

The Ladies in Pink 'Have Given Duke a Heart'

By Wendell Weisend

Duke Hospital has a million-dollar investment that didn't cost a cent: the Women's Auxiliary.

Not only are these 400-plus goodwill ambassadors like a million dollars to the Hospital, but the Auxiliary also bears interest.

All the "little things" these voluntary workers have done for patients and staff alike during the last four years are now taken for granted, but sometimes it's hard to realize that they are responsible for a number of improvements in the Hospital.

After the first year of operation (1950-51), the Auxiliary gave \$750 to help support a cancer research project at Duke. In 1952, they installed a new \$600 coffee counter and snack bar in the main lobby, and last year they donated to the Hospital a \$1200 rocking bed, latest innovation in treatment of polio patients.

Today the Auxiliary announces its latest major project: Sending a hopeful young North Carolina girl through the Duke School of Nursing.

Martha Ann Redfern, of Hampstead Topsail High School near Wilmington, has always wanted to be a nurse, and she will get her chance when she enters the three-year nursing diploma program at Duke in June. It will cost the Auxiliary about \$500 before she completes her work, but the Auxiliary will consider the money well-spent for a girl who hopes to do just what her voluntary sponsors are doing: serving humanity.

When the Auxiliary holds its fourth annual meeting in May to review what they have accomplished and what they hope to do in the future, they will find that the more than 17,000 voluntary hours of hard work contributed during 1953 is example enough of why they have become an integral and indispensable part of the Duke medical center.

The coffee counter, shop, ice cream and library carts are among the popular "taken for granted" service projects of the Auxiliary, as well as a guide service for patients and visitors. Then there are such incidentals as running errands, collecting lost chil-



CANDY JONAS, pretty Auxiliary volunteer, previews fashions in Easter bunnies for Dayle Flammia, 11 months, a bright-eyed little patient from Raleigh.

dren and generally pitching in wherever needed.

If there is any one pet project, however, it's the Annual Thanksgiving Sale. The reason is quite simple: Funds from the sale are used to decorate the Children's Wards at Christmas time, and to make certain that no hospitalized child goes without a Christmas present.

From time to time throughout the year, the Auxiliary also has given a record player, an aquarium, comic books and other gifts to the children's wards at Duke, and the North Carolina Cerebral Palsy Hospital is now included in the Auxiliary's budget to see that these young spastic patients from throughout the State are not lacking for a birthday present, or for clothes and toys.

All the wonderful imagination and initiative of these unselfish women is summed up in a little booklet, "Who We Are and What We Do," which won a prize last Summer at the American Hospital Association's annual convention. Duke Hospital Women's Auxiliary representatives also have personally helped in setting up similar organizations in other com-

munities in North Carolina and in other States, and the booklet is aimed at helping even more women interested in establishing auxiliaries.

The University community really isn't unmindful of what the Auxiliary has done, since doctors and staff will readily tell you that "They have given the institution a heart."

"An Auxiliary plays a vital part in the operation of any hospital, particularly in making patients feel at home and increasing the morale of the Hospital staff," they explain.

But the medical center really needs a separate bankbook to keep track of all the tangible and intangible assets the Women's Auxiliary has contributed.

Admittance Record

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to the public and private out-patient clinics.

The consecutive admittance record began in 1945 when 14,437 patients were admitted. The figure has grown steadily since then to the present 23-year high.