Introducing...

Dr. Nathan B. Epstein

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This is the fourth article in a series introducing members of the Board of Administration.

When the job is both fascinating and challenging, and the man is skilled and dynamic, things are likely to result from the meeting of job and man that will be of great benefit to the community.

The job: to continually improve and widen the scope of the Jewish General’s active research, teaching and patient services;

To carry on with the evolution of psychiatry out of the forbidding “state hospitals” of 20 years ago, through the general hospital, through the social and service agencies of the community, and now into our most important institution of all, the family group.

The man: Dr. Nathan B. Epstein, born in Nova Scotia, married and the father of three daughters, graduate of Dalhousie University medical school, of McGill University in psychiatry, now associate professor of psychiatry at McGill, psychiatrist-in-chief since 1960 and chairman of the Medical Board, making him ipso facto a member of the Board of Administration.

Since joining the Hospital in 1956, Dr. Epstein has seen the department grow until today it encompasses a full range of in-patient and day patient services, as well as complex research programs and teaching activities. The department is part of McGill University’s postgraduate medical training network.

The only service which has not been offered so far, in-patient service for...

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Student Nurses Graduate In 13th Annual Ceremony

Twenty-six student nurses received their graduation pins and diplomas during the 13th annual Graduation Ceremony of the School of Nursing, held on Thursday evening, September 8th, in the auditorium of the nurses’ residence.

Sam Steinberg, president of the Board of Administration, presented the pins and diplomas to the graduates, who were called forward by Joan Gitchrist, B.N., M.Sc. (A), R.N., director of nursing.

Mr. Steinberg expressed the congratulations of the Hospital to the girls, and also commended the fine work of the nursing education staff members who have brought the School of Nursing to a very high level of academic achievement.

During the evening, five graduates and three undergraduates received prizes which were presented by Mary Barrett, B.N., B.A., R.N., assistant director, nursing education.

Miss Ronnie Pomersant, Montreal; the Annie E. G. Goldbloom Award, established by the Women’s Auxiliary, for highest aggregate marks in examinations.

Miss Sandra Kamenir, Toronto; the Michael Hirsch Honor Award for constant personal and professional progress.

Miss Deborah Singer, Montreal; the Mrs. Allan Bronfman Prize for general proficiency. Miss Singer also received a prize from the Association of Nurses of the Province of Quebec as a result of being selected by her classmates as best all-round student in the graduation class.

Miss Helen Bergman, Montreal; the Associate Nurses of the Jewish General Hospital Award for bedside nursing.

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“Skills In Living”

“You are graduating from a school that places special emphasis on the total development of its students, their personal as well as professional growth, their skills in living as well as their technical skills,” Mrs. A. Isobel MacLeod, B.Sc., M.A., R.N., immediate past president of the Canadian Nurses Association and director of nursing of the Montreal General Hospital, said in her address to the graduating class.

Nursing schools must give students a greater understanding of the human beings they serve, and a greater capacity to communicate the warmth and...
Dr. Nathan Epstein

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children below the age of 12 years, will be added when new space becomes available in the Hospital’s expansion program.

Under Dr. Epstein’s leadership, the department pioneered in developing a community psychiatric program and in enlisting schools, the YM-YWHA and Neighbourhood House, the Baron de Hirsch Institute, Jewish Vocational Service, and Maismonde’s Hospital and Home for the Aged as participants.

Now the psychiatric study of groups is being applied to the family unit, and considerable research has already been done. The recent announcement of a generous grant of $750,000 for an Institute of Family and Social Psychiatry holds promise of much wider programs of teaching and research into social causes of mental illness, and new knowledge of how to guard the mental health of individuals in the community.

George Baird...

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household. Currently they have two; a boy of three years, and a girl of 3½ months who came in the spring, straight from the hospital where she was born.

After leaving the sea, Mr. Baird worked for several companies in Montreal, including large industrial concerns. And for eight years he was building superintendent of the Royal Bank of Canada’s Head Office on St. James Street, then the tallest office building in Canada.

At the Hospital, he oversees 30 men and equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. One of his assistants, Trevor Thomas, is supervisor of the boiler room and air conditioning plant.

Dave Davis, the other assistant, is supervisor of maintenance. Mr. Davis bosses the painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, groundskeepers, and all others engaged in maintaining the physical plant.

Some of their work presents special requirements. In industry, says Mr. Baird, a small steam or water leak is a minor problem which can wait for routine servicing. But such a defect in a line supplying an operating room, for example, must get prompt and careful attention.

As new equipment comes into operation, ultra-modern control systems are being installed. One new panel controls the boilers, another will control air conditioning and ventilation throughout the building, and modern switchgear will be installed in the new 12,000-volt transformer station to meet current and future demands for electricity.

More Emergency Power

Another important unit being installed is an additional emergency diesel-generator.

The existing unit, of 600 B.H.P., supplies selected circuits in the event

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