

November 8, 1945

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
501 Hall of Records

Subject: Annual Report

Gentlemen:

Report of the Psychopathic Probation Department for the
fiscal year 1944-45 is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted

Genevieve Dodge

(MRS.) GENEVIEVE DODGE
Chief Psychopathic Probation Officer

The Psychopathic Probation Department has been responsible for the welfare and supervision of 4247 cases in the past fiscal year. 4388 new cases passed through the Court for examination, which was a total of 550 more patients than were examined the preceding year. Of this number 1421 were placed on probation, 1040 receiving sanitarium care and 145 placed under supervision on the outside.

A six-months' check of age groups passing through the Court reveals that the 2162 cases examined were divided as follows:

	<u>MENTAL</u>			<u>ALCOHOLIC</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
10 to 19 yrs.	41	29	70				70
20 to 29	126	153	279	3	7	15	294
30 to 39	172	186	358	50	26	76	434
40 to 49	134	182	316	54	20	74	390
50 to 59	124	125	249	26	9	35	284
60 to 64	59	58	117	7	1	8	125
65 to 69	49	67	116	4	3	7	123
70 to 79	108	139	247	3	0	3	250
80 and up	79	113	192	0	0	0	192

THE AGED

The problem of placing the aged mentally ill, a group which is steadily increasing in numbers, has taxed both the private and public facilities to their limits. Because of the large percentage of aged in the population in Southern California, this area has suffered from inadequacy of provision for its mentally ill, perhaps more than most parts of the country during these war years. Since the expectancy of human life in the United States has almost doubled in the last sixty years, we are faced with the fact that mental institutions, both public and private, have become inadequate for this group. It has been only

with close supervision and careful handling of the case load that the probation officers have been able to place these aged cases in the past year.

PLAN: Surveying the present and future needs of this group, the Board of Supervisors have provided in the building budget for an additional unit at Rancho Los Amigos. It is the recommendation of this department that all bedridden, aged mentally ill, suffering with serious physical illnesses, be placed in this unit, where adequate medical and nursing care are available at all times.

REHABILITATION GROUP

TREATMENT SANITARIA: With the methods of modern treatment available in a number of private sanitarium, such as electro-shock therapy, many acute cases of mental illness have recovered with an average of between two and three months' care. This is particularly true of involuntal depressions and early schizophrenia. Such cases have formerly required many years of institutional care, with only a percentage of spontaneous recoveries after long periods of institutionalization.

Two of the sanitarium, one caring for women and one for men, have been particularly generous in giving free shock therapy to indigent cases. This was possible only through the kindness and cooperation of their attending physicians. In one sanitarium offering such care, 135 women have been treated during the year, and with the exception of 20 cases, all have been restored to useful living.

RESTHAVEN, a non-profit home for the care of borderline women's cases, is continuing to carry on its vital service in the community. Besides their shock therapy department, they maintain an active occupational therapy shop which includes in its program Red Cross activities and a home nursing course. There is also an active advisory council,

consisting of Los Angeles citizens interested in the study and care of the mentally ill. This council provides social activities, both educational and cultural. The work of Resthaven has met a vital public need over a period of more than thirty years, and has progressed steadily in standards and increased the scope of its service. During the past year a large number of servicemen's wives and mothers have been cared for at Resthaven and restored to mental health under the kindly and efficient Staff of that institution.

THE MENTALLY DEFICIENT

PLACEMENT PROBLEM: Facilities in State schools for feebleminded and epileptic patients have not been enlarged during the past year, and the placement problem has been an increasingly difficult one for this department. It has been practically impossible to secure acceptance in Pacific Colony for the chronic and low-level intelligence patient, except for emergency cases in a few instances. Those accepted were, for the most part, the mentally deficient who could be trained and eventually released from the State institution.

Pacific Colony has been filled to capacity, with few changes in their case load. When vacancies in that institution are available for chronic and low-level intelligence patients, consideration of such cases on the waiting lists of all Southern California counties is essential, resulting in the placement of only a few of the most emergent.

NEED: The problems brought to this department by private agencies, schools and families, indicate that one of our most vital deficiencies is the lack of adequate State facilities designed to care for mentally deficient and epileptic persons, both juvenile and adult. There is also a community need for the establishment of suitable homes to care for these patients on a private payment basis.

SERVICE: Through the efforts of this department, a small number of mentally deficient persons have been placed in self-supporting jobs, which have been available because of the existing labor shortage. Others with the close supervision of the probation officer, have been cared for at home during this emergency.

The main efforts of this department have been directed toward obtaining social and clinical histories preparatory to placement, guidance through Court procedure when an applicant is accepted, and continuous efforts to press placement of all pending applications.

