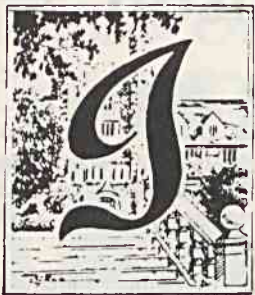


# Special Anniversary Issue



# Intercom

duke university medical center

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## Duke University Medical Center

# 40 Years of Service to Mankind

When James B. Duke set up his indenture establishing the University in 1924, he dreamed of building "the best medical center between Baltimore and New Orleans."

Since Duke University Medical Center opened in 1930, tens of thousands of faculty members, staff, students, and employes have worked toward that goal, and in the opinion of many, far surpassed it.

Mr. Duke's interest in hospitals and care for the sick may have been started by an encounter with a young boy while Mr. Duke was watching the building of a power plant at Lake James, N.C.

"Mister," the small boy said, "can you cure fits?"

"Do you have fits?" Mr. Duke replied.

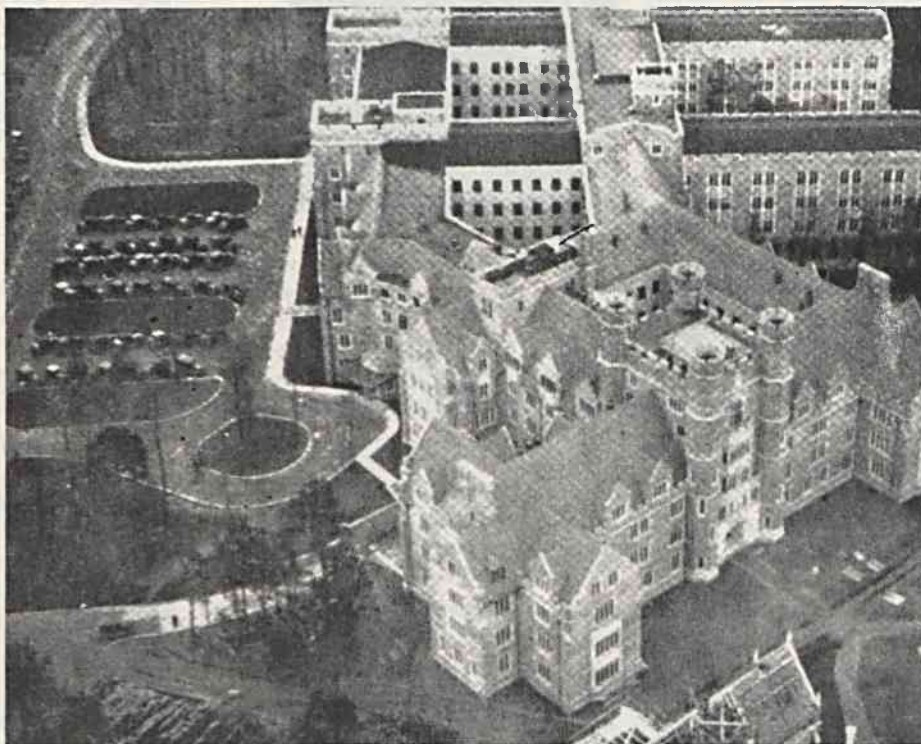
The boy answered, "Yes, sir, and if something ain't done for me they'll kill me."

Though some of the men working on the power plant were amused by the incident, Mr. Duke was interested in the child and ordered that he get medical treatment immediately.

In his will, Mr. Duke bequeathed to the Duke Endowment 10 million dollars for Duke University, four million of which was to be used to build the medical school, hospital, and nurses home he had dreamed of.

### The First Dean

On January 19, 1927, Dr. W.C. Davison, then on the medical faculty at the Johns Hopkins University, was named Duke's first dean of medicine. The appointment was announced by a short telegram to Dr. Davison from Dr. William Preston Few, then president of the



**FROM THE AIR** — This photo of the newly constructed Duke Hospital and School of Medicine appeared on the cover of the Duke *Alumni Register* at the time of the Hospital's opening in 1930. The structure was "bent" between the Hospital and medical school sections, according to Dr. W.C. Davison, to permit a maximum amount of sunlight into the patient care areas.

University. It read, "You have been elected. Delighted with prospect of working with you."

Two months later, Dr. Davison made his first trip to Durham and looked over the thousands of acres of forest land from which the new Duke University would rise.

In September of that year he moved to Durham and was given four rooms in a

*This special edition of Intercom is a collection of articles about the early history of the Duke University Medical Center. Though it is not intended to be a comprehensive history, we hope it brings back some memories to long-time employes and provides some enlightening information for those of us who have been here only a short time. Comments are welcome. Box 3354, Hospital.*

(continued on page six)