

Kearns Appointed Collections Manager

Ned S. Kearns of Durham has been appointed collections manager for Duke Hospital.

The appointment marks an addition to the hospital business staff to help patients with better financial planning for hospitalization, F. Ross Porter said. Kearns will also be responsible for organizing a collections unit as part of the hospital business office.

Born in Denton and reared in Lexington, Kearns studied at the University of North Carolina from 1948-52. He served as assistant manager for the Commercial Credit Corporation in Durham from 1952-56, and was associated with the East Coast Distributors, Inc., Durham, before coming to Duke.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Kearns of 226 Fairview Drive, Lexington, Kearns is married to the former Miss Jane Bullock of Durham. They and their daughter reside at 1003 First Avenue, Durham.

At Duke Completed

A new Hematology Laboratory has been completed at Duke Hospital.

Providing expanded facilities for diagnostic tests and research in blood diseases, the laboratory is housed in a second-floor addition to the Hospital. Half of the \$72,000 cost of construction and equipment was covered by Hill-Burton funds administered by the N. C. Medical Care Commission, while the other half was met by private donors.

The new facilities are geared to handle diagnostic tests and other laboratory procedures for some 60 patients per week, according to Dr. R. Wayne Rundles, director of the laboratory. Also, the laboratory makes possible a more intensive research program on the role of chemicals in controlling leukemia, tumors, Hodgkin's disease, chronic anemias and other blood ailments.

Over-Sedation Study Underway

Duke University medical researchers, working under a grant of \$133,500, have begun studying the possibility of a link between anesthesia given at childbirth and afflictions such as cerebral palsy.

Dr. R. Frederick Becker of the Duke Medical School's anatomy department is principal investigator. The three-year field investigating grant came from the National Institutes of Health, U. S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Becker and his associates are seeking an answer to the question: Will over-sedation of a pregnant mother at the time of birth impair the physical and mental development of her offspring?

Evidence now exists that lack of oxygen in animal offspring during birth produces brain damage similar to that seen in a cerebral palsied child, Dr. Becker points out. Over-sedation can cause such an oxygen lack.

Also, Dr. Becker says, there is a possibility that overdoses of anesthetics can produce toxic effects in addition to upsetting circulatory and respiratory patterns.

Still another problem that interests the Duke research team is the effects of indiscriminate use of modern tranquilizers upon development of the unborn child.

Working with Dr. Becker in the project are research assistants Keith O'Steen and Kami Tabara, and graduate students Miss Eleanor Flanagan and J. Edward King.

Carter Elected

Dr. Bayard Carter, has been elected president of the American Association of Infant and Maternal Health. Elections were held during a July meeting of the group, formerly known as the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, in Chicago.

G. I.'s in Far East "Unaffected" by Flu

A Duke University physician just back from a tour of U. S. Air Force installations in the Far East reports that American servicemen have been "virtually unaffected" by the current epidemic of Oriental influenza.

Dr. J. Lamar Callaway, professor of dermatology said that the new type of influenza "is not the problem to Americans that it is to native populations in the Far East."

He explained that apparently previous exposure to other strains of influenza has made Americans less susceptible than the natives to the new virus.

Dr. Callaway visited Air Force installations in Japan, Korea, Formosa, the Philippines, India, Pakistan and 11 other areas of the Far and Middle East. During a month's tour of duty as consultant in dermatology to the Surgeon General of the U. S. Air Force, he examined patients suffering from skin disorders and consulted with medical officers on dermatology problems.

Sound Waves Used To Clean Instruments

By NORMAN NELSON

Ultrasonic sound waves that turn a tank of water into millions of tiny "vacuum cleaners" are now being used to clean surgical instruments here at Duke Hospital.

This marks only the second installation of hospital ultrasonic cleaning apparatus in the South.

Explaining the significance of this innovation, Dr. Deryl Hart, chairman of the Duke Medical School's surgery department, explained that about 30 seconds are required to clean each surgical instrument prior to sterilization when done by hand.

The new ultrasonic device, however, can clean as many as 120 instru-

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