

New Hospital Laundry Stirs State-Wide Interest

The smell of clean linen permeates the air as busy hands sort, fold and iron the various articles that only a short while before were in soiled linen carts waiting to be washed. Starchy, stiff folds are carefully preserved by hands, long-experienced at folding. The sound of hissing steam competes with the whir-r-r-r of the washers. Suddenly you are aware of a melody slowly rising above the other sounds, as voices rise in harmony, created by a sure but preoccupied rhythm.

You have arrived at the new Hospital Laundry. It is machines and it is people.

Opened on March 8, the new Laundry is already handling over 7 tons of laundry a day. It is in operation eight hours a day, five and a half days a week.

"We hope that this will be the most efficient institutional operation in the South," says Mr. E. T. Parrish, manager of the Laundry for almost eight years.

Before construction began on the Laundry in February 1964, two years had been spent in careful planning. "I've travelled thousands of miles," explains Mr. Parrish, "—alone and with others—to get the best ideas to put into this operation."

"Since we began operation in March, a great deal of interest has been stirred up across the state in our new plant," he adds with understandable pride.

Included in those institutions which have sent representatives to Duke to study the Laundry operations are: East Carolina College, Greenville; Women's Prison and Rex Hospital, Raleigh; Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill; Forsyth Memorial Hospital and Hotel Robert E. Lee, Winston-Salem; and also Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and Holston Valley Hospital in Tennessee.

Each of these representatives has observed the operations with the consideration of possibly installing a similar plant in his institution.

Those who are interested are invit-



Members of the Duke Medical Center Health Careers Recruitment Team are shown above during a presentation given to the students at Sanford Central High School on March 18.

Recruitment Program to Go Nationwide

A student recruitment program here at Duke University Medical Center has been so effective that it will go nationwide.

Lewis Flint, a senior medical student and president of the Duke Chapter of the Student American Medical Association, announced recently that a study of the Duke program will be financed by a grant from Merck-Sharpe-Dohme Pharmaceutical Co. of New York.

Under the title of the Duke Medical Center Health Careers Recruitment Team, students from five health fields "took the hospital to high school students" across North Caro-

ed to call Mr. Parrish and request a "tour" of the new facilities. For those who do not have the time for this, however, there follows a brief description of the activities in the new Laundry.

First, the linen arrives and is deposited in the "soiled linen room" (all contaminated linens having been autoclaved at the Hospital before delivery to the Laundry). It is then sorted and sent down through chutes to the three washing machines located on the floor below. Each machine washes 600 lbs. of soiled linen per hour. A fourth machine, much smaller than the others, accommodates such articles as mops and rags, etc.

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lina. Represented in the tour group were medical students, X-ray technicians, student nurses, medical technologists and physical therapy students.

The Duke group usually sees about 12,000 students annually, but this year the total was about 5,000. Flint explained that this year was different because the team was studying itself and its program.

A full report of the study will go to SAMA's national headquarters, where a model plan based on the Duke program will be drafted and made available to similar university or medical center student organizations in the United States now without such a program.

According to Flint, this "student to student approach" has been very effective in creating interest in health careers among high school students. "They can appreciate the real live action of the job that they would be doing," he said, by seeing college and graduate students who represent success in fields in which they, too, are interested.

Stimulating this interest and providing information is about as far as the Duke group can go. And of course measurement of success or failure is impossible. Duke rates its effectiveness by using a questionnaire which students complete at the end of a presentation.

The five-year-old program features facts, concepts, case histories, slides, discussion and the Duke team members themselves.