

Four Retire

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dry from doctors' offices and counted it before and after it was cleaned. He picked up X-rays and went to get wheelchairs when needed. Often he could be seen carefully wheeling patients to different areas.

"We depended on James a lot," said Mr. Crenshaw. "James knew where *everything* was . . . and when we needed something and couldn't find it someone would say 'let's call James' . . . and sure enough he'd find it."

Perhaps the highest compliment paid the retired employee, however, was when Mr. Crenshaw summed up the feelings of the staff: "He was respected by every employee in Surgical P.D.C."

Mr. Thorpe will be enjoying his retirement years with his wife, a former school teacher who is also retired.

Mr. Mercer Morgan

"Mercer came about six months after we opened the hospital . . . (smile) and he and I ran the Urology Division for a year before I had a resident," said Dr. Edwin P. Alyea, emeritus chief of the Division of Urologic Surgery.

Mercer was an orderly when he came and a scrub technician when he retired. His responsibilities were numerous. He opened the clinic and waiting rooms in Urology, sterilized the equipment and instruments that were already wrapped but had to be re-sterilized, took linen to be cleaned, picked up the clean linen, and cleaned the rooms in Urology. At the end of the working day, he put the instruments away, and took Central Supply carts down to that area. "Mer-



Mr. Mercer Morgan

cer was very thorough . . . he also handled a mop well, and didn't mind scrubbing a floor if it needed it," said Mrs. Polly Carden, head nurse in the Urology Clinic.

Mercer also worked with patients. One of his responsibilities was preparing patients for catheterization. "This was one of the things that Mercer mastered well, and he did many . . . often he could do those patients that some of the doctors had problems with," said Mrs. Carden. "He didn't talk to his patients a lot, but I think he gave them a real sense of security. His patients have all liked him, and they often ask 'Where is Mercer?'"

"Mercer couldn't have done his job better. He felt responsible for all the patients in the clinic," said Dr. Alyea. "He was a reliable, honest, and hard worker, and was often here from 6:30 to 6:30 . . . he was never on a timetable."

"And he was never late, either . . . even when it snowed and he had to walk 2 or 3 miles to get to work," recalled Mrs. Carden.

Mercer's work with the urology patients became an important aid in the training of doctors. "He was a big help to interns and medical students," emphasized Dr. Alyea, "in demonstrating gently the art of handling urologic instrumentation." Mrs. Carden, too, felt that this was one of Mercer's major contributions to the division. "He has really helped in the training of doctors by giving them something that they couldn't get from books. He was also a good assistant and knew the practical side of the procedures . . . he learned and remembered the recurring problems with catheterizing patients."

And Mercer is remembered by those with whom he worked. "Residents thought the world of Mercer; and the older ones, when they inquire about the Urology Division, always ask about him . . . always when I go to meetings they ask me about him," said Dr. Alyea.

Mercer also helped "train" some of the others in Urology. "When I first came here I don't know what I would have done if it had not been for Mercer; for I had never worked in urology before, and it was Mercer who told me all about the instruments, the different lamps for in-

struments and urology equipment in general," said Mrs. Carden.

"There'll never be another one like him," said Mrs. Carden.

"I was the luckiest man in the world to get him," said Dr. Alyea.

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have a daughter, and two sons, one of whom is presently in Germany in the service.

Mrs. Lenora Thompson

Mrs. Thompson joined the medical center staff in 1940. During her years at Duke she had worked as an aide on Meyer and several other wards and was a clinical aide in the obstetrical-gynecological and surgical clinics. At the time of her retirement, Mrs. Thompson was a clinical aide in the Ear, Nose and Throat clinic. She was responsible for the registering of patients and also assisted doctors by setting up the rooms for examinations. "Almost the only thing she didn't do in the clinic was to give medicine, because she knew how to do everything else," observed one of her associates.

Known as "Mrs. T" by the doctors and "Ma" by her associates, Mrs. Thompson was well



Mrs. Lenora Thompson

thought of by her co-workers. "You can't say anything too good about her . . . she was very dependable in her work . . . very kind and gentle . . . considerate . . . pleasant . . . she had a good sense of humor . . . she was good all-around," summed up one employee who has worked with Mrs. Thompson in the ENT clinic since 1953.

Early in the fall Mrs. Thompson will be celebrating her retirement by travelling with her husband, who is also retired, to California to visit their son and a daughter. The Thompsons also have a daughter living in Durham.

Keeping in Touch

• DIVIDENDS . . .

Dr. Barrett Dick, Pathology, and Mrs. Dick announce the birth of a new son. Barbara Urban, R.N. in Urology Clinic, and her husband, Frank, announce the birth of a daughter, Page, on July 4. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Habig have a new son born on August 1. Dr. Habig joined the staff recently as director of the Clinical Chemistry Lab and as an instructor in Biochemistry. Dr. Adriaan Verwoerd, assistant professor of Psychiatry, and Mrs. Verwoerd are the parents of a new son, Christopher. Dr. and Mrs. Brett B. Gutsche, a former resident in Anesthesiology and now with the Public Health Service in Alaska, announce the birth of a son, Stephen Bruce, on June 29 in Anchorage. Dr. Gutsche is Chief of Anesthesiology at the Alaska Native Hospital and in this capacity has visited all of the field hospitals in our new state. He writes of dog-sled trips, minus 40-degree temperatures, 30 m.p.h. winds, sunset at midnight, and sunrise at 1:30 a.m. All of the Gutschees love Alaska and claim that if you haven't been there, "you don't know what you're missing!"

It's a boy, born June 11, for Dr. and Mrs. Bob Yowell in the Department of Pathology. Mrs. Ernestine Joy, L.P.N. on Minot, and Mr. Joy announce the birth of a son in June and Mrs. Linda Hackett, R.N. on Minot, and Mr. Hackett also announce the birth of a son in June. Mrs. Jimmie Morris, cashier in MPDC, and her husband, Marvin, have a new baby girl, Laurie Ann, born on June 1. This is their fifth child and second daughter. Dr. and Mrs.

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