

FAZEKAS

Joseph dr.
+ Oct 17-1969, 59 yrs old

Gallinger to Rehabilitate

By Ted McDowell

A rehabilitation program aimed at putting bed-ridden patients on their feet and teaching them a trade is being set up in Gallinger Hospital as a model for the Nation.

Dr. Joseph Fazekas, Gallinger chief of staff, said more than 20 per cent of the 1,200 patients in the hospital can be returned to gainful employment through the program.

Many of these patients have been in the hospital for more than a year at an average cost of \$12 a day per patient to the District, he said.

"Some patients have serious bed sores simply because there is no program to get them out of bed and keep them occupied," Dr. Fazekas stated. "A rehabilitation program is an essential part of a general hospital and we need one here."

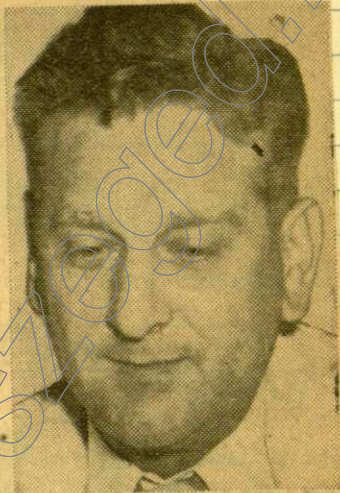
Dr. Fazekas cited a recent survey made at Gallinger by Dr. Donald Covalt of Bellevue Hospital, New York, which stated that establishing such a program would mean a tremendous saving to the District.

For instance, the report said the District is spending \$48,180 a year on 11 patients at Gallinger who are paralyzed from the waist down.

U. S. P. H. S. Co-operating.

"Little is being done to fit them with braces, to teach them how to care for themselves, to walk or travel, and there is no vocational counseling service to assist them in learning and finding a trade which they can carry out in terms of their ability," Dr. Covalt stated.

To remedy this situation, the District, in co-operation with the United States Public Health Service, has begun setting up a reha-



DR. JOSEPH FAZEKAS.

bilitation program at Gallinger. The Public Health Service has under consideration a \$16,000 grant to aid in carrying out the program. The District will "match" this in terms of space, facilities and additional personnel.

Plans for further expansion of the program are contained in the current budget request by the hospital. Dr. Fazekas said he is asking approximately \$35,800 for trained workers and physical therapy equipment.

Dr. Fazekas said the Public Health Service grant is being considered so the Gallinger program could be a "pilot project" for the Nation. Health Service officials said approval of the grant is almost certain.

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