

InterCom

VOL. 8, NO. 5

JUNE, 1963

DURHAM, N. C.

Rehabilitation Facilities Get a "Face Lifting"

by Norman K. Nelson

The Duke Medical Center's rehabilitation facilities have themselves been "rehabilitated" and are virtually ready to begin serving patients in quarters that have been redesigned, enlarged and completely redecorated.

Under way since last summer, the \$750,000 project has given a new look to basement areas that had become badly overcrowded during the years and had ceased to provide adequately for either patient service or training ancillary personnel.

Key changes effected by the program are:

1. Total renovation and expansion of the Physical Therapy Department, Occupational Therapy Department, and Prosthetic and Orthopedic Appliance Center.

2. Provision of quarters for the Medical Center's Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

3. Addition of some 10,000 square feet of new floor space to the Medical Center.

4. Air conditioning of the new and renovated quarters.

Physical therapy patients who once were treated in a long, narrow area crowded with cubicles and staff members' desks now enter a reception room attractively furnished with green and blond furniture and featuring a light green color scheme. The receptionist's desk is overhung by modernistic burnt orange lighting fixtures.

Wide corridors are flanked by 13 retained treatment cubicles. In the



Rehabilitation facilities are still having the finishing touches put on—and up. This is the "walking area" in the Brace Shop where patients can try out their new appliances with the aid of hand rails and full-length mirrors.

(Duke photo by Sparks)

hydrotherapy area, four cubicles provide facilities for whirlpool baths and other forms of treatment utilizing water. A stainless steel pool in this area is equipped with a variable height floor and a "walking trough" of greater depth than the rest of the pool.

The department's spacious new gymnasium contains equipment for a variety of exercises. This facility is separated by an accordion wall from a classroom for physical therapy students. Both gym and classroom are connected with the Duke Medical Center's closed-circuit television

system to permit televised teaching demonstrations for medical and physical therapy students.

Careful planning, with the patient constantly in mind, has resulted in features such as wheelchair-width doorways throughout the department; an elaborate intercom system and signal lights for the treatment cubicles; and furniture designed to provide maximum comfort for handicapped patients. The department also includes a central charting area for patients; and offices for members of the physical therapy staff.

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