

From The Auxiliary



By Dorothy Sieker

It is my great pleasure to announce to you all—another dream come true. As we “go to press,” the new children’s playroom off Howland Ward will be open and buzzing with activity.

Four years ago Mrs. R. L. Tuthill organized the Children’s Service as a part of the Woman’s Auxiliary. This service has grown steadily until it now includes seven regular auxiliary members and thirty East Campus volunteers. The service is covered each week day afternoon, and it is hoped that eventually it can be covered on a full-day basis.

The playroom, painted a sunny yellow with delightful Walt Disney characters on the walls, now occupies part of the space once used in the old Pediatric Clinic. In consultation with Dr. Jerome Harris and Miss Mildred Sherwood, Mrs. Tuthill and her committee arrived at a set of working plans. At this point the Auxiliary’s Ways and Means Committee, headed by Mrs. Bayard Carter entered in to accumulate funds for the project. This group has sponsored many special events such as the annual Thanksgiving bake sales and, this year, the Country Fair and Carnival. Each time from the proceeds a certain amount was earmarked “Playroom Money.”

The over-all plan is a duplicate of the playroom in the Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City. The room can accommodate a dozen children at one play period. For little girls there is a doll house corner—the rooms of the doll house are permanent cubicles built in the wall shelves. Each “room” will be completely furnished with the latest doll house furniture.

In this same corner will be dolls and doll clothes. The boys’ corner will have building blocks, wooden trains and little cars. For creative play there will be crayons, paints and peg boards. One of the three record players purchased for the Children’s Service will be installed with an abundant supply of non-breakable children’s records. For the future—a TV set. All the furniture has been built especially for this room and is sealed to a child’s height. Work space, topped with formica, lines two walls with shelves above. The lower set of these shelves holds toys to be played with; the upper set holds supplies. A kindergarten-type table with matching chairs occupies the center of the room for quiet play, books, puzzles and the like. It is hoped, also, that as the Service grows in volunteers, children will be able to eat some of their meals in this cheerful room. A viewing window is built in the wall between the Playroom and the Parents’ Room so the staff can observe the children at play without disturbing them.

It is easy to see that this room will help many a pediatric patient to feel his hospital stay was “not so bad after all.” Next time you are on duty, take time to drop by and see for yourself another Auxiliary dream come true.

The first General Meeting for the 1958-59 season was held October 29 at 8 P.M. in the new Ambulatory Dining Room off Reed Ward. Dr. Doris A. Howell, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, spoke “with us” (not “to us”) on *The Challenge of Children*.

The annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale held November 25 netted \$177.00.

This is my last visit with you this year—a year, I think, filled with success and achievement. Such achievement means the Auxiliary has your support and will continue to see dreams come true.

Holiday greetings to you all—see you next year!



(Duke Photo by Sparks)

“Daddy” Ross

Portrait of Ross Presented

Dr. Robert Alexander Ross, distinguished Tarheel obstetrician and gynecologist, was honored at the Duke University Medical Center on October 3 by the “Nick” Carter Travel Club.

The club, composed of present and former Duke obstetricians and gynecologists from eleven states, presented an oil portrait of Dr. Ross to Duke University.

Recently named president-elect of the American Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Ross has been chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine since 1952. A native of Morganton and an alumnus of the University of North Carolina and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Dr. Ross came to Duke in 1930 and served as acting chairman of the Duke obstetrics-gynecology department during its first years of existence. Known affectionately as “Daddy” Ross, he made many contributions to the progress of the department during his 22 years at Duke.