

Supt's Corner



By F. Ross Porter

The substantial grant by the Rockefeller Foundation in support of our new program in graduate nurse education is a significant vote of confidence in the soundness of the objectives of our total program in nurse education.

Our relatively new basic degree program has been firmly based upon the concept, that while the degree program must be depended upon as the principal source for the development of administrative and instructional nurses, the effectiveness of our graduates would be determined by our success or failure in producing, first of all, a skilled bedside nurse.

The thinking which went into the development of our post-graduate program carried this principle an additional step to postulate that, in an era of rapid medical advancement, it was necessary to develop an even more highly skilled nurse at the post-graduate level in various nursing specialties. This need was conceived of as a particularly urgent one because of the greater skills required for the professional nurse to make more and more use of lesser trained people.

Our interest in pursuing these objectives is, of course, twofold. We feel keenly our responsibility in a medical center, for making our contribution toward meeting the insatiable demand for nursing personnel at all levels. We are also very mindful of the absolute necessity for producing much of our own supply of nursing personnel if we are to continue our hospital operation.

In the post-graduate program we can hope, not only to share in the supply of nurses produced by the program, but can also look forward to augmenting our supply of nurses and

nurse teachers by those nurses who will work in the hospital or teach while enrolled here as graduate students.

It is a source of great satisfaction to find the revised program in nursing, which was inaugurated in 1953, developing so soundly and rapidly and to have its latest expansion so dramatically endorsed by one of the leading foundations.

New Frontier

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Black, Dania, Fla.; Joann Brown, Dunbar, W. Va.; and Jo Ann Baughan, Princess Anne, Md. The Rockefeller funds will make possible expansion of the program in the near future to include other majors and more students.

Miss Thelma Ingles, associate professor of nursing, is director of the program in medical and surgical nursing. The work is done almost entirely through intensive study of the needs of individual patients. Other key elements of the graduate program are courses in the behavioral sciences and thesis research and writing. Dr. Morton Bogdonoff of the Department of Medicine attends all seminars of the group, and serves as general resource person and consultant. Dr. Sanford Cohen of the Department of Psychiatry holds weekly conferences with the group to help them better understand the dynamics of human behavior. Others actively involved in the program include Betty Sue Johnson, psychiatric nursing; Helen Johnson, public health nursing; and Helen McLachlan, dietary instruction. Miss Ingles expressed great pleasure at the enthusiasm for the program shown by the medical and surgical faculties and gratitude for their generosity in contributing to the students. Members of the medical and surgical departments when queried about the students were equally enthusiastic in reply. Their comments: "a red hot program"; "fine nurses; I am tre-

mendously impressed with the calibre of training and degree of interest"; "amazed at the degree of perception"; "tremendous help in handling patients; amazed by the amount of industry they show; these are students with inquiring minds who stimulate whatever portion of the service they are associated with."

The enthusiastic support being accorded this program is understandable when it is considered in the light of the nursing situation in North Carolina; a situation which pertains as well at the national level. The shortage of well-trained nurses is becoming more acute at a time when hospital beds are rapidly increasing. Sufficient numbers of highly qualified nursing instructors and supervisors are unavailable due to insufficient educational facilities for such personnel. The Duke program is designed to help alleviate this situation by producing teachers and practitioners of nursing with a background of superior training in patient care obtained prior to specialization in teaching techniques. "Graduate nursing instruction devoted to how to teach is no longer adequate," Dean Jacobansky emphasized. "Rather a considerable emphasis on what to teach is necessary."

Do You Know That:

the bed capacity of Duke Hospital with its new wing is 546 beds.

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Duke Hospital discharged 17,954 inpatients during the hospital year October 1, 1956 to September 30, 1957.

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the Out-Patient Clinics had 118,855 visits during the same period.

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the Auxiliary makes an average of 1000 cups of coffee a day.

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the house staff of Duke Hospital now numbers 215 persons.

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it costs a cent and a half every time one of the elevators makes a trip and they average about 50 trips an hour.