

Careful Planning in Modern Hospital

Skilled Personnel Essential

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Until recently many hospitals were designed by planning a building with a beautiful entrance and then squeezing in the services which were later found to be necessary. It has only been fairly a recent development that the many technical and highly specialized services which modern hospitals provide, forced a very careful planning of the basic hospital functions and these are then outlined in detail after which the walls are built around them. Naturally, this involves considerable research into planning for the technical services the hospital is supposed to provide and the space required in order to make such services function most effectively.

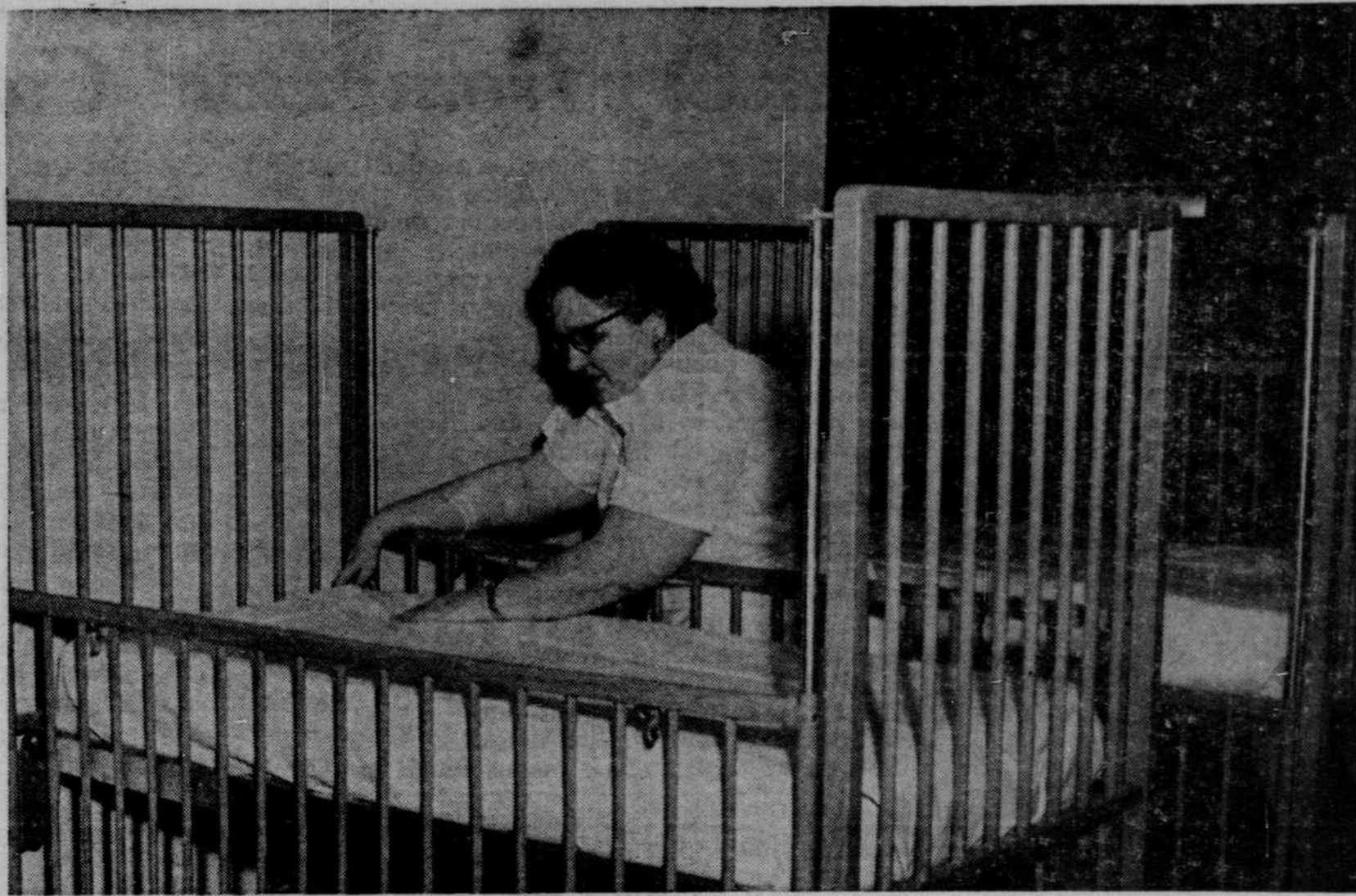
Transformation of hospital service in the last 1½ decades from a hotel-type institution to which has been added an operating room, delivery room, and a nursery with a laboratory and x-ray stuck off in some odd corner is amazing. We have now provided a modern hospital which might be likened to a highly technical laboratory, with all the special and ordinary services required, to which is attached merely enough beds to care for those who require bed care. More and more the public mind is becoming aware of the fact that the value of the hospital lies not in the size of the building, or the number of beds that may be within it, or the color of the brick or the stone which has been incorporated into the structure, but to the technical services which are available to meet the health requirements of the people in the area.

