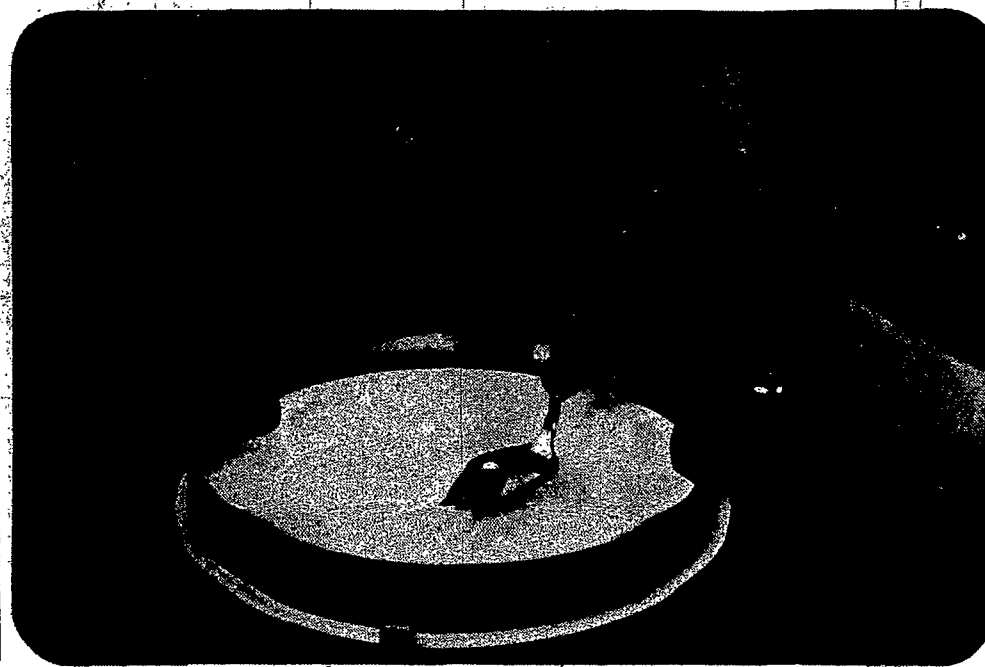




Daily skills are retaught to stroke victims.

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A new approach to care for the elderly is available in Auburn in the new Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Rehabilitation is an integral part of the center's program for the resident, in contrast to the kind of care which only provides a place to live for old people.

In addition to rehabilitation, the 10-story structure has facilities for cases requiring nursing or skilled care, and for those people capable of more independent living.

The center was born in a "community needs study" when Mercy Hospital, run by the Sisters of the Third Franciscan Order, decided to assume responsibility for unmet health needs of the area. They proceeded with construction of this facility for long-term care, chronic disease, and rehabilitation which offers many patient services not previously available.

Located both below and at ground level because of the sloping

land contour, an upper "service level" provides areas for physical therapy, inhalation therapy, the dietary department, pharmacy, central storage and supply. The lower level houses utilities equipment rooms, laundry, and maintenance departments.

The ground level floor includes administrative and general offices and separate dining facilities for patients and staff, occupational therapy department, barber and beauty shops, and a sheltered connecting corridor to Mercy Hospital.

The new center permits a degree of freedom to the resident which is uncommon in institu-

tions of its type. Meals are served which cater to the preference of the people eating them, and a resident is not served food which he does not like. When facilities are completed, a bar and lounge will be open for patients' use on the ground floor.

Residents who are going to be discharged will be retrained in a special daily-living area, which utilizes special techniques and utensils for work in the kitchen and getting around the living room independently.

The upper areas of the building are divided into two sections of three floors each. The floors immediately above ground level are for those patients needing

continual nursing. The three floors above them are for cases when only infrequent care is needed.

The top floor of the building houses an interdenominational chapel and auditorium, and will eventually have a greenhouse where patients can garden and lounge.

To insure that cases of real need are admitted, admissions to the Mercy Center are processed through the social services department, and include a personal interview with the applicant and family. They require referral by a physician and approval of the medical director and admissions committee.



The staff of Mercy Center, above in meeting, provides interdisciplinary skills ranging from physical rehabilitation to social work to nursing. The new building, below left, is visible throughout the Auburn

area. Below right, Sister Joan Alice, administrator of Center, in black habit, admires work done by patients in Sister Wilma's therapeutic recreation sessions.

