

Sup'ts Corner



by CHARLES H. FRENZEL

In June of this year a field representative of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals made a three day survey of Duke Hospital. Surveys by the Commission are made every three years to determine if the hospital is maintaining carefully designated standards for every area of activity it offers. Four medical and hospital organizations comprise the Joint Commission. The American College of Physicians, The American College of Surgeons, The American Hospital Association and The American Medical Association.

The accreditation program is voluntary on the part of the hospital. It is a costly program—more than half a million dollars each year comes from the funds of the four organizations, in addition to the fees paid by the hospitals participating. Its purpose is solely for the benefit of the patient. Accreditation assures the patient that everything the hospital does, it does well.

In August Duke Hospital received its notice of accreditation for the next three years. As could be expected we are not perfect and sixteen recommendations were made for the improvement of our organization and services. These recommendations included our need to formalize our hospital and medical staff organization, to record and file the minutes of meetings of hospital, medical staff, and review committees, and to sign all reports and orders in medical records. The surveyor acknowledged that these activities were being performed but that documentation was needed. As a final comment, he stated: "The hospital is commended for its extensive building and renovation program and long range planning, effective administration, excellent staff organization and high quality patient care."

Steps already have been taken to

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The Duke Hospital Chaplaincy Service

It was during the summer of 1956 that a full time Chaplaincy Service became an integral part of the Duke Hospital staff-structure.

There were several people promoting the establishment of the service. The groundwork for the full-time Chaplaincy Service was laid by Mr. Ross Porter, then Superintendent of Duke Hospital, and Dr. Russell Dicks, Professor of Pastoral Care in the Duke Divinity School as well as chaplain at the hospital.

Dr. Dicks and Mr. Porter, with the support of the N. C. Conference of the Methodist Church, employed in July of 1956 the Reverend P. Wesley Aitken as the first full-time chaplain. It would seem that this choice was an obvious one, for Chaplain Aitken received his B.D. and his Th.M. degrees from the Duke Divinity School. During his graduate study, Chaplain Aitken trained under the direction of Dr. Dicks and participated in a "considerable amount" of chaplaincy work. Today Chaplain Aitken is head of the Duke Hospital Chaplaincy Service. Assisting him, since 1961, is Chaplain Robert B. Claytor.

In 1957, the year after its creation, the Chaplaincy Service began the Program in Clinical Pastoral Training. This Program was established for those clergy who "wish to take advanced studies in pastoral ministry." Three years ago this Clinical Training was recognized as "partial fulfillment" of the requirements for the Master of Theology Degree granted by the Duke Divinity School.

Although the duties and responsibilities of the Chaplaincy Service are obviously difficult to "spell out," they have perhaps been best described in the following quote from Chaplain Aitken:

"Our primary concern is to provide pastoral assistance for those who need it while going through their hospital experience."

Just as our hospital operates on a 24-hour basis, so does the Chaplaincy

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From The Auxiliary



by BETTY LEACH

We've had another busy summer in the Auxiliary. As usual, the candy-strippers were a big help to us. They replaced those on vacation in at least fifteen parts of the hospital, as well as helping us on our services.

We certainly miss Nancy Craven, our office manager, who has been absent on sick leave for several weeks. We hope she will be able to return to her desk soon.

We sent our Volunteers chairman, Mary Daugherty, to Los Angeles for a few days. There she attended a course on Management Principles for Directors of Volunteers and earned her certificate in that field. Several of our volunteers attended a one-day North Carolina Hospital Association workshop in Greensboro on October 1. Mrs. H. Shelton Smith of our Auxiliary was chairman of this event. Auxiliaries from member hospitals within 100 miles of Greensboro took part in the workshop.

In the planning stage is our annual Thanksgiving bake sale to be held two days before Thanksgiving. This is always a big event for both the Auxiliary and the employees of Duke Medical Center. Mrs. Julian Ruffin is serving as chairman this year. All in all, it looks as if it will be as busy around here this fall as it was all summer. And we like it that way!

I hope you noticed our new mast-head. It was designed by one of our coed workers one Sunday morning at the coffee counter. And that reminds me to say how glad we are to see the coeds back with us once again.