

## Supt's Corner



by Charles H. Frenzel

This issue of "InterCom" carries another annual report for Duke Hospital.

Once again this past year most of our clinical service activities reached a new high. Laboratory procedures exceeded 1 million for the year.

The cost of patient care, as expressed in the per patient per day cost analysis continues to climb. This year it is \$32.37 as compared to last year's \$29.26. This represents a 10.6% increase. Partial implementation of the University's salary and classification plan contributed most to the cost increase. Increase in house staff stipends also added to total salary expenditures. In all, salaries increased 7.4% and now represent 58.3% of our budget as compared to last year's 57.1%; all other expenditures increased 3.2%. They now represent 41.7% of the budget.

Planned implementation of the salary scales and house staff stipend program for the next several years would indicate a steady increase in costs and a higher percentage of expenditure for salaries.

We always must be acutely aware of the value of efficient, trained personnel to a service institution such as ours. This past week a series of orientation sessions was begun for all new personnel. In these sessions the employee is given a better understanding about the place he will be working and of the contribution he can make toward better patient care.

In the next several months a secretarial orientation program will begin. Each secretary in the Medical Center will be invited to this program which will deal with administrative policies and practices at Duke University.

Training programs are being planned for many categories of employees in an effort toward making them more effective in their jobs.

## EEG—Sleuth in the Brain

"Bursting at the seams," says Dr. William Wilson, its director since 1960, of the Medical Center's EEG (electroencephalography) Laboratory. A look at the commitment in patient service, teaching and research sharpens the picture of an active, growing unit.

A young science—not 30 years old, electroencephalography had its first demonstration before a scientific meeting in 1934. Even before the EEG became "respectable," Dr. Hans Lowenbach—then a member of the Johns Hopkins medical faculty—was engaged in pioneer research in the field. Dr. Lowenbach established an EEG laboratory at Hopkins and within a month of his arrival at Duke on September 1, 1940, he had a laboratory running here. This was the first EEG facility south of Washington. During the 20 years under Dr. Lowenbach's guidance, the patient load increased from zero to 2,000; a number of papers were published; and personnel trained. Dr. Lowenbach's own interests followed a path from electroencephalography, to the clinical picture of natural convulsions, to electrically-induced convulsions and thence to the therapeutic uses of electric shock, a field in which he also pioneered.

The electroencephalogram, a recording of the electrical activity of the brain, is used in patients with diseases of the brain to determine the origin—or site—of the abnormality. While its primary use is in patients with epilepsy, it may be helpful in any disease where brain function is altered.

During 1962, there were 3600 EEG's done routinely on patients in Duke and the V. A. hospitals—an increase of 800 over 1961. An EEG lab was established at the Cerebral Palsy Hospital and 64 records were run there. The use of the EEG cuts across departmental lines in the Medical Center. About one-fifth of the work is for psychiatry, one-fifth for neurosurgery, one-fifth for neurology, and two-fifths for general medicine.

Because there are only six other EEG facilities in North Carolina, the Duke unit serves hospitals around the state on a consultative basis. It has helped the community hospital in Wilson to design a laboratory, and expects to give similar help soon to Cabarrus General Hospital, Concord, and Wake Memorial Hospital, Raleigh.

An elective six-hour course is given by the EEG staff for medical students, and students are encouraged to bring EEG's on their patients to the laboratory for discussion. During 1962 special instruction in electroencephalography was given to personnel from state schools and hospitals in the Carolinas. Nine EEG technicians (one from as far away as Oklahoma) were trained. An annual training program for fellows and technicians is in the planning stage. Also, now scheduled annually after an initial success, is a post-graduate course for trained EEG technicians in conjunction with the

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(Duke photo by Sparks)

Dr. William P. Wilson, director of the Medical Center's EEG Laboratory, studies an EEG tracing with Mrs. Roberta Schwartz, technician. In addition to Dr. Wilson, the professional staff includes Drs. Peter Hein and Wilford Spradlin; the technical staff: Mrs. Audrey Rinaldi, research technician; Mrs. Faye Tyner, Mrs. Mary Jane Wells, Mrs. Schwartz (pictured above), and Mrs. Fredrika Amstey, technicians; Mary Elizabeth Stallings, technician-in-training; and Mrs. Carolyn Barbee, secretary. In July Dr. Thomas Harrison will join the staff from the neurology service.