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SISTERLY HELP—First-year nursing student Susan Emerich (left) helps her older sister Cathy adjust her new nursing cap. Cathy Emerich is a junior in the School of Nursing and received her cap at ceremonies in September. Both Emerichs live in Hanes House. Four other nursing

students have younger sisters who entered the nursing school this year as first-year students. The Emerichs are from Doylestown, Pa. (Photo by Parker Herring)

Five join sisters in nursing school

By Parker Herring

There are advantages and disadvantages to enrolling in a school where a brother or sister is already a student.

Five first-year nursing students weighed the pros and cons of attending the same nursing school as their older sister and decided that Duke's nursing school was their choice.

"It's kind of nice having my older sister around," Susan Emerich, an 18-year-old first-year student from Doylestown, Pa., said. "But sometimes I wish she wasn't here. You know you really don't want to have someone watching over you."

Susan Emerich's sister, Cathy, is a junior nursing student.

Her own decision

"I made my own decision about coming here," the younger Emerich said. "I came down to visit Cathy and liked the campus and the curriculum."

Even though the Emerich sisters are only a floor apart in Hanes House, the nursing students dorm, they don't see each other very often.

"But it is nice to be able to walk down a floor and see her if I want," Susan Emerich said.

"It's kind of fun having her here," her older sister said. "It makes it more of a family thing."

Cathy Emerich said she didn't try to influence her younger sister to come to Duke.

"She asked me questions about the nursing school and I answered them," she said. "But I tried not to say anything that would influence her."

For the older Emerich, having her younger sister entering nursing school brings back some memories.

"I see her going through the same kinds of things I went through," she said.

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Knowledge explosion led to curriculum change

The first 10 years of Duke's experience with a radically redesigned curriculum for its school of medicine is the subject of a book just published by Duke University Press.

The book, entitled "Undergraduate Medical Education and the Elective System," is a series of articles by 34 current or former medical center faculty members describing how the new curriculum came into being and how it worked in training physicians during the years from 1966 to 1975.

Dr. James F. Gifford Jr., associate professor of community and family medicine, served as editor for the 243-page volume.

Supervising editors were Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, Dr. Ewald W. Busse, dean of medical and allied health education, and

Busse's predecessor, the late Thomas D. Kinney, who also was professor and chairman of pathology from 1960 to 1975.

Pressures forced reevaluation

In his preface, Gifford explains that for more than 50 years, medical education in the United States consisted of two years of instruction in basic medical sciences, followed by two years of clinical instruction in hospitals.

"In the 1960s, however, a number of pressures combined to force many schools to reevaluate their curricula," he writes.

Expansion of biomedical knowledge, extension of specialty training, demands by students for programs tailored to their individual interests and society's desire that physicians be drawn from more diverse backgrounds all challenged the

traditionally rigid educational format.

"The Duke University School of Medicine offered the first new model of

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Bloodletting implements featured in medical history exhibit

By David Williamson

Those who long for the good old days of the 19th Century and before may have second thoughts after viewing two exhibits of medical artifacts now on display in the Medical Center Library.

The exhibits, located in the lower lobby of the Seeley G. Mudd Building adjacent to the Trent Room, feature a variety of tools that were used for bloodletting, tooth extractions and surgery before modern painkilling drugs were developed.

Terry Cavanagh, curator of the library's historical collection, said one of the exhibits includes antiques donated by Mrs. Emil C. Beyer. Mrs. Beyer collected the objects over many years with her late husband who was a physician in Morehead City, N.C.

The other display, which examines the ancient practice of bloodletting, is

primarily composed of items loaned by Dr. John H. Monroe, a Winston-Salem obstetrician.

From 1826

"A number of polished rosewood or mahogany family medicine chests are the most striking pieces in the Beyer Collection," Cavanagh said.

The most complete chest dates from around 1826.

"When closed, it forms a handsome box that could be placed inoffensively even in an elegantly furnished room," he said. "Opened it becomes an efficient little dispensary with labelled bottles of 10 or more drugs, including a few in a secret compartment behind a sliding panel."

Drawers contain small mortars and pestles, balances and weights, spatulas,

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"In the 1960s...a number of pressures combined to force many schools to reevaluate their curricula. The Duke University School of Medicine offered the first new model of medical education responsive to these pressures for change."