



**WALLS GOING UP**—Taken from the medical center library, this photograph shows progress on construction of the new hospital, Duke North, scheduled for completion in 1979. At right is the first level of the ancillary building. The lowest level will contain service functions. On the main floor level will be the Emergency Room, radiology, nuclear medicine, pediatric cardiology and pediatric pulmonary and the stat lab. Above that, will be the surgical and recovery suite and offices for anesthesiology and surgery. The next level will house the pediatric and neonatal intensive care units and

offices for pediatrics. The top level contains the cardiac care center and offices for the Department of Medicine. At left is the lowest level of the central bed tower, which will house the convenience food kitchen. The main floor level of the central and south towers will house dining facilities. The levels above will house the acute and intensive care beds for surgery and medicine and acute beds for pediatrics. (Photo by David Williamson)



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## Becoming 'Battle-Wise' in Beirut

# Pediatrician Returns to Lebanon

By Ina Fried

Working in a hospital on Beirut's "Green Line" can be a harrowing experience.

The Green Line separates the two warring factions in Beirut, and the 150-bed private hospital has been under bombardment since November 1975. Since January, 80

per cent of the admissions have been war casualties.

Yet Dr. Amal Shamma, a native of Lebanon who just received her American citizenship, is going back.

### When Needed Most

"You don't train 15 years to be a doctor and then leave when you're needed most," said Dr. Shamma

during a visit to the medical center. She was seeing friends from the three years she spent here as a fellow in metabolic diseases.

A graduate of the American University School of Medicine in Beirut, Dr. Shamma first came to the United States in 1970 for her third year of residency at Johns Hopkins University. In November 1974 she was appointed chief of pediatrics at Barbir Hospital in Beirut.

"If somebody from Durham were to go to Beirut right now, I don't think they could take it more than a couple of days. They wouldn't be able to survive the sounds of war, much less the danger and inconvenience," Dr. Shamma said.

### Becoming Battle-Wise

But she and others like her, who have seen the war from its beginning in April 1975, have become "battle-wise," she said. "You develop a certain resourcefulness and manage to survive with a certain amount of sanity and good humor.

"You also become very fatalistic," she remarked. "The shelling is so random, you say, 'If it's not my time to go, I might as well sleep in my bed under the window instead of the corridor.' People go everyday from one dangerous place to another dangerous place to work or to buy food."

The hospital has been under bombardment since November and has been hit several times. "It's a wonder that no one has been hit," she said. "You stand in one place and two seconds after you move, that place is hit."

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## Former Patient Instrumental in \$7,000 Grant

In the six months before he came to Duke, George Brown's heart had to be shocked 12 times to restore a normal heartbeat.

Now he is up and around telling his friends in Kansas City, Mo., about the treatment he received and the cardiology research going on in the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab.

Brown's story stirred the interest of the Order of the Eastern Star, to which his wife belongs, and brought the medical center a \$7,000 grant for research in electrophysiology.

Brown, 62, was director of education and public relations for an airline personnel school until he became disabled in 1974. He was listed in the 1969 issue of *International Biography Dictionary* and *2000 Men of Achievement*.

That was the year that his medical problems began. In 1969 he had a heart attack which damaged an area in his heart, explained Dr. John J. Gallagher, Brown's physician here and director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab.

"In 1972 Mr. Brown began to have episodes of rapid heartbeat arising from the old scar," Gallagher said. "This recurred, requiring multiple electric shocks to restore normal heart rhythm. This was unresponsive to all conventional medications plus implantation of a pacemaker."

Brown came here in July 1975 and was placed on a new drug being evaluated here. The drug stopped the palpitations, Gallagher said. A new pacemaker was implanted, and now Brown returns every three months for checkups.

The grant initiated by Brown's interest in Duke came to Gallagher from Sister Viola Lowry, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Missouri. Gallagher said most of the funds would be used for construction of an electronic stimulator for the lab.

"This kind of grant is really helpful," he commented, "because it allows us to get some badly needed equipment we couldn't afford with our present resources."



**CHECKING THE NEWS FROM THE WAR**—Dr. Amal Shamma, hopes to arrange for medical aid to Lebanon while she is in the United States. Although the new American citizen has been urged by her family and friends to remain in this country, she plans to return to Barbir Hospital in Beirut, where she is chief of pediatrics. (Photo by Ina Fried)