

Supt's Corner



A recent grant to Duke University by The Richardson Foundation for the purpose of surveying the need for training more Negro practical nurses in North Carolina has necessitated visits to the majority of North Carolina hospitals. In the visits made so far, it has been most interesting to observe the shifting pattern of nursing service staffing and the role of the trained practical nurse in hospital nursing—more about this in a later column.

Of more general interest is the tremendous change in North Carolina hospitals resulting from the addition of almost 2000 non-federal beds since 1951. When seen in rapid succession, the impact of so many modernized old hospitals and brand new ones is somewhat startling.

It is also of great interest to see in what large numbers well-qualified young physicians have been attracted by these modern hospital plants to practice in smaller communities. After almost 15 years lapse in the general addition of young physicians to the state's medical complement, the sudden influx of post-war trained specialists is rapidly placing major responsibility for medical care in the hands of a new generation of skilled men and women.

It is a great satisfaction to see what an important part is being played by Duke-trained people. Doctors, nurses, administrators, record librarians, technicians, practical nurses, physical therapists, dietitians, anesthetists; the whole gamut of training programs here are to be found in some measure everywhere.

The rapid addition of so many hospitals and hospital beds has not been accomplished without creating problems in occupancy and financing in many locations, but the combination of adequately equipped modern hospitals and well-distributed skilled health personnel promise greatly improved health care for all North Carolinians.

It goes without saying that the



How many friends have we lost for Duke this way?

Aussie Nurses Praise Hospitality

Three Australian nurses are presently at Duke Hospital for six months in the Exchange Visitor Program through the sponsorship of the International Council of Nurses and the auspices of the American Nurses Association and Australian Nursing Federation. They are Misses Margaret Slattery, and Marjorie Finn, Victoria, and Miss Jacqueline Magee, Kulin.

wider range of skilled care available to people in smaller communities means that the large medical centers, like Duke, must constantly push forward in the development of services beyond the average available elsewhere. That is one of our important functions. To the degree that we accomplish it, we will equal or better the record of our first 24 years of leadership.—*Ross Porter.*

Miss Magee arrived at Duke October 24, 1954. Misses Slattery and Finn arrived here January 14 having just completed six months' experience at Mass. General Hospital in Boston.

What interests them most? "We have been amazed by your wondrous variegated automobiles, the highways, skyways, and underpasses on which you drive them; by the enormous popcorn machines, almost as big a money catcher as the movie houses in which one finds them; by the deep freezes so stocked with goods from every season of the year; and by the grand hospitality and kindnesses shown to foreign exchange graduate nurses."

In addition to obtaining clinical nursing experience, provision is made for participation in the ward educational program, attendance at lectures in their special fields of interest, and participation in the in-service training program. They are permitted to receive a small stipend in addition to living accommodations.—*Gertrude Elliott.*