

# THE ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL

Of Service To This Community

VOL. I, No. 2

ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 1951

## Your Hospital, One of Pennsylvania's Largest, Needs New Facilities to Serve Community

Although a dozen general hospitals in Pennsylvania are larger, the Allentown Hospital ranked fifth in the number of patients admitted during 1950, according to the annual service report of the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education and Hospitals.

With a normal capacity of 434 beds and 35 bassinets, the Allentown Hospital admitted 14,746 patients during the year covered by the report. Only four Pennsylvania hospitals, all of them in Philadelphia, reported more admissions.

The University of Pennsylvania Hospital, with a combined capacity of 779 patients, reported 20,680 admissions. Philadelphia General, with 2,589 beds and bassinets, had 20,042 patients. Jefferson Hospital, with a total capacity of 775, admitted 18,067 patients. Temple University Hospital, with a capacity of 602, admitted 15,175. Episcopal and Hahnemann Hospitals in Philadelphia and six general hospitals in Pittsburgh also have larger capacities but all of them reported fewer admissions.

That admissions for 1951 will be even greater is indicated by the fact that during the Hospital's fiscal year, ending May 31, it admitted 15,013 patients, an increase of 583 over the previous

fiscal year, and gave 150,096 days of Hospital care. The daily average of 426 patients was the highest ever experienced.

Because of the unprecedented demands there were many times during the year when areas not normally used for the care of patients had to be pressed into emergency use and when waiting lists were established for patients whose treatment could be delayed.

The work of every department of the Hospital was increased both by the record breaking number of patients and by the new and more exacting techniques of medical science that make diagnoses more positive and that facilitate treatments. The pathological laboratories made more than 200,000 examinations, an increase of 17,918 over the previous year. X-ray exposures increased 3,649 to a new peak of 31,430 and physiotherapy treatments totalled 10,551, another notable increase. The Hospital's clinics treated 26,280

patients, 1,048 more than in the previous year.

Probably because more than 50 percent of all patients admitted to the Hospital now prepay the major portion of their hospital costs by Blue Cross or other forms of insurance, the most marked demand last year was for private and semi-private accommodations. Of the 15,013 patients, 10,739 were private and semi-private. The 4,384 ward patients included 1,096 who were unable to pay for their care and 781 who paid only a portion of the ward costs.

Both the statistics of the American Medical Association and the Hospital's own annual report emphasize the acute need for the additional facilities that must be provided in the projected central building and service unit that are to be erected beginning this Fall. The central building will include beds for 68 private and semi-private patients. Additional operating rooms, new laboratory facilities, a new physiotherapy department, new administrative offices and better public

(Continued on Page Two)





JUDGE CLAUDE T. RENO  
*Retiring Trustee*



REUBEN J. BUTZ  
*President Emeritus*



LOUIS P. NEUWEILER  
*Board President*



MORRIS SENDEROWITZ  
*New Trustee*

## LOUIS P. NEUWEILER SUCCEEDS REUBEN BUTZ AS HOSPITAL HEAD

Louis P. Neuweiler, a trustee for nearly a quarter century, has succeeded Atty. Reuben J. Butz as president of the Allentown Hospital Association and chairman of its governing board.

Mr. Butz resigned as president prior to the annual meeting of the Association in June but will continue as a trustee, a position he has held for more than 30 years, and as president emeritus. A few months earlier he resigned as president of the Board of Trustees of Muhlenberg College.

Like Mr. Butz, Mr. Neuweiler has been one of the leaders in the development of the Hospital during the years of its greatest growth. For a number of years he served as chairman of the important executive committee. He is president of the Merchants National Bank of Allentown.

At the annual meeting, the Association elected Morris Senderowitz, Allentown industrialist, to the board to succeed Superior Court Judge Claude T. Reno, who retired after more than 26 years of service. Board members reelected include Mr. Butz, William J. Roberts, Victor R. Schmidt, Dr. Robert L. Schaeffer and Charles Kline.

Mr. Roberts was named first vice-president of the Board; Henry T. Koch, second vice-

president; Charles E. Oakes, third vice-president; William O. Gross, secretary; and William J. Eberhard, treasurer.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Butz said that his election as executive head of "a charitable corporation which has now been helping the sick and the needy of our community for half a century, was one of the greatest honors bestowed on me during my entire career." He told members of the board that the requirements of time and the many arduous duties arising from the Hospital's building program would overtax his physical capacity.

