

# InterCom

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## Service— The Key to Duke Pharmacy's Success

The calm, assured atmosphere you feel in the pharmacy here at Duke is the result of years of painstaking organization by Mr. I. T. Reamer, Chief Pharmacist, and his group of dedicated assistants. The main job of the hospital pharmacy, according to Mr. Reamer, is service—service to the patient, the doctor, the nurse and the administrative staff. This is the philosophy Mr. Reamer brought to Duke when he came here from Johns Hopkins on Duke's first anniversary in 1931. That year Mr. Reamer and one assistant operated the pharmacy with an inventory of about \$3,000. Today this department has grown to include five registered pharmacists and three interns and has an annual budget of \$250,000 and an inventory of \$50,000—and that's a lot of pills in anybody's book!

Now let's see just what our pharmacy does. Its most obvious job is to supply medication for the 460 in-patients and 410 out-patients cared for on an average day at Duke Hospital. This in itself is a formidable task. But the pharmacy also supplies medicinals for over 5,000 University students, hospital employees, medical and nursing students, house staff members and residents of the Methodist Retirement Home. Besides ordering, preparing and dispensing drugs to this large group, the Pharmacy also prepares stains and reagent solutions for the hospital laboratories and screens orders for all chemicals



Mr. I. T. Reamer, center, Chief Pharmacist at Duke, discusses literature just received on a new drug with pharmacists Lloyd Riggsbee, Jessie Lee Wilkins and Nell Evans.

for the medical school and research laboratories.

With all medical costs on the upswing, Duke's pharmacy saves the patients all it can by manufacturing many of the drugs right here instead of buying them in ready to use forms. The manufacturing room also allows the pharmacy to prepare many special drugs developed here at Duke (such as ointments).

One of the things Mr. Reamer has always stressed is a well-informed staff because such a staff can be so much more helpful to the hospital's doctors and nurses. Keeping well-informed in the drug field is not easy, since every year over 300 new drugs are put on the market. The phar-

macy keeps a file of current information on drugs and a listing of current drug prices for their own use and urges the hospital staff to make use of this data, too.

Another important undertaking of the pharmacy is the annual compilation of a dermatological formulary—a booklet listing drugs useful to dermatologists giving ingredients, prices and dosages. The department will also revise the complete Duke Hospital formulary of all drugs in the near future. Nowadays the names of drugs have become amazingly complicated with each drug company using a different trade name for the same drug—and many times a different name for each form of the drug, such as