

# TECHS TALK

No. 2

April 1948

## WE TRY TO PAVE THE WAY

In spite of our constant griping about hospital hours, food provisions and so forth, we seniors at the University Hospital have found time during the past year to do a little "campaigning" for that good old profession, Medical Technology.

During Freshman Week of the fall of 1947, the Council set up a booth in the Union along with other campus organizations. This booth was equipped with Chemistry and Hematology equipment and with pamphlets describing our work. Chemistries contributed several volumetric flasks, pipettes and even a few copper sulfate filled sugar tubes. A Hematology tray was there with the usual red, white and hemoglobin pipettes and their respective diluting fluids.

Lured by our fascinating scientific appearing equipment and our enthusiastic pep talks, the freshmen came forward slowly and apprehensively. They listened to our several experiences as we tried to disprove their previously obtained ideas about the unbearable Quant. Labs. We tried to interest a few people anyway - at least that stack of pamphlets looked smaller at the end of the day.

Then again in December of 1947, we had a coke party which helped us get acquainted with many more freshmen and sophomores. Despite our coming in acid attacked uniforms, and our looking a little weary, we had a lot of fun telling the "younger set" about the "cute little blond baby on 53" and the "fellow on 61 who wanted to take our hemoglobin." We even sang Christmas carols to prove that the gang in Chemistries also get that "Christmas spirit" in December.

Another campaigning and "get acquainted" party with the underclassmen took place in April 1948. The Council

gave a Bunco Party at which time the juniors helped us talk to the freshies and sophs and told their tales of "P. Chem." and "Med. Bact." We tried to harmonize on "Med. Tech's Lament", "Dirty Rotten Chemist" and a few other traditional hospital harmonies. After listening to a few choruses, I'm sure those of the "outside Hospital" group felt they were practically initiated into the hospital circle.

We've hoped the future student hospital techs found these little sessions helpful in some way, for we've had a lot of fun planning and attending them ourselves.

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## MED TECH'S FATE

Have you ever wondered where the Medical Technology graduates are now and what they have done? Last year a questionnaire made out by Miss Allie Smith, an instructor at University Hospital, was attached to Tech's Talk and sent to all University of Minnesota Graduates, dating back to about 1923. Four hundred replied.

According to the survey, most of the graduates worked in hospitals, but others worked in doctors offices, research labs, public health labs and commercial labs. On an average they worked three or four years, but stayed at one job for only about one year.

Although 60% of these graduates have worked in Minnesota at one time, they have also worked in 42 other states. California was second choice, Minnesota being first. Numerous Med. Techs have worked in some of the foreign countries. These include the Canal Zone, Alaska, Canada, Hawaii, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

After graduating, a few techs went into graduate work. Biochemistry and bacteriology were most popular, and 15 have become M.D.s., one a Dentist and one received a Ph.D. in psychiatry.

ATTENTION!

- WHAT? The Annual Med Tech Banquet
- WHEN? Monday, May 24th, at 6:30 P.M.
- WHERE? Union Ball Room

For additional information please consult the enclosed pamphlet. We hope to see you all there!

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THE NEW LOOK

Not to be denied the "new look," Ancker Hospital is undergoing a spring renovation. Bright green bulletin boards herald coming events and display significant material. New tile floors are replacing the old concrete ones in Urinalysis, Chemistry lab and the dressing room.

Despite a 15 to 20% increase in the volume of work done, efficiency standards were maintained and reports completed on schedule. In January 1948, the Hematology Lab. felt the full force of the increment and recorded the highest amount of work done per day.

The increase in work tempo was met with an even greater enthusiasm for integrated group activities, designed primarily for relaxation and advantageous use of leisure time. Through the Christmas season and the turn of the New Year, sleigh rides were in vogue. A newly organized sewing circle soon took the spotlight and with mounting interest has gained a high point in popularity with instructors and students alike.

Such seemingly insignificant features in the Ancker "new look" have brought encouragement and pleasure to all concerned.

UNIVERSITY STAFF

During the past year there has been a great change in the laboratory staff. Four new instructors and nine assistants have been added. Dr. Gerald T. Evans is in charge of the Medical Technology Department while Ruth Hovde '38 is the head instructor. Allie Smith '42 is the Supervisor of Student Techs and Jane Weber '41 is the Administrative Laboratory Technologist.

The instructors and assistants in the various labs are as follows: Elaine Daughenbaugh '45 and Catherine Arens '47 with Vivian Olson Mulkern '47 head the hematology department. Dr. Dorothy Sundberg, Hospital Hematologist, is assisted by M. Jeanette Stevens '40 and Elaine Daughenbaugh. Ruth Muir '45 is in charge of urinalysis and Norma Benhad Lick '42 has charge of Clerk's Lab. Tissue lab is headed by Audrey Naas '47 with Clarice Stearns '47. Angela diGiambattista Manning '45 runs ECG-BMR lab on 5th floor. Dr. Wallace is in charge of Parasitology over in the Zoology Building. Dr. Elizabeth Frame is the Hospital Chemist, while Verna Rausch '45 is in charge of the chemistry lab assisted by Lorraine Gonyea '44 and Lorraine Lavic '47. Doing special research work in the "back room" are Olga Leschisin '46, and Esther Freier '46. Elizabeth Whitley '43 and Mary Welshons '47 are in charge of bacteriology. Dr. Ziegler has recently taken over the job as Hospital Bacteriologist. In the next room Betty Weisel '42 has charge of the blood bank, aided by Aileen Blomquist '42. Christeen Lewis is the instructor of serology over in Millard Hall. Phyllis Johnson Krigbaum '42 and Vera Armstrong have charge of the dispensary lab with Jane Ames Helgerson '46 helping out part time. Two of the latest newcomers, Zona Swanson '47 and Mary Jane West are general assistants for all labs.

## GENERAL HOSPITAL NEWS

The staff at Minneapolis General Hospital hasn't changed a great deal since last year at this time. It is now under the supervision of Dr. Steven Barron and Bergliot Hansen, chief technologist.

The technologists now working in the labs are Geraldine Dickerson, dispensary; Eleanor Egelston and Sigrid Serum, chemistry; Fern Wagner Bates and Margaret Strickland, hematology; Emma Munns, serology; Marjorie Ellison, urines and parasites; Dorothy Misjuk, blood bank; Lillian Helfman and Grace Johnson, Bacteriology; and Pearl Miller and Dorothy Jorgenson, tissues.

## A GREAT LOSS

We were all very shocked to learn of the death of Dr. William O'Brien last fall. He has left a place in the hospital as well as in the whole community that will be hard to fill.

After the school for Med. Techs had been organized by Dr. Beard in 1923, Dr. O'Brien's interest in the school greatly aided its progress. He served as Chairman from 1925 to 1940. Then Dr. Gerald T. Evans took over. All the alumnae who had contact with Dr. O'Brien will no doubt remember his whole hearted interest and enthusiasm in Medical Technology. To honor him, Orbs established a loan fund years ago for needy Med. Techs. This lately has been changed to a scholarship fund.

The Med Techs will greatly miss Dr. O'Brien.