Accepting the resignation with regret, the board paid tribute not only to his faithful service, but also to "his fine personal qualities."

## Women's Groups Make 1½ Million Dressings

If the auxiliaries associated with the Allentown Hospital did nothing more than help supply it with the surgical dressings it requires, they would rate the highest commendation.

Year end reports for the Senior Auxiliary, the Junior Auxiliary and its branches, and the Red Cross Surgical Dressing Group

indicated that during the year they made nearly a million and a half surgical dressings. In addition, the auxiliaries sewed 6,955 garments, towels and other items and helped keep the Hospital linens in repair.

Their work included 1,182,860 surgical dressings from the Red Cross groups; 143,352 dressings and 3,478 other items from the Junior Auxiliary; 59,102 dressings and 282 other items from the Catasauqua Branch; 24,753 dressings from the Emmaus Branch; and 3,195 items from the Senior Auxiliary.

## Your Hospital

*(Continued From Page One)*

accommodations also will be provided.

The new units, third major construction project to be undertaken since the end of World War II, will give the Hospital a total of 502 beds and 35 bassinets. It will also make it possible for all departments to expand their work to adequately care for the increased number of patients. It will give the wide community served by the Allentown Hospital a completely modern Hospital plant with all of the facilities needed for diagnosis and treatment.

It will be a Hospital of which the community this institution has served for 53 years can continue to be proud.



## Two New Chiefs Expanding Work Of Departments

Establishment of a Department of Thoracic Surgery and appointment of a new chief for the Physio Therapy Department have been announced by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Charles D. Schaeffer, certified this summer as a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, has been named chief of the Department of Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Thomas H. Weaber Jr. was elected to succeed the late Dr. Ralph Henry as head of the Physio Therapy Department.

Both new chiefs served internships and residencies at the Allentown Hospital.

Dr. Schaeffer, who has had six years of specialized training in both general and chest surgery, spent the last three years as resident in chest surgery in Philadelphia under three pioneers in intracardiac surgery, Doctors Bailey, Glover and O'Neill. He began private practice in Allentown early in July.

Dr. Weaber, who began his practice in Allentown a decade ago, had considerable experience in physio therapy while serving as chief of the rehabilitative service at the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif. during the last war. He also has done considerable work in that field as college physician at Muhlenberg.

Residents named to the Hospital Staff for the current year include Dr. Robert Bovard, continuing his work in pathology; Dr. Earlin Stahler, continuing in surgery; Dr. Allan Trevaskis, continuing in plastic surgery; Dr. Clyde Muter, new resident in surgery; Dr. William Barba, new resident in medicine; Dr. Jack M. Snauffer, new resident in surgery, and Dr. F. M. Capobianco in urology.

Internes include Dr. Paul M. Guillard, Dr. Peter Miraldo, Dr. Willard Kindt, Dr. Paul A. Deschler and Dr. David Peters. Dr. John Odabashian continues post graduate studies in medicine.

## MODERN SEVEN-STORY UNIT TO REPLACE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF HOSPITAL

Approval by the National Production Authority and assurance that sufficient steel will be allocated clears the way for construction of the Allentown Hospital's new seven-story central building and a three-story service unit.

Contracts totalling nearly \$1,700,000, contingent only on the Federal approval that now has been received, were awarded by the Board of Trustees last May. The contracts do not include any of the furnishings for the new buildings.

The central building which will face Chew Street and provide a complete new entrance to the Hospital, will replace the original building erected in 1899 at a cost of \$20,274.20. The service wing will connect the new structure with the present service unit at the rear.

Administrative offices have been transferred from the old central building to the front section of the west wing. Interior dismantling and demolition of the original hospital building was begun the last week in September. The new buildings are expected to be ready for occupancy in September 1953.

During construction, all administrative offices will be housed on the first floor of the old West Wing, vacant since the Trexler Memorial Wing was completed and scheduled to be entirely rebuilt sometime after the new central building is completed. The entrance to the hospital while construction is under way is on Seventeenth Street, just north of Chew. The entrance for patients is through the clinic area at ground level on Seventeenth Street. Internes and residents are quartered in the Reichenbach Memorial at the southwest corner of Seventeenth and Chew Streets, formerly used as an annex to the Nurses Home.

