

the public. The budget I am submitting calls for a total allocation to the University and the State Board of Agriculture—in general, special and Federal funds—of \$44,230,792, or \$4,711,345 more than the appropriation for the current year. The increase provides for an enlargement of the teaching and professional staff, for faculty salary merit increments, for regular increments to classified employees and for maintenance of the expanded physical plant. The emphasis that is being placed on the improvement and expansion of the instructional program is indicated by the larger number of new positions being allowed the University. The expenditure for new personnel will make it possible to reduce the teacher-student ratio at College Park and to improve generally the instructional programs there, in the professional schools in Baltimore and in Princess Anne.

### *HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE*

From education, our weapon to wipe out ignorance and cultivate enlightenment, we turn now to the subject of public health. It has been said that health of nations is more important than the wealth of nations. This I firmly believe. And so, in each of the past several years we have broadened our program of public health and mental hygiene to meet the health needs of our modern age. It is worthy of note that almost one-fourth of the increase in general fund appropriations I have proposed for next year is allotted to health, hospitals and mental hygiene.

For the Department of Health, in total funds, I have earmarked \$45,464,716. This is an increase of \$4,252,931 over the allowance for fiscal 1964. The budget for this department is a complicated one and difficult to summarize, but in general, funds have been provided to allow the department to enlarge and improve such services as environmental hygiene, local health services, special health services, medical care, and hospitals for the care and treatment of chronic diseases and tuberculosis. You will observe that funds have been provided to add three additional day-care centers for the mentally retarded and two additional centers for the mentally ill.

In the area of mental hygiene, it is gratifying to me to be able to report to you that for the eighth consecutive year the in-patient population in the five State mental hospitals has continued to decline. This remarkable record may be attributed to a more intensified treatment of patients, made possible by additional personnel, advances in drug therapy and active community-based day hospitals and after-care clinic programs. On the other hand, the number of