

Infirmary kept busy with large caseload

By MARIA WAWER

"We have a large caseload", said Miss Lillian Copp, RN and head of the UNB Health Centre. "Last year we handled 3,806 medical and 427 surgical cases, and this is without counting the in-patients in the infirmary."

Any student registered at UNB or St. Thomas may use the services of the centre which operates 24 hours a day.

As of last year, the centre is located on the second floor of the Tibbits Hall annex, just above the office of the Dean of Women, and the Off Campus Women's Centre. Previously, the health needs of the students were met in two separate infirmaries: one centrally located on campus, above the Residence Office, where the present day Rap Room is found; the other, for women only, in the basement of Lady Dunn Hall. This latter had been in existence for ten years.

The new infirmary holds 14 beds, three rooms of four beds each and one with two. According to Miss Copp, there is no shortage of beds. There is also a waiting room, two examining rooms, and an office.

"As far as equipment and supplies go, we have all we need for the number and type of cases we handle," Miss Copp said.

Such things as the suturing of cuts and application of plaster casts are not done at infirmary.

"This is mainly because we don't have a full time doctor. We do have suturing equipment here, but no doctor to do the job. If we were to get a full time MD, then we'd need more equipment to allow him to handle extra cases."

At the present, the doctors staffing the morning clinic come of their own accord. "They give up their time to work here. It does not really reward them financially", said Miss Copp. "Previous to Medicare, they took a chance on being paid. Now Medicare covers the bills, as long as the students have their Medicare numbers from their own province."

On an average day, a doctor may handle 20 cases during his two or more hours at the morning clinic. Another 50 people are assisted during the day by the nursing staff itself consisting of 5 nurses, any two on at the same time during the day shift. According to Miss Copp, this is a large number to care for, especially if there are in-patients at the time.

"There were 93 admissions to the infirmary last year, for a total of 240 days. Actually, this is a very small population considering the number of people

we have on campus."

Cases in the infirmary may range from mononucleosis to hepatitis, and other sickness where the patient should be kept in isolation.

Miss Copp said the medical problems at UNB are varied. There is no predominant malady, except perhaps for the ubiquitous cold, and cases run the gamut from drugs, alcoholism, injuries, diabetes to allergies. "In other words, the same problems any clinic would be asked to cope with."

The Health Centre being the only such facility on campus, also handles emergencies among faculty, workers and other non-students.

The centre is financed mainly by UNB with St. Thomas paying in proportion to the number of students it has. Medicare pays such expenses as doctor's examinations, but only, Miss Copp stressed once more, if a student has his provincial Medicare number.

D.G. Sedgwick, Assistant Comptroller of UNB, said there is no direct grant from the province to operate it, but rather an indirect one since the province provides funds for the university. The infirmary is covered by the general operating costs of UNB.

The salaries of the nursing staff are paid by the university. Visiting doctors are paid by

their patients, or through Medi-care.

For the physicians who come, it is as if they had shifted their office to the university for the time. They get no real benefits from so doing. In effect, the university has just put a facility in Tibbits, and the local profession has been good enough to follow through from there," added Mr. Sedgwick.

"I believe it is an honest concern for the students on their part. They don't have to go to the trouble of moving here, but do so to give students a central place to go to."

If a student is confined to the infirmary, his stay is covered by the university, but if he is not in residence, he must pay for food, provided by Saga Foods.

The director of Health Services is Dr. H. R. Myers. Dr. Myers also renders other services, such as accompanying the UNB football team to games, many of them out-of-town, in case the boys need medical aid. He receives no remuneration for either of these services, and pays his own travelling expenses. At the clinic itself three other Fredericton doctors, along with Dr. Myers, take weekly morning

shifts. No major changes in Health Centre location or facilities are planned for at least five years. Miss Copp said she feels satisfied with present equipment and nothing new in the way of material is necessary at the moment.

However, certain problems remain within the building itself. The air conditioning is not working. Miss Copp, noting that examining rooms have no windows, said this is at times a major inconvenience. The functioning of the intercom system is sporadic, and the phones at times cease to function.

"In a way, since we are so far away from the centre of the campus, we are isolated here. In the other infirmary, above the residence office, there was always someone around whom we could ask for help in carrying things, or other problems. This is just not the case here.

"Also, when we are having intercom and telephone trouble, we are really cut off, especially if there happens to be only one of us here, with a patient she does not want to leave alone."

"We can't make appointments at the hospital or anything of that nature," added Miss Copp.

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ELECTION OF STUDENT SENATORS

October 27 in conjunction with s.r.c. election

ONE - STOP VOTING

2 POSITIONS TO BE FILLED ON THE FREDERICTON CAMPUS

CANDIDATES:

- R. GORDON CHURCH, B.A. (Business)
- PETER M. DUNCAN (Science 3)
- HARVARD L. "RUSTY" PIKE (Arts 3)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS:

All full-time students, on presentation of I.D. cards. Each voter may vote for one or two candidates.

POLLING STATIONS HOURS:

As for S. R.C. election

see opposite page