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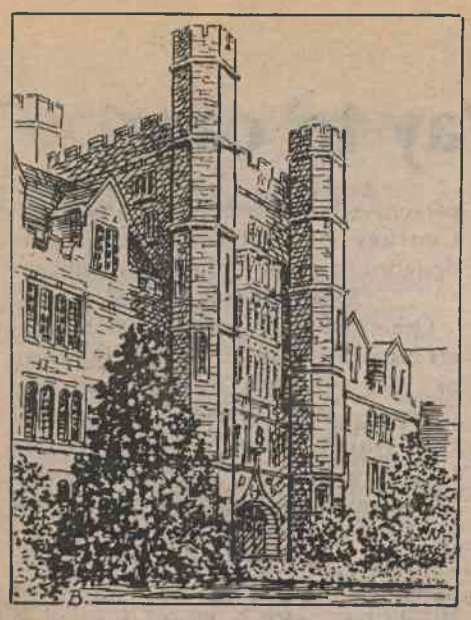

SETTING SIGHTS ON DUKE NORTH—A surveyor at the Duke Hospital North site is standing atop what will be the main lobby of the new hospital. The "roof" of the lobby will be in the form of a giant skylight. For another view, looking down, see photo on page 4. *(Photos by Parker Herring)*

United Way kicks off

Medical center personnel hear a lot of talk about the word care.

But the emphasis of the word shifted from patient care to another type of caring as speakers addressed pay point representatives at a United Way kick-off breakfast in the courtyard cafeteria, Aug. 30.

The kick-off breakfast marked the beginning of the medical center's 1978 United Way campaign. Representatives from pay points were urged to show they care for others in the Durham community by contributing to the United Way.

The medical center's goal this year is $48,000, according to R.C. (Bucky) Waters, assistant to the vice president for health affairs. Waters is co-chairing the drive with John Robinette, assistant administrative director of patient services.

Referring to the large and varied number of local agencies that benefit from the United Way, Waters said, "If in 1979 someone in your family doesn't use services supported by the United Way, you can be sure that one of your relatives or friends will benefit from the services of an agency supported by the United Way."

Thirty-one agencies receive support from the United Way, including the American Red Cross, the YMCA and YWCA, Family Counseling Services and Salvation Army Boys' Club.

Duke receives some of its contributions back in the form of financial support given to two foundations and one clinic. Last year the Community Guidance Clinic for Children and Youth received $23,000, the Arthritis Foundation received $19,000, and the Medical Research Foundation of North Carolina

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Facial deformities linked to poor breathing patterns

Dramatic deformities of the face, jaws and teeth can be caused by the inability to breathe through the nose properly, two Duke professors say in the summer-autumn issue of the North Carolina Dental Journal.

The article, "Deformity of the Face, Jaws and Dentition: A Preventable Disease" was written by Dr. Galen W. Quinn, chief of the division of orthodontics, and Dr. Kenneth L. Pickrell, professor of plastic, maxillofacial and oral surgery.

"In recent years, many heroic, corrective surgical procedures have been developed to bring malformed parts into healthier functioning positions," they said. "Many machines, devices and medicines have been manufactured to treat the results, but little progress has been made in determining the causes and how to prevent them.

"There are many individuals with deformities of this type and the deformities could be prevented with

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Parents give clues to cancer's causes

By William Erwin

When a child develops cancer, parents naturally ask "why?" Now the parents of these young patients have a chance to help researchers try to learn why cancer struck their children in a study beginning this month at the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Mothers and fathers can provide clues that doctors might not think of, according to Dr. Seymour Grufferman, the physician who is leading the study.

"Parents who are acquainted with the day-to-day exposures of their children may be able to identify factors that a doctor in his office, away from the child, might not pick up," he said.

Grufferman is an assistant professor of pediatrics and director of epidemiology at the cancer center. Cancer epidemiology is the study of groups of people who have cancer.

Questions and hunches

Starting this week in September, parents of all children with cancer seen at Duke are being asked to answer 21 pages of questions on their children's diet, environment, illnesses and treatments. The parents also are asked about their own medical histories and occupations. Answering the questions takes about an hour.

At the end of the questionnaire, parents have a chance to talk about their own hunches.

The last question reads: "Sometimes we get our best leads about what causes a disease from patients or their families. Do you have any thoughts about what might have caused your child's illness?"

For each young patient up to age 14, the researchers will find another child the same age, sex and race who does not have cancer. The parents of the cancer-free children will be asked the same set of questions.

Then all the answers will be analyzed by computer to see whether children with certain types of cancer have anything in common.

Grufferman said at least one mother elsewhere in the nation has come up with the key clue that led researchers to the cause of her daughter's cancer. He said he hopes the same sort of breakthrough will emerge from the Duke study.

"We want to pinpoint causes of childhood cancer, hopefully," he said. "Our second aim is to identify a sub-set of children at high risk for cancer."

Looking 'needle in haystack'

Conducting the study with Grufferman are Dr. Samuel L. Katz, professor and chairman of pediatrics; Dr. John Falletta, associate professor of pediatrics; Dr. Herman Grossman, professor of radiology and pediatrics; and Dr. Sue Y.S. Kimm, assistant professor of pediatrics.

"We're trying some way out questions," the scientist said, "but we're very thorough. We're looking for the needle in the haystack."

For instance, one question in the survey asks how often the child has eaten kidney, liver, tongue or brains.

"We're asking this question because there's some evidence to support the idea that people who eat brains have a higher incidence of a slowly degenerative disease of the central nervous system called Creutzfeldt-Jakobs syndrome," Grufferman said.

"It's caused by a so-called 'slow' virus, one that is dormant in the body for years before becoming active."

Another question asks whether the young patient's playmates have had "any serious illnesses such as mono or cancer, or any operations."

"We put in this question," Grufferman said, "because of cancer clusters at schools and concern about possible person-to-person transmission of cancer." He added he doesn't "quite accept these clusters as real."

He said the question could turn up shared environmental exposures that might affect both the patient and his or her playmates.

The study will continue from now on, the physician said. He expects that he and his colleagues will have some conclusions in about three years.