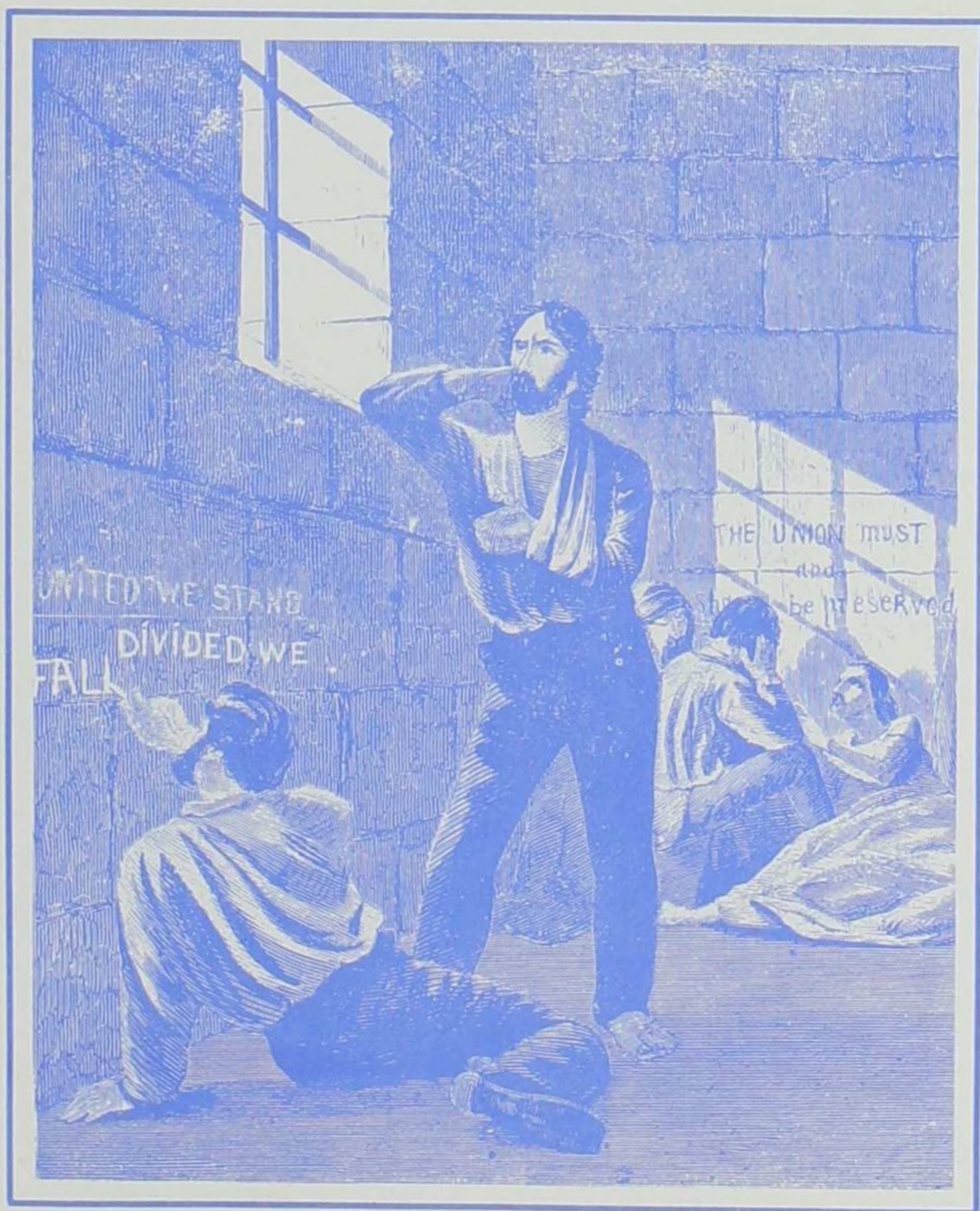


# Palimpsest

VOLUME 54

NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1973



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# Palimpsest

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L. Edward Purcell, Editor

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Cover: *An idealized version of life in Confederate jail from Harper's Weekly (January 18, 1862). For the real life adventures of an Iowan see the story on p. 2.*



### *The Meaning of the Palimpsest*

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete, and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.



# YANKEE SAILOR IN DIXIELAND JAILS

by

Philip D. Jordan

In dress uniform with gold stripes of a lieutenant on his sleeves, the young naval officer looked as neat and well-groomed and as professional as a graduate of the United States Naval Academy should. Even when commanding a naval battery of Civil War big guns on Morris Island, within sight of Charleston, South Carolina, and of Fort Sumter, George Collier Remey kept his dark hair carefully parted on the right, letting it fall in graceful, but not effeminate, waves over the ears. His boyish cheeks — he was only twenty-two years old — were smoothly shaved. He smiled easily.

He was as trim in duty uniform on August 23, 1863, when his shore guns were sighting on the tower of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Charleston as he had been two years earlier when his ship, *The Hartford*, was ordered home for war duty from a two-year cruise in Oriental waters. Remey was proud that sultry August day of the eleven-inch shells his sailors were firing, one burst after another, at Forts Wagner and Sumter and was looking forward to licking the Confederates as a prelude to a long and distinguished naval career. He little

dreamed that within a period of three weeks he would surrender to the rebels and spend thirteen months in miserable jails.

Until his surrender and capture on September 8, 1863, Remey had been blessed with greater fortune than many Iowa lads who fevered for success, but were prevented by inadequate education, lack of social influence, or no political connections. The son of William Butler Remey and Eliza Smith Howland, who settled in Burlington in May 1837 and became most influential and prosperous, George was born there August 10, 1841. The lad was perfectly content to live the life of a river-town boy—to play marbles in the spring, skinny-dip in the Mississippi on hot summer days, collect sacks of walnuts in the autumn, and slide and skate during winter. He had no particular plans for his future and certainly on a cold and snowy day in March 1855, when he went outside to play, the thought never entered his fourteen-year-old mind that one day he would wear the epaulets of a rear admiral and be recognized as, perhaps, Iowa's most distinguished naval officer.

George recalled vividly that chilly March day when, almost in a matter of minutes, his future was decided. "I was out sliding or coasting on my sled when General Augustus Caesar Dodge came along and asked me if I would like to go to the Naval Academy." A family conference resulted. All agreed that an appointment would be most desirable, so Dodge, enlisting the aid of John P. Cook,





*Lt. George Remey*

Iowa Congressman, immediately went to work and pushed the nomination through. George entered the Academy, did well in his studies and stood high in his class, and was graduated in 1859, on the eve of the Civil War. Rising through grades in orderly succession, he was commissioned commander in 1872. The following year he married Mary Josephine Mason, daughter of Charles Mason, Iowa's first chief justice, who, although cursed as a Copperhead during the war, became after the peace a prominent patent attorney with considerable influence in Washington, D.C. The marriage, it may be said,

did not hinder, but aided, George's promotions. This by no means implies or infers that, by any standards, George Collier Remey was anything but a first-rate officer. By all accounts, he was an excellent practical seaman and naval administrator.

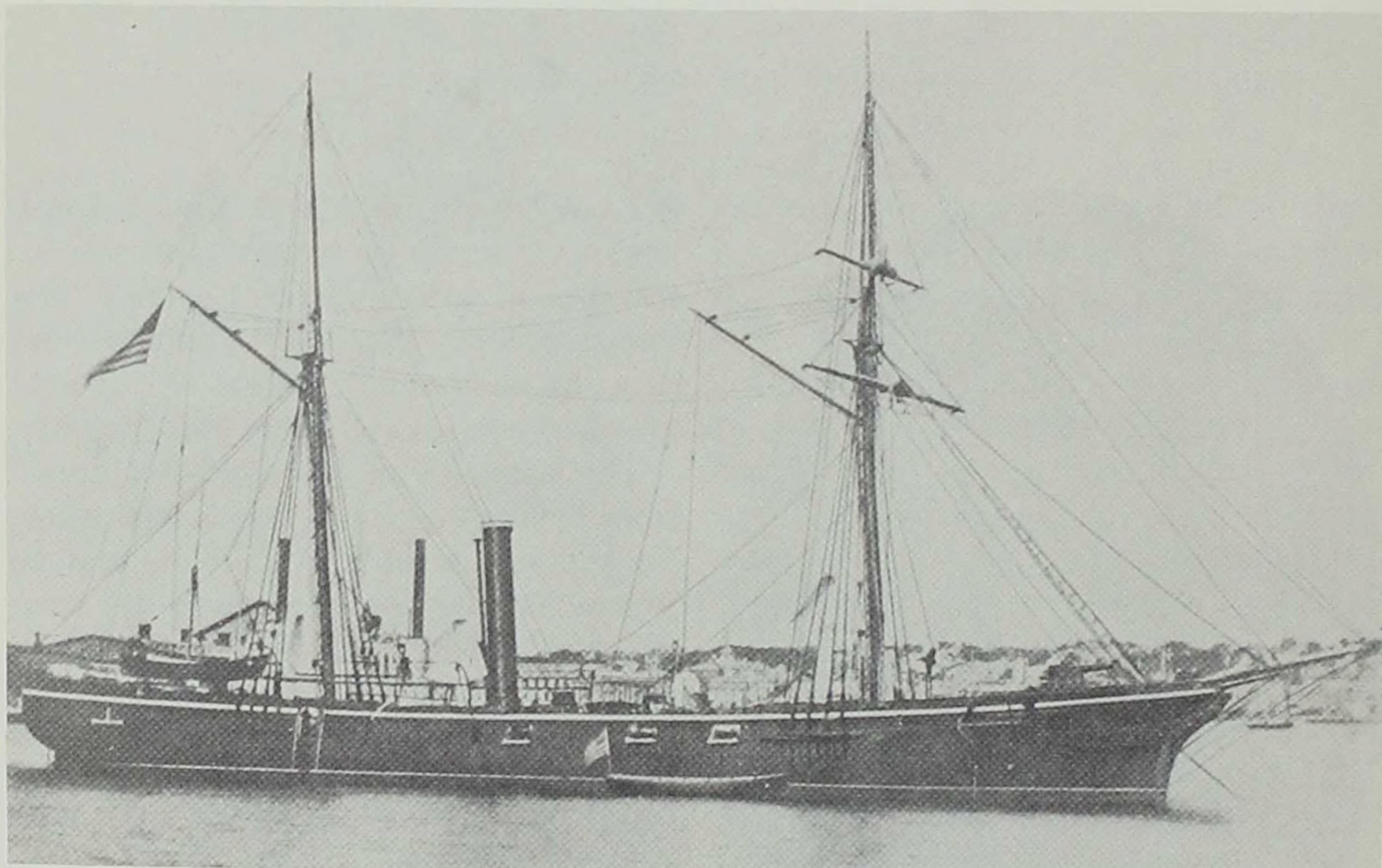
The narrative of his captivity, drawn from Remey's own account, is well worth the telling, not only because he was an Iowan but also because there are relatively few accounts by naval officers so spiced with vignettes and intimate recollections. Few, if any, officers who rose to flag rank, as did Remey, were confined for as long or in as many Palmetto State jails as was Remey.

It was not Lieutenant Remey's fault that he surrendered in 1863 to the enemy off Charleston harbor. What happened was this. After commanding shore batteries on sandy Morris Island in August 1863, Remey, on orders, relinquished command of his two Parrott rifled guns and two pieces of Whitworth artillery and rejoined the *Canandaigua* from which he had been detached for shore duty. Summoned almost immediately to the *Marblehead*, the flagship, he was told he was to command that very night—September 7—an hastily collected flotilla of small craft, filled with

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This article rests primarily upon the several volumes of Charles Mason Remey, ed., *Life and Letters of Rear Admiral Remey, United States Navy, 1841-1928* (Washington, D.C.: 1939), typescripts in the Burlington (Iowa) Free Public Library; upon similar typescripts, by the same editor and at the same date, namely: *Life and Letters of Mary Josephine Remey, Wife of Rear Admiral George Collier Remey, Daughter of Chief Justice Charles Mason, 1845-1938*; and *Letters of Charles Mason, Chief Justice of Iowa, 1804-1882*, also in the same library. The Delia Rorer Manuscript diaries, in private hands, have been helpful, as have newspapers of the period.





*The flagship "Marblehead" from which Remey was dispatched on his abortive mission.*

sailors and marines, and to land on and take Fort Sumter.

Privately, Remey "did not think much of the expedition," but he saw the small boats alongside, gasped when he saw they numbered only four, and sent his landing party into them. Other small craft, some as small as skiffs and others as large as dories, were loaded with some five hundred marines and sailors. The assault, as Remey predicted, was a disaster. In the party commanded by Remey, only his boat was able to land. Of the large contingent of sailors and marines, only about 120 were able to beach their craft and scramble ashore. Heavy fire was directed upon the Yankees from Fort Moultrie, splintering landing craft, and the defenders of Fort Sumter rained turpentine balls and hand grenades from the fort's ramparts. Unable to return to

sea because of the destruction of boats and unable to storm the ledge upon which Fort Sumter stood, Remey's forces were pinned down. Nothing remained but to surrender. The attack, acknowledged Remey bitterly, "was a dead failure; there was not the slightest chance of success, but if there had been, it would have been lost by the way the expedition was organized and conducted."

