

Administrator's Annual Report, 1962

Lehigh Valley Health Network

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The Allentown Hospital Association

ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 13, 1962

Last September, the Board of Trustees amended the Bylaws so that our fiscal year will end the 30th of June each year rather than the 31st of May. This coincides with the fiscal year of the State, and, therefore, it is impossible to give annual figures this year. However, we can say that for the past twelve months, 18,581 patients were admitted to the hospital which is 882 more than last year, and 2,623 babies - an increase of only four - were born during this period. Our average daily census jumped from 458 to 463 per day and the total number of days' care given by our personnel increased from 167,082 to 169,221.

After the Dedication of the new Robert L. Schaeffer Wing in the Spring a year ago, our contractors proceeded with the remodeling of the entire third floor, the maternity department, and the construction of the new Neuropsychiatric Floor. The Neuropsychiatric Floor, the last of these units to be completed, was opened on February 14th after meeting the approval of the Department of Public Welfare of the Commonwealth. The census in this area has reached its maximum almost from the day the unit was finished. All of the contractors moved off of the site the 1st of March and we are now concentrating our efforts in providing the best possible patient care.

The installation of the oil-fired boilers is now completed and the boiler house presents an entirely different picture from that of a year ago.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

- 2 -

Liquid oxygen has been installed in place of the numerous tanks throughout the house and oxygen has been piped to every floor, thus eliminating the need for carrying these tanks to the patient's bedside.

New X-ray equipment has been installed in order to handle the increasing load of diagnostic X-ray work being ordered, and a new automatic film processing tank has just been completed.

Through the cooperation of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Gift Shop off the main lobby was moved and enlarged, and the increase in their business has more than warranted the expenses involved.

The Junior Aides have concentrated their efforts during the year on the remodeling and redecorating of the entire pediatrics floor and, if you have not seen this redecorated area, I can only say you are missing a treat. I have said, on numerous occasions, that this is the most professional amateur job I have ever seen. What you cannot see are the many hours of labor that have gone into the creating of these murals, the innumerable committee meetings involving time and thought, and the loving care with which these murals have been hung.

A new recovery room for children has been added and is in constant use. A new nursery for premature infants was created as a memorial to the late Patty Ann Moyer, and the nursing station on Pediatrics has also been completely remodeled. This entire floor has been given a general face-lifting.

The Isolation Department has been enlarged to more adequately care for those patients with contagious diseases.

The remodeling of the Accident Department has made it much easier to care for patients with emergencies and to provide a place for them to rest in the event they need not be admitted.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

- 3 -

After analyzing the number of ambulance corps and private ambulance services available, our Board of Trustees decided it was no longer economically feasible for the hospital to continue operating its own ambulance service and, thus, it was discontinued.

At about the same time, the Board decided to cancel the contract with Szabo Food Service, and we have again assumed the responsibility of the operation of our Dietary Department.

These are the highlights of the developments accomplished during the past twelve months. None of these would have been possible, however, without the untiring devotion of the members of the Board of Trustees, the thousands of hours donated by our volunteers, and the ceaseless efforts of our Auxiliaries. The work which these groups accomplished is phenomenal and words are very inadequate in expressing our sincere appreciation for all they continue to do for us.

Our almost one thousand employees have given of themselves in caring for our patients and seeing to it that they are made as comfortable as possible. No emergency has arisen that this group cannot adequately cope with. To each of these, we say thank you very much for another year of a job well done. We can only pledge ourselves to continue to do our best in caring for those committed to our care.