ALCOHOLIC DIVISION

During the past year, 717 patients have passed through this Court on stimulant warrants. Due to the limited space in the psychopathic ward and the lack of both private and public facilities to meet this problem, only the most emergent cases were admitted for care. All such cases are interviewed by the probation officer handling this division, with the assistance of two volunteer workers. Each case is given careful attention; when indicated, outside investigations are made of home and working conditions that may have a bearing on the problem, and a plan developed for the care and rehabilitation of the patient. Those requiring a prolonged period of medical assistance are recommended for State Hospital placement. The remaining number are supervised by the probation officer in sanitarium, where they work for their care in many cases, or are allowed outside probation to report regularly.

The LOS ANGELES COUNTY ALCOHOLICS' SCHOOL has been carried on since 1939 under this division, during which period 900 cases have attended the school. It is of increasing value to the program. Attendance is not compulsory to the alcoholic on probation, but is voluntary and each week is attended by large numbers of patients from private sanitarium

and from their own homes. A study of the problem of alcoholism is carried on by this group and an intelligent discussion of individual problems, with plans for a solution with group assistance, is worked out.

SERVICE: Mr. J. A. Sullivan, who heads this division of the work as probation officer, attended the 1945 summer School of Alcoholic Studies at Yale University. The need for a similar clinic in Los Angeles County is most apparent. Such a clinic would be of inestimable value to the community, and if the necessary standards were developed and maintained, would undoubtedly prevent many hospital admissions, and relieve many problems now coming to the attention of the Police Department private organizations municipal courts and private physicians, from whom this department receives daily requests for assistance.

Many of the probationers under this division have progressed in the control of their habit and become valuable members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Some of our former members have been largely responsible for establishing one of their finest clubhouses, and are doing valuable work in this outstanding group.

One of our most valuable volunteer workers in the Alcoholic School, Mr. Earle L. Winnett, himself a former member, has published an excellent book on the subject of alcoholism and the "way back", entitled "The Great Drink Mystery -- Alcolergic?", which will undoubtedly serve as a guide to countless alcoholics who are earnest in their endeavor to overcome their problem.

FINANCIAL DIVISION

The decrease in the number of cases for which the County of Los Angeles paid all or part, as well as that of patient days, is based largely on accelerated economic conditions. The increase in the cost of care which the County paid on these cases, although there was a decrease in the

number, is due to the fact that sanitarium rates increased.

The majority of patients requiring guardianship are elderly; hence, the case load is not static. On June 30, 1945 there were 354 active cases, but 451 were handled during the year, which means that 97 cases died or were dismissed during that period.

The Legislature is considering a law permitting Los Angeles County to create the office of Public Guardian, and it is planned to separate this department from the Psychopathic Probation Department.

FISCAL YEAR 1943-44

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PATIENT DAYS</u>	<u>COST OF BOARD & CARE</u>	<u>COST PER PATIENT DAY</u>
July	413	11,409	\$ 8,539.69	\$0.75
August	418	11,363	8,931.93	.78
September	412	11,027	9,100.86	.83
October	397	11,044	8,669.29	.78
November	395	10,440	8,771.83	.84
December	395	10,826	8,640.36	.80
January	383	10,716	8,125.32	.76
February	367	9,640	7,709.45	.79
March	396	10,708	8,597.78	.80
April	374	10,209	8,472.99	.83
May	374	10,524	8,332.83	.78
June	372	10,076	8,545.05	.85
	<u>4,696</u>	<u>127,982</u>	<u>\$102,437.38</u>	

FISCAL YEAR 1944-45

July	401	11,244	\$ 10,196.14	\$0.91
August	389	11,080	9,768.72	.88
September	377	10,437	9,506.76	.91
October	384	10,503	9,379.50	.89
November	369	10,334	9,422.42	.91
December	351	9,816	8,553.08	.87
January	363	10,153	8,975.93	.88
February	367	9,563	9,121.14	.95
March	367	10,228	8,572.43	.84
April	367	10,112	8,597.55	.85
May	368	10,291	8,283.08	.80
June	372	9,939	8,374.72	.84
	<u>4,475</u>	<u>123,700</u>	<u>\$108,751.52</u> ✓	

VETERANS

The placement of the returned veteran requiring psychiatric attention has, for the most part, been met by the Veterans Facility at Sawtelle, since the opening of their new Neuro-psychiatric unit. Most of such cases are placed directly in that institution, but approximately 150 veterans have passed through this Court during the past six months. These are men who have required care after discharge, and were too ill to seek hospitalization voluntarily. The service women requiring psychiatric care were placed in contract sanitarium until the opening of the women's unit at the Veterans Facility on November 1, 1945.

