Veterans News

An increasing number of veterans hospitalized by Veterans Administration for severe mental illness are recovering and leaving the hospital, figures released by the agency show.

VA said its hospitals placed 6,736 mental patients on trial visit to their home communities during the first six months of fiscal year 1958, and 13,200 during the entire fiscal year 1957.

The fiscal 1957 number represents a seven per cent increase over the 12,351 patients placed on trial visit from VA hospitals in fiscal 1956, a 32 per cent increase over the 9,985 in fiscal 1955, and a 73 per cent increase over the 7,617 in fiscal 1953.

Most of the patients leaving the hospitals on trial visit have been treated for severe mental conditions, VA said.

The average daily patient load

A QUEEN IS CROWNED—FINALLY—After striking out twice, judges in the Miss England contest finally came up with a winner. First choice was June Cooper, left, but it turned out that she was too young (17) for the crown. Then pert Wendy Peters, center, was chosen but it was discovered that she was married and so disqualified. So, the third choice was crowned Miss England. She's 19-year-old Dorothy Hazeltine, right, neither too young, too old or wed. She's just a nice 36-24-37.

of mentally ill veterans in VA hospitals has remained at around the same number since the beginning of fiscal year 1956, but rose between 1953 and 1956. Currently, the figure is 57,423, which includes 52,456 veterans with severe mental illness and 4,967 with less severe psychiatric disorders.

VA said the increase in patients on trial visit can be attributed to changes in therapies (including introduction of tranquilizing drugs and more emphasis on individual and group psychotherapy), to an increase in open wards, and to reawakened interest in development of new habits of resocialization to prepare patients for return to community living.

Q—A friend of mine applied to VA for disability compensation in 1956, but didn't show up for a physical examination when he was asked. Can he reopen his claim now?

A—He cannot reopen the original claim, since claims are considered "abandoned" when no action is taken by the veteran to comply with a request from the VA within a one-year period. He can, however, file a new application. If his second application is approved, payments will begin from the date of the new application, not the old one.

The man who's afraid of being spoiled by success should get a job with the weather bureau.