

## The Medical Illustrator— At Your Service!

Today artists are found not only in musty garrets, but also in the antiseptic atmosphere of the modern hospital. In the midst of rapidly expanding services hospitals offer their patients today, the highly skilled artist and photographer team together in the field of medical illustration to record, teach and help expand the growing fund of medical knowledge.

The evolution of the modern profession of medical illustrator is the inevitable extension of the invaluable assistance the artist has given the doctor since medicine's early beginnings. No doubt you've seen examples of early medical artists' conceptions of medicine long ago in pictures around the hospital. In the last 25 years this field has mushroomed from the pioneering stage to its present status of one of the essential services to doctor, student and patient in today's best hospitals.

### MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION COMES TO DUKE

Elon H. Clark, professor of medical illustration, came to Duke Hospital in 1934 to head the Medical School's new Department of Medical Illustration. At that time Mr. Clark and a part-time photographer were able to take care of the volume of medical art work needed at Duke. Today Mr. Clark's department of four artists, four photographers and a secretary is kept busy all the time trying to keep up with the increasing use being made of their services by the hospital and medical school.



Bob Blake, associate in medical illustration, and Elon Clark, professor of medical illustration and head of Duke's department, discuss a drawing.

### SPECIAL SERVICES

Just what does this department do? To find this out for ourselves we spent a few hours up on the fourth floor recently. And what a fascinating time it was! Within seconds after we arrived in the bright studio and had been introduced to Bob Blake, associate in medical illustration; artists Jeanne Marie Justice and Donald Powell; secretary Marie Price and photographers Raymond Howard, H. F. Pickett, Thurman Ellis and James Wallace, a spunky little old gentleman arrived on the scene to be fitted for a plastic nose. Now this may sound like a strange function for the medical illustration department—making plastic noses, ears and such. It is, but Mr. Clark explains it this

way. About 20 years ago work in plastic prosthetics got under way here and there across the country. Duke's Department of Medical Illustration became interested in this field early and has become more proficient as better plastics and better techniques have been developed. As this service became more widely known and as surgeons began to do more radical procedures for removing cancers, business in plastic prosthetics boomed. This art has become an important technique in Duke's training program for the medical illustrator.

Incidentally, the success of the training program in this department is proven by the rather remarkable fact that the head of every department of medical illustration in the