Naturally, highly trained professional personnel must be available in order to use the equipment and there must be a harmony between the building, its equipment, and the people who operate it. This requires planning to the highest level.

Laboratory and laboratory technicians, x-ray, special diets from a modern kitchen, such diagnostic aids as electrocardiogram, basal metabolism, etc., are the rule rather than the exception in the modern hospital. Sometimes today modern surgery is performed by electricity rather than by the surgeon's knife, and, in many instances, due to early diagnosis and prompt treatment, conditions which formerly required surgery are now being treated by medication. All this is brought about by new developments, new techniques, new scientific equipment and professional personnel properly trained to use these new devices.

One look is worth a volume of description. The modern hospital must be seen to be appreciated. We could write many hundreds of words describing the beauties and the functional planning of St. Anthony's hospital but you would still have to actually see it in order to appreciate that of which we wrote. For instance, in the basement is a modern power plant provided with the latest equipment to provide heat for the winter as well as high pressure steam for sterilization requirements the year around. The modern laundry will assure that all linens will be kept clean and wholesome, the kitchen will provide not only food but also assure that the dishes will be washed and sterilized for the patients' protection. There are also other rooms to be used as the need requires for storage and other housekeeping purposes. An incinerator is available for disposal of items which should be burned. Also, you will find throughout the hospital that the ordinary household services have been provided for in a most excellent manner.

A hospital is unusual in that it must be equipped with items which will withstand constant usage every day of the year. Therefore, materials must be of the highest quality and be able



Night Supt. Effie Stevens (above) demonstrates for the camera night-time bedside maneuvers are new. All fixtures are new.

to withstand the strains of constant use.

It is estimated that linens receive each month in the hospital an equivalent of approximately three years service in the average private home. The beds and mattresses, other hospital furnishings, are subject to similar stress. Therefore, such equipment must be not only pleasing in appearance but of the highest quality to meet the demands of hospital services.

In the surgical area of a modern hospital the operating and delivery rooms have been designed to provide maximum safety to both the staff and the patient. It appears that the gas anesthesia safest from a standpoint of an anesthetic might also be most susceptible to explosion from static electricity. Therefore, the floors are conductive in order to eliminate static electricity from the personnel and from the equipment used, providing the personnel do not wear shoes and clothing that insulate them from the floor. The surgical suites have separate ventilation and air conditioning systems. Electric switches are either explosion-proof or placed outside of the "hazardous area." All this is provided in order to assure the safest area possible for the patient, and the professional staff.

The nursery is protected by having its own work rooms for the infants and having its own ventilation system. Thus, newborn infants are assured of freedom from any cross-infection which might be air borne. Equipment furnished for their care is of the latest in design and of the finest quality.

Many surgical instruments and similar items used by the physicians, are available as required by patients' needs. All such items are of the finest quality known to present medical practice.

So much of the work of the hospital is done by the nurse that great care is given in selecting the necessary nursing items. It has been proven that the quality of such items is reflected not only in their longevity of use but also in the ease with which they may be used. Thus, it is not only a matter of convenience to the nurse but a matter of economics that enters into the selection of hospital equipment. Stainless steel is used wherever possible since it will not chip, is easy to clean, and has a pleasing appearance. Equipment is available in the hospital for cleaning and disinfecting the bedpans after each use as a matter of nursing convenience and the protection for the individual patient. Equipment is also available to sterilize such equipment in between patients so that when a new patient enters a hospital they may be assured that the ultimate is available for their protection.

Not only protection, but also patients' comfort and convenience is emphasized. Linens, blankets, room finish, mattresses—all designed to make a comfortable and pleasing impression upon the hospital guest.

Many other items are available and they should be seen in order

to be appreciated. St. Anthony's hospital is constructed and equipped to provide a most modern health service to O'Neill and the Holt county area. The excellence of the building and its equipment plus the care and management of the Sisters of St. Francis and his professional staff available to serve you assures the people of this section of Nebraska the very best in health protection. By any test, St. Anthony's hospital is a source of pride to the entire state of Nebraska as well as O'Neill and, we are sure, will grow in service to suffering humanity through many years to come.

The Frontier is Holt county's oldest business establishment.

Host of Activities Swell Hospital Fund

A host of activities of every type—including benefit dinners, dances, parties, auctions of baseballs to bedsteads—helped to swell the St. Anthony's hospital building fund.

