

Administrator's Annual Report, 1964

Lehigh Valley Health Network

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The Allentown Hospital Association

ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 10, 1964

June 1964 marks the end of 65 years of service which The Allentown Hospital has rendered to the people in the Lehigh Valley. In the past twelve months, 19,581 persons have been admitted to the hospital. This is an all-time high and indicates the continuing need for the services which are provided and explains to some extent the reasons why long waiting lists have continued to exist and, on several occasions, admissions have been limited to only those of an emergency nature.

During the same period, a total of 2,523 babies were born and a total of 177,009 days of care was rendered by our personnel. The small number of births is again indicative of the national trend to a lower birth rate despite earlier predictions to the contrary. The average number of patients per day was 485 and each patient has stayed in the hospital an average of 9.04 days.

During the year, there were three major accomplishments achieved through the Board of Trustees. The first was the installation of the Cardiopulmonary Laboratory made possible through a grant from the Trexler Foundation. The installation of this equipment makes new diagnostic tests possible for our physicians and opens a new avenue of knowledge heretofore closed. Already, many people have been helped by this equipment and several have had their heart defects repaired and are again living normal lives.

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The second project was the revision and remodeling of our laboratory facilities which materially helped us in receiving full approval for a residency program in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology which had not been available to us before this year. An entirely new Blood Bank area was provided, the Chemistry and Bacteriology Sections were remodeled, and a new area was provided for the tissue technicians.

The third major improvement was the beginning of the use of Trexler 4 as a Cardiac Concentrated Care Area. The nursing station was remodeled, a new patient call system was installed, and patient-monitoring equipment has been ordered. By concentrating all patients with heart problems on this one floor and by adequately training the nursing personnel, we are certain that all of our heart patients will receive far better care than formerly was possible.

Our program to equip every bed in the hospital with siderails was completed during the year, and we have now ventured onto a program to purchase overbed tables for each bed thus eliminating the old-fashioned feeding tables and the possibility of patients burning themselves by hot liquids being spilled.

A new X-ray Scanner has been leased thus making it possible to diagnose brain tumors and other lesions which previously could not have been found.

New operating room lights were installed in the orthopedic operating room and this room is now available for all types of major surgery.

The Board has approved the leasing of a National Cash Register electronic accounting machine and it is hoped that this will be delivered sometime in early Fall.

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Last summer, we were once again informed that The Allentown Hospital had merited full approval for a period of three years of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. We were also advised that our School of Medical Technology had been re-approved.

We received a \$25,000.00 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington to conduct an attitudinal study in connection with our Home Care Program, and this study is currently in progress.

The hospital played a major role in completing the Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine Program last Fall and winter and, through the cooperative efforts of all health agencies and physicians, more than 85% of the population of this area has been immunized against polio.

Last summer, we were saddened by the death of Mr. Ted Hooyman who had served as Chief Engineer of the hospital for a period of eight years. In addition, Mr. Victor Schmidt, a member of our Board for 18 years, also died and Judge Henry V. Scheirer was appointed by the Board in his place. In January, we were again saddened by the death of Mr. William J. Roberts who had served so well as a member of the Board of Trustees for almost 30 years and, just last month, death again struck by taking from our midst Mr. George Sherer who had served as the hospital superintendent for thirty years.

As the year came to a close, we were notified by the Lehigh Valley Crippled Childrens Society that it was moving its quarters from our hospital to the Muhlenberg Medical Center. This was necessitated in order that its activities might be centralized in the area it covers which now includes all of Northampton and Lehigh Counties.

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The Auxiliary Groups have been extremely active during the year and very generous with their time, talents, and donations to the hospital. The Ladies Auxiliary has approved the purchase of new springs and mattresses for the Nurses' Home as well as the redecorating of the Employees' Cafeteria. The Junior Aides have completed the project of their coloring book for our youngsters and they are to be congratulated for the very fine work which they did. The Gray Ladies and other volunteers have continued to give extensively of their time, and had we to pay for the services rendered by these volunteers, our costs of caring for patients would be greatly increased.

No annual report would be complete without acknowledging the devotion of the hospital employees. When schools and industry close down due to inclement weather, our personnel make their way to the hospital to care for our patients. They can always be depended upon to be available when needed. The entire community should be eternally grateful to these people who do so much.

The Board of Trustees has met every month and these men, too, have an intense interest in the care of our patients and in the functioning of the hospital. Because of their wise counsel, we end the year in an enviable financial position with the physical plant in excellent condition. Thus, we approach the end of another fiscal year and look forward to the future in providing the best care possible for our patients.