

Employee of the Month



MRS. LILLY ROBBINS, a member of Nursing Service assigned as a ward helper in the Ob-Gyn Clinic, has received the outstanding employee award this month. Mrs. Robbins has been employed at Duke Hospital since January 10, 1951. Her Supervisors state that Mrs. Robbins performs her work in an excellent manner. She is alert, always neat in appearance and has a pleasant personality. Her loyalty, efficiency and ability to maintain good working relations with others make her a really outstanding employee.

Our congratulations to Mrs. Lilly Robbins.

From the Auxiliary

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Course. It began January 31 to run for seven weeks on Wednesdays from 2 to 4:30 P.M. This marvelous course is prepared with the help of Miss Lelia Clark, and is an eye-opening peep "back-stage." Best advice to participants: "Take along paper and pencil—you won't be able to remember a tenth of all you'll learn otherwise!"

Wanted: 300 M.D.s

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agnosis comes to the rescue. Sporting his "little black bag" of instruments, he learns the art of taking a complete history and doing a complete physical examination. During this sophomore year course a student "works up" approximately 20 patients and goes over each patient with a member of the medical staff. This course is an important one in that it attempts to bridge the large gap between the first two years of "book learning" and the final two years of clinical work. Just the mastering of the techniques of being at ease with a patient, acquiring a good history and performing a complete physical examination quickly is a formidable task, but one that must be fairly well in hand if the first weeks of ward responsibilities are not to be a complete shambles.

The last two years—during which time the student's ego is helped immensely by being addressed as "Doctor"—the medical student works on the wards of the various services at Duke and the Veterans' Administration Hospital and in the clinics. During this time all of the learning of the first two years is brought into play in the daily task of seeing and treating patients with a wide variety of ailments. The student, during this time on the wards, is responsible for "working up" a certain number of patients; doing the necessary laboratory work; following up on procedures that are carried out by other departments; and rounding each day with the intern, residents and staff members on each of his patients to discuss the progress of the case and its disposition. Naturally as the student becomes more adept he is given more responsibility — though this process seems slow at times to the student—and is a constant source of "gripping."

The third and fourth year medical student puts in closer to an 18-hour than an 8-hour day like most of the rest of us. There is the never-ending "scut work," as the students lovingly call the laboratory work; patient work-ups, rounds, conferences and the large volume of reference reading

necessary to keep the daily sessions with his seniors from becoming too traumatic. But this is all part of the "learning experience" the student hears so much about; and at the end of four such years a young doctor has emerged. With the field of medicine ever-widening even the doctors who plan to go into the practice of general medicine usually plan to take one or two years of further training after internship and for those planning to specialize in surgery, psychiatry, internal medicine, pediatrics, ob-gyn, and the like, up to seven more years of training awaits them.

But today's medical school graduate has a bright future. As Dr. Barnes Woodhall, dean of the medical school counselled last year's graduates, "The studious and well-motivated physician can virtually guarantee himself a rewarding life experience in any aspect of laboratory or clinical medicine and in any environment of his choice." This, no doubt, explains the continued enthusiasm of Duke's hurried and harried medical students.

Barnett and Caskey

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chairman of the National Association on Standard Medical Vocabulary.

Runner-up in the contest was Victor J. Keranen of Miami, Florida, who received a copy of the medical word book. Honorable mention went to James R. Urbaniak of Fairmont, West Virginia; and to co-authors Frederick L. Grover of Berkeley, California, and Ralph W. McGraw, Jr., of Follansbee, West Virginia.

The contest was conducted by the Duke Chapter of the Student American Medical Association. Entries were judged by a Duke Medical School faculty committee.

Dr. Tosteson Appointed

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National Laboratory, Upton, New York.

Dr. Tosteson's wife, Dr. Penelope Tosteson, is also a physician and is, at present, an assistant resident in dermatology at Duke Hospital.