



Miss Elliott with her handy note pad . . .

The Thumb Gets A Message

Wait! Don't shake that hand; it contains some vital information.

In the palm is written "O'Brient, Room 4023, Prevost." On the thumb is "10:00 A.M.-Holmes," and just at the base of the thumb is "8:45 conf."

The hand belongs to Miss Gertrude Elliott, Ob-Gyn nursing supervisor, who for several years has been writing notes on her hand. "Writing on my hand is an excellent reminder," she exclaimed.

"People are always offering me note pads; I take them and say 'thank you,' but I don't use them—they're just not as effective as writing on my hand," she said. "I always have my hand with me, but I lose note pads."

There are some limitations to this manner of note-taking, however. "Sometimes my hand perspires and the notes sort of run together, and then I get worried; because I don't write anything down unless I need it," she remarked.

Does she ever run out of hand on which to write? "Oh, I never put anything down but for one day . . . and I wash my hands before meals," she hastened to

explain.

A native North Carolinian, Miss Elliott came to Duke in 1947 as a head nurse on Sims-Williams. She became assistant Ob-Gyn supervisor in 1948 and the following year assumed the position she now holds. In her present position, Miss Elliott supervises the nursing on Holmes, Sims-Williams, Prevost, and Campbell wards, as well as the nursing in the premature nursery, labor and delivery areas.

Why did she go into obstetric and gynecologic nursing? "It was quite by chance," said Miss Elliott. "As a student, I detested obstetrics; but when I finished school in 1943 it was during the war, and there was a shortage of nurses. I was asked to help out on an obstetrical ward, and soon I began to really like it because the patients usually had something to be happy about . . . something to take home."

Miss Elliott is one of the few persons in the Department of Nursing Service at Duke to be inducted into membership in the Duke University School of Nursing honorary, Santa Filomena.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE TIRED OF COMPLAINTS . . .

The following are selected excerpts from letters written to different members of the medical center staff:

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"I have just returned to work after being a patient in Duke Hospital (Cushing Ward) for about nine days.

"This note is sent to tell you how very much it meant to me to have the assistant nurses' aides [patient care assistants] on that ward. . . .

"This type of service is, in my estimation, invaluable."

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"My husband and I would like to express our thanks. . . . We are people with very moderate means and having our son in the hospital four months out of a year really made a big debt for us. With his death, a big comfort to us was the fact that we felt he received the best medical attention we could give him.

"Not only were the doctors, nurses and everyone who took care of him real kind to us, but every one in the business office was exceptionally nice in working out arrangements for us to pay our bill.

"We can never express the appreciation we feel. All we can say is Thank You."

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May I take this opportunity to congratulate the University on the splendid hospital it has.

"I was hospitalized recently in Holmes wing, and I cannot praise the staff—professional and otherwise—high enough. I received excellent medical attention . . . and the service given by the R.N.'s, the L.P.N.'s, and the various non-professional workers was splendid; the food on the house diet was unusually tasty for an institutional kitchen. . . .

"I certainly appreciate the efficient—yet gracious—treatment I was accorded while a patient of the Private Diagnostic Clinic."

Keeping in Touch

• SOON TO WED . . .

Martha Lea Stone, secretary to Mr. Clarence Cobb in Medical PDC, and Donald McDuffie Penny of Durham have announced their engagement and plan to be married at the First Baptist Church in August. Donald is the manager of the Center Furniture Company. Sylvia Pope, secretary to Dr. Kenneth Pickrell, is also wearing a new diamond and she and William H. Murdock, Jr., are planning a summer wedding. Betty Lewis, in OPD registration, will be married on September 11 to D. Reid Trodgon and their wedding will take place in St. Paul's Methodist Church. Donna Marie Hopson, MPDC, and Jerry Donald Mangum will be married on Sunday, July 24.

• NEW FACES . . .

Byron M. Russell is the new business manager in the Outpatient Department. Lorraine Dement joined the Medical OPC in March. New people in the Office of the Administrative Director are Linda Brown, director's office, and Janice Pittman, Mr. Swanson's secretary. Sandy Fisher, R.N. from Ohio, is now working on Osler. Mrs. Patricia Weiss is a new secretary in Neurosurgery and Judy Osgood has transferred from the Department of Surgery to Microbiology where she has replaced Miriam Boe in Dr. Osterhout's office. The Division of Urology is glad to have Betty Sue O'Neal, bacteriologist, back. Mrs. Foy Toren has also returned to work as a laboratory technician for Dr. Richard Metzgar in Immunology. Gail Totty has transferred from the Allergy Lab to Dr. Richard McCloskey's Immunology Laboratory. Mrs. Nancy Grunert has replaced Mrs. Terry Daly as Dr. Carl Eisdorfer's secretary in the Department of Psychiatry. Mrs. Sherry Wilson

(Continued on page 10)