New Hospital to Be Center of Program

By ROY GIBBONS

Scientists at the University of Chicago are organizing a rehabilitation program which will take the social, economic, and physical anguish of many elderly persons suffering from debility and chronic illness.

The team approach will begin next year when the school opens its new 15-million dollar home for chronic diseases on which work begun recently in a quadrangle court between Ellis and Drexel avenues south of 35th street.

Three Story Building

Construction of the three story and building and wort of the geriatrics center is being financed largely with funds supplied by the Chicago Home for the Incurables, whose name it will bear at least during the first period of operations.

In exchange for the new site, the home, under a memo-

gineer agreement will surrender its present location at 3535 Ellis ave., and use in-

come from the remainder of its funds to support and maintain the hospital.

Dr. Lowell T. Cogenbrell, dean of the university's biologi-

cal sciences division, said the home's present occupants will be relocated prior to tearing down that institution, or will be admitted as patients to the new hospital if they can be rehabilitated.

Founded in 1896

At the time it was founded in 1896, the home represen-
ted the latest thinking of that era in dealing with chronic ill, most of which were then really incurable. Of necessity its services have been largely custodial.

Since then, Dr. Cogenbrell explained, great develop-
ments in medical science have made it possible to shift the emphasis from custodial care to rehabilitation.

"The last 70 years have been a amazing progress in medicine, and drastic changes in the social environment of our nation," he said. "Many conditions that were, in fact, incurable at the start of the 20th century, are now amenable to skillful modern treatment."

"Rehabilitation techniques, developed particularly during World War II, have completely altered the outlook for thousands of patients who would formerly have been confined to bed for the remainder of their lives."

"As a consequence of this progress, the medical profes-
sion and those responsible for community health sur-

veys have had to reorient their efforts both from the standpoint of service and from the standpoint of pro-

fessional and lay education."

"There is still an unmet need for skillfully operated nursing homes, but there is an even greater need for a special type of chronic disease home, a hospital which is in
tegral part of a medical center."

Mary Will Be Salvaged

"In such a hospital, pa-
tients will receive the bene-

fits of medical progress.

Mary will be salvaged and thereby gain years of useful comfortabe existence. In addition, such a hospital will serve as a training center for physicians and supporting medical personnel, and as a demonstration center where new ideas can be tested and studied."

The hospital will have 100 beds and also will maintain a home care program under which patients will be brought in for follow-up treat-

ment.

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