

## InterCom

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Mailing address: Box 2895, Duke  
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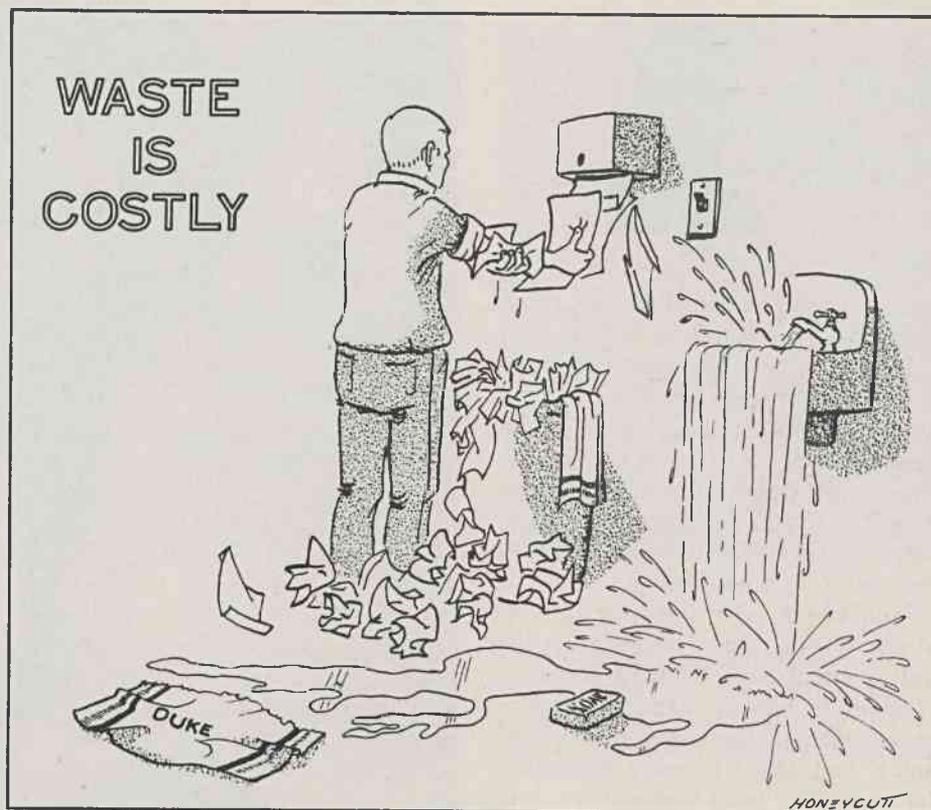
## The Building

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research and clinical facilities to the new building where diagnostic procedures prior to abdominal surgery will be performed and where his research in hypertension and peripheral vascular problems will be conducted. Two members of the department of pediatrics will occupy the new building. Dr. Sidbury's office and laboratory spaces will enable him to expand his work on carbohydrate metabolism. Dr. Stempfel's spaces include his office, examining rooms and laboratory facilities for children with endocrine problems.

From the department of medicine Drs. Sieker and Hansen will move the offices, laboratories and clinical facilities for problems of allergic diseases and pulmonary function to the Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Drs. Tyor and Ruffin and all of the related gastroenterologic functions are now operating in the new building. These include a radioisotope, cardiac catheter and chemistry laboratories, and office and clinical spaces.

To attain the desired coordination of effort, some research is being carried on in the same laboratories that serve the clinical functions in the Diagnostic and Treatment Center. But the major emphasis is, undoubtedly, on diagnostic and clinical rather than pure research work. Just the opposite is true of the Gerontology Building. This building is devoted entirely to research into the process and problems of aging.



The study of aging—gerontology—and the treatment and prevention of diseases of aging—geriatrics—are relatively new sciences. Interest in this area began at Duke in 1954 when Dr. Ewald Busse, chairman of the department of psychiatry, began extensive study of selected elderly people in the community. Within a year the need for coordinated study of the problem was recognized and Duke's Council on Gerontology was formed. This council was made up of more than a dozen department heads. Monthly seminars were sponsored and an effort was made to coordinate the investigation by all departments into problems of an aging population.

By 1957 the U. S. Public Health Service felt the need for regional centers to work on these problems and asked Duke Medical Center to cooperate as the first of about half a dozen such centers in the country. So the Regional Center for the Study of Aging came into being. Since that time a wealth of projects has been undertaken in the medical school and university concerning aging. Again, effort was spread over a large area,

with no central place for accumulation of data. The new Gerontology Building answers this need.

Here are located all of the laboratories for every aspect of geriatric research plus ample room for interviewing and evaluating the entire older person. The data accumulated by these studies are kept on IBM tapes. From these tapes, in less than 10 minutes, the gerontologists can get any answer or hundreds of answers involving their entire group of subjects studied over the years.

The opening of this new building creates two more firsts for Duke Medical Center. The Diagnostic and Treatment Center represents a rare opportunity for the Duke clinician to have right at hand all of the tools and facilities needed to practice adequate medicine in an academic center. This allows for more effective care of patients, teaching and research. The Gerontology Building facilitates more research into this fascinating new science and acts as the center for a unique, coordinated effort by many different departments of the entire university.