



FOUR PRESIDENTS of the Women's Auxiliary cast admiring looks at a big birthday cake on the fifth anniversary of the volunteers in April. Familiar pink-clad workers at Duke Hospital, they are left to right: Mrs. Julian Ruffin, new president; Mrs. Bayard Carter, the Auxiliary's first president; Mrs. Watt Eagle, second president; and Mrs. Shelton Smith, who just completed a two-year term as leader of the group. For other new officers, see "From the Auxiliary."

Duke Census Hits New Peak

Duke admitted 17,823 patients during 1954, marking the ninth consecutive post-war year the census has grown.

Starting with a record number of 14,437 patients in 1945, the number of patients who actually occupied beds in the hospital has grown steadily. Now approaching its 25th anniversary (July 21), the Hospital admitted its half-millionth patient last November.

While more patients were admitted than ever before in the 24-year history of the Hospital, the average length of stay was reduced last year to nine days. This means that the average stay has dropped by almost one full day during the last two years.

"This reduction is important, but perhaps more significant was a record number of almost 189,000 visits to the Out-Patient Clinics," Ross Porter said. "We feel that this means that our continuing program of preventive medicine is accomplishing its purpose of keeping many people out of hospital beds by diagnosing and treating disease in the early stages," he explained.

Some 14,572 of the patients admitted last year came from all 100 counties of North Carolina. The remaining 3,251 were from 41 other states and 12 foreign countries. Some 892 were from Virginia and 799 from South Carolina.

More than one half of all the patients paid only part or none of the cost of their hospitalization. Duke University made up 21 per cent of the cost, cities and counties, 33 per cent, and State government and charitable agencies, 46 per cent.

Get a Ticket? Read and Heed

If you've found a parking ticket on your windshield since the new regulations went into effect, this is for you:

Lanes one through four are reserved for patients and visitors whose cars do not have University or Hospital stickers.

All other lanes, except the new hard-surfaced area across from Baker House, are reserved for cars, with or without stickers, belonging to the general public, visitors or hospital staff. The new parking area is for Hospital and Medical School staff cars only.

Special memo for the Auxiliary volunteers: Women whose cars do not bear stickers are considered to be visitors. Those who do drive cars with University or Hospital stickers must follow the existing rules pertaining to those stickers.

Post Graduate Course to Open

Duke University Medical School's 1955 post-graduate course for doctors from throughout the Southeast will be held June 20-23. Dr. William M. Nicholson, director of post-graduate education, has announced.

Designed primarily to bring the general practitioner up to date in the newest advances in medicine, this year's course will include six lectures relating to pulmonary disease and surgery. Other topics will include treatment of peptic ulcer and tie douloureux, identification of common fungi, and roundtable discussions of "The Anxious Patient" and "Vertigo."