

has given generously of her time and energies to this important work, while others of your membership throughout the State are enrolled on general committees or local committees that have been formed in each of the 23 counties and in the City of Baltimore.

Formal action has been asked of and received from your member clubs and I am pleased to say that the women of Maryland have shown a wholesome and heartening interest in this important work.

Again, there is no more appealing work in which public spirited women should be interested than that which concerns undertakings by the State in the fields of health, custodial care and toward the education of our citizens. In the judicious use of State funds for the hospitalization of those who are unable to defray expenses of such treatment, the State not only can benefit the individuals in question, but can thus restore them to a condition of healthy citizens and at the same time promote the general health by improving health conditions affecting the general public.

When we refer to the care of the tubercular among the colored as well as among the white and of the care of the mentally afflicted and child-caring institutions, it can be understood how far-reaching is the effect of this humanitarian effort. Fortunately the State of Maryland has been able to arrange for considerable additions to our institutions.

In the present bond issue, 100 additional beds have been provided at Henryton Sanatorium for the treatment of colored tuberculous patients; also funds for 40 more beds at Mt. Wilson Sanatorium in order to enable the tubercular to be treated by lung surgery. While these extensions to the sanatoria cost \$183,000, increased budget appropriations of \$110,000 have been allowed for the maintenance of additional patients and I am sure you will agree that this money is being well spent.

As you know, the State operates four institutions for the mentally ill and two for the feeble minded... When I remind you that 8,000 patients are in these institutions and that the total enrollment is being increased by more than 300 persons annually, you can understand the extent of the responsibility resting upon the State.

Faced with this situation we have provided an outlay of \$2,750,000 in the two year period for additions to these institutions. Obviously additional maintenance will be required after new construction has taken place, but again I say that if handled efficiently and economically, this undertaking by the State is justifiable and will, in the end, more than pay for itself in benefits to the great number of individuals affected.

I mentioned before the need for greater health service and as an indication of what is possible, it might be noted that an additional \$10,000 is now available for the State Health Department for the purchase and distribution of pneumonia serum for the use of patients unable to pay for it themselves.

In the field of public health an extensive program is necessary in such a State as this and it not only justifies, but I may say, requires the attention and study of club women. When we realize that in the last four years in Maryland 16,775 families, including 47,000 dependent children have received assistance and that the number of old age pension cases reached 26,800; that through general public assistance the State rendered aid in 51,400 cases, some idea can be gained of how much the State needs the enlightened cooperation of public-spirited women.