

able assurance foresee a solution to the problem of mental health. We also share with him the desire that mental hospitals such as we know them will cease to exist in another generation. In any event, we see our objectives here in Maryland and we must apply ourselves with great diligence to attaining them.

Earlier this year, I received a report from the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene in which he outlined some of the objectives of his department. He pointed out the effort that is being made to stimulate community based programs. He noted the regionalization of the State mental hospitals and other activities in keeping with the theory of treating and rehabilitating persons as close to home as possible. He spoke also of the continued development of our psychiatric hospitals as active treatment, rehabilitation, training and research centers; of the continued stimulation and expansion of service relationships between the hospitals and the regions they serve, and of the development of a more adequate and comprehensive range of programs for the retarded.

If we do succeed in our efforts to conquer mental diseases, then this event in which we are participating here today may well be as historic for Maryland as the one Dr. Felix mentioned in which the seventeenth century French physician removed the chains from the patients of his Paris hospital. It must be our purpose to bring about this transition from long hospitalization and custody of the mentally ill to treatment of them in their own surroundings and close to the bosom of their families and their communities. While we know that we are not ready yet to assert that such a day is here, we have every hope that it is near at hand. I know that all of you here join with me in the hope and the prayer that the day is not too distant when we may be able to stop building new hospitals for the mentally ill.

The psychiatric profession has been accumulating greater and greater knowledge of early diagnosis, intensive treatment and care of the mentally ill. This means that many who have been disabled for long periods of time in the past will be treated without losing their productivity, or interrupting such productivity for short periods of time only. Research is a keystone for the fulfillment of such hopes and promises, and we are delighted that a new building to be erected on this site will be dedicated to this task.

As we remove this stone from Old Main Building this afternoon, let us say, "Hail and Farewell"—farewell to a past of gloom and hopelessness and all hail to a healthy and happy future. All of us rejoice that here on these grounds we are tearing down a symbol of despair and erecting in its place a symbol of hope.