As far back as 1918, following the death of Dr. Gorriill, Dr. William W. Wright, acting superintendent of the Buffalo State Hospital, introduced the committee idea into the State hospital administration.

At that time a clothing committee was appointed by him for the purpose of investigating the condemning system, checking up on inventories and considering requests for clothing from the wards. The two clothing clerks and male and female supervisors acted on this committee. Where a final decision had to be made, this was done by the steward.

For some time past, Dr. P. G. Taddiken, superintendent of the St. Lawrence State Hospital, has also been using committees to whom he has referred various hospital matters for investigation and report. Hence, Dr. W. W. Wright, out of a wide knowledge of the functions of these committees, gained both from experience and from observations at the St. Lawrence State Hospital, upon becoming superintendent of the Marcy State Hospital, appointed committees covering various phases of hospital administration, as follows: Committee on dietaries, food supply committee and clothing supply committee. The personnel of these committees were selected after careful thought and members were chosen from those who represented different departments which dealt with the particular problems involved. A brief outline of the personnel and the functions of these committees is given as follows:

Committee on dietaries: The personnel of this committee consisted of the first assistant physician, male and female chief supervisors, and two members of the staff, one of whom ate in the staff dining room and another who had shown a particular aptitude in this line and had frequently offered constructive criticism of food service, cooking and dietaries.

It might be stated that employees or staff members who are regarded in some hospitals as complainers are of valuable aid on
the committee as their complaints are often justifiable and they can give constructive suggestions.

The patients, employees and staff were requested to make any complaints to the committee and were told that this committee would welcome any suggestions as to cooking, service of food and variety in dietary.

The chef and dietitian were not included in this committee as it was felt that they would resent criticism and take the criticism as a complaint about their work. When the committee makes suggestions to them, they are made in an impersonal manner.

This committee meets on Wednesday morning regularly and a report of these meetings is dictated and given to the superintendent. Usually the early part of the meeting is devoted to a discussion of any complaints received during the week preceding and a discussion as to plans that may improve the dietary. The second part of the meeting consists of consideration of the dietaries which are presented to the committee by the chef and dietitian. These menus are gone over carefully as to arrangement of dietaries, repetition of meals from week to week, variety and particularly the introduction of new dishes.

The members of the committee are also required to visit the various dining rooms during the week and report at the regular meetings the results of such visits. Particular attention is paid to the cooking of food and whether this is cooked longer than necessary before it is served. Frequently the food is tasted to see that it is palatable and properly seasoned. Attention is also paid to the service of meals and whether the food is served in an appetizing manner. Variety with smaller amounts is stressed. Food served on plates in large amounts in a slovenly manner is very unappetizing.

The members of this committee also act as special investigators for the superintendent and render reports of these investigations to him.

On April 1, 1932, Dr. Anna Gronlund spent most of two weeks in the west group dining rooms studying the personnel, preparation of food, equipment, oven space and rations of food being served to patients and employees. On November 3, 1932, the com-