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Patient Care and Education

PT Department Lives Up to Its Role

Thirteen-year-old Don Morton came to Duke after having accidentally shot himself in the brain, causing partial paralysis of his left side. After undergoing an operation, he received further treatment in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Twelve-year-old Kenneth Johnson was brought to Duke Hospital after he lost both of his arms in a farm accident. He too was brought to the Department of Physical Therapy to begin his process of recovery and eventual incorporation into the community as an independent and self-sufficient human being.

These two examples represent only a small portion of the thousands of cases that the Department of Physical Therapy handles every year.

The reason remains clear why much of the patient traffic in the basement of the hospital winds up in this department, where more than 125 patient visits are handled daily and 26,000 yearly.

The importance of this department is underscored by the fact that it works with almost all of the departments, clinics and wards in the hospital. Under its new team rotation system, the service component of the department has been divided up into three teams, each of which is responsible for certain areas in the hospital.

According to Jane S. Matthews, acting chairman and head of the physical therapy services and graduate program, this new organizational pattern has been designed for five purposes:

- Improve the quality of patient care.
- Provide more efficient coverage of patient care services, clinics and rounds.
- Increase the professional development opportunities for staff.
- Develop accountability systems within the department.
- Increase communication and interaction with other health workers,

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TAKE A GIANT STEP—Tommy Rigsbee pauses for a moment to smile for a picture while he is being taught how to walk with crutches. Tommy fell out of a 50-foot tree and had remained in a spica cast for four months. He is pictured at the parallel bars in the Department of Physical Therapy and he is all smiles, for the picture was taken on the first day Tommy learned how to walk with just the aid of crutches after his accident. Staff physical therapist Kathy Riley is on hand to help Tommy. She has been at Duke for one year and is one of the 13 physical therapists presently working in the department. 125 patient visits are handled every day by the department. (Staff photo)

Duke Honors Long Term Employees

The Ballroom of the Union Building was the scene last week for a dinner and service awards ceremony for nearly 100 medical center employees.

Those honored were employees who have completed 40 years, 30 years, 20 years and 10 years of service.

The evening's program was planned and coordinated by the Department of Personnel, and Dr. Stuart Sessoms, hospital director, was master of ceremonies. Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, spoke briefly, offering appreciation to those assembled for their cumulative service to Duke.

Also included in the honor group were

persons who have retired over the past year.

(Pictures taken the night of the awards dinner will be published in next week's Intercom.)

Those receiving 40-year awards were Dr. Angus McBryde, professor of pediatrics, and Mrs. Helen S. Johns, a technician in the neurosurgical laboratory.

Thirty-year awards went to Samuel A. Agnello, director of Audiovisual Education, and Mrs. Helen Howard, R.N., head nurse of the University Health Services Clinic.

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