Humiliated, bone weary, and annoyed by the fact that Fort Sumter, even if the offensive had been successful, would have been of little value, Remey took some comfort in the fact that both he and his men were treated kindly by their captors. He tasted gall, however, when the prisoners were carted off in a small steamer to Charleston and marched in file through the stillness of a black midnight to jail. This was not the glory of



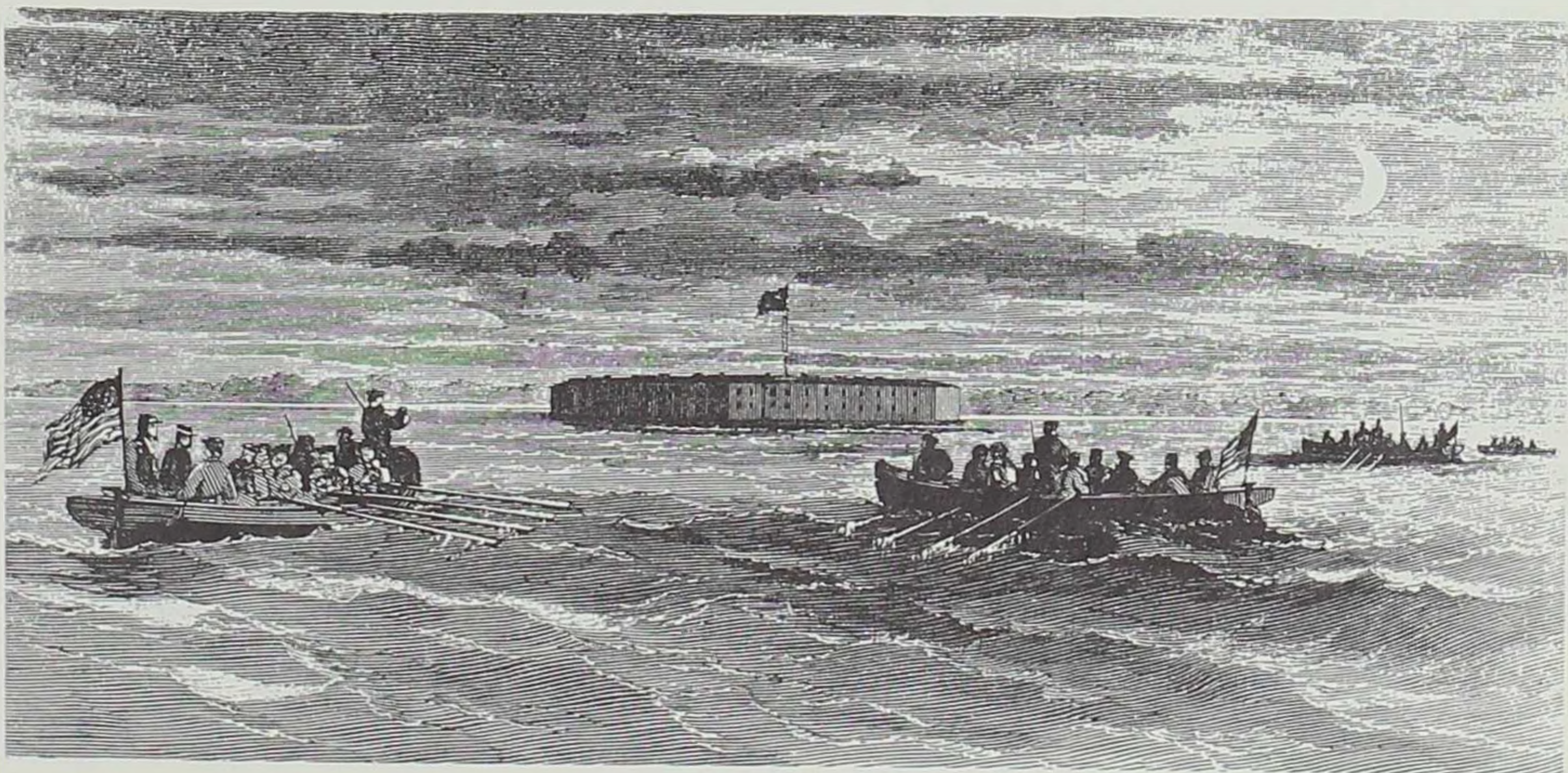
quiet seas nor was it the mighty force of breaking waves which Remey exulted in when he, fresh out of Annapolis, sailed the Pacific. Neither was it the fate he anticipated. His naval career, he feared, was forever over.

The Charleston jail, into which Remey and his party were shoved, was old and dingy and was far less attractive than the city itself, a place of broad avenues, lovely gardens, and handsome mansions. Shuttled into a large room with, Remey said, nothing in it but a stifled atmosphere and a thick layer of dust on the floor, the prisoners hurried to a window to catch a glimpse of one of the South's most cultivated communities. But all they saw was a courtyard. In it stood, stark and bare, a permanent scaffold, a gallows with dangling hangman's noose. They retreated from sight of the loathsome thing to squat on a filthy floor, to sleep on bare boards, and, when irregular meal time came, to scoop with their hands rations of boiled corn meal or thin mush.

A few ounces of meat per prisoner were served only once.

Depression and uncertainty ate into their spirits, and questions gnawed at them. Were they to be there forever? What chance was there for parole? The first query was answered four days later, when on September 13, Remey and his comrades were transferred by rail, a jerky engine pulling jerky cars, from Charleston to Columbia, the state capital. Once again they marched under guard to be lodged in the city jail. There Remey was to remain for more than a year. Situated in the heart of Columbia, the brick, three-story jail, fortified with a stout stone foundation, was believed to be escape proof. Heavy iron rods barred windows and doors. Each interior door was of thick, solid wood.

The prisoners, including Remey, occupied a small room, and "when we lay down on the floor we took up just about all the space." Somehow or other, Lieutenant Commander E. P. Williams, cap-



*Ft. Sumter and Union assault boats during the siege of Charleston in 1863.*



tured with Remey, managed to secure ten dollars in Confederate paper, and with it he purchased, probably by bribing a guard, a scratchy horse blanket, such as cavalrymen used to cushion a saddle. Remey and Williams shared this comfort, sleeping on it when warm weather permitted and under it when the temperature dropped. The blanket was scarcely wide enough to cover one person, let alone two. Remey was rather slender, but Williams was short and thick-set. The result was good-natured competition.

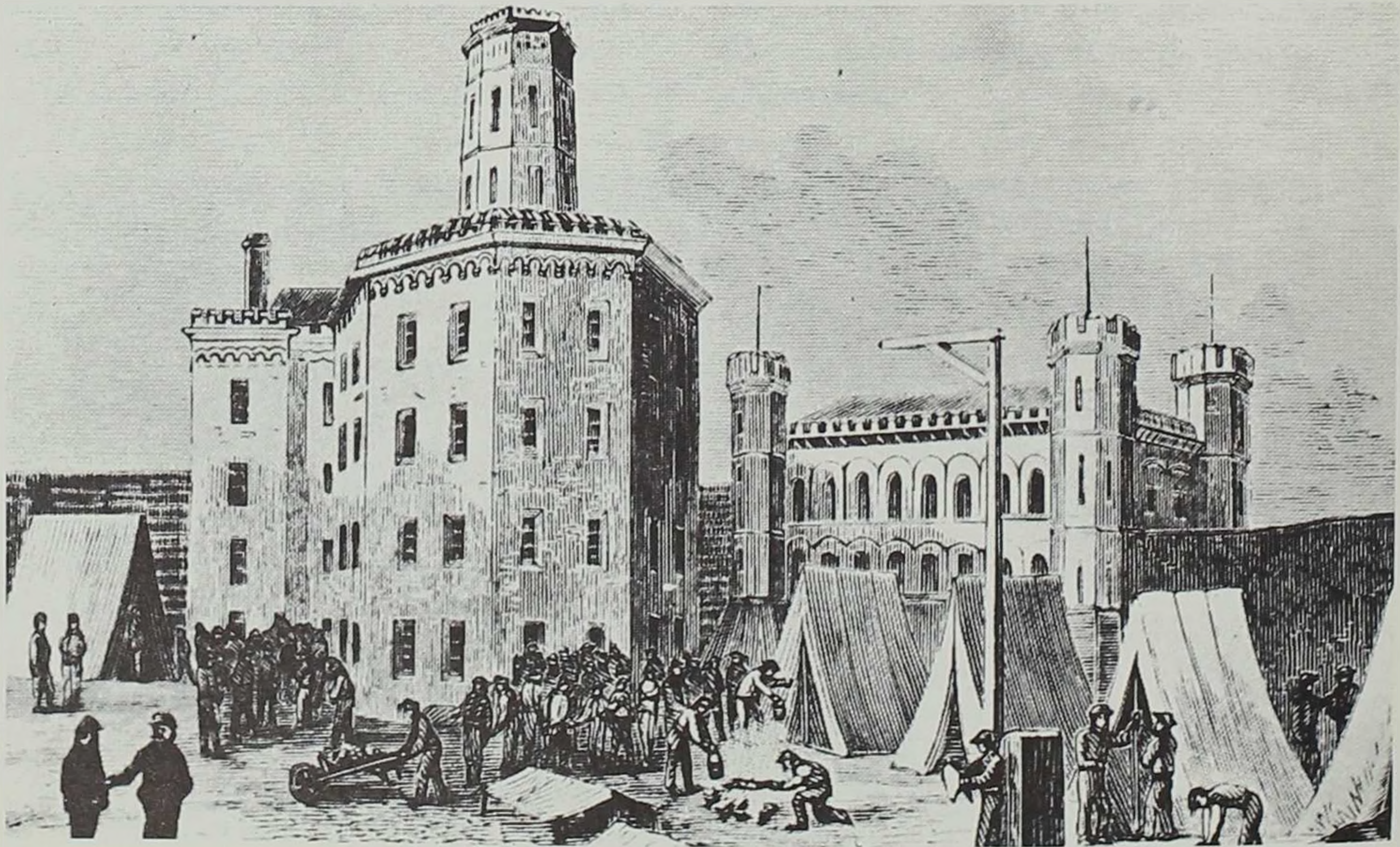
"Remey," said Williams, "you always wait until I get asleep, and then you take the blanket and roll over. You get more than your share!"

"Well," replied Remey, "I have to struggle with a man of your size."

Luckily, rivalry for the blanket ceased upon the arrival from northern Union

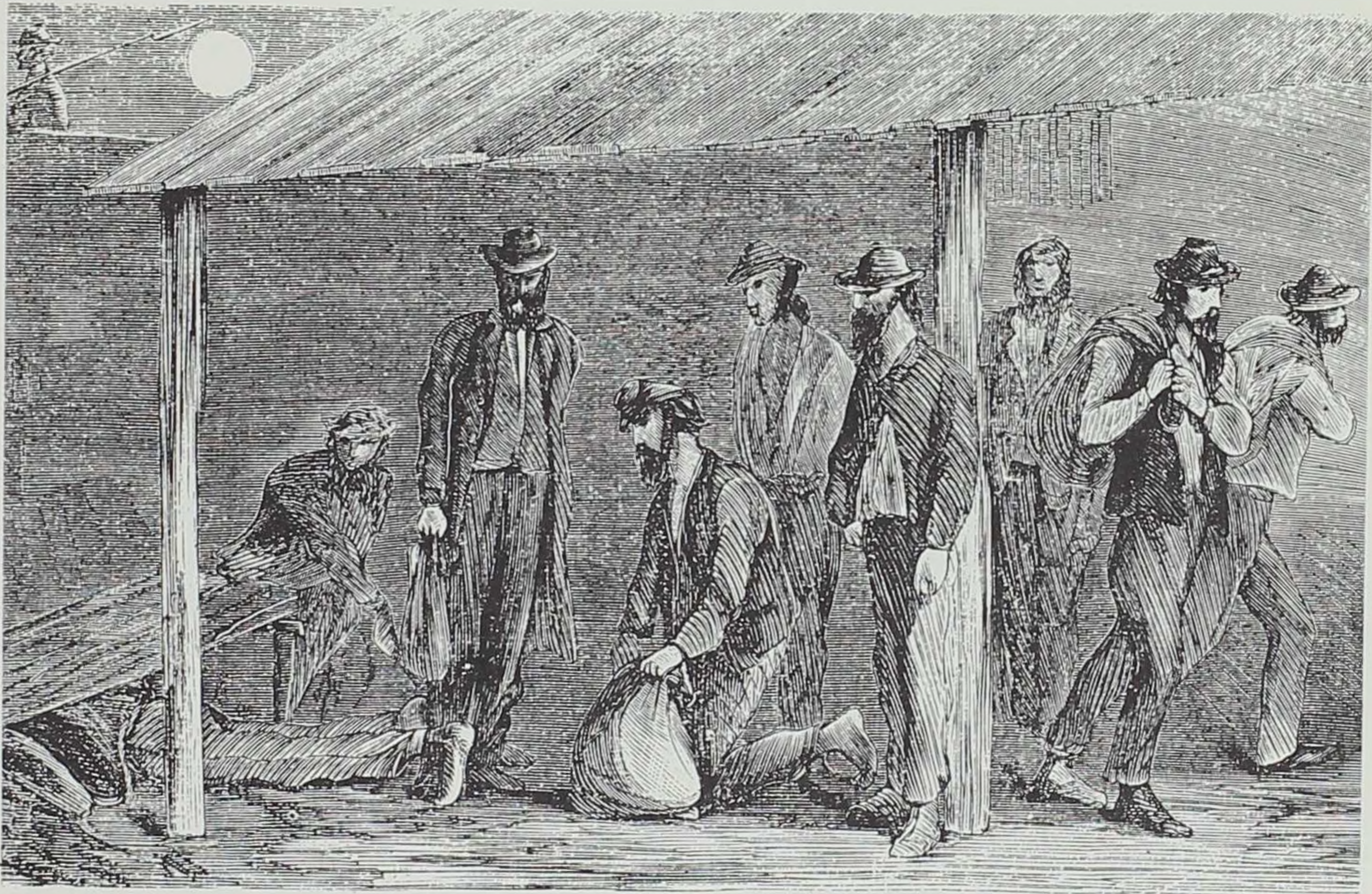
states of blankets, woolen shirts, and an army cap. These, during following months, were supplemented by clothing and food. One barrel contained, greatly to the delight of the prisoners, a dozen cans marked "clams." When opened, the containers were filled not with "quahogs," but whiskey. The Confederates, snickered Remey, knew nothing about the alcohol, for if they had, "they would have absorbed it all themselves." With clothing, nondescript as it was, from home and with a prudent husbanding and rationing of food and whiskey, Remey was more than able to make out with his daily ration of about a quarter pound of bacon and slight portions of beef. The bacon, he complained, was often so musty as to be almost unfit to put into the mouth.

