



THE ORIGINAL STAFF

I Remember When

Because Duke Hospital celebrated its 25th year last month, we asked Ross Porter to give our present employees (as well as the old-timers) a glimpse of the early days. We think you'll enjoy his reminiscence.

As Dr. Davison said, "July 21, 1955 was a great deal cooler than July 21, 1930. . . ." It could also be said that we weren't nearly so harassed on the latter date. . . . The combination of excessively hot weather and the strain of trying to get the place going on July 21, 1930 certainly didn't contribute much toward sweetness and light on that occasion.

I remember, that as an eager little beaver fresh from college, I was chewed out, but good, by Dr. Amoss, Miss Bessie Baker and several other

people I don't even remember before I could find sanctuary in the big empty business office inhabited only by Mrs. Campbell, an adding machine and a bookkeeping machine we didn't know how to operate.

Things picked up pretty rapidly after that, however, and in a few days we even knew where the patients were who had rushed in on the first day. . . . This accomplishment was largely possible through a tracking operation conducted by Mr. M. E. Winston, the Superintendent, as he prowled the wards with his precious patient register in hand.

Contrary to our expectations that the Hospital wards could be opened at a leisurely pace we found ourselves opening them just about as rapidly as we were able to force out the students and House Staff living

in the unopened ones. . . . This growth was a fine tribute to the judgment of Dr. Davison and his Staff in their original planning, but it surely did keep us all stepping.

We remember, too, routine estimates of ten days for an appendectomy . . . fourteen days for delivery . . . fifteen to twenty days for a herniotomy. . . . Hospital costs in those days was less than six dollars per day . . . starting salary for secretaries was sixty dollars per month and for graduate nurses, less than one hundred dollars.

As always, in recalling the past, we remember a great deal more about colorful individuals and inconsequential incidents than about the important milestones. . . . Timing gets out of kilter, too, and happen-

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