

# Work with Children Offers Its Own Reward

"How many eggs did *you* get? I got one already an' I haven't even really tried hard, yet!"

Such was the beginning of the Auxiliary's annual Easter egg hunt, usually held on the Howland porch, but held this year in the playroom because of inclement weather.

Started about five years ago under the direction of Mrs. William (Fran) Byrne, the Easter egg hunt is one of the annual activities of the Auxiliary's Children's Committee.

This year, six children from Howland, given permission by their doctors to join in the hunt, poked, prodded and pondered in efforts to locate the 126 plastic eggs that had been artfully hidden by the "ladies in pink."

When all the eggs were collected—or almost all—the children carefully fixed twenty other baskets and carried them to Howland friends who were unable to leave their beds.

On Matas, eggs were hidden on the ward, for most of these children were surgical patients and could not go to the playroom. Sixteen hunted for eggs with the help of their nurses and the volunteers.

The children kept their baskets and the "booty" in each, which consisted of the plastic eggs (with candy eggs inside each) and a fuzzy toy chick.

"The children think it's a lot of fun, and several weeks later they were still finding eggs in the playroom that had been so well hidden they had not been discovered," said Mrs. Connie Oosting, present chairman of the Children's Committee.

Mrs. Oosting has found her work with the committee very rewarding. "It is so rewarding to see how happy these children can be in spite of their problems," she said.

The Children's Committee, as its title indicates, is concerned with children and their hospital experiences. It is this Auxiliary committee that is responsible for providing playroom activities every morning and afternoon and arranging such seasonal gaiety as that just described and the Christmas party.

"We could carry on a much better program if we had more

volunteers," said Mrs. Oosting. "We never have too many volunteers on this committee; because, when someone is not needed in the playroom, they go and read to the children who can't get out of bed and come to the playroom. Extra adult volunteers are especially needed in the summer, although we would welcome more at any time of the year."

Mrs. Oosting noted that before they can open the playroom to the children at least two volunteers must be present. "Some days," she said, "we just don't have enough volunteers, and the children are so disappointed if we cannot open the room for them."

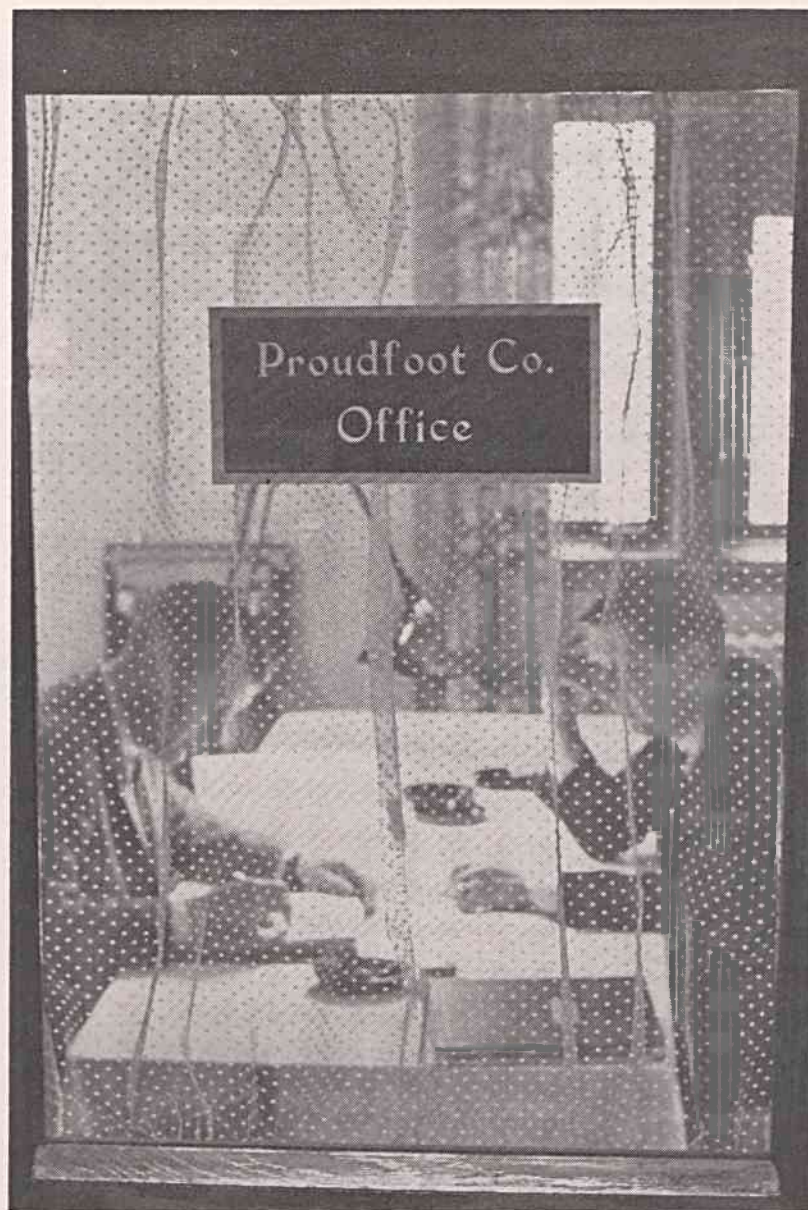
Anyone interested in helping with the committee should call Mrs. Mary Daugherty, administrative secretary for the Auxiliary, at Duke Extension 3981 or go by her office, which is located on the first floor of the hospital in room 1006.

## New Diet Manual Introduced

The Dietetic Department is most grateful to the Medical-Nutrition Advisory Committee, which is made up of representatives from each service, for the revision of the **Diet Manual** for Duke University Medical Center. Copies of the revised **Diet Manual** have been placed at each nurses station and clinic area.

Some of the changes to note in the revised manual are:

- (1) Lean pork is used on all solid food diets.
- (2) The bland diets have been combined into two stages.
- (3) Tables with amounts of sodium and potassium in serving portions of commonly used food are included.
- (4) Two new diets have been added, a low potassium diet and a mechanical soft diet.
- (5) Normal height and weight tables and standard liquid measures are also included.
- (6) More detailed information about the Dietetic Department can be found in the front of the **Diet Manual**.



A study . . . to "improve the services offered to our patients."

## Work Scheduling Study Conducted

Duke University has invited the Alexander Proudfoot Company to come on campus and conduct a work scheduling study with the medical center departments of housekeeping, laundry, and inpatient nursing and the overall university departments of maintenance, operations and grounds.

The representatives of the company arrived the first of April, and will be on campus for six months working in the areas assigned with supervisors and their employees.

During the first part of the study, they will learn how and when work is being done. Then the representatives will design and install a work scheduling

system for each department to plan and carry out its work load and will stay on the scene working with the supervisors until the new system is functioning smoothly. The system will be designed to be self-perpetuating, so that even if the departmental jobs change in nature, the system will still be effective.

"With the work scheduling study, we are accomplishing one of the steps of our broad program of improved personnel administration," said Mr. Charles Frenzel, Administrative Director of the medical center. "The study, it is hoped, will improve the services offered to our patients."

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK, May 8-14, is built around the May 12 birthday of Florence Nightingale, the famous nurse crusader. It was through her efforts that the early hospital schools of nursing were established.