"INTERNS REUNION" TO MARK HOSPITAL'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

A reunion of former interns of the Jewish General Hospital and special programs for the nurses, Women's Auxiliary and the general public, will highlight celebrations this year of the hospital's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. No details have been completed as yet, but a committee headed by honorary president Allan Bronfman and president Philip Garinkle, is currently hard at work on the project.

Celebrations of the Anniversary will focus attention on the phenomenal growth of the hospital and its services during the 25 years of its existence. Achievements in the field of medical science by hospital personnel and former hospital associates will also be reviewed.

Progress for the Mentally Ill...

PSYCHIATRIC DEPARTMENT ENLARGED

Recently, Mr. R., age 29, was admitted to the psychiatric ward of the Jewish General Hospital. Extremely depressed and agitated, his illness was diagnosed as Manic Depressive Psychosis—a disease characterized by extreme variations in mood, ranging from high spirits to severe depression. It was learned that the patient's wife had deserted him as a result of his illness and its effect on their marriage. Further investigation disclosed that the patient had failed in a half-hearted attempt at suicide.

In the ward, the patient was given electroshock treatment, tranquilizing medication, and psychiatry. Slowly he began to respond. After a month, he was well enough to be discharged, and a few days later, under follow-up treatment by a psychiatrist, the patient returned to work. Doctors and the patient himself agreed that the friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the ward contributed in no small way to his recovery.

The case of Mr. R. is one of many who seek help from the Psychiatric Department of the Jewish General Hospital. Opened 2 years ago, the department was limited to a 12-bed ward. Now, a new 16-bed ward and facilities for day patients are nearing completion, which will certainly rank the department as one of the finest in the city contained within a general hospital.

"We are proud of the progress made so far," said Dr. Saul Albert, psychiatrist-in-chief. "The department has certainly come a long way since its inception as a branch of neuro-psychiatry in 1946."

Facilities for patient treatment were limited in 1946, it was recalled. Only one clinic per week was available for public psychiatric help. There was no ward, no occupational therapy, no insulin or electroshock equipment, and no individual therapy or case work.

At present, the department boasts of three clinics per week as well as four special clinics—child psychiatry, geriatrics, family welfare and drug clinics. The geriatric clinic is considered unique in that it is the only one in the city designed exclusively for the care of the aged. Group and follow-up therapy is another feature of today's services.

When the new ward is opened shortly, patients will find modern, comfortable surroundings designed to make their stay as pleasant as possible.

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analyses and has relieved skilled technicians to concentrate on the newer biochemical tests which are constantly being developed in dealing with diagnostic and therapeutic problems.

Appointments

Dr. Odusca Morgante, who has just received her Ph.D. degree in bacteriology from McGill Graduate School, has been appointed Associate Bacteriologist of the Jewish General Hospital. Born in Italy, she studied medicine at the University of Rome, interned in pathology and moved in 1917 to Venezuela, where she organized and conducted a clinical pathology laboratory at a 50-bed hospital in a small town. From 1949 to 1951, Dr. Morgante was senior assistant in clinical bacteriology at Montreal’s Royal Victoria Hospital. The following eight years were spent at Alexandra Hospital, conducting investigation on Tuberculous Meningitis and Tuberculosis in children. Her appointment to this Hospital in November, 1958, highlights the steady growth of the bacteriology laboratory, which offers vital investigative service to thousands of patients yearly.

Recent additions to the staff of the Radiology Department have been announced. They are Dr. L. G. Stephens-Newsham — who has been appointed part-time radiation physicist; and Mrs. Gweneth Peters, a native of Wales, who has assumed duties as Radio Isotope Technician. Dr. Stephens-Newsham is associate professor of radiation physics at McGill University. Mrs. Peters, who arrived in Canada 10 months ago, was previously a science teacher near London, England.

PSYCHIATRY

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The Jewish General is one of an increasing number of general hospitals throughout Canada and the United States that have established psychiatric wards in the belief that many forms of mental illness can be treated in relatively short periods without commitment to mental hospitals. Service is therefore offered on the same basis as that of any other department in the hospital.

"Years ago," one of the Hospital’s 14 psychiatrists declared, "Mr. R. and others like him would have been committed to an institution for great lengths of time. Today, only patients requiring constant care and treatment over extended periods need be admitted to mental hospitals.

"The establishment of psychiatric wards in general hospitals has proved a giant step in the care of the mentally ill of our society."

This, however, does not mean that all problems of mental health have been solved. With the increasing complexity in society, more people than ever before are finding it difficult to adjust to the sudden changes and hurldles, and as a result mental illness has been steadily increasing. To meet the growing need, Dr. Albert revealed, staff and facilities, as well as the department’s internal organization, are still being expanded.

NO GAME OF CARDS for these elderly people, is this session of wrist and finger exercises conducted by physical therapist, Carol Roper, at the Physical Medicine Unit. The exercises help strengthen joint range and improve muscle tone. The department, which has been supervised by Miss Ida Mantell since its inception in 1926, was recently moved to its new and attractive location on the basement floor. It contains highly specialized equipment and operates varied services including pre- and post-natal instruction; group exercises for psychiatric patients, and pre- and post-operative exercises for patients.

NURSING TRAINING is given to a group of teenage girls by student nurse Miss Charlotte Levinson during a recent tour of the School of Nursing at the Jewish General Hospital. Here, Miss Levinson shows the visitors—all members of a B’nai B’rith club—how to care for a patient. "Patient" is a practice dummy called Mrs. Mary Chase. The School of Nursing, which opened in 1951, graduated 24 nurses last year.

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL
MONTREAL, QUEBEC.