

the record our State has achieved in this field. In Johns Hopkins here in Baltimore, we have a medical school which in many respects is without peer. The medical school of our State university, also situated here in Baltimore, is the fifth oldest in the United States. Davidge Hall, the oldest medical building in the country, was the first facility in America to be devoted entirely to medical research. This school was the first in America to make dissecting a compulsory part of its curriculum and the first to establish an independent chair in diseases of women and children. The school of dentistry of our University was the first dental school in the world. Our school of pharmacy is the oldest in the South and the third oldest in the nation. In 1767, it was a Maryland resident, John Archer, who received the first medical diploma issued on the American continent. Since that time, Maryland's concern with health education has continued unabated.

The effects of this sustained interest in health education are reflected in many statistics. Through the educational efforts of Maryland's two medical schools, together with the enlightened leadership of its public health programs, Maryland has enjoyed a relatively low infant mortality rate. We were one of the first states to adopt a medical care program for the indigent and medically indigent. During the past year, at the request of the General Assembly, an extensive study has been made of the health and medical care programs, and we are now in a position to act upon the recommendations which have been made.

Because medical education involves not only a study of diseases and their causes, but also the basic sciences essential for fundamental understanding of what is involved in health problems, I am pleased to report that we are fostering graduate study in higher education, and we find that our students are entering these fields at rates well above the regional and national levels.

In anticipation of the health problem of the shift in age of the present population, studies and conferences have been, and are being, conducted to prepare health services to handle the problems of the older citizens of our State.

Fortunately, Maryland has one of the highest ratios of physicians to population (one physician for 721 persons) in the United States. But it also is one of the fastest growing states in the country, and thus it is urgent that we take immediate steps to increase our program of health education. In anticipation of the need for physicians in the future, Maryland medical schools are in the process of expanding their programs by approximately 20 per cent.