In fact, it can almost be said there was a benefit of some description every time you turned around for a period of a good many weeks.

All of these activities and the spirit that pervaded them were a real indication of unity.

It was the kind of spirit that penetrated well beyond the stage of well-wishing and entered into the realm of cooperative action.

It was really the giving of themselves, their time and talents that distinguished so many loyal boosters of the hospital as much as it was the giving of their sessions.

In June, 1949, 60-thousand-dollars had come in by solicitation and subscription. It was agreed that at least 100-thousand-dollars had to be raised by this method. Interest mounted and a "thermometer" erected in the center of the city chartered the progress. It is now a pleasant memory to many to recall the slow but inexorable rise of the "mercury".

The Catholic Daughters, for example, boosted the "temperature" by \$900 with a box social and dance at the American Legion auditorium. They then followed with another sizeable check which was developed from a downtown promotion.

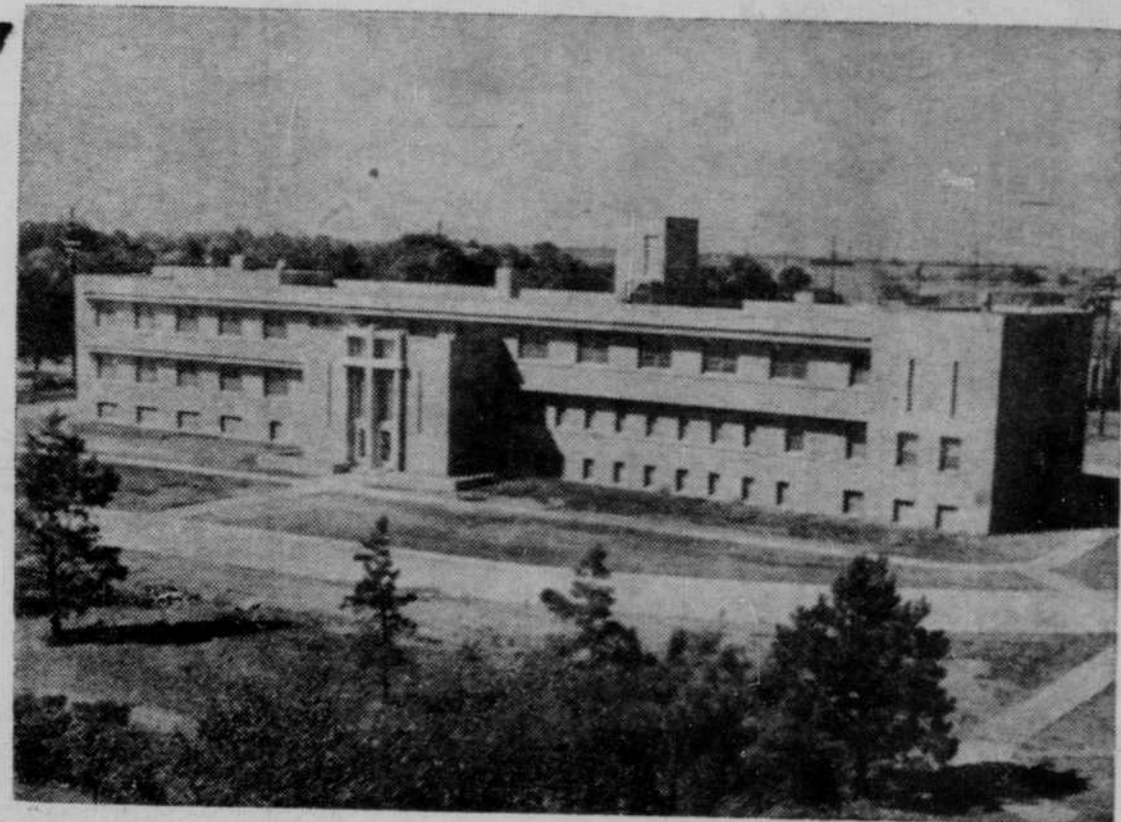
It wasn't long before more organizations got behind the drive with money-raising plans of every kind.

Simonson post 93 of the American Legion promptly posted a \$1,000 check. Eden Rebekah lodge and the Girl Scouts quickly followed suit with substantial gifts for organizations of their size and the community-wide push had caught afire.

By July, 1949, less than 23-thousand-dollars was needed before actual construction operations could begin. Then followed livestock auctions, glass jar collections, bingo games, all-star baseball games, selling of autographed baseballs and footballs, food sales and outdoor dancing. The Legion's fall festival that year netted \$2,000, a magnificent "shot-in-the-arm", if you please!

Finally on October 6, 1949, the "mercury" hit the \$100,000 mark and the push had been successfully completed.

Congratulations to St. Anthony's Hospital



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