orders Covering Placements	1588
Social Histories Written (New Cases)	3808

FINANCIAL DIVISION:

New Cases Investigated	686
Field Calls	1148
Interviews at Office	394
Court Orders, Vouchers, Reports and Legal Forms	2067
Letters	3336

Total Number of Cases (Women)	1805	
Returned to Court for Commitment	121	- 6.7%
Total Number of Cases (Male)	1638	
Returned to Court for Commitment	73	- 4.5%

188 Guardianships
handled in 1938.

Agreement Book

REPORT OF THE PSYCHOPATHIC PROBATION DEPARTMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1938

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The budget of the Psychopathic Probation Department is expended only on court order, and provides care for the indigent mentally ill not committable to state institutions.

These patients are classified as follows:

Rehabilitation Cases

Acute cases of mental illness, or those persons who, by reason of physical illness, financial worry, unemployment, etc., are temporarily disordered in mind and who, with a short period of sanitarium care, may be rehabilitated and restored as self-sustaining citizens.

Senile Cases

Those elderly persons who suffer with a chronic, harmless, mental unsoundness, who are unsafe to themselves, but not committable to state hospitals as insane.

Adult Feeble-minded and Epileptic

Those cases of feeble-mindedness or epilepsy which become a menace outside of custodial care, awaiting placement in Pacific Colony of Rancho Psychopathic Ward.

The first classification, or rehabilitation cases, represent the original and major purpose in the establishment of the work of this department. These cases come from all sources, and they consist largely of persons temporarily broken in mental health. It is difficult to secure definite figures in this classification, but increases have largely reflected economic trends in the past few years.

The second classification refers to senile cases. Throughout the years, due to the gradually increasing aged population as recognized in all Welfare agencies, the larger part of our budget has necessarily been consumed in the care of senile cases. The rapid increase in the number of these patients is apparently due to two causes: The first is that in September, 1937 the Adult State Aid law was amended to include Old Age Assistance for seniles in custodial homes. This necessitated the removal from Rancho Los Amigos of all eligible cases, for sanitarium placement, as Old Age Assistance recipients may not be maintained in

public institutions. While the removal of these patients should have made available a like number of vacancies in the Psychopathic Ward at Rancho Los Amigos for the use of this department, thirty of the vacancies were absorbed by the Probation Department for boys awaiting Pacific Colony admission. However, this change in the Old Age Security Act resulted in a great reduction in the cost to this department for board and care (47% under 1937; 36% under 1936), although at the same time, the number of patients for whose care this department paid entirely or in part, increased in 1938 to 85% over 1936.

The second cause for increase in case load is the fact that the Welfare department is no longer willing to care for aged indigents in rest homes under their supervision, as they have no legal right to enforce custodial care without court order. The Welfare has consequently filed on many more cases in 1938 than previously. Figures are as follows:

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>
Number of cases filed on	426	277	209
Number placed on probation	274	156	124

The same conditions apply with regard to feebleminded and epileptic patients under Welfare care. We have 11 such cases at the present time, with little hope of early placement, due to unrelieved over-population in the State Schools for such cases, as per following figures secured from the State Department of Institutions, covering the State Schools and State Hospitals for the month ending January 31, 1939:

	<u>Excess Population</u>	<u>% of Excess</u>
Pacific Colony	236	32.78
Sonoma	692	31.93
Agnews	1086	45.92
Camarillo	202	9.52
Mendocino	524	22.68
Napa	842	30.20
Norwalk	545	30.16
Patton	628	21.05
Stockton	593	16.97

The continued increase in excess population in the State insti-

tutions is indicative of the general increase of mental cases throughout the state.

The epileptic and feebleminded cases must be cared for in mental sanitariums awaiting other placement, when they become a menace to themselves or others. We have been able to secure the cooperation of the Board of Education in providing teachers for the younger cases, who are placed in two sanitariums where they are cared for at a minimum cost to the County.

There are many mentally licensed sanitariums in Los Angeles County, and the standard of their care has steadily risen. Within the last year, many of these sanitariums have established occupational therapy departments; shop work for men; and in one instance, a book-reading machine for the blind has been installed; also, weekly moving pictures, Book shelves for reading therapy have been provided by the management in several sanitariums. Recent medical discoveries have proved of definite benefit to many of the borderline cases, as well as those of a more chronic nature.

The following schedule shows the number of cases, including all types, on which this department paid all or part, and the monthly cost of same for a period of three years. This does not include patients on the outside, nor patients being paid for privately in sanitariums under the supervision of this department:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>1936</u>		<u>1937</u>		<u>1938</u>	
	<u>PATIENTS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PATIENTS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PATIENTS</u>	<u>COST</u>
January	246	\$7864.97	352	\$11686.11	438	\$7415.27
February	173	8252.00	354	11266.95	458	6930.11
March	259	8303.15	349	11607.37	481	5997.89
April	283	9566.87	351	11319.55	476	5283.16
May	281	8989.79	356	11991.80	504	5467.48
June	273	9037.01	384	12405.61	516	5515.79
July	274	8464.33	412	13061.62	523	5359.11
August	263	8605.20	407	13485.87	560	5748.09
September	324	11032.37	424	12063.14	583	6205.56
October	331	11062.85	407	10561.92	568	6321.48
November	334	11236.24	430	9817.66	571	5983.99
December	350	11462.01	429	8361.59	570	5988.91
<u>AVERAGE</u>	281	\$9489.73	388	\$11479.09	520	\$6018.07

Beginning September, 1937, this department began computing the number of cases and cost of care on a patient day basis. The following schedule shows the increase in patient days, at the same time showing the reduction in cost per patient day. Due to the broader scope of the Old Age Assistance law, cost per patient day has been reduced from \$1.09 for September 1937, to \$0.37 for December, 1938.

MONTH	1937		1938	
	PATIENT DAYS	COST PER PATIENT DAY	PATIENT DAYS	COST PER PATIENT DAY
January			11,792	\$.63
February			11,186	.62
March			12,737	.47
April			12,906	.41
May			14,104	.38
June			13,934	.39
July			15,410	.34
August			15,384	.37
September	11,113	\$1.09	15,615	.39
October	11,456	.92	16,789	.37
November	11,264	.87	15,756	.37
December	11,587	.72	15,908	.37

A large portion of the work in the financial division is taken up with guardianships, which have become necessary in many cases, when patients are unable to endorse their checks, and would otherwise be ineligible for Old Age Assistance. In addition, there are other cases where the patient has a small amount of property, but there is no one able or willing to act as guardian. The financial investigator of this department has been acting as guardian in such instances, and had 188 active cases during 1938. He has the responsibility of investigating the assets of his wards; appearing in Court; selling and managing properties; filing accounts, etc. He is under approximately \$150,000 bond, and receives and pays out over \$4,000 per month in Old Age Assistance and Blind Aid checks, in addition to moneys received from other sources. Since the first guardianship in July, 1936, over \$90,000 has been so handled. The guardianships

have become a necessity, and have assisted materially in reducing the cost of care and maintenance of these patients. This service is, of course, of economic value to the County, for by converting non-liquid estates into cash and protecting the ward's interests, assets are made available to provide care for the ward, and pay his debts. Over \$3600.00 has been refunded to the Department of Charities for aid advanced.

3808 new cases passed through the Psychopathic Court in 1938, and the number of psychopathic probation cases has increased proportionately with new admissions. 2999 cases were handled on psychopathic probation in 1937, and in 1938 there were 3443, or an increase of 14.8%

BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1936-37	\$139,985.00
1937-38	109,038.00
1938-39	82,160.00