

New Progressive Era Seen At A&M's College Hospital

By C. N. WILLIAMS
Special To The Battalion

Face-lifting changes have been wrought at the A&M College Hospital in the several months that point to a new era for this institution on the campus.

The changes have been made gradually and during these months the hospital has assumed an atmosphere of modernization that ranks it as high as any other institution of its kind in the Southwest.

What is most striking in the re-organization movement is that service to students has not been interrupted, but expanded.

"We are planning our improvement program in a manner to continue caring for our patients without interruption," says Dr. Charles R. Lyons, College Hospital superintendent.

"The complete modernization of the plant will extend over a period of two or more years," Dr. Lyons says.

Besides having a new look in fixtures and equipment the hospital is enjoying a revamped attitude from students. No longer do students have cause to stay away from the hospital because of mistrust or inhospitable treatment.

Most students say the atmosphere is unlike any hospital they have visited—almost like the Memorial Student Center. Yet visitors and patients feel the overall air of efficiency encouraged by nurses hurrying about doing their part of making patients feel more at ease.

Down the hall from the reception desk are the administrative offices, impressively equipped with new desks and rows of new filing cases. In this wing is located Dr. Lyons' office and the office for the nurse supervisor, Miss Maxine Geeslin.

Across the corridor is the emergency room which stands ready for use in case a student needs treatment for injuries or illness after normal closing time for the hospital at 5 p. m. An attendant stays on duty there until 9 p. m.

Wards and private rooms are on

the second floor. Miss Geeslin points with pride at several private rooms, each with a bath. One of the private rooms has every facility for comfort imaginable, with a convertible table which adapts to use for shaving and washing, a tray, a table or book rest.

An eight-bed ward is maintained for students who are well enough to enjoy company. More space will be devoted to rooms and wards as plans shape up.

Even the kitchen is in for streamlining. In the process of being installed now are stainless steel ranges and cabinets, refrigerators, a large capacity deep freeze, dish washers, and cold storage room for fresh vegetables and supplies.

Adding to the efficiency for meal preparing and serving is a dumb waiter system which moves trays, four at a time, up a small elevator to the second floor wards.

The story of progressive planning for this modernized hospital started several years ago, sponsored by Dr. David H. Morgan, A&M president.

After a period of waiting, funds for the program were allocated and the improvement plan got under way.

The man chosen to supervise the operations is Dr. Charles R. Lyons.

When he was asked to take the job, Dr. Lyons was at Virginia Polytechnic Institute serving as health officer, a job similar to his present one.

He came to A&M in March, 1956 and immediately started "revamping" the program with emphasis on service to students.

Dr. Lyons' eyes twinkle, and in a jesting manner he says, "These boys are men now and we treat them pretty rough. However, we are really prepared for them when they need to be kept in the hospital. We are prepared to make them comfortable."

The "we" he mentions is an enthusiastic staff and several medical specialists.

On the staff are Dr. J. C. Marsh,

Dr. R. H. Harrison III, a urologist; Dr. H. C. McQuaide, a surgeon; W. C. Bonney, clinical psychologist; Dr. J. W. Martin, internal medicine specialist, and Dr. T. O. Melcher, ear, nose and throat specialist.

Mrs. Tonny McDonald is x-ray and laboratory technician.

The nursing staff, headed by Miss Geeslin, consists of nine registered nurses and two vocational nurses.

The office personnel includes Mrs. R. A. Murphy, receptionist, a stenographer-bookkeeper and two record clerks. The kitchen is staffed by two women cooks, and waiters and porters.

Mrs. Murphy, enthusiastic over the service to students jokingly says "We're going to be so fancy around here we can't keep the cadets out."

Records for this year show plainly that more students are flocking to the hospital—and getting well quicker—than an average for the last three years.

"The lightest day we've had in November this year was 150 patients," said Dr. Lyons. "During our heaviest day 288 patients were treated."

Looking at an average for November the last three years, only 831 registered during those months. This gives an approximate average of 28 students a day.

The total for November, 1956 is 4,115. Of 255 students that month the average stayed less than two days, Dr. Lyons says.

Patients last year were hospitalized three and one-half days on the average.

Dr. Lyons observes that a different type of treatment is being used.

"We feel that the student needs to remain in class if possible. So we use more antibiotics and drugs rather than the recuperating method of pills, liquids and rest," he says.

"Often a boy would get so far behind in his class work he never caught up. We try to keep him in class if we can," Dr. Lyons says.



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Beginning Jan. 3, all classes in Nagle Hall (C.E. Building) will be moved to the building formerly used as the Veterinary Hospital adjacent to the Highway Research Center.

S. R. Wright, Head
Civil Engineering Department

Regalia for the Baccalaureate-Commencement Exercise

All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy are required to order hoods as well as doctor's cap and gown, and to leave the hoods with the Registrar no later than 1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15. The Ph.D. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the master's cap and gown; those who both are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree, except military students, will wear the bachelor's cap and gown. All military students who are candidates for degrees will wear the appropriate military uniform. Rental of caps and gowns may be arranged with the Exchange Store. Orders may be placed between 8 a.m., Dec. 10, and 12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 12. The rental is as follows: doctor's cap and gown \$4.25, master's cap and gown \$3.75, bachelor's cap and gown \$3.25. Hood rental is the same as that for cap and gown.

C. E. Tishler, Chairman
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