

ADDRESS, FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE

May 17, 1965

Dr. Tuerk, Dr. Whitehorn, Mr. Mester, Dr. Williams, Dr. Dyrud, Dr. English, Mr. Grobler, Reverend Mr. Reed and friends:

It is truly a stimulating and heart-warming experience to be here today. I always like to come home to the Eastern Shore. It is a particular pleasure to come here for the golden anniversary celebration of the Eastern Shore State Hospital.

It is meaningful, and worthy of note, I think, that this hospital which for a half-century has been devoted to the better health of the people of this region, was created during the term of office of one of our illustrious Eastern Shore Governors, the Honorable Phillips Lee Goldsborough, of Dorchester County. The Eastern Shore State Hospital figures prominently in the history of Maryland's effort to improve the lot of its mentally ill. I should like to review for you some of the highlights of this history.

Maryland began its plan of caring for its mentally handicapped when it opened in 1797 the Public Hospital of Baltimore, which later became Spring Grove State Hospital. It was the third hospital in the United States to accept mental patients. It was 118 years later that the hospital on the Eastern Shore opened. Eastern Shore State Hospital was created by an act of the Legislature in 1912, the same year, incidentally, that the great Phipps Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital started with Dr. Adolph Meyer as its first director. It was the last of the State hospitals created under the old State Lunacy Commission which was established in 1886 and functioned until 1922, when the Board of Mental Hygiene was set up with a Commissioner and six associate members.

During this period, each hospital operated under its own board of managers, and the Act setting up the Eastern Shore Hospital specified that its board should be comprised of the Governor, the State Treasurer, the Comptroller of the Treasury (temporarily) and one representative, each, of the nine Eastern Shore counties. As its first task, the Board, after considering many others, selected this site. The total appropriation, for land and buildings, was \$200,000. Original plans called for the construction of eleven buildings with a capacity of 1,000 beds. The first buildings completed were the mess hall, laundry and power house. They