

in the construction of clinical facilities providing specialized services for the retarded and the clinical training of physicians and specialized personnel needed in the program. A majority of States now have legislation making possible public schooling for the retarded and in some 40 States clinical programs for the retarded are available in public health departments. Increased interest and efforts of voluntary organizations should be added to these growing efforts of public agencies.

Most authorities agree that approximately 3 percent of the population, or about 5.8 million in 1965, would be classified as mentally retarded to some degree with about 126,000 additional being born each year.

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITIES

(a) *Physical Characteristics*

The term "facility for the mentally retarded" means a facility specially designed for the diagnosis, treatment, education, training, custodial care, or sheltered workshops for the mentally retarded. Such a facility may be under private ownership—voluntary nonprofit or proprietary—or under State or local governmental ownership.

It is difficult to describe the physical characteristics of buildings and equipment of facilities for the mentally retarded, since many of the programs are housed in buildings which have been converted from their former uses, as schools, churches, etc. Furthermore, the type, size, equipment, and other characteristics of new facilities will depend upon the scope and nature of the services provided, as well as the pattern of care on the State and local level.

Specially designed structures for the mentally retarded should create an environment appropriate to their particular needs. The functional requirements are often complex and may not always be compatible with the creation of an informal atmosphere of warmth and intimacy that is so desirable in these facilities. However, every effort should be made to eliminate any suggestion of an institutional character in the physical setting. In general, structures of one floor are preferable for ease of access and interior circulation and single-story buildings present a more intimate environment. Buildings as modest in size as function will permit; avoidance of rigid uniformity in planning; and skilled use of form, materials, and color will contribute to an informal atmosphere. This informality may be further enhanced by incorporating patios or landscaped areas in relation to the building. Architecturally, the buildings should recognize community standards and conform to applicable regulations, but the importance of an esthetic appearance cannot be overemphasized. Economical and efficient operation and maintenance of the facility is, of course, an important consideration in the total design.