After meager morning rations, cooked by the prisoners in an open shed in the



*The Charleston Jail, scene of Remey's first incarceration. Note the gallows in the courtyard.*





*Tunneling for freedom under the eye of the guards.*

jail yard, and after washing with water from a hydrant close by a crudely erected privy, Remey exercised, traded prison gossip, sought to pry news from surly guards, and, as do all war prisoners, dreamed of his release. A second exercise period came in the middle of the afternoon. After that the men were confined until the next morning. Now and again their boredom was brightened by visits from "Aunt Maggie" and "Aunt Rose," two black women, who brought small gifts and plenty of chatter. Not even the cheerful conversation of these women was sufficient always to brighten lagging spirits or lift the gloom of one poor fellow "who used to sit on the floor and pull out his beard a hair at a time until his face looked like a pin-feathered chicken."

Jail fever attacked Remey also. Although quick in movement, he was deliberate in making decisions, and he early made up his mind not to permit cell life to result in nervous and hasty reactions or conduct. Pacing his room or yanking out whiskers would get him nowhere. He concentrated upon winning the favor of guards, some of whom, he discovered, held "strong" Union sentiments, and "their sympathy not infrequently assumed a practical form such as assisting us to communicate secretly with Union residents in the city." Apparently pro-Union jailors carried stories to Remey of escape efforts by prisoners in other jails and at Libby Prison.

Stimulated by such tales, Remey, about March 1, 1864, laid plans to dig a twenty-two-foot tunnel from the jail to an adja-





*Remey's wife, Mary Josephine.*

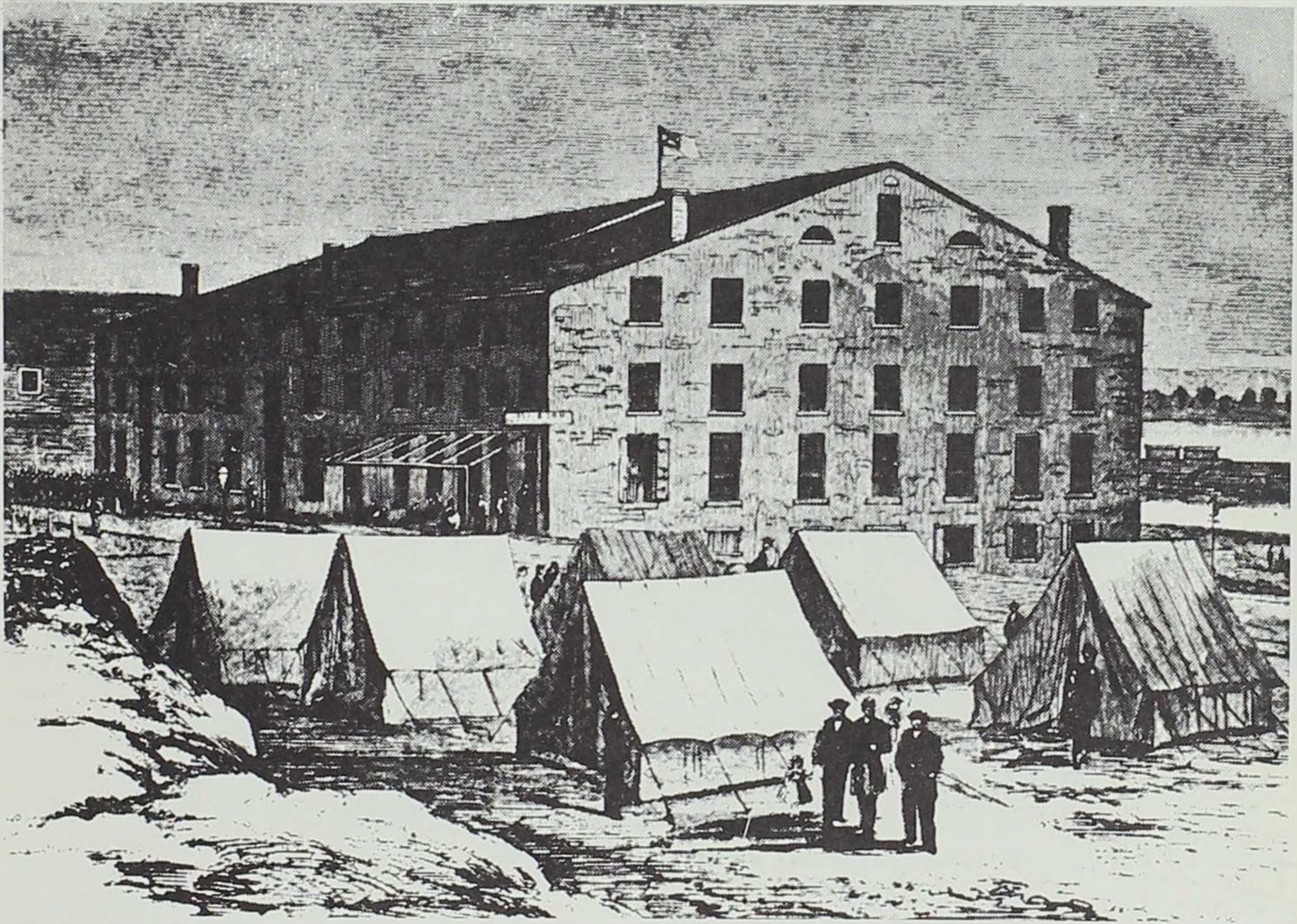
cent frame building. He was assisted by Lieutenant Commander Williams, Ensign B. H. Porter, and Acting Ensign George Anderson. All had been together for months, and each trusted the other. From ten o'clock in the evening until four in the morning, night after night, the four laboriously dug. The tunnel lengthened foot by foot until suddenly, for some unknown reason, Williams and Porter were shackled in irons and moved to another room. Digging continued. The project neared completion about the first of April, but only at the cost of calloused hands,

aching backs, cramped muscles, and constant apprehension of discovery. Yellow clay, the diggers learned, when mixed with dark loam and pebbles, is hard to cut through and heavy to handle. "It is a wonder we were not discovered," Remey wrote. He spoke prematurely. Suddenly, without saying a word or even admitting they knew of the escape plans, Confederates moved Remey and his partners from their first-floor room to a second floor area barred by heavy iron grating.

For the first time, Remey expressed hopelessness, and, rather querulously complained that he "got awfully tired" of jail life. "We played cards, and had something to read. Our lights were not very good, but we got a good deal of reading matter for daytime." His thoughts were of Iowa, of Burlington, of the river and its steamboats, and of home groceries redolent of spices and fat sausage and yellow cheese under glass. He relived the details of his cruise on the Pacific and talked of his classmates at the Naval Academy.

Fortunately for both his health and state of mind, conditions improved during June 1864, when Federal naval authorities managed, under a flag of truce, to negotiate the transfer of gold coins for the prisoners' use. Remey's share was about a hundred dollars. One gold dollar, he explained, could be exchanged for fifteen or twenty Confederate dollars. "We bought sparingly of articles of necessity in the clothing and food line," Remey said. His largest purchase was a pair of trousers of Confederate gray,





*Libby Prison.*

for his own britches were worn thin. Even with money in hand jail life continued to be "monotonous and intolerable."

By September 1864, the rumor spread, although Remey took little stock in it, that paroles were being arranged. The possibility of release was debated endlessly. Suddenly, almost without warning, Remey's group was marched out of jail and toward a railway station. The date was October 12. "The streets and the houses and everything looked so strange," he wrote, after being within walls so long. Their destination was Richmond, Virginia. A boxcar carried them into the city on a

night so cold that guards permitted the prisoners, when the train halted on a side track, to climb out and warm themselves by a little fire they kindled.

From Richmond, where a provost marshal registered them, Remey's men, disappointed and disgusted, were moved to Libby Prison, where, after two or three days, paroles were signed. Finally, the exchange took place, not at Libby Prison, but at Cox's Landing, a point on the James River. Shortly after November 15, Remey, now thoroughly exhausted and irascible, was ordered to Annapolis, although the Naval Academy itself had





*Cox's Landing, frequently a point for the exchange of prisoners.*

been moved for the duration of the war to Newport, Rhode Island. En route by train, Remey complained that he had no means and no money. He climbed aboard looking like a tramp. "I had on," he wrote, "a pair of gray Confederate trousers, well worn, and the remains of a Navy uniform coat, with a private's cap."

Outfitted properly by an Annapolis friend, Remey received leave to return to his Burlington home to celebrate Christmas with his family. His mother thought he was not very "stout" and that he still suffered from imprisonment. Yet Lieutenant Remey was soon well enough and gay enough to attend merry parties given in his honor. Mrs. John H. Gear, wife of

Iowa's governor and one of Burlington's most charming hostesses, honored Remey with a gala evening, "the most splendid party I have ever attended in Burlington." That was Remey's mother's opinion, who added, "Everything was superb. She did not invite a single Copperhead."

Many years later, in 1900, when his uniform was heavy with gold stripes and his cap was encrusted with the "ham and eggs" of a rear admiral and at a time he was commander-in-chief of the Asiatic station, Remey jocularly spoke of his months in Dixieland jails as the "longest sea voyage on land with the least nautical miles sailed" ever made. □



# THE IOWA STATE PSYCHOPATHIC HOSPITAL (part one)

by

Paul E. Huston

*The history of the State Psychopathic Hospital in Iowa is a story of pioneering scientific advancement and community service. The following is part one of an article based on an address delivered by Dr. Huston, former Director of the Hospital, at the Semicentennial Celebration of the building of the institution. The story has been updated by Dr. Huston to include statistics as of 1973. Part two of Dr. Huston's article will be published in the next Palimpsest.*

*The Editor*

In the early part of the twentieth century charitable institutions for the insane, though established for humanitarian purposes, were badly overcrowded and inadequately staffed. Lack of scientific knowledge and public apathy forced them to serve primarily as custodial asylums. Advances in physical medicine over many decades had clarified the cause, treatment, and prevention of many diseases, but for the mental diseases understanding of the essential facts lagged far behind.

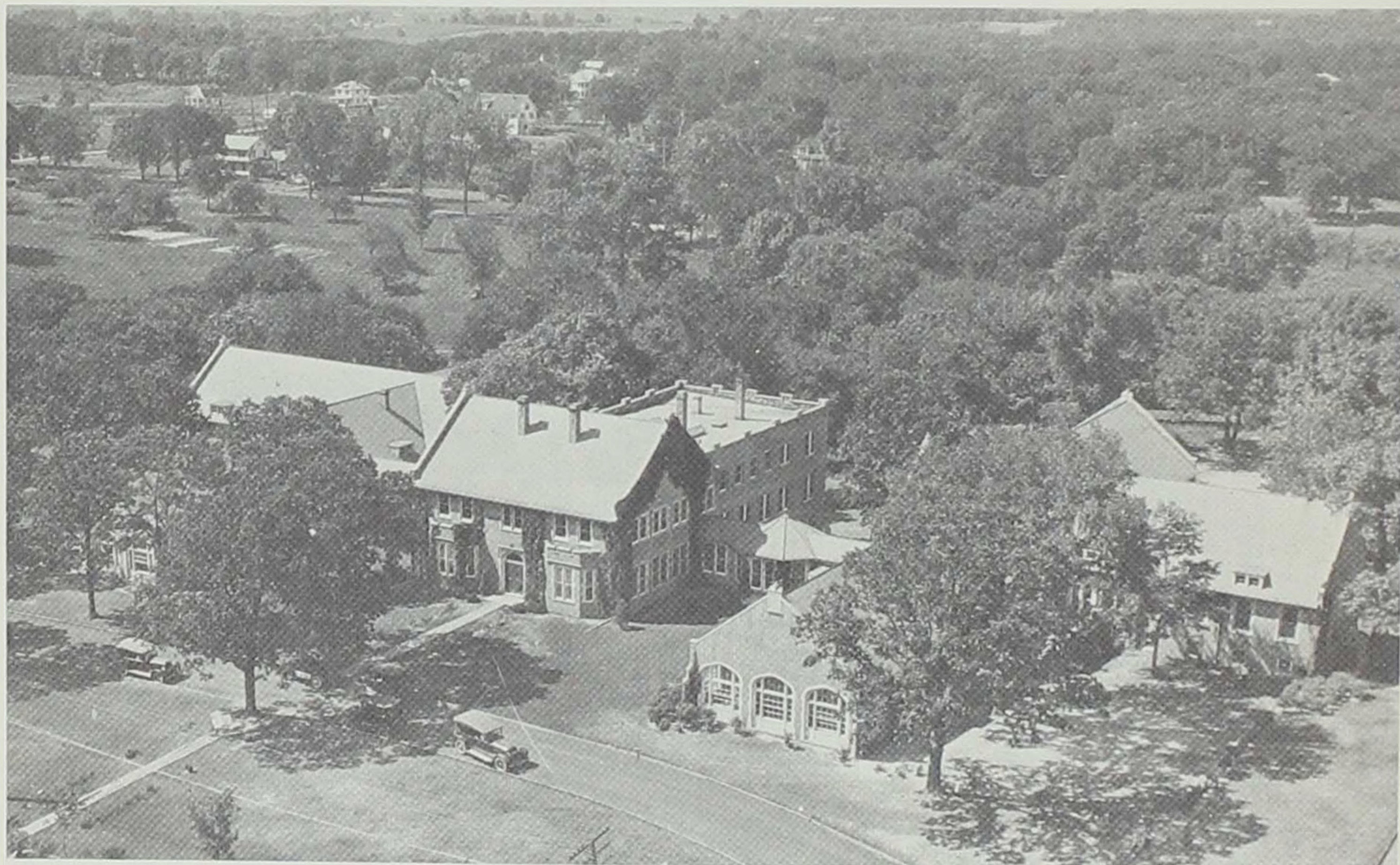
The founders of the Psychopathic Hospital had several ideas in mind. One of the earliest documents, a University of

