

Supt's Corner



Newspapers across the nation carried an excellent feature story by Norman Nelson commemorating, on January 21, the 30th Anniversary of Dr. Davison's appointment to plan, organize and put into operation the School of Medicine and Duke Hospital. In spite of the impressiveness of the accomplishments recorded in this story, it could only skim the surface of a career so remarkably full as to defy any attempt at comprehensiveness—we are fortunate that this is also a continued story with more chapters to come.

At a "family" dinner on February 7, at the Hope Valley Club the Medical School faculty celebrated "Dave's" 30th with accolades of such affection and appreciation as to bring a suspicion of moisture to even his grizzled cheek. To those of us who know how much sentimentality lurks behind his bluff façade, it is certain that he cherished the spontaneous plaudits of his co-workers much more than all of the high honors he has and will receive.

Naturally, during this affair, everyone was moved to exchange countless stories about Dave, pointing up the fact that he has always been a "character"—albeit an impressive one—and that here, at least, was one man who didn't have to wait thirty years to be classified as such. Why? Well, it's hard to say. Perhaps it might not be too amiss to credit the seeming contrast between his unorthodox methods and his highly successful results.

Some of us who have found it extremely profitable to understand "Dave's" modus operandi might cite; apparently careless delegation of important assignments producing extraordinary performance from the delegate beyond what his own opinion of his abilities could have predicted, apparently humorous instructions to his staff conveying his true expectation of the highest possible serious

New Health Plan Is Important Employee Benefit

A new hospital and medical care program for Duke University employees is getting underway.

The new health plan, to which Duke University is contributing more than one-half the cost, represents an important new employee benefit.

Eligible Duke Hospital employees are rapidly joining the new program, which is composed of four elements: hospital care, surgical benefits, in-hospital medical benefits and out-patient care. These elements are combined into a single unit certificate issued by the Hospital Care Association.

Eligible for the plan, an expansion of the existing hospital care and surgical program, are 1) all employees eligible and qualified under regulations fixing eligibility for Collective Decreasing Term Life Insurance; and all clerical, secretarial, technical and skilled employees who have been in the employ of Duke University for five years or more as of Sept. 1, 1956.

This new program is based upon the \$10 per day comprehensive policy of the Hospital Care Association, and

the \$200 surgical schedule. It will be effective on hospital admissions which occur on or after January 1, 1957, and on surgical operations and other available services which are rendered on or after January 1, 1957. Duke University is paying slightly more than one-half of the dues for persons who meet the eligibility requirements stated above. Any employee who desires the \$12 comprehensive policy may subscribe to it by paying the additional cost. The University participation is limited to the \$10 plan.

For those of you who are already members of the Hospital Care Association through the Duke University group, no new application card will be necessary at this time. If you are not a member through the University group, please contact your personnel office.

Those persons who are eligible and apply for membership will be given immediate coverage for pre-existing conditions, maternity, and obstetrical care, and will be accepted as members regardless of age or condition of health.

This 'n' That

Multilith

We are happy to welcome to the Multilith Department our new secretary, Mrs. Marguerite Mitchell. Marguerite is formerly from Alabama. Her husband, Cebert, formerly from West Virginia, works in the Physiology Department. Marguerite and Cebert attended the Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo.

—N. F. Carden, Jr.

Private Medical Laboratory

Mrs. Merkie Strickland became a member of the Private Medical Laboratory staff Jan. 2. We are happy to have her with us.

performance, an obvious disregard for procedure and red-tape masking a very orderly mind focused directly toward important objectives, the ability to work at top speed anywhere at any odd moment and under terrific pressure with no apparent evidence of tension, procrastinating on controversial decisions to the exactly right time and then forcing an immediate resolution of the problem, paying infinite attention to details on matters involving personal relationships while appearing to be oblivious of "major issues"—This could go on forever, but it is indicative.

As you always say, Dave, "We're glad to see you back" and we want you to be back a long time.

—F. Ross Porter