

Supt's Corner



By Charles H. Frenzel

A new academic year has begun and it is once again time to heartily welcome the new students and staff to the Duke University Medical Center. Over two hundred students for the health professions have entered our midst in the past month and we are once again made acutely aware of our responsibilities to provide the proper environment and climate for their educational experiences at Duke University. The challenge of practicing their health profession in the complex health organizations of the future is a great one, but our challenge of preparing them adequately for their tasks is of immediate concern to each and every member of the Medical Center staff.

Once again this fall we find ourselves with an acute shortage of many categories of specialized personnel. There is little solace in the fact that we are not alone in this situation. We must, however, realize that these shortages mean that there is need for greater cooperation and understanding than if we were adequately staffed.

A program has begun to install fire extinguishers in conspicuous and available locations throughout the Medical Center. Instruction in the use of these extinguishers is underway. I hope that you will all become aware of their locations and avail yourselves of instruction in their use.

Attention:

Duke Auxiliary Members

We are happy to announce that the October Membership Meeting will feature a presentation "Know Your Hospital." Each department head will tell about his part of the hospital and how the auxiliary helps it. This should be an informative and interesting session. Be sure to plan to attend.

Saved— A Life a Day

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mation on the contents and treatment for the substance one of their little patients has just swallowed.

The gathering and dispersing of information, then is the primary job of Duke's Poison Control Center. Up-to-date files are kept listing the ingredients of the various products and medicines one might have around the house that could prove harmful to a child or an adult. This is something the local doctor cannot possibly keep up with. Once it is established what the child has ingested, proper treatment is suggested. This may well include use of the more than 40 fresh, always ready, antidotes that Duke stocks. A follow-up of each inquiry is kept.

Education of parents and physicians and older children is a constant battle Dr. Arena wages. As far as he knows, he says, there isn't a single PTA group in town that hasn't heard his poison prevention talk. And while the major responsibility is on the parents to keep kerosene, Flit, lye and other such items completely out of the reach of children, enlightened legislation and cooperation of manufacturers can help greatly in this fight. Dr. Arena's group developed the safety closure cap you're all familiar with on the children's aspirin bottles. It is his hope that all bottles containing medicine will soon use these caps. Most promising of all probably, is legislation which the group concerned with this problem has pushed for many years. This law (Hazardous Substance Act), enacted in 1960, requires manufacturers to label their product clearly when any substance in it is harmful.

Other than this, all that can be done is preach, preach, preach to parents that bottles and cans are just as dangerous to their children as are broken glass and cars. In this regard, Dr. Arena's energy is never ending. He strongly feels that most of these tragic deaths can be prevented and tries hard to convince you and me of this, too.

Duke's Poison Control Center is a service to our community, state and nation that everyone at Duke can be proud of and also can benefit from in a very close-to-home way. Many of you have children or grandchildren in the curious, fearless, most suscepti-

From The Auxiliary



By Carolyn Hackney

We miss the flash of the peppermint smock of our Junior Volunteers who gave up beach parties and paying jobs to favor us with their cheery smiles and willing hearts to work in every nook of the hospital.

The duties of these junior "Florence Nightingales" included ward service where they took temperatures, made up beds and filled water pitchers; pushing the Shop Cart to all wards so that patients could buy magazines, candy and cigarettes. They also completed charts, filed records and sat at the Information Desk in the O.P.C. They served as guides to the many departments throughout the hospital, manned the library cart and helped at the coffee counter. In fact, they filled in anywhere they were needed and it is easy to see how they piled up the phenomenal figure of 4653 hours of service. Most girls dealt in only one service, but a few were so enthusiastic that they trained for two or three jobs and gave as much as 250 hours individually during the three months.

Mrs. Mary McCole's (O.P.D. Supervisor of Nursing) opinion of the girls was heard throughout the hospital, "We've always been pleased to have the Junior Auxiliary girls in the O.P.C. These girls are enthusiastic workers and always try to learn all that the nurses and administrative personnel can teach them. It was our pleasure to have these young ladies through a long and busy summer."

ble age group of 2 to 4. If so, is your home 100% safe? All it takes is one forgotten bottle of aspirin left open, or the remains of some insecticide that you put in a coke bottle to save, and you have a very seriously ill or dead child. Let's hope you never have need of it, but it is comforting to know that we have Dr. Arena and his Poison Control Center on the job 24 hours a day giving life-saving information to just about one patient per day.