Iowa committee report dated October 25, 1910, proposed the construction of a Psychopathic Institute. The committee roster embraced many University interests: President George MacLean; Professor Frederick E. Bolton, Head of the Department of Education; Professor James Guthrie, Dean of the Medical College; and Professor Carl Seashore, Head of Philosophy and Psychology, later Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Clarence Van Epps of the Department of Medicine, who became Head of Neurology shortly, joined this group. Before reporting its conclusions, this committee had conferred with the Board of Education, now the Board of Regents, and the Board of Control of State Institutions which managed the state

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Much of the material in this paper comes from the personal experiences of the author during his association with the Hospital, from July 1, 1940 to July 1, 1971. A general reference source is C.E. Seashore, *Pioneering in Psychology* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1942). Specific item references are in the archives of the Psychopathic Hospital, and Mental Health Authority in Iowa City. The reference for the 1964 survey of Iowa physicians is R. Finn and P.E. Huston, "Emotional and Mental Symptoms in Private Medical Practice. A Survey of Prevalence, Treatment, and Referral in Iowa," *Journal of Iowa Medical Society*, 56 (1966), 138-143. A personal communication from Professor Perkins added to the material on pages 16 and 17, concerning the course on law and psychiatry. The 16 year-old boy whose reading problem stimulated the 1926 and 1927 mobile clinic was reported in S. T. Orton, "'Word-blindness' in School Children," *Archives of Neurological Psychiatry*, 14 (1925), 581-615. A report on the Greene County Clinic was published by J. E. Lyday, "The Green County Mental Clinic. An Experiment in Extension of the Outpatient Service of a Psychopathic Hospital into a Rural Community," *Mental Hygiene*, 10 (1926), 759-786. The full story of the development of speech pathology at Iowa is found in D. Moeller, *Speech Pathology and Audiology at Iowa. Beginning and Growth of a Discipline*, (in press). The reference to a national journal article is D. W. Hammersley and P. Vosberg, "Iowa's Shrinking Mental Hospital Population," *Hospital and Community Psychiatry*, April 1967, 22-32. The reports and recommendations of the 1963-65 planning activities are available from the Iowa Mental Health Authority.





*A view of the Hospital taken in the 1920s.*

hospitals and several other state institutions.

The Psychopathic Institute, said the committee, would be a central scientific station (Dean Seashore called it "an experimental hospital") for investigations into the nature, cause, and treatment of mental disease. A laboratory for neuropathology within the Institute would support these objectives. The Institute should also train physicians and others for the treatment of the mentally ill and train personnel for the education of retarded children. A joint committee of the Board of Control and the Board of Education, to give general direction to the Institute, was proposed.

The date of 1910 places the report among other similar pioneering ideas of that period. Through the work of physicians in the latter part of the nineteenth

century, broad descriptive classifications of mental disease had come into common usage. The major mental illnesses, the psychoses, had been divided into functional and organic. The former included all those where no known disease of the brain existed and the latter included those where the brain was clearly effected and in a few the cause had been discovered. New theories concerning minor mental illnesses, the neuroses, had appeared.

A lively spirit of scientific inquiry pervaded medicine generally. Exciting discoveries were coming out of laboratories and clinics. After describing a disease, seeking the cause came next, followed by techniques of prevention. Ten percent of all the patients in state hospitals at the time suffered from general paralysis of the insane. Speculation as to plausible causes of this disease ranged from "a



disappointed love affair to a bad scare," to quote an historical comment by Dr. William Malamud, Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Director of the Iowa Psychopathic Hospital in the 1930s. There was a firm conviction that scientific study would clarify the causes of major and minor mental illnesses.

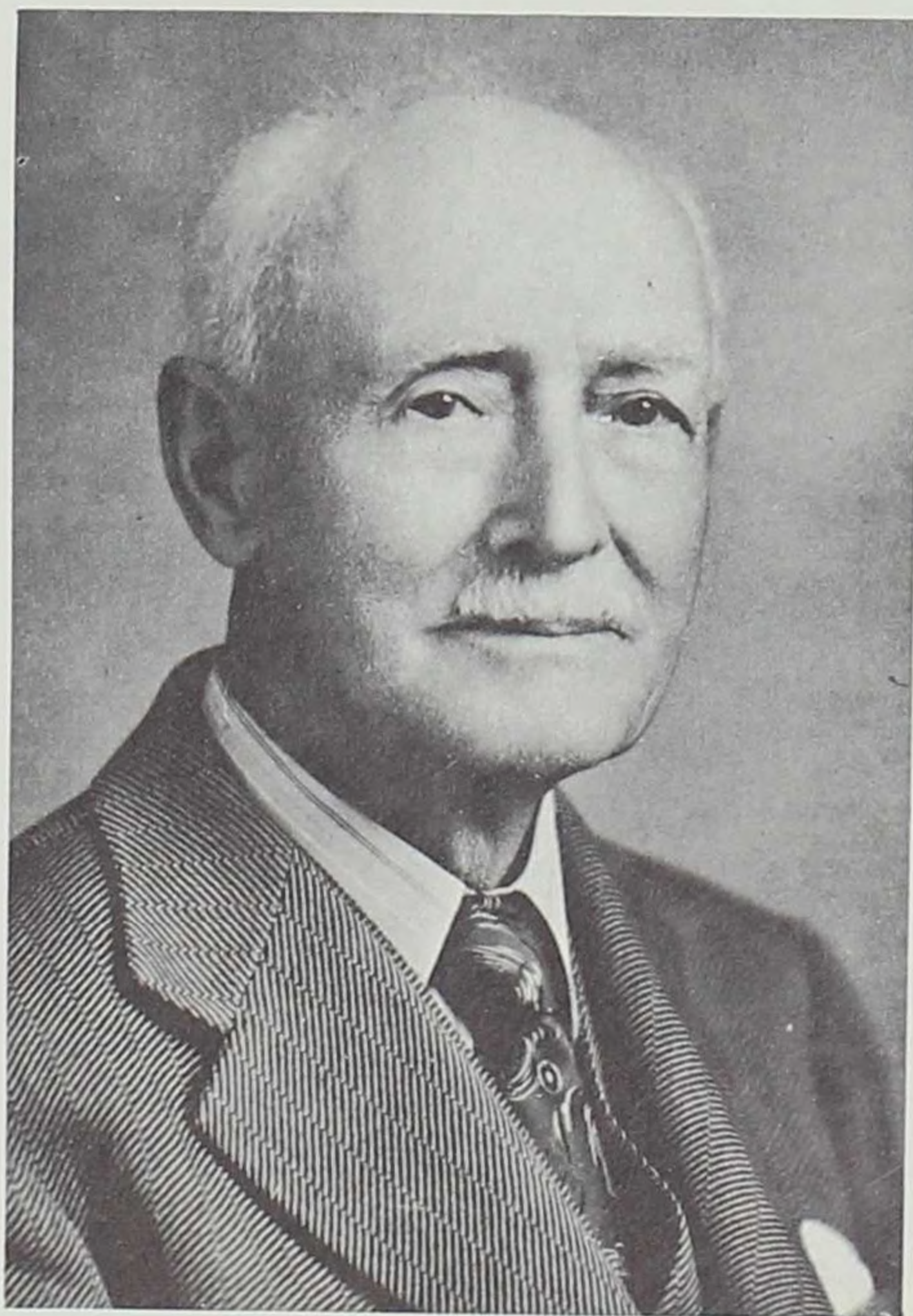
In 1910, departments of psychiatry hardly existed in the medical schools and instruction in the treatment of mental disease usually consisted of a few lectures and demonstrations of patients transported from the nearest institution for the insane. At Iowa, Dr. Max Witte of the Clarinda State Hospital annually gave six lectures on hypnotism at the Medical College in Iowa City. As a result of the national Flexner report on medical education in 1910, diploma mill medical schools were closing. Those that survived were making their instruction more scientific.

For a variety of reasons, including the intervention of World War I, a legislative act establishing the Iowa State Psychopathic Hospital did not pass the General Assembly until 1919. The Hospital began in an annex to the old University Hospital, now East Hall, on the East Campus in 1920. The present quarters were opened on the West Campus in 1921.

The 1919 law establishing the Hospital reflected the thinking of the 1910 committee. The Hospital, according to the *Code of Iowa*, was to be integrated with the College of Medicine and the Hospital of the State University of Iowa, and its Director was to serve as Professor of Psychiatry. This established the Hospital as a place for training of physicians and related it to other departments of the medical college. The detailed definition of the duties of the Director charged him

"to seek to bring about systematic cooperation between the several state hospitals for the mentally ill and the state psychopathic hospital." The Director was to "from time to time, visit the state hospitals for the mentally ill, upon the request of the superintendents thereof, or upon the request of the Board of Control of state institutions, and may advise the medical officers of such state hospitals for the mentally ill, or the said Board of Control, on subjects relating to the phenomenon of mental disease." Samuel T. Orton, M.D., of Philadelphia, Scientific Director for the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital, was appointed the first Director.

The *Code of Iowa* read, "an act to



Dr. Carl Seashore, Dean of the Graduate College of The University of Iowa, and one of the founders of the Psychopathic Hospital.



establish a state psychopathic hospital especially designed, equipped and administered for the care, observation, and treatment of persons who are afflicted with abnormal mental conditions." The use of the phrase "afflicted with abnormal mental conditions" was a progressive idea since no patient was deprived of his civil rights by commitment, as was implied in



*A 1920 view of the Hospital under construction.*

the word "insane," commonly used at that time.

Patients arrived as soon as space and staff became available and a steady pattern of growth developed. In 1920, forty-nine patients were admitted, by 1971-72 the number was 573. The total number of admissions in fifty-three years has been over 18,000. There were seven outpatients in 1920; in 1971-72 there were 1364, and

the total over fifty-three years is approximately 61,000. Re-visits to the clinic now average about 9,000 a year, the total since 1920 is 190,000. These patients have come from all over Iowa. Assuming an average family size of four and one-half, more than a quarter of a million Iowans or their relatives have been affected. Treatment and advice given at the Hospital have had a significant effect upon the mental health and peace of mind of Iowans.

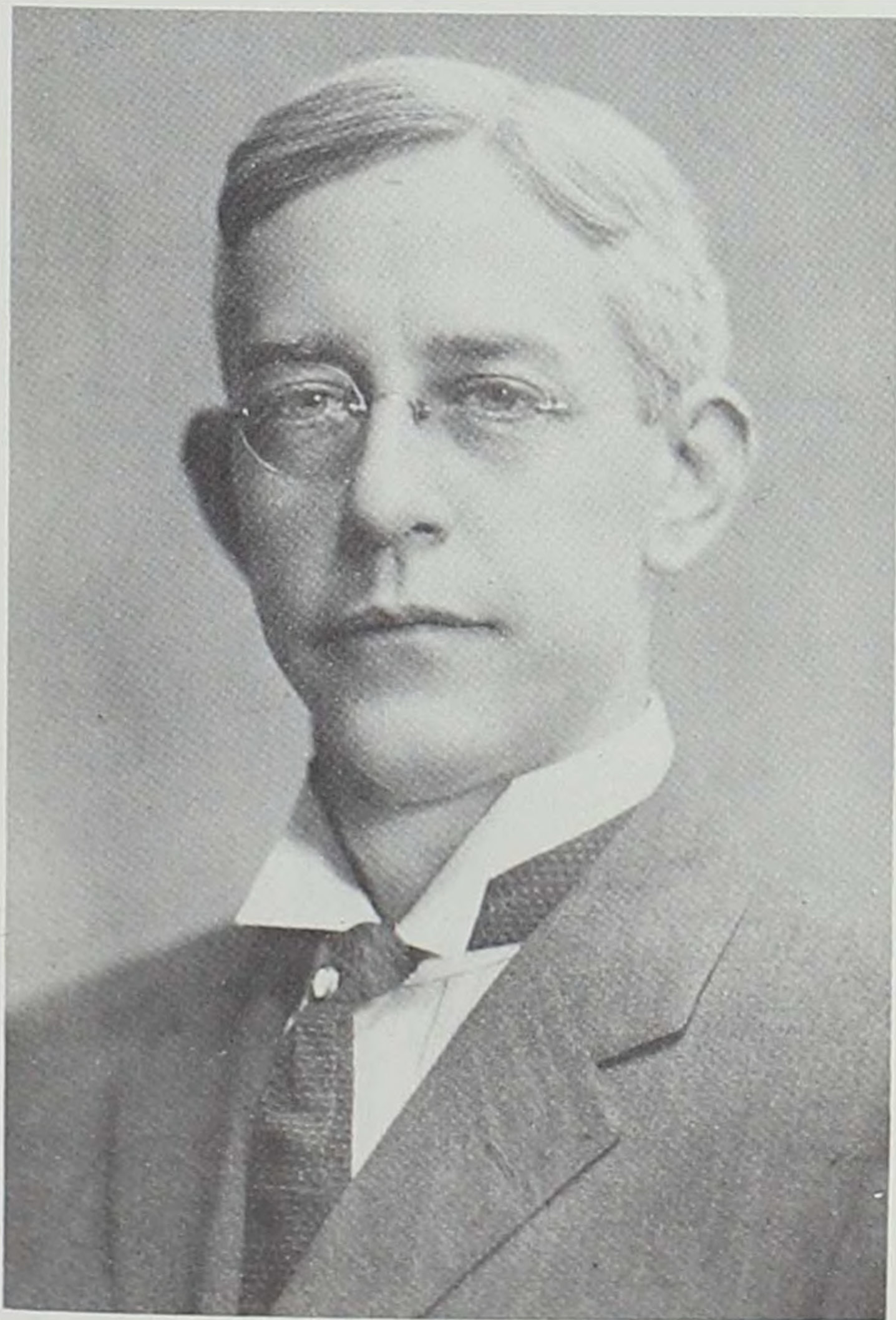
During the life of the Hospital a remarkable change has come to pass in the number of patients transferred from the Hospital to state institutions for continued care. For example, in 1936-37, 22.5 percent of patients admitted were transferred to institutions. By 1957-58 the number had fallen to less than one percent and has remained low ever since. This considerable reduction reflects improved treatments, a changed attitude toward the mentally ill, and the growth of community care.