SUMMARY

In summarizing the mental health needs brought to the attention of this department, the following appear most urgent:

1. Expansion of both public and private facilities for the care of the mentally ill. This need includes
 - a. The new unit at Rancho Los Amigos for the care of the aged mentally ill;
 - b. Standard, licensed sanitarium for the care of the mentally defective and epileptic. Many of these cases, through force of circumstances, become public charges and hundreds of such cases must wait years after application is made, before acceptance is possible in Pacific Colony, due to inadequate State facilities. At present such patients are improperly placed with the aged at Rancho Los Amigos, or are a constantly recurring community problem, coming to the attention of the police, charities and private and public organizations with no permanent

solution offered. Such sanitarium would also permit placement of private cases, which might never require Pacific Colony admission if adequate care could be otherwise secured.

- c. An even greater problem exists in placement and care of the epileptic. Many of these cases are not deficient mentally and may, with proper training, opportunity and medical care, be placed in useful, self-supporting positions. While the State program includes recommendation for the establishment of a suitable institution for epileptic patients, there always will be a large number of such handicapped individuals either coming under County care, or for whom private individuals are seeking suitable placement.

2. Alcoholic problems.

- a. Need for adequate and separate hospital wards.
- b. Clinic as outlined, following plan of the Yale Clinic, which would require psychiatric, psychological and therapeutic services.

3. Sanitarium for Colored Patients.

- a. There is an urgent need in this community for the development of such a sanitarium, equipped with modern treatment methods. The only sanitarium which has carried on pioneer work in this field, is one caring for senile cases only. If the above need were met, young, recoverable types of mental patients could be treated and restored.

Provision of beds in the State of California for the care of the mentally ill, deficient and epileptic patients has not kept pace with

its population growth, nor with that of some other States. The past year has made great demands on this department in its endeavor to adequately place and supervise the large number of cases placed by the Court under our care.

We are hopeful that with the present emphasis on mental hygiene problems throughout the nation, this community will become more enlightened and interested in the field of mental health and its greatly increasing demands.

STATISTICS, 1944-45

PATIENTS PLACED ON PROBATION:

Women:	Mentally Ill	- 754	
	Alcoholic	- <u>56</u>	810
Men:	Mentally Ill	- 472	
	Alcoholic	- <u>139</u>	611

TOTAL CASES PLACED ON PROBATION 1421 ✓

CASES BROUGHT FORWARD, 7/1/44:

Women	- 1482	
Men	- <u>1344</u>	2826

TOTAL CASES HANDLED ON PROBATION, 7/1/44 to 6/30/45 4247 ✓

FIRST DISPOSITION OF NEW CASES (1944-45):

Placed at Resthaven	34
Placed at McCracken Home	19
Other Homes and Sanitariums	987
Home on Probation	145
Placed at Rancho Los Amigos	182
Left Jurisdiction of the Court	10
Returned to Jail	2
Transferred to Medical Wards	2
Cases Dismissed, Committed or Died before Leaving Psychopathic Ward	40
	<u>1421</u>

FINAL DISPOSITION OF ALL CASES: ✓

Committed to Patton	65	✓
Committed to Norwalk	60	✓
Committed to Camarillo	99	✓
Committed to Sawtelle	11	✓
Committed to County Jail Honor Farm	2	
Died	565	✓
Left Jurisdiction of the Court	99	
Dismissed as Rehabilitated	162	
Dismissed (Social Adjustment)	190	
Dismissed on Commitment to Pacific Colony	10	
Dismissed to Federal Government	2	
Miscellaneous Dismissals	110	
Cases Disposed of Before Leaving Ward	40	
Cases Remaining on Probation, 6/30/45	<u>2832</u>	

4247

Total Cases Handled (women)	2292	
Returned for Commitment	137	- 6%
Total Cases Handled (men)	1955	
Returned for Commitment	100	- 5.1%

STATISTICS, 1944-45

OFFICE ROUTINE AND FIELD WORK:

Visits to Patients at Home	564
Calls at Sanitariums	1291
Accompanying Patients to Rancho, Clinics, etc....	114
Office Callers	5195
Case Histories to Sanitariums	1218
Letters and Telegrams	1438
Court Orders Covering Placements	1083
New Cases Interviewed	4388 ✓

FINANCIAL DIVISION:

New Cases Investigated	409 ✓
Field Calls	639
Interviews at Office	901
Court Orders, Vouchers, Reports & Legal Forms ...	3112
Letters	7243
Guardianships Handled	451
Active Guardianships, 6/30/45	354 ✓

PACIFIC COLONY CASES:

Commitments	31 ✓
New Applications	28
Pending Applications	9
On Waiting List	42 ✓

FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OFFICE

NOV 16 1945

J. F. MORONEY
COUNTY CLERK

BY *Mey Johnson*
DEPUTY