

Mental 'Casualties' of War Here To Be Aided by Clinic of Hospital

Men Rejected or Discharged by the Armed Forces Will Get Psychiatric Treatment —Number in the City Put at 80,000

The New York Hospital has established a psychiatric rehabilitation program to aid in reclamation of the 80,000 men in this city rejected or discharged by the armed forces because of mental illness, Murray Sargent, chief administrator of the hospital, announced yesterday. The private psychiatric project was said to be the first of its kind to operate in the metropolitan area.

The hospital's Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic has been conducting a special out-patient clinic since Aug. 19 in cooperation with State Selective Service officials and social service agencies.

Mr. Sargent said the hospital recognized that the thousands of men unsuitable for the services because of psychoneurosis constituted a tremendous wartime emergency problem that would continue and even grow after the war. Integration of psychiatric treatment with psychological testing, retraining and employment is to be emphasized.

The originators of the plan were 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 at the clinic. Dr. Rennie recently was named director of the division of rehabilitation of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. The Commonwealth Fund has granted funds for the project.

Center for Treatment

"The clinic," Dr. Rennie explained, "will fulfill two main functions: one, as an actual treatment center for men in need of total over-all service in their own 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 reemployed. Such facts may ultimately "be of value in orienting Federal authorities in their war and post-war rehabilitation planning."

The social service agencies that will cooperate include the New York City Committee on Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Board, the United States Employment Service, the Vocational Adjustment Bureau, the American Rehabilitation Committee, the Community Service Society and the Young Men's Christian Association. The State Selective Service Board will refer cases to the clinic.

Discharges From Army

Dr. Rennie said psychiatric "casualties" constituted 28 to 35 per cent of all men discharged from the Army and that many of these were likely to become chronic problems and lifetime responsibilities of the Government.

"In World War I," he continued, "the average cost of each psychiatric casualty to the Government was \$60,000 and the total cost was almost a billion dollars, while the loss in human material was incalculable. Many of the same type casualties of the current war can be rehabilitated, and the sooner treatment can be instituted the more likely will be their chances of recovery."

Dr. Rennie reported that some men honorably discharged from the Army or rejected for military service for psychiatric reasons had found it difficult to get jobs, and thus their conditions had been aggravated. He declared that "unquestionably a considerable proportion of them can be rehabilitated to perform highly useful work in essential industries."