It was clear from the beginning that the Hospital would serve many groups and many communities. The principal areas of involvement have been 1) patients on a statewide basis, 2) students, medical and others including practicing physicians, 3) the state mental institutions, 4) the professional and scientific community, and 5) the community mental health program at a local level.

Most of the experience needed for the teaching of many different groups of students has come from hospitalized and



clinic outpatients. Medical students constitute a large group. Their psychiatric instruction comes in the second, third and fourth years of their curriculum. A consultation service, recently located in the University General Hospital, for other clinical departments of the medical school has helped teach medical students since many physical disorders have complicating emotional symptoms and mental disorder may appear as a physical complaint. Since 1920, 5,101 students have graduated from the medical college. These physi-



*Dr. Samuel Orton, first Director of the Psychopathic Hospital.*

cians are often considered the first line of defense against mental illness. A 1964 survey done by Dr. Richard Finn and myself, on a sample of fifteen percent of Iowa's physicians and covering 29,000 patients, discovered that eighteen percent of the patients had significant emotional components in their illnesses. Of this eighteen percent, eighty-five percent received treatment from their regular physicians with counseling or drugs, showing the importance of psychiatric education for physicians generally.

We asked these doctors to indicate the adequacy of their psychiatric training in medical school. For those who graduated before 1934, twenty-seven percent felt their training was adequate; this figure had increased to sixty-two percent for the decade of 1954-63. This seems to indicate that psychiatric training for medical students has had a profoundly beneficial effect on the mental health of Iowans.

The Hospital staff contributes to the education of students in the University in courses, seminars, workshops, practical field work, and in the supervision of graduate work. In a recent sample year, 1,035 university students received instruction from the Hospital staff. Students come from colleges, schools and departments: education, law, nursing, psychology, recreation, religion, social work, sociology, and hospital administration. Their education and training goes with them to the state and the nation. Some of these students have risen to positions of prominence. Sometimes this training has broken new ground. For example, some years

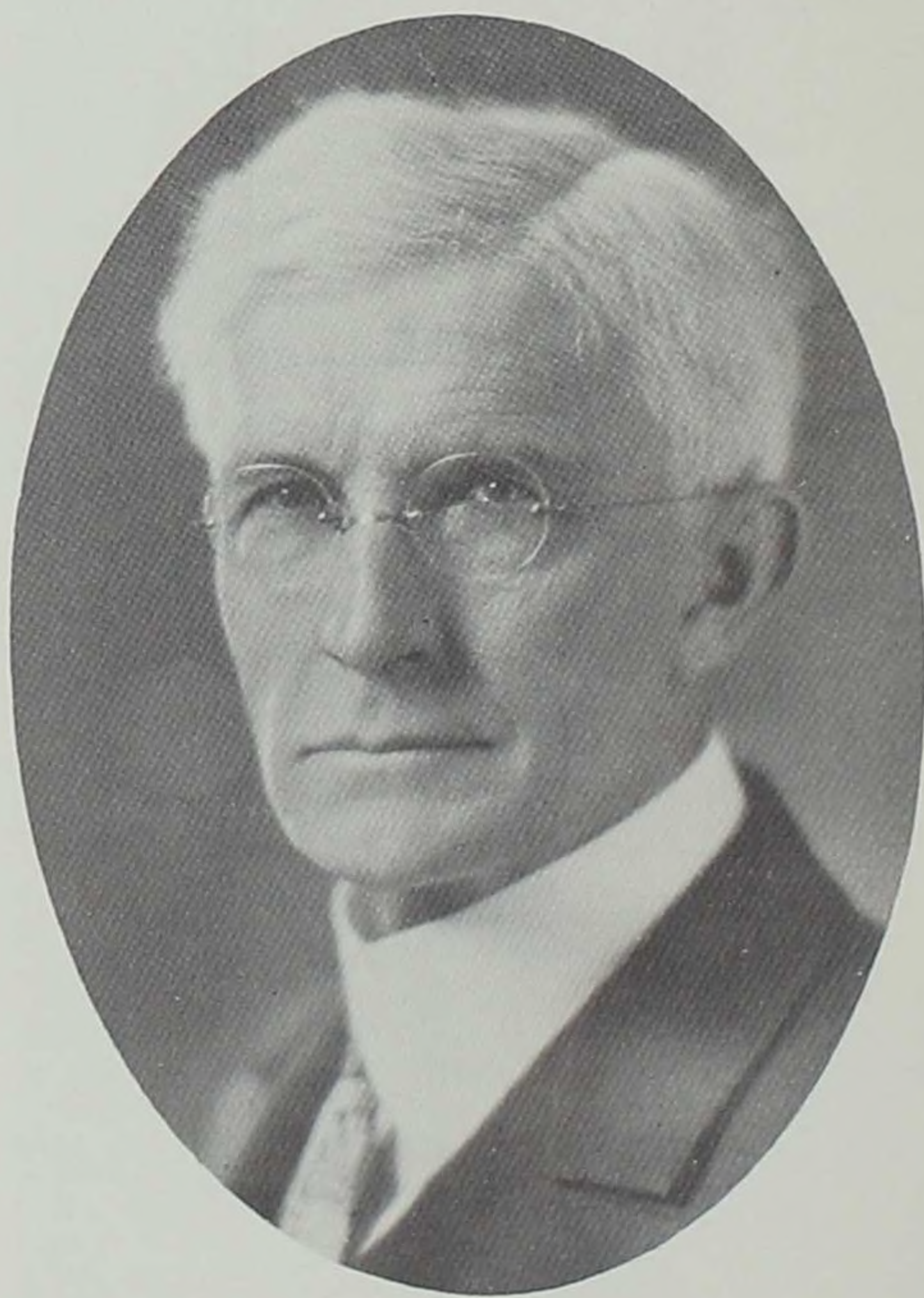


ago a young man expressed interest in the newly developing field of hospital recreation. At that time the University offered no definitive program in this field. A plan of study was designed including courses from several departments. Subsequently, this student, William Smith, became Head of the Hospital Recreational Therapy Department and later was elected President of the National Association of Recreational Therapists.

An example of far-reaching influence comes from the field of law and psychiatry. In 1929 Professor Rollin M. Perkins of the University of Iowa law school was appointed chairman of a committee on Psychiatric Jurisprudence of the Criminal Law Section of the American Bar Association. This committee was directed to meet with a committee of the American Psychiatric Association, chaired by Dr. Winfred Overholser, later Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. At this time also Professor Perkins was giving seniors in law a course called "Problems in the Administration of Criminal Justice." His meetings with the psychiatrists stimulated him to ask Dr. Andrew Woods, the second Director of the Hospital, to lecture to the senior law class. (Dr. Orton had given a few lectures to law students in the 1920s.) Dr. Woods gave two or three lectures a year until 1935 when the course began to meet weekly and students received credit. Dr. Woods demonstrated patients and explained their mental condition, and then Professor Perkins discussed the legal problems involved.

In 1930, the importance of the teaching program was highlighted by a legal case. A request came for Dr. Woods to examine a man in the Dubuque jail who

had confessed to the strangulation murder followed by the sexual assault on the corpse of a twelve year-old boy. Dr. Woods' report read, "The possibility of parietic dementia must be investigated before any diagnosis can be made. I advised the judge to have a blood Wasserman, a spinal fluid Wasserman, and at least a spinal fluid cell count at once. If they were positive, the question of parietic dementia must be more carefully studied. If the spinal fluid is negative, then the case remains as one of sexual perversion in a psychopath. In this case, he should be regarded as responsible and punished in the same way that any otherwise normal man would be punished for this offense."



*Dr. Andrew H. Woods, Director of the Hospital from 1928 to 1941.*





Dr. Wilbur R. Miller, Director from 1943 until 1956.

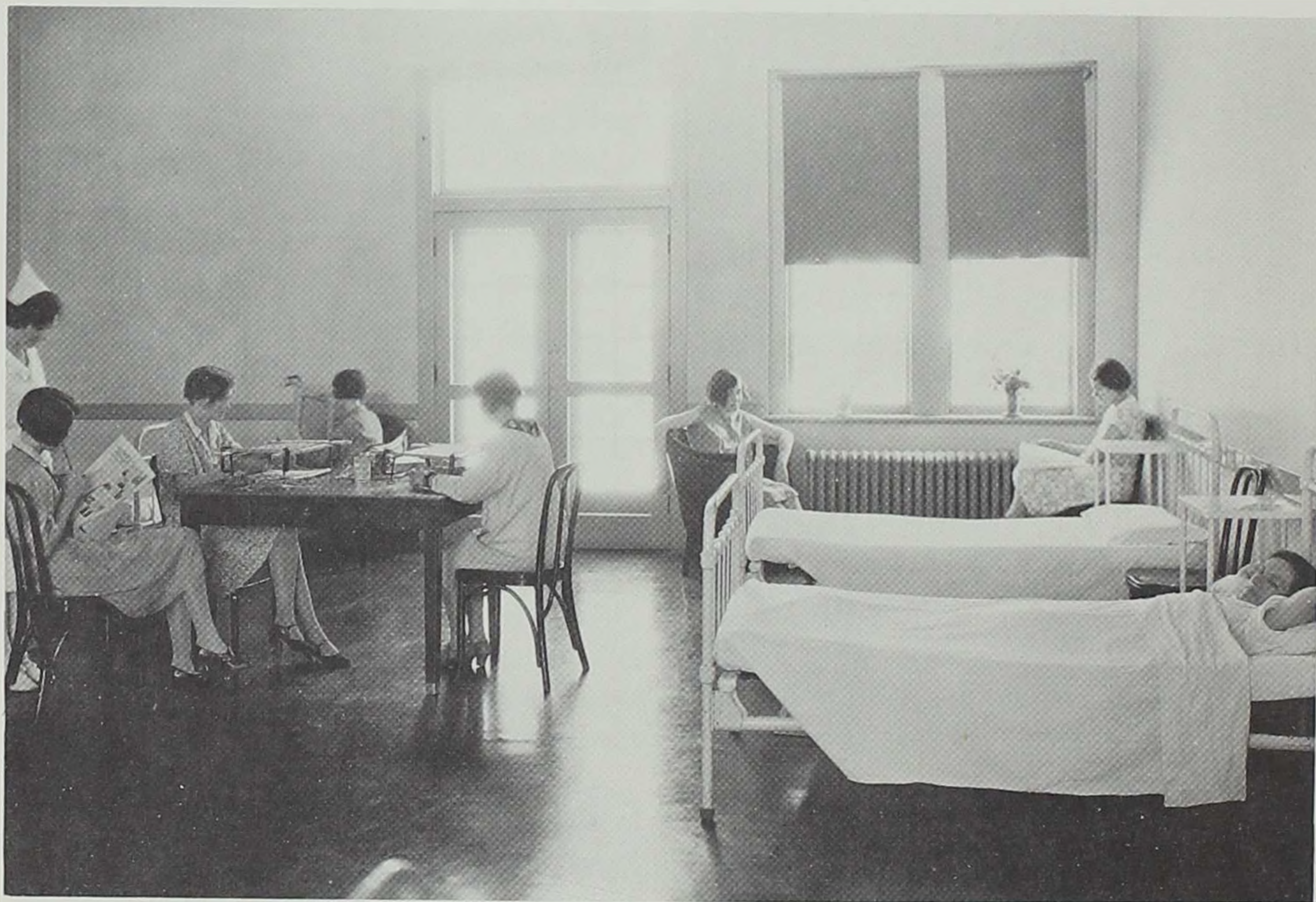
A spinal fluid examination divulged only suggestive evidence of paresis, an organic brain disease. Not satisfied, Dr. Woods reported he was unable to say the prisoner was sane. A jury found the prisoner guilty. The day before the execution Dr. Woods telegraphed the Governor of Iowa requesting further examination. This the Governor denied. The prisoner dramatized his own execution, according to a newspaper account, by carrying roses to the gallows "with a final farewell to the world - 'Well, so long everybody' - shouted aloud to the throng of witnesses without the slightest tremor in his voice" (*Dubuque Telegraph Herald*, November 6, 1931). Dr. Woods conducted a post-mortem on the prisoner's brain which proved the diagnosis of paresis and or-

ganically caused disturbance. The case was a notorious one which aroused inflammatory emotions provoked by the atrocious character of the murder. But more reasonable forces were at work. An editorial in *The Daily Iowan* (November 7, 1931) read, "Is not the very hideous nature of the crime sufficient evidence to a just and thinking state that the man who committed such a sin against society was viciously depraved, completely lacking in the mental balance which separated right from wrong, and completely unable to regulate his own action?" Clearly this case raised the issue of criminal responsibility, a joint concern of psychiatrists and attorneys which continues to occupy our attention.

