

trainable children. This was truly a gigantic step forward, because up to that time educable children among the retarded were the only ones accepted. A pilot class in a public school in Baltimore demonstrated the feasibility of extending service to boys and girls lower in the intelligence scale than educables.

Following this experiment, the Maryland General Assembly rose to its responsibility, appropriating the money to pay \$600 a year for the schooling of trainables. Moreover, the provision was made that if no public classes were available within a reasonable distance from a child's home, the \$600 could be used by the parents to finance the training in a private school—even a private school in another state. At first, trainable children under seven years of age were not admitted, but the Baltimore chapter of the Maryland Society for Retarded Children started a class for pre-school trainables as young as four years, the first of its kind in the country, I am told. The public schools learned from this experience and opened their rolls to trainables as young as four years.

While this progress was taking place in the lower end of the age scale, similar advancements were being made at higher age levels. The older children had been kept in classes with younger ones of comparable mental level, but it was discovered that boys and girls of junior-high age could make successful social adjustments with normals of their age, and the Baltimore school system took measures to divide the students by chronological age groups. Today, Baltimore has seven junior high schools and three elementary schools specifically for retardates.

Now, normal or educable children are required by law to attend school from the age of 7 through 16 years. Slow students, however, are permitted to continue until 21. The State has also extended that provision for trainable retarded children. These provisions not only benefit the children and the parents, but the State also saves money under them. The custodial care of retarded children at Rosewood State Training School costs \$2,100 a year. For only \$600 a year, these children can receive training and education that will enable them to remain with their families. An idea of the progress that has been made for the schooling of these unfortunate young ones can be gained from school statistics. In Baltimore alone today, there are 450 classes for educables and 16 classes for trainables, to say nothing of the many classes elsewhere in the State.

At the regular session of the General Assembly this year, another significant step was taken to give mentally retarded children an opportunity to take their places in the community. The legislature appropri-