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DIETETIC INTERNS at work on cycle menus. Menus are planned in four cycles: spring, summer, fall and winter. Each set of menus within a cycle covers a five-week period. Menus must be re-evaluated after use both for cost and for food combinations. Use of cycle menus makes this re-evaluation more effective. Left to right: Carla Coulter, Anne Richardson, Clara Baughner, Joan Rensko, Vivian Welk, Kate Mahood, Nancy Clark, Diane Young, Jane Colclessner, Margery Curran.

another vertical unit—this one called a Subveyor—to the dish room on the ground floor. An attractive new china, white with a blue design, is in use in this unit.

Wards not served by the tray assembly belt have decentralized service from their own ward kitchens.

The teaching program in the department is under the supervision of Miss Helen McLachlan, Associate Director of Dietetics.

For the dietetic interns in the department, a year's program is designed to develop a mature, professional viewpoint and to provide well-rounded experience on a graduate level. This dietetic internship had its beginnings in the School of Dietetics which opened with the Hospital in 1930. It now demonstrates the many aspects of a hospital dietitian's work. Under the guidance of a staff dietitian the intern obtains experience in personnel management, food service, menu planning, purchasing and cost control. Her background of diet therapy must be expanded into a working knowledge of modified diets to fit the patient's need and conform to the physician's orders. She learns



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ESTHER RATLIFF, Director of Dietetics. A native of Kansas, Miss Ratliff received her B.S. degree from Kansas State in 1931. After an internship at Grasslands Hospital, Valhalla, New York, and a period on the staff there as Assistant Dietitian, she returned to the mid-west. She held posts in hospitals in Duluth, Minn., Denver, Col., and Kansas City, Mo. This was followed by nine years as Assistant Director of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Kansas Medical Center in her home state. Miss Ratliff considered herself a dyed-in-the-wool midwesterner with no idea of ever going anywhere else. Then out of the blue came the opening at Duke Medical Center. She was appointed to her present position September 1, 1957.

the special problems involved in planning diets for children and the procedures used in the formula room. Experience in the Out-Patient Department teaches the intern to guide patients who are not hospitalized in the selection and preparation of their food. She develops an appreciation of the cultural, social and ethnic influences on food habits. Dietetic interns attend staff meetings so they have first-hand knowledge of how a department operates. Those who complete the internship satisfactorily are eligible for membership in the American Dietetic Association. There are ten Dietetic Interns at Duke Hospital this year.

Administrative Interns spend one week of observation in the Department of Dietetics, and a dietitian participates in their seminars.

At present, instruction of medical students is limited to responses to individual requests for help. It is hoped that later it will be possible for a dietitian to make staff rounds. This would offer an opportunity for instruction of both medical and nursing students.

An important phase of dietetic teaching is patient instruction. About 300 patients a month must receive instruction in their special diets.

As more and more emphasis has been placed on the importance of nutrition in patient care, the Department of Dietetics has taken an increasing part in the education of the student nurse. The aim of the Department is to develop a program which will relate nutrition to all the areas of the student nurse's experience. At present student nurses have an orientation period in the Department of Dietetics; they learn to write diets and check trays; they have an observation period in the Out-Patient Department to acquaint them with the problems of teaching patients who must be responsible for the selection