The law school course has continued ever since 1930, making it one of the oldest courses on law and psychiatry in the United States. In more recent years a member of the law school faculty has instructed psychiatric residents in the legal aspects of psychiatry. This cooperation in teaching between law and psychiatry at the University may explain why psychiatrists and attorneys and courts in this state have worked together frequently hoping to achieve justice for persons who are suspected of suffering from mental disorder and charged with crimes. Iowa has not often been the distressing scene of battles between opposing experts.

Of course, not every type of teaching, no matter how well intentioned, endures forever. A story about Dr. Woods, who for many years before coming to Iowa taught at the Peking Union Medical College in China, illustrates this. Dr. Woods, a tall, spare, dignified, white-haired gentleman, liked to quote Chinese proverbs





*Women patients at the Hospital during the 1920s, shown here during occupational therapy in a ward.*

to emphasize a point. One day, while Dr. Woods made ward rounds with the medical staff, an uninhibited manic patient saw him and exclaimed, "No more of your God Damn Chinese proverbs, preacher!" Dr. Woods never quoted another Chinese proverb around patients.

Of course much of the energy of the Hospital staff has been expended in the training of psychiatrists. In the early years of the Hospital, residency training programs did not exist and doctors who spent a year or two after medical school in psychiatric training were referred to as interns. In the 1930s three year programs

of formal training began, and, over the past fifty-three years, 208 physicians have received residency training. Expansion of residency training started in 1956 in response to the need for more psychiatrists. The content of the training reflected a broad eclectic position with a strong scientific orientation. After training, these physicians fill posts in private practice, state institutions, mental health centers, and government service. More than forty of this group have held professorial appointments in medical schools.

The Hospital provides educational programs outside of Iowa City for profes-

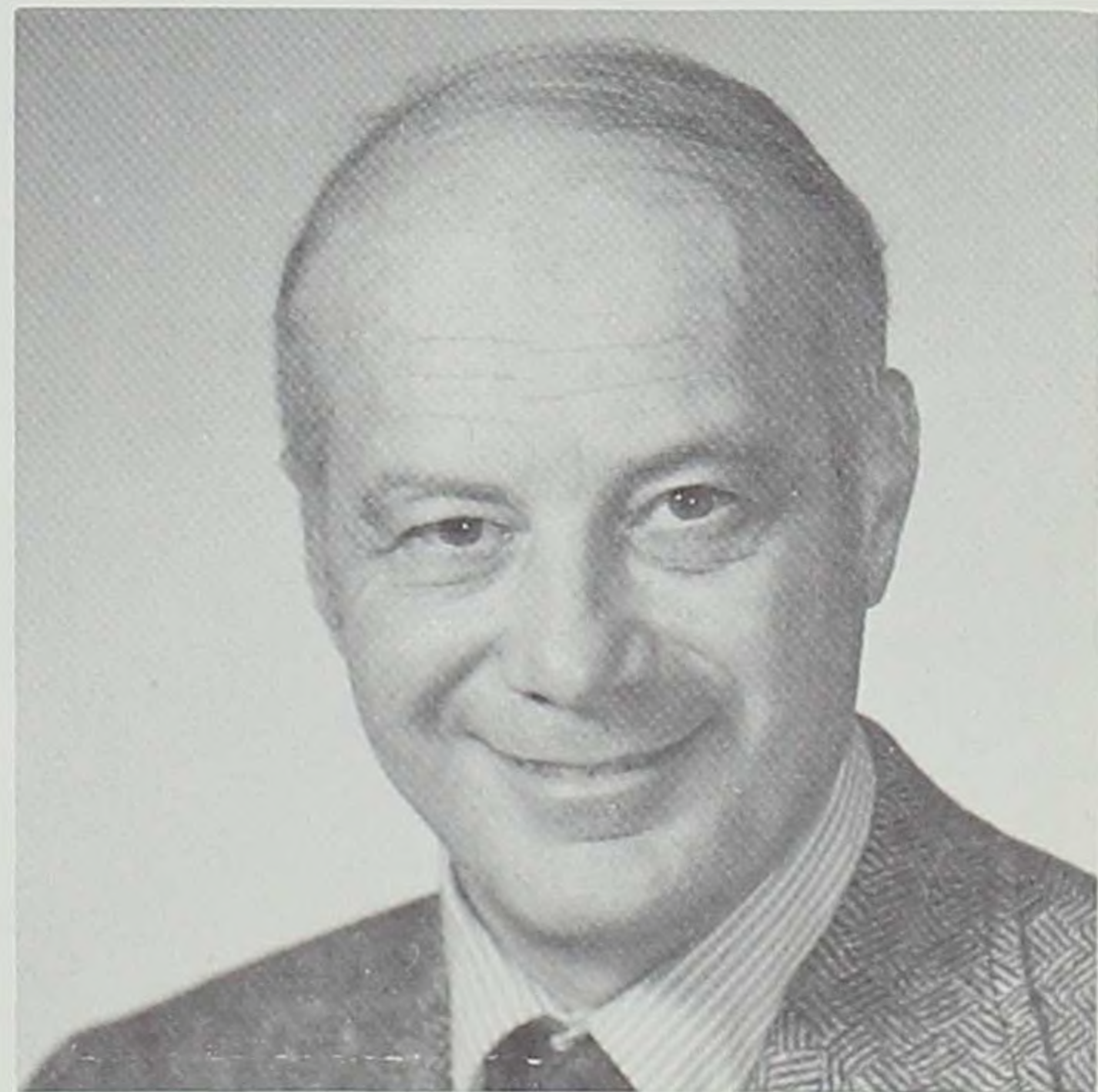


sional and lay groups throughout the state. Workshops, talks, and consultations are conducted for many groups: psychiatric residents at the Independence State Hospital, law enforcement officers, nursing home operators and nurses, persons interested in alcoholism, school teachers, church groups, and service clubs. In some years as many as 5,000 persons attend.

One of the main purposes of the creation of the Hospital was to provide assistance to the state mental hospitals. Practical clinical help existed from the start since the Hospital has transferred patients to the state hospitals for continued care, and selected cases have moved in the opposite direction for teaching and research. In the early 1940s Dr. Robert Stewart, then Superintendent of the Independence Hospital, told me how much his staff valued the complete social histories and case abstracts which accompanied patients sent from Iowa City referred to them for continued care. In one instance the Mount Pleasant Hospital generously housed a research project of the Hospital staff for three months because of the availability of a particular type of patient.

An extraordinary episode during 1945 illustrates the cooperation between the Hospital and the Board of Control in a time of crisis. This happened during a period of mass escapes at Eldora, the boy's training school. These were incited by the death at Eldora of a boy who had been struck by a guard with a coal shovel. One hundred and seventy-nine of the 300 inmates escaped. All but thirty-four of the

boys were apprehended, but two other mass escapes followed. The Board of Control sent Percy Lainson, warden of the state prison at Fort Madison, to Eldora to re-establish order. Nineteen of the "toughest" boys, the "ringleaders," were transferred to the state reformatory at Anamosa. A week later Dr. Miller, the third Director of the Hospital, received a phone call from the Chairman of the Board of Control asking for examinations of these boys who were "driving the prisoners at Anamosa crazy" by disruptive activities such as yelling all night, throwing food, blocking toilets and flooding cells, and causing short circuits in the electrical system. The chairman said the Board would follow any recommendation made for each boy. These boys, all teenagers, were brought to the outpatient



*Dr. George Winokur, the present Director of the Hospital.*



clinic for examination, two at a time, chained to husky Iowa football players employed at Anamosa as guards during the summer. Interviews were arranged with the boys' parents at the same time to secure social and developmental histories. One boy was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and was sent to Oakdale sanitarium. Another had uncontrolled epileptic seizures and was transferred to the Woodward Hospital for Epileptics. Of the remaining seventeen, outright parole to the parents was recommended for nine; for the other eight, who had severe, unmanageable, antisocial impulses, continued confinement was advised. Quiet was restored to Anamosa. A year later, a report on the boys paroled to their parents showed that only one had further difficulty with legal authorities.

Though one of the principal reasons for the creation of the Psychopathic Hospital was to improve mental care in the state mental institutions they remained overcrowded and understaffed. Carefully composed plans, thoughtfully prepared by experts to cure a social ill and submitted to the center of governmental power, may arouse nothing more than passing interest. They fail because they do not dramatize the malignancy they hope to alleviate, respected and dedicated leaders for the new proposals fail to appear, vested interests thwart their adoption, or economic or other factors stifle their execution.

The plight of the institutions must have been on the consciences of medical leaders in the thirties. A report, dated October 27, 1938, by Dr. Woods, Chairman of a Subcommittee on Professional Personnel, and addressed to Walter L. Bierring, M.D., Chairman, Committee on Health, Iowa State Planning Board, outlined rec-



*Male patients playing cards in the Hospital's day-room in 1929.*

ommendations to help the institutions. In this report Dr. Woods reaffirmed the role of the Psychopathic Hospital as a source of educational and scientific services to the state hospitals and gave detailed specific suggestions for providing these services. He also suggested ideas for a reorganization of the state central administration of mental hospital services and wrote of such forward looking ideas as the establishment of mental health centers. But, he continued, the state institutions had said they could not avail themselves of the educational opportunities at Iowa City since personnel shortages prevented them from releasing staff for more training. Furthermore, they could not employ more staff on their limited budgets.

Overcrowding in the state institutions gradually increased, and one critic charged patients had to get in and out of bed over the ends. The number of certified psychiatrists remained at a dangerously low figure. Once committed to a state institution, a patient, on the aver-



age, could expect to stay six to eight years.

To relieve the overcrowding the General Assembly passed the Mental Aid Bill in 1949 which paid a county \$3.00 per week for every "harmless and incurable" patient returned to the county of residence for custodial care where most were quartered in county homes. Eventually 2,500 persons were returned. The resident population in the four state hospitals was 6,575 in 1946.

By the mid 1950s, overcrowding and poor care in state mental hospitals over the nation galvanized efforts to correct a situation publicized as "the shame of the states." National organizations and leaders, particularly Dr. William Menninger of Topeka, Dr. Robert Felix of the

U. S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Daniel Blain, Chief of Psychiatry for the Veterans Administration and later Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association exerted a vigorous influence. In 1955, a Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health was proposed by the American Psychiatric Association. This Commission, funded by the U. S. Congress, carried out extensive studies completed in 1961 of many of the facets of the complex problem of mental illness. The Commission reports, published under the title *Action for Mental Health*, helped create a national ferment to improve mental care.

The level of care in Iowa was certainly not as shameful as in many states, par-



Children became a focus of treatment during Dr. Orton's administration. This picture from the 1920s shows the occupational therapy shop.



ticularly in those with large urban populations, but at the same time much improvement was needed. The progressive thinking that had taken place in the state over the years had prepared the soil for a forward movement. A strengthened Iowa Mental Health Association, and a revitalized Iowa Psychiatric Society played prominent roles in making plans. A number of concerned, dedicated, and socially minded citizens took up the challenge of better mental health care. Governor Leo Hoegh, in 1955, appointed a Governor's Committee on Mental Health to make recommendations for the improvement of mental health care. Among other activities this committee employed the American Psychiatric Association to make a survey of Iowa's treatment of the mentally ill and recommend better practices. The Iowa Mental Health Association published a summary of the recommendations to the Governor on December 18, 1956 entitled "Iowa's Mental Health Problem: What To Do About It."

The year 1957 was one in which "what to do about it" received wide publicity. A major contribution of the Hospital was a thirty-minute TV program showing the progress of a patient from the time of admission to the Hospital until discharge. To cap these statewide efforts Dr. William Menninger was brought from Kansas late in 1957 by the Mental Health Association to give his famous address "Brains Not Bricks" before a joint session of the General Assembly. This talk stressed the employment of trained personnel to treat patients instead of constructing more

buildings for custodial care. Dr. Menninger had prepared for this event thoroughly through extensive correspondence with many people in the state, and to verify the accuracy of his material he asked me to meet him at his hotel before his address was scheduled. His material was accurate and superbly organized. I believed the legislature would be impressed. However, I suggested that he might stress the almost hopeless fate of those patients transferred from state hospitals to custodial care in county homes where there was hardly any treatment. Inadvertently I referred to this system as atrocious, a remark I was soon to regret. Dr. Menninger did call the county home system atrocious in his talk. The speech was enthusiastically received, there was prolonged applause, and the presiding officer, the Lieutenant Governor, called it "a marvelous thing." But a member of the legislature jumped to his feet, saying he did not believe atrocities existed in Iowa and asked the Lieutenant Governor to appoint a committee to investigate the institutions. I could see our hopes for increased appropriations dissipated. In a month the committee reported it could find no atrocities in Iowa's institutions, but that there might be some in Kansas!

