

Administrator's Annual Report, 1960

Lehigh Valley Health Network

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ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 8, 1960

The end of this fiscal year marks 61 years of service to the people of this area by The Allentown Hospital. It has truly been a year of service for there were 18,033 patients admitted, 2,587 babies born, and our personnel rendered a total of 163,823 days of care. In this same period of time, 624 patients went to their eternal reward.

The ancillary services of the hospital were also extremely busy as evidenced by the following facts: The X-Ray Department took 76,693 pictures and gave deep therapy treatments to 2,034 patients. The Laboratory performed 357,354 tests and 10,312 patients were treated in the Physical Therapy Department. There were 23,210 visits recorded in our Out-Patient Department and 996 electro-therapy treatments were given. Our surgeons performed 9,634 operations, and there were 6,718 electrocardiograms taken. The Pharmacy filled 7,011 prescriptions.

Statistics can be dry and impersonal, but while we read them off casually we must continue to realize that each one represents a human being. Each baby born means a new citizen and each death records the loss of a loved one. The hospital continues to deal with humans and never can they become a mere number.

The highlight of the year was the groundbreaking for the new addition to the West Wing, after which the foundations were dug and footings poured. Due to the steel strike, the structural steel was not delivered until February of this year, but work is now progressing nicely on this new building. The contractors assure us that the wing will be ready for occupancy by the end of this calendar year, and it is our sincere hope that the remodeling and renovations to the present West Wing will complete our project by September of 1961.

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The Board of Trustees has approved many new additions for the present buildings. The new beds that were ordered for Sections B and H were delivered in August. At the same time, the Kutztown Branch of the Ladies Auxiliary presented us with twelve over-bed tables, and the Alumnae Association made possible cubicle curtains in the student nurses' infirmary. Other cubicle curtains were installed in Sections C and E.

A gift from the Ladies Auxiliary made possible coin-operated television in all areas of the hospital except the West Wing. As soon as the renovations are completed in this area, this service will be extended throughout the house.

Metal chart covers and chart racks have been purchased for every nurses' station in the house. New straps have been installed on all litters to prevent patients from rolling off while being transported from one area to another.

We have received two new positive pressure respirators - one a gift of the surgeons and the other a gift from the Cystic Fibrosis Society.

In addition, we have purchased a visual electrocardiogram machine for the use of our surgeons in the operating room, and we have also bought a hypothermia machine by which we can lower the body temperature of certain patients and perform surgery on those who normally would be a poor risk.

Many hours have been spent this year with the architects and contractors in making decisions concerning the new building, the new equipment to be put into it, as well as the furnishings to be purchased.

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We are grateful for the many volunteer hours that are rendered by that untiring group of women who continue to give us such wonderful service. The Gray Ladies, the Ladies Auxiliary and its branches, the Junior Aides, the ladies of the Garden Club, those who work in the Gift Shop, those who work on the cart and all other volunteer groups continue to serve mankind by giving of their time to help those less fortunate than themselves. We can never express enough gratitude to them for all they continue to do for us.

We are also grateful for the continuing efforts of our employees who do so much to make our patients comfortable. We are proud of the many compliments sent in by satisfied patients.

Our Board of Trustees also has continued to give of themselves and their means to further the progress of the hospital. They have been very generous with their time in planning for the present wants and future needs of the institution.

This has been a year of progress and much planning toward providing completely new and improved facilities to enable us to give better patient care to the people of this community in the years ahead.