

TEN YEARS AGO

It is a happy discovery, as we start jotting down pertinent highlights from the annals in 1949, to find the name of a hospital superintendent appearing frequently in the OT discussions: that of Edgar C. Yerbury, M.D., who retired as superintendent of Connecticut State Hospital at the end of December, 1959. We, therefore, give special recognition to Dr. Yerbury in this column for his outstanding interest in and cordial assistance to ~~the~~ COTA, not only ~~for that~~ during that particular period of time but throughout the many years he was in administrative service.

There were numerous meetings in 1949, aimed principally toward attaining higher status for OT's in the state hospitals of Connecticut. We were fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Yerbury's experience and counsel as we proceeded with proposals to the State Personnel Board and the (then) Joint Committee on Mental Health, showing the need for revisions in Civil Service classifications and a boost in salary scales.

Much attention also was given that year to recruitment activities. Enthusiastic plans were discussed for bigger publicity, brighter speeches, better contacts with "key leaders" in education-- anything to reach and persuade the non-committed high-school and college student to consider OT as a career. Dr. Yerbury's active interest in securing more OT's was continually demonstrated by his progressive attitudes, by his successful accomplishments in the expansion of occupational and industrial therapy at his hospital, and by the development of an excellent student affiliation program. His high respect for the valuable assistance that OT offers to the medical profession was gratifying to the Association in toto.