A progressive voice appeared to speak for the state hospitals in the person of James O. Cromwell, M.D., Superintendent of the Independence Hospital and later Director of the Division of Mental Health of the Board of Control. Consistent with the reforming spirit of the 1950s, Dr. Cromwell and I began to confer on a





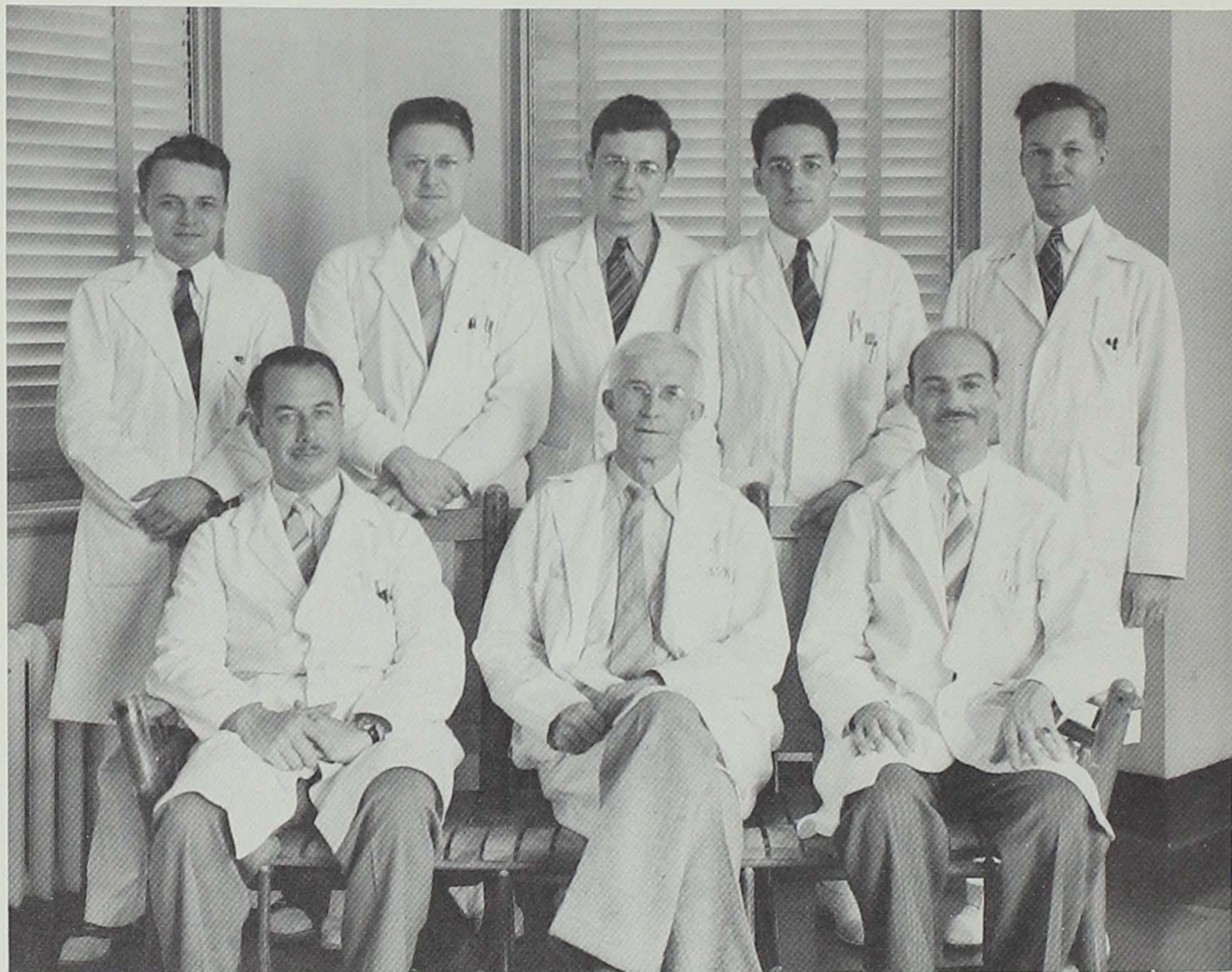
*Hospital employees at work in the clinical laboratory. The Hospital lab was a pioneer in the chemical examination of spinal fluid and brain tissue.*

fairly regular basis to develop plans for the improvement of mental health services. It was agreed that the Psychopathic Hospital should seek funds to expand its training, educational, and research functions, to provide more trained personnel for state institutions, private practice, and local mental health centers, and to provide the state system with educational programs. Funds for these activities were sought through the University and the Regents. At the same time the Board of Control would ask for additional state

money to employ more qualified staff at competitive salary levels. The Legislature responded to both these requests affirmatively.

Specific programs for the state system were put into effect. Personnel from state institutions came to the Hospital for training; most of these were physicians in the residency programs at Independence and Cherokee. During the life of this program, twenty-one residents participated. Staff from the Hospital taught on a regular basis in the residency programs at Inde-





*In 1940 the staff of the Hospital posed for this portrait which includes three directors of the Hospital. Left to right, standing are the author and Drs. Leet, Emmons, Coburn, and Ruilman, all residents at the time. Seated are Drs. Miller, Woods (then Director), and Gottlieb, the teaching staff.*

pendence continuously from 1960, and during the year 1964-65 at Cherokee.

The year 1957 saw the inception of a monthly Friday and Saturday clinical conference and lecture series throughout the academic year. A distinguished psychiatrist or research worker came to Iowa City and occasionally to one of the state institutions to conduct a clinical conference on a patient in the Hospital and to lecture on a topic in an area of his special interest. For four years this program was on a two-way telephone circuit connecting the state institutions and the Hospital. Since then staff members from state in-

stitutions, particularly those from nearby Mount Pleasant and Independence, frequently attend the meetings in Iowa City. One hundred and twenty-six lecturers have appeared on this program. Mimeographed copies of many of the lectures have gone to state institutions, to psychiatrists in private practice and to mental health centers.

Another cooperative plan was that of a joint residency between the Psychopathic Hospital and the state institutions. In this plan, resident physicians were trained for three years in Iowa City and then spent an obligated two years in a



state institution. Sixteen physicians took part.

Certain other services to state institutions were also provided. The Hospital's neurophysiology staff read electroencephalographic records for the Clarinda State Hospital, the child psychiatry staff made regular visits to the Annie Wittenmeyer Home at Davenport and the Juvenile Home at Toledo, and the Hospital staff served as consultants to state hospital personnel on research projects.

The founders of the Hospital set forth professional and scientific purposes for the Hospital in stressing the great need for new knowledge about mental disorders and the application of research to treatment. Making the Hospital a part of a major university and its medical school contributed to the achievement of these goals.

Professional distinctions of Hospital staff are notable. Many staff members have served on prestigious national, regional, and state committees, editorships, commissions and boards; many have been members of research and training study committees for the federal government. Two former staff members, Samuel T. Orton, and William Malamud, became President of the American Psychiatric Association; one, Lawson G. Lowary, was President of the American Orthopsychiatric Association; four, Herbert H. Jasper, Donald B. Lindsley, Charles E. Henry, and John R. Knott, were elected President of the American Electroencephalographic Society; three, Lauren H. Smith, Laretta Bender, and Charles Shagass, were President of the American Psychopathological Association; two, Jacques Gottlieb, and Adolph Sahs, have been Directors of the American Board of Psy-

chiatry and Neurology. One, Jacques Gottlieb, was elected President of the Society for Biological Psychiatry. Ten became heads of Departments of Psychiatry in medical schools: all of the Directors of the Hospital were heads at Iowa, John Dorsey, succeeded by Jacques Gottlieb, followed by Garfield Tourney, at Wayne State University, Detroit, Theron Hill, University of Tennessee, William Orr, Vanderbilt University, and Albert S. Norris, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield. Adolph Sahs was made Head of Neurology at Iowa. Seven persons, Paul E. Huston, Wilbur Miller, Norman Render, Marcus Emmons, William Moershel, Herbert Nelson, and John Clancy, were chosen as President of the Iowa Psychiatric Society. Papers are frequently read or discussed by staff at national scientific meetings. Annually the Hospital staff organizes a scientific program for the Iowa Psychiatric Association and this reaches all the psychiatrists in the state.

The publications list reflects extensive participation in the professional and scientific communities. Excluding book reviews and abstracts, Hospital and departmental staff have published over 840 books and articles. Some of these have started new treatments, or refined other treatments; some have changed theory; some have increased our basic understanding of mental disorder; still others have dealt with the provision of mental health services. The titles reflect the times, the breadth of psychiatry, and the catholicity of staff interests.

Pointing to a particular publication as of special importance is often unfair, for science normally progresses by small increments provided by many investigators





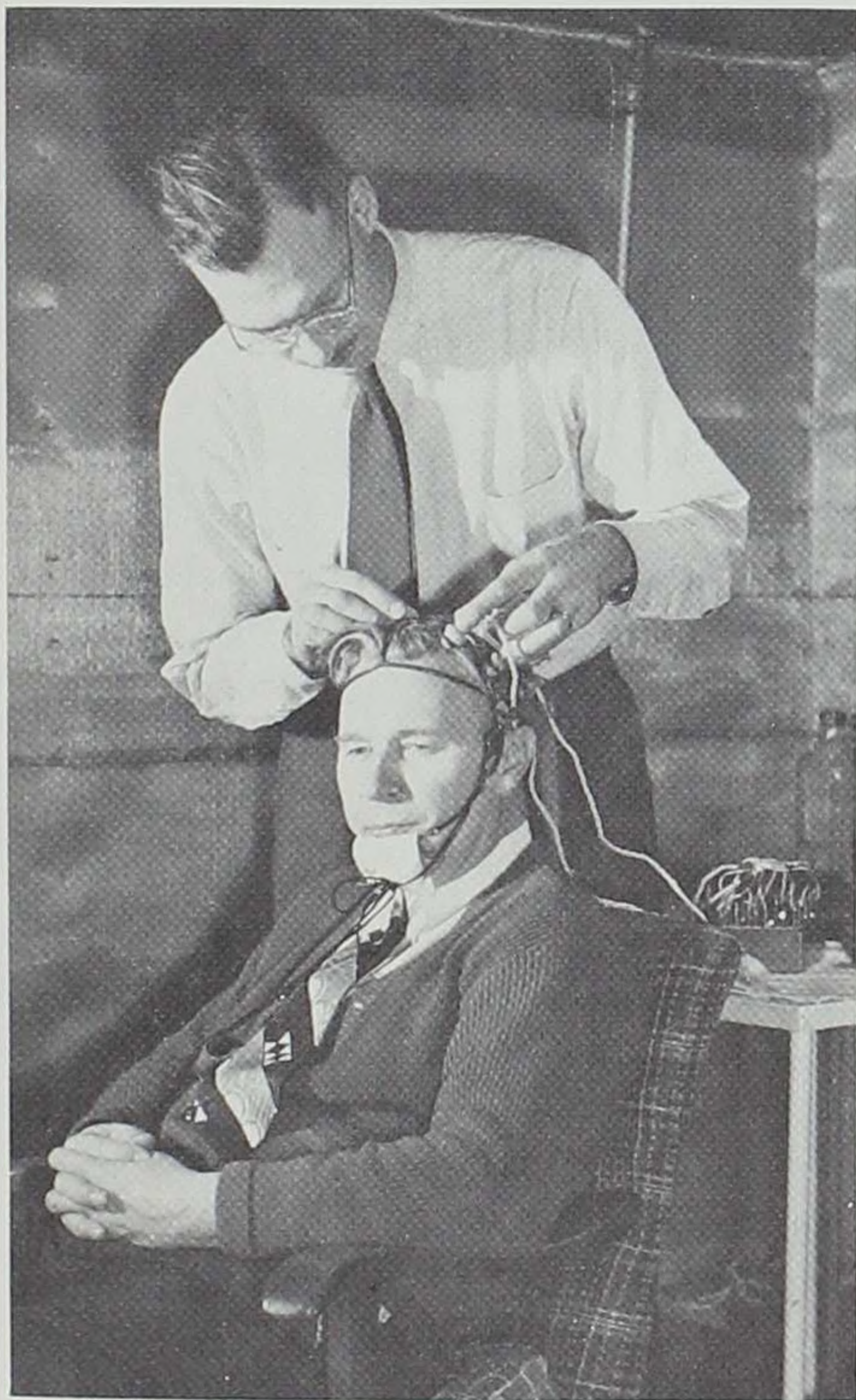
*Children in a second floor room during Dr. Wood's era.*

over many decades. However, considering only earlier publications, some "firsts" in basic work can be credited to Hospital staff. Drs. Travis and Dorsey were the first to record electrical activity from the animal brain and the first electroencephalogram on a human subject in the Midwest was made at the Hospital. Dr. Lindeman's work with drugs led to a new diagnostic technique to reveal mental content in mute or inhibited patients, and this in turn was applied effectively to psychiatric battle casualties in World War II. As is

discussed later, important developments in speech pathology began in the basement of the Hospital.

As a result of the reforming ferment of the 1950s, the legislature appropriated more money for the Hospital to expand its training of psychiatrists, to instruct other physicians in the treatment of minor mental problems and to expand the training of personnel from related mental health disciplines. The legislature expanded training and research facilities for child psychiatry by appropriating





*John Knott, a staff member, applies electrodes to the head of Prof. Orvis Irwin of the University's Child Welfare Research Station in 1950. This was a demonstration of the use of electroencephalograms on human patients. The staff had experimented with this technique on animals as early as the 1920s.*

funds, matched one-third by federal funds, to erect an addition to the Hospital for disturbed children. This structure was dedicated on December 8, 1961. This date was twenty-five years after Dr. Woods earnestly urged the building of a special hostel, or mental health center, for children adjacent to the Psychopathic

Hospital.

In working with an attorney on mental health problems the writer learned the attorney had a client who wished to leave her estate to a worthy cause. Child psychiatry was suggested. Ten years later a substantial sum was received, which now endows the Ida P. Haller Chair for a Research Professorship in Child Psychiatry, the first endowed chair of child psychiatry in the nation.

To help the hospital intensify its scientific efforts, a research wing of 17,000 square feet was dedicated October 19, 1962, half of the financing from a state appropriation and half with federal money. This wing contains laboratories for neurochemistry, neurophysiology, behavioral studies, and a suite for the study of patient interviewing and psychotherapy.

To put research on a more solid and continuing basis the legislature responded to a request for a special appropriation of \$75,000 per year for research to be done in the Psychopathic Hospital, or in the four state hospitals or the two state institutions for the retarded. This has proved of great value to start or complete research investigations particularly in times when federal support is shaky. The Hospital's reputation has also enabled it to attain \$655,000 of federal and private funds for research since 1947.

