

## Supt's Corner



By F. Ross Porter

It is an exceptional housewife who does not cringe occasionally at the thought of planning, preparing and cleaning up after an endlessly recurring cycle of meals for her family. If someone in the family is sick the problem is compounded and Mom is sometimes confounded. Of course, Pop can be persuaded, now and then, to take the family out to eat, but we have heard reports that such expeditions can be rather strenuous affairs.

All this is leading up to a comparison with the plight of a hospital dietitian in a place like ours. Her great big headache is the responsibility for more than 3300 meals and nourishments each day for patients who are all sick and for staff and students who rate themselves pretty highly as food experts. Like the housewife, her food budget takes a beating when Florida makes like Alaska or when steers become gold-plated.

Nothing puts such a damper on family peace as poor meals or meals that don't cater to individual preferences and nothing gives a hospital a black eye as quickly as a similar failure in hospital food and food service. Fortunately, there are housewives who think it is fun and not a burden to tempt the appetite of their families. There are hospital dietitians like that, too. And we think that Miss Ratliff and her staff are that kind.

During a very difficult transition period in a new location and with an almost completely new staff they have demonstrated that they think their job is both important and fun to accomplish. Our hats are off to them, not only for the continuing improvements in our food and food service, but also for the eagerness with which

## Miss Medical Center Personality of 1958

A patient visiting the insurance office commented that he thought there were so many employees at the hospital that it was necessary to number them when he was told to see 908. Nina Waite or 908 has been employed at the hospital since 1934 as cashier, admitting officer, and now as supervisor of the hospital insurance office.

Daughter of the late Reverend and Mrs. James Waite, Nina was born in Pennsylvania, lived in her mother's home state of South Carolina in early childhood, and spent her high school and college years in Texas. She received the B.A. degree from the University of Texas and a stenographic diploma from Massey Business College, Houston, Texas.

Her long stay at Duke began with a summer visit to Durham. Employment at the hospital brought her to rest in a locale she is proud to call home and to a career of activities she has always found interesting and challenging.

Particular interests and activities outside of working hours are a result of her pride in being part of the Medical Center. Membership in the Duke Hospital Women's Auxiliary, participation in the patient-service projects, and friendship of the Pink Ladies have brought her great pleasure.

She is a charter member and past president of the Durham chapter, National Secretaries Association. NSA membership has given her many educational, civic, and social opportunities. She took the Certified Professional Secretary examination sponsored by the Association and in 1955

they have tried to meet every reasonable request from patients and staff alike—even it they do put basil in the turnip greens.



"... and our Blue Cross, have you kept that up?"

received the CPS designation. For the past year she has been a member of the Durham Business and Professional Women's Club.

Reared in a large family, Nina has a keen appreciation of the value of family ties. She shares an apartment at the University Apartments with her sister Lucille, who, like Nina, has been a part of the Medical Center for many years. Her sister Margaret lives in a neighboring section of the University Apartments and is employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The three sisters share many interests and particularly enjoy holiday celebrations together. Part of each vacation is spent on visits to her brothers in Florida.

The family Presbyterian background is maintained in membership in the First Presbyterian Church.

Nina enjoys spectator sports, particularly football and basketball. She likes swimming and recently joined the YMCA to take advantage of its wonderful pool. She is changing from a bookworm to a magazine addict with the Atlantic being her favorite. She is not a TV fan yet, with a good reason being that she doesn't have one, but loves radio and records. She occasionally goes to sleep with her bedside radio still on but at least gets some agricultural education when she is awakened by farm news.