

## Supt's Corner



By. F. Ross Porter

We are, quite naturally, very proud of our new operating room section and are saying so as we feature it in this issue. In doing so we are actually paying particular tribute to our surgical departments who have not only developed to the point of requiring such facilities and equipment, but also have created and financed them.

In saluting the surgical departments we are also paying tribute to the other departments, for in the current era of medical practice no department stands alone. Surgery is made more effective by other disciplines and other disciplines may often achieve their objectives through skilled surgery. An integrated effort by all departments to focus upon the patient's problem has characterized the thinking, planning and operation of our professional organization from the beginning.

These operating rooms and allied facilities and equipment also serve as a reminder of the tremendous advances which have been made in medical knowledge. Surgical procedures previously impossible are now possible, not only because of advances in surgical technique, but also because of new drugs, new anesthetics, new knowledge of blood and blood derivatives and of electrolytic balance, and because of diagnostic aids which were unknown a few years ago.

We are also reminded that advances as illustrated by these facilities are creating such demands for the concentration of skilled personnel and expensive equipment that financing and staffing are becoming increasingly acute problems. An annual operating budget of approximately one half million dollars is required for our operating room and allied sections alone.

## Problems of Emotionally Disturbed Children

A special conference on the problems of emotionally disturbed children was held at the Duke Medical Center February 28-March 1. Made possible by the Nemours Foundation of Wilmington, Del., in cooperation with the N. C. Health Council, the conference considered the disruptive forces of present-day modes and living and such specific problems as speech handicaps, convulsions and neuromuscular symptoms, the mentally handicapped child and the child in court. The group studied the extent of the problem of emotionally disturbed children in North Carolina and appraised the services available for the prevention, detection and care of emotional disturbances.

Dr. Hans Lowenbach was chairman of the 1958 conference planning committee. Dr. John Fowler and Dr. Jerome Harris participated in the conference together with a distinguished panel of guest speakers.

## Dr. Cohen Named Commission Chairman

Dr. Louis D. Cohen, associate professor of medical psychology and chief of clinical psychology, has been named chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board's Commission on the Training of School Psychologists.

Composed of educators and psychologists from the 16 states that comprise the Southern Governors' Conference, and financed by a \$22,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, U. S. Public Health Service, the commission was set up to help provide more well trained psychologists for the school program of the South.

The attitudes and concentrated efforts which brought us the facilities we are now viewing with pride are, no doubt, the ones which will help us meet the problems attending their operation.

## Postgraduate Courses in Medical Specialties

During recent months members of the Department of Medicine have directed three post-graduate courses in medical specialties.

A course in arthritis and other rheumatic diseases, directed by Dr. E. L. Persons March 10-11, was highlighted by a public forum in the Woman's College Auditorium. The course was attended by doctors from throughout the state. Fifteen members of the Duke medical faculty served as instructors together with Dr. Russell L. Cecil, Medical Director of The Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, New York; Dr. Elam C. Toone, Jr., of the Medical College of Virginia; and Dr. Amos N. Johnson, general practitioner of Garland, N. C.

Some 40 physicians from throughout North Carolina attended a three-day advanced postgraduate course in electrocardiography January 21-23. The course was directed by Dr. Edward S. Orgain, and instructors included Drs. E. Harvey Estes, George Maha and Walter Floyd.

Eighty-five physicians from 22 states and Canada attended a five-day course in February on diseases of the digestive organs. This gastroenterology course, one of several courses sponsored each year by the American College of Physicians, was under the direction of Dr. Julian M. Ruffin. The 35-man faculty included physicians from nine other medical centers and Duke.

## Who's Who

**Top row,** left to right: Stead, Anlyan and Ruffin, Carter.

**Center row:** Persons, Reeves.

**Bottom row:** Hamblen, Davison, Forbus, Hart.