*(to be continued)*



# THE FIRST FIRST NATIONAL BANK

by

Dean Oakes

Davenport, Iowa was the site of the first National Bank to open and operate its banking business under the National Banking Act of 1863. The first deposits, over \$80,000, and the first check written were part of the first day's business on Monday, June 29, 1863, a full two days before any other national bank in the United States opened for business. How did this happen out in Iowa, just west of the Mississippi, well over a thousand miles from the nation's capital and an equal distance from the great financial centers of the East? Here is the tale.

Davenport, Iowa, had grown from a few log cabins in 1836 to a community of 300 people when Iowa was given Territorial status in 1838. By the time Iowa statehood was gained in 1846, Davenport and the surrounding Scott county population was over 3000. Most of Davenport's commerce was tied to the Mississippi River and with the hard freeze of winter each year, shipments to St. Louis stopped. The need for credit increased until the spring thaw when money and commerce were once again active. The need for a bank was evident and it was realized in 1847 when Ebenezer Cook and John L.

Sargent opened a bank of deposit and exchange along with their land agency. This bank was followed by a bank of discount, deposit, and exchange founded by Jno. Macklot and Austin Corbin in 1852, with a capital of \$10,000. Mr. Corbin was associated with this banking house until mid-1861 when he retired to become two years later the main founder and president of The First National Bank of Davenport. Many banks opened and closed in those early pre-Civil War days. Money was made up of eastern drafts, local merchants' checks and notes, fractional credit slips, and other pieces of printed paper purporting to be money. As the Civil War drew nearer all hard money, gold, silver, and even copper coin, vanished into the deepest purses, to see daylight even less frequently than before. When gold and silver coin were available it was at ten to fifteen percent premium over eastern bank notes which were selling at par. Most of the local issues of bank notes and checks noting future payment traded at eighty to eighty-five percent of par in late 1858 and soon were not accepted at all.

Sagging government credit faced Salmon Chase, President Lincoln's appointee for Secretary of the Treasury, along with increased demand for money to fight the Civil War. Secretary Chase's actions were clear and sound as he appraised Congress in December of 1861 of the need for giv-

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This article is based on information B. F. Gue, *History of Iowa*, 1 (N.Y.: Century History Company, 1903), A. F. Dawson, *History of the 1st National Bank in the United States* (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1913), and L. Van Belkum's *National Banks of Note Issuing Period, 1863-1935*.





The Lazy Two note.

ing the people a money that they could have faith in and which could be used in any part of the country. He also stated a need for a system of National banks to accept and circulate this new federal money. The new legal tender issues of United States currency started coming off the presses soon after. It took over fourteen months and close voting of Congress and the Senate before President Lincoln signed into law the National Currency Act on February 26, 1863.

The next day the Treasury Department received from Austin Corbin and Tristram Dow an application for a charter for The First National Bank of Davenport. It was almost three months before the articles of association were received from the Comptroller of the Currency, and on May 25, 1863, the general subscription lists were opened to the public. It took only three days for the \$100,000 in capital

to be subscribed to by some eighty citizens of the community. On June 22, 1863, the Comptroller of the Currency assigned National Bank Charter #15 to the Davenport stockholders and empowered them to begin business. Being agreed upon by the board, public notice to begin business was given on the 26th of June, 1863. Three days later, and by that act, it became the first First National Bank of the United States.

From the eighty founding stockholders representing the major businessmen and community leaders, came the officers and directors. These people were public spirited and helped inspire trust in the new bank, trust that generated deposits so that the bank was able to declare a five percent dividend from profits at the end of its first quarter of business. This same good management caused the bank to prosper all through its twenty year char-



ter period, 1863-1882.

Almost a year went by before the first issue of notes of the bank were received and issued. The first notes received were 5,200 five dollar bills in sheets of four notes each, and numbered from 1 to 1040. A year later, January of 1865, the first one and two dollar bills were received and put into circulation. These were Original Series notes and bear the earliest plate date of any two dollar National Bank notes, January 2, 1865.

The total issue of notes was \$214,000.00, of which \$45,000 was still outstanding when the bank closed in 1882. This amount was decreased to only \$2,009.00 in 1910, according to the records of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The Lazy Two note pictured is one of two such notes known to survive today. The note #1079 probably was not in the first group of notes that were received by the bank. The date of its issue can be verified by the officers signing the note, Ira M. Gifford, cashier, and J. E. Stevenson, vice-president. These men served in these offices from June 19, 1865 to January 10, 1867, when Ira M. Gifford became the third president of the bank, so this would have been issued during that time.

The note pictured here also has the distinction of being handled and entrusted by hundreds of people, people who kept the note, not because they could not spend it (such as many notes of its day), but because they know that they could always spend it, that it was as good as any money they had. Someone may also



*The First National Bank of Davenport.*

have prized this bill because it came from the *first* First National Bank to do business in the United States, The First National Bank of Davenport, Iowa. □



## Editorial Comment

This issue of the *Palimpsest* marks the completion of the first volume year of publication in the revised format, introduced in February 1973. It seems an appropriate time to speak directly to you, the reader. Frequently, changes in established institutions (and the *Palimpsest* is certainly an institution of Iowa literature and history) are experimental. The experiments of the past year, the new size, new design, new printer, and not least the new bimonthly schedule have now had a trial. For the most part they seem to be successful.

One of the most gratifying experiences has been your response to the call for manuscripts. There has been a steady flow of stories into the *Palimpsest* office since the first of the year. The manuscripts have come from many authors in many walks of life; from teachers, historians, housewives, journalists, students, physicians, and others. This has been a very welcome contribution to the publication. The year has passed and it has never been necessary for the staff to write the magazine themselves. This freedom has allowed more time for editing, for working with authors, for exploring the possibilities of the new design, and planning long range goals.

A fairly wide variety of material has found its way into print during the year, ranging from Joliet and Marquette to the State Psychopathic Hospital. While it is a little hazardous to predict until the type is set, articles during the coming year probably will include stories on silica mining, the Mesquakies of Iowa, town-planning, Iowa 49ers, and the Welsh of Iowa.

When the new *Palimpsest* was announced in the December 1972 issue, a call was put forth for reader comment, a call which many of you took seriously. The Society has received many letters, notes, and personal comments on the *Palimpsest*. I now want to emphasize again the need to hear from you, pro or con, about the magazine. Many of you have made valuable suggestions about articles you would like to see. Others have commented on the new format in a more general way. Your comments are important, they are taken seriously, and this is an invitation for them to continue.

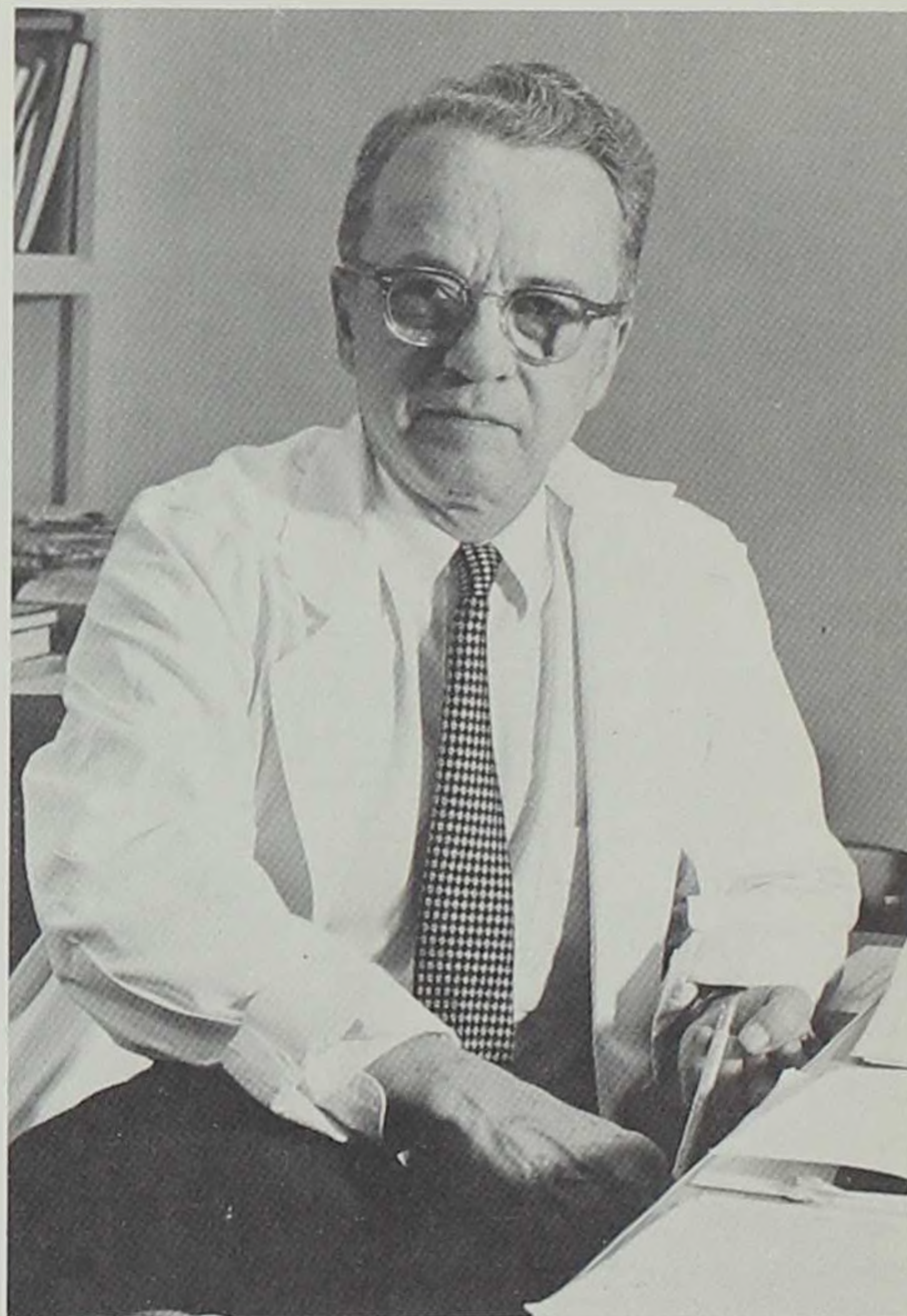
The fascinating faces of Grant Wood's "American Gothic," which stare down at me from my office wall, remind me that the essence of Iowa has always been its people. Iowans are intelligent, hard-working, well-educated, and cultured in a fundamental way. It is to the exploration and celebration of the heritage of these people that the *Palimpsest* is devoted.

*The Editor*



## CONTRIBUTORS:

PAUL E. HUSTON served as Director of the State Psychopathic Hospital in Iowa City from 1956 until his retirement in 1971. He was born in Delphus, Ohio in 1903 and attended Purdue University where he received a B.S. He then went to Harvard where he received a Ph.D. in 1937 and in 1939 he was granted an M.D. from the Yale University School of Medicine. He came to Iowa in 1940 as Senior Resident and instructor in psychiatry. From 1955 until 1971 he was Professor and Head of the Psychiatry Department at the University of Iowa. Dr. Huston has written widely on psychiatric topics, and he has been an active participant in the American Psychiatric Association Annual Programs from 1946 until his retirement. He is a member of several committees and associations including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, Who's Who in America, and American Men of Science. Since his retirement he has served on the Board of Education for the Iowa City Community School District and he has been an avid genealogist.



Thirty-eight years ago, in July 1935, PHILIP D. JORDAN published his first *Palimpsest* article. Between then and April 1957, twelve more appeared. His last piece, "The U.S. Marshal on Iowa's Frontier," was printed in the March/April 1973 issue. The narrative of Admiral George Collier Remy's imprisonment in Confederate jails, in this number of the *Palimpsest*, is his fifteenth contribution. To supplement a biographical sketch in that issue, Dr. Jordan is also a member of editorial board of *The Historian*, journal of Phi Alpha Theta, international historical fraternity; a director of the Des Moines County

Historical Society; and, until recently, a member of the advisory board, National Archives and Records Service, Region Six. As a research fellow of the Minnesota Historical Society, he directed a project, sponsored by the Mayo Properties Foundation, Inc., on the history of public health in the Gopher State. This resulted in the publication of *The People's Health*, a volume which won for its author an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History. Selections from his writings will appear this year in two anthologies.



DEAN OAKES of Iowa City is president of A & A Coins, Inc., dealers in rare coins.

He is a native of Emmet County Iowa where his family have been farmers for three generations. He graduated from The University of Iowa and also attended Iowa State. He is a member of the Emmet County Historical Society and a Curator of the State Historical Society. In recent years he has conducted research on the topic of Iowa bank notes issued between 1836 and 1880.

The State Historical Society encourages submission of articles on the history of Iowa and the surrounding region which may be of interest to the general reading public. The originality and significance of an article, as well as the quality of an author's research and writing, will determine acceptance for publication. A brief biographical sketch should be submitted. All manuscripts must be double-spaced on at least medium weight paper. Ordinarily, the text of an article should not exceed twenty-five to thirty pages. As far as possible, citations should be worked into the body of the text. In this and other matters of form THE MLA STYLE SHEET is the standard guide. Black and white and colored illustrations are an integral part of the PALIMPSEST. Any photographic illustrations should accompany the manuscript, preferably five-by-seven or eight-by-ten glossy prints, unmarked on either side. Inquiries and correspondence should be sent to: Editor, State Historical Society of Iowa, Centennial Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.





"The State Historical Society shall be maintained . . . , for carrying out the work of collecting and preserving materials relating to the history of Iowa and illustrative of the progress and development of the state; for maintaining a library and collections, and conducting historical studies and researches; for issuing publications, and for providing public lectures of historical character, and otherwise disseminating a knowledge of the history of Iowa among the people of the state." *Code of Iowa*, § 304.1.