

are being met by the generosity of the National Institute for the Blind. *The Times*, London, reports that

The facilities available for such work are considered wholly inadequate, and the university is appealing for funds towards the establishment of research premises in connection with the Oxford Eye Hospital, the rebuilding of which will be begun at the end of the war; the provision of salaries for full-time and part-time research workers, teachers and technicians engaged in the new department; and the defraying of the working costs of researches which would have for their aim the prevention of blindness, the improved treatment of eye disease and the promotion of a higher standard of visual function throughout the country.

Under the proposed regional scheme of the Joint Hospitals Board, the Oxford Eye Hospital will become the chief regional center (covering the counties of Oxford, Buckingham and Berkshire) for ophthalmological work and teaching. For this the present hospital is inadequate, and is to be rebuilt, the necessary funds being raised by a separate appeal from local sources.

One of the problems which the proposed department at Oxford would examine would be that of discovering the safest anti-bacterial drugs for ophthalmological purposes. The extreme delicacy of the eye is the governing consideration, as all the usual antiseptics are poisons, and further investigation will need contributions not only from ophthalmology, but bacteriology, mycology and chemistry. The most promising substance found so far is penicillin, the development of which is largely the result of work done in an Oxford laboratory.

The Oxford scheme, which will be generally welcomed, will form an important contribution towards the great national effort that is being made to abate the toll and suffering and economic wastage due to loss of sight and defective vision. Statistics prove that, while failure of vision is a hazard common to all, the risk falls increasingly on those who are in middle and later life. In 1941 out of a total blind population of 74,000 in England and Wales, 63,000 were persons over 40 years old.

#### REHABILITATION CLINICS AT THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

A PSYCHIATRIC rehabilitation program which it is hoped may point the way toward reclamation of the estimated 80,000 New York City men thus far rejected or discharged from military service because of mental illness has been initiated by the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic of the New York Hospital.

Recognizing that the thousands of men who have proved unsuitable material for the Army, Navy and other services because of psychoneurosis constitute a wartime emergency problem that will exist and grow, even after the war, the hospital has established a special out-patient clinic that is already functioning and the full resources of the clinic will be devoted to patients' rehabilitation. The integration of psy-

chiatric treatment with the psychological testing, retraining and employment resources of an actual community is to be emphasized in the program.

Originators of the plan are Dr. Thomas A. C. Rennie, attending psychiatrist at the clinic and associate professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College, who will direct the program, and Mrs. Melly Simon, chief of psychiatric social service. Dr. Rennie was recently named director of the Division of Rehabilitation of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. Basic funds to start the clinic have been granted by the Commonwealth Fund.

The clinic is staffed by New York Hospital psychiatrists, psychoanalysts and social workers, all of whom are serving on a voluntary basis, and it is expected that by mid-October fifteen or more such volunteer psychiatrists will be actively at work. In addition to the New York Hospital volunteer staff, other psychiatrists in the city have signified their willingness to participate in the same kind of project.

Among social service agencies having evidenced their interest and willingness to cooperate with the program are the New York City Committee on Mental Hygiene, the National Committee on Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Board, the U. S. Employment Service, the Vocational Adjustment Bureau, the American Rehabilitation Committee, the Community Service Society and the Y.M.C.A. Arrangements have also been made for the referral of cases to the clinic by the State Selective Service Board.

According to Dr. Rennie, the clinic will fulfil two main functions: one, as an actual treatment center for men in need of rehabilitation and, two, as a fact-finding agency to determine the extent of the problem, the amount of help necessary for rehabilitation, the nature of psychiatric disabilities and what percentage of the patients treated may eventually be re-employed.

#### NEW FLORAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN AND THE UTAH STATE COLLEGE

BETWEEN the State Agricultural College of Utah and the New York Botanical Garden an agreement was signed in July by which the two institutions will cooperate in the field work for and the preparation and publishing of two important floras: (1) A Manual for the State of Utah and (2) A Flora (illustrated) of the Intermountain Region.

Both of these projects had been started by Dr. Bassett Maguire during the years he spent at the State College in Utah. Now, as curator at the New York Botanical Garden, he will be enabled to continue his work of collecting and writing on the plants of these regions, while his successor in Utah, Professor A. H. Holmgren, will aid in the work. Three more summers of exploration are planned: 1944 to complete the work