

Wanted: 300 M.D.s

Every year the Duke Medical Center trains a large number of technical and professional personnel including nurses, interns, residents, dietitians, x-ray technicians, physical therapists, pharmacists and medical students. Surprisingly it is the largest student group that the rest of the hospital knows least about—the 300 or so medical students. Who are they; what are they here for and where do they go from here?

While many of Duke's medical students come from afar, most hail from the southeast. And while many will choose an academic career or will practice halfway around the world (such as one of this year's seniors, Joel Mattison, who will work with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Africa), most Duke Medical School graduates will practice medicine in this part of the country. In the meantime their four years here, learning how to become doctors, are probably the busiest and most challenging of their lives.

Time was when it was almost impossible for a young man to study medicine unless his parents could support him through college, medical school and possibly several more years of specialty training. Medical education has become even more expensive, but today more and more sources for scholarships and loans are available than ever before. Today a bright aspirant who is not afraid of acquiring both his M.D. and a sizeable debt to repay, can almost always find sources of money to complete his medical training. This situation is fine for the serious student, but tends to send the less enthusiastic doctor-to-be scurrying elsewhere!

Once he enters Duke Medical School, the enthusiastic and eager



You still just can't beat the time-honored method of learning medicine—the bedside teaching session. Here Dr. Robert Whalen, now Associate in Medicine, and Dr. Herrero, formerly a member of the house staff, discuss a case with 1961 senior students Frank, Gay and Kingsley.

student finds himself confronted with two years of more concentrated learning than college ever required. And for most of these two years the students' only human contact is with their cadaver in anatomy—whom they come to know very well, indeed! Lectures, laboratory work and the many, many hours of study that go into the mastering of the basic sciences of anatomy, pathology, histology, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry and bacteriology keep the first and second year student pretty much out of the routine of hospital life. Vacations and occasional dances and cabin parties help break the diet of hard work during these years. And in spite of the limited amount of leisure time more and more students find time to woo and win a wife and start families before graduation. Whereas

not so many years ago a married medical student was a rarity, today it is the single student who is the rarity.

The student wives—most of whom work to help with the tight family finances—take an active part in medical school activities along with their jobs or their babies. The Duke Medical Dames is an organization of student wives that meets monthly for socializing, lectures, study groups and community work. The medical students themselves are active in organizations including their student government association, a local group of the Student American Medical Association and medical social and honorary societies.

Just about the time the student begins to despair of ever seeing a real, live patient his course in physical di-

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