

## Supt's Corner



By Charles H. Frenzel

Noise can be most disturbing and aggravating to a sick person. It is generally accepted that a hospital will have a much lower noise level than we normally find in our environment. How quiet is Duke Hospital?

It may be easy to explain the sources of noise in our hospital: constant construction and renovation, a teaching atmosphere with students of all types learning in our patient areas, and a large out-patient service bringing thousands of people into our corridors every day. Quiet, however is a state of mind, a measure of concern for others, and there is no excuse for unnecessary noise in a hospital.

\* \* \* \*

The MEND Committee of the Duke University Medical Center did an excellent job with our Disaster Plan and a series of progressively more difficult simulated disaster situations were successfully handled in exercises. Now the committee is embarking upon a comprehensive Fall-Out Preparedness Plan and from the way they are tackling the job, I am confident that they will be equally successful. The plan will be designed to cover the entire University, and membership from other departments of the University has been added to the committee in developing our needs. The Duke University Fall-Out Preparedness Plan should be completed by early spring and will be tested as soon after its distribution as possible.

\* \* \* \*

On November 9 the hospital census reached 601, a new high in Duke Hospital's history. Although it is gratifying that Duke Hospital services are receiving increasing public accept-

(Continued on page 6)

## Building Committee "Spot Check"

Work has begun on the renovation project for the **PDC entrance**. All patients and visitors will be requested to use the present OPD entrance. Signs have been located for this purpose. It is planned to enclose the portico and provide automatic doors.

**Welch Ward** is being remodeled to accommodate the Clinical Research Unit preparatory to its moving into new quarters in the Clinical Research Building. At present, modernizing of toilet facilities is underway. The utility room will be modernized next.

The contract has been let for the air conditioning of **Minot, Cushing and Holmes Wards**. This work will be accomplished over the Christmas holidays. It is expected that workmen will be on the job around the clock seven days a week with the possible exception of Christmas Day. The plan is to complete work in the patients' rooms in three weeks. Estimated cost of the project: \$285,000. Some work will be done at the same time to provide for future installation of piped oxygen and installation of suction outlets.

Plans are under way for altering and expanding the **Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Departments** by closing in the courtyard. Space will be provided for the Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services who will also have staff and office space for pre-vocational testing.

As part of the same project, the **Brace Shop** will be expanded into the Service Court and a passageway will be cut through into the present corridor by the Medical School Library. This will make it possible for patients to enter the department without going outside and will eliminate the dangerous stairway from the first floor.

Also, as part of the same project, the **Hospital Store** will be expanded over the new section of the Brace Shop. There will not be enough space to expand the services of the Store, but it will help meet the present crowded conditions.

