

the science of medicine. For almost a center, this small State in which we live has enjoyed a national and an international reputation for the outstanding quality of its medicine and its medical institutions. It is not only the names of such internationally-renowned institutions as Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland of which we speak, but it is also the many smaller institutions such as this Children's Hospital that has built this excellent reputation.

Some time ago, in connection with the observance of National Hospital Week, I spoke on the subject of the hospital as a community partnership—a partnership of the State, medical profession, voluntary hospitals and the leadership of the community. I believe that the reputation which we enjoy is due, in large part, to the development of this partnership in health care—this partnership which involves physicians, lawmakers, hospital trustees, businessmen, administrators and community leaders.

Over the years we have established in Maryland a system of voluntary hospitals, such as this, supplemented by the State's own system of public hospitals. The State, for its part, operates a system of hospitals for the care of long-term illnesses, including chronic diseases, mental illness and tuberculosis. In addition, it maintains, as a part of the University of Maryland, the University Hospital which renders a community service at the same time it serves as a teaching hospital for medical students of the University.

In recent years the medical experts have coined a term, "progressive care," of patients, by which they mean the classification of patients as to hospital requirements rather than as to diagnosis. Under this practice, the non-profit community hospitals offer short-term care for the acutely ill. If after the acute stage is passed the patients still needs rehabilitative services, he is transferred to one of the State's chronic disease hospitals. And finally, if the patient is in a condition that requires continuing nursing care, but not necessarily hospitalization, he may be transferred to a nursing home.

The nursing home situation created a bottle-neck in the system of progressive care a few years ago, and the State government has worked continuously during the past few years to relieve this condition. Legislation was adopted to provide State and federal matching funds to finance two-thirds of the cost of building and equipping nursing homes operated by non-profit corporations and public bodies. This has greatly relieved the situation.

In the budget which I submitted for next year, and which the