H. A. Williams of Allentown was awarded the general contract for the new buildings at his low

bid of \$1,181,260. Other contracts, all awarded to the low bidder, include: plumbing, Lehigh Plumbing and Heating Co., Allentown, \$157,906; heating, Lehigh Engineering Co., Allentown, \$113,393; electrical work, Howard P. Foley, Allentown, \$136,765; elevators, Otis Elevator Co., \$59,843; sterilizing equipment, Wilmot-Castle Co., \$25,453; demolition of old building, Cleveland Wrecking Co., \$5,706.

## New Equipment Aids In Care of Patients

Recent additions to the modern equipment the Allentown Hospital is constantly seeking for the specialized care of its patients include a new orthopedic and fracture table and the latest type of oxygen tents with temperature control.

The Albee-Comper fracture table, easily adjustable for use in all fracture cases requiring traction during surgical procedures, is the gift of Charles Kline, retired Allentown merchant and a member of the Hospital's Board of Trustees.

Two McKesson oxygen tents with temperature controls for the greater comfort of the patient have been provided by the B'nai B'rith lodge of Allentown. The Sons of Veterans Reserve presented an infant resuscitator.

Another gift recently installed is complete Addressograph equipment, including plates and storage cabinets, presented by the Catasauqua Branch of the Junior Auxiliary. The equipment facilitates the Hospital's contacts with all groups associated with it.

An electric drinking fountain was installed in the Hospital by William J. Roberts Jr.





*GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CLASS — Continued evidence of the important teaching mission of the Allentown Hospital are the nurses it graduates this year. These 53 young women were graduated in May. Many of them are now on the Hospital's general nursing staff.*

### **Rotary Club Establishes Cerebral Palsy Nursery**

Facilities for the area's first nursery school for children with cerebral palsy have been made available by the Hospital to the Allentown Rotary Club, sponsors of the program.

The school, which opened early in September, is for children of pre-school age who have been found to be educable. Initial enrollment has been limited to 15. Ruth Rapoport, who has been an assistant teacher in the Allentown School District's class for cerebral palsy children, is in charge. Allentown Rotary is providing all the funds for the class which is being administered by the Lehigh County Crippled Children's Society. Miss Rapoport is being assisted by wives of Rotarians.

The school is being coordinated with the Lehigh County Crippled Children's Society's regular cerebral palsy program and clinic.

### **SCHOOL OF NURSING ENROLLS 57 AND PLANS LARGER FUTURE CLASSES**

As underclassmen moved up to take places left vacant by graduation in May, 57 new students entered the Allentown Hospital School of Nursing in August to begin three years of theoretical and practical training for what many times has been called "the most noble profession of them all."

Members of the class, now receiving their pre-clinical instructions, include graduates of high schools in Allentown and more than 30 other Pennsylvania and New Jersey communities. All of them were carefully selected on the basis of their scholastic attainments and their aptitudes for their intended professions.

With the admission of the new class the enrollment of the School of Nursing, now in its 53rd year, was boosted to 145. Registration of an even larger class for next year is already under way. If there is sufficient demand, the School will admit a mid-term class in February.

Scholarships available for girls who need financial assistance to complete their education for the nursing profession have been augmented recently through the efforts of a committee of Allentown Business Men. Total cost of the three year course approx-

imates \$350, including uniforms and extra-curricular activities.

### **THE HOSPITAL CALENDAR**

- Oct. 15—Board of Trustees Meeting, Nurses Home
- Oct. 29—State Nursing Assoc., thru Pa. Annual Convention, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Nov. 1—Students annual hall- we'en party, Nurses Home.
- Nov. 5—Meeting of Ladies Jr. Auxil., Nurses Home.
- Nov. 6—Allentown Hospital Nurses Alumnae Meeting, Nurses Home.
- Nov. 11—Senior Parents Open House, Nurses Home.
- Nov. 17—District 2 P.S.N.A., Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, Nurses Home.
- Nov. 19—Board of Trustees Meeting, Nurses Home