



Having some health-type problems? Maybe a thorn in your paw? Or a flu-bug making you "project of the week"? Well, if you're feeling somewhat infirm, get thee to the infirmery, i.e., the York University Health Service.

It's located on the second floor of Vanier Residence and it's a fairly busy place. Last year, for example, it had 3,300 customers. This year the total is already almost 2000.

Most of these are routine, with upper respiratory infections leading the list. Colds and flu are easy to come by at muddy and windy York.

I walked into Vanier Residence, and what did I see? A nurse, and a hypo, and ... oh, it was horrible.

by IRENE SABO



IS IT A HOSPITAL?

The Service is not a hospital. Although it has five beds available, these are not intended for seriously ill cases but rather for those with infectious conditions. Thus the three singles and one double room look like any of Vanier Residence rooms, complete with desks and closets. The only additions are over-the-bed tables and call buttons. The latter at times, it seems, are "used for stupid, idiotic things" — like calling nurses in the middle of the night. So far there have been about nine patients staying in, half of these for about a week's stay.

Actually students are a pretty healthy lot. At least Dr. R. J. Wheler seems to think so. He's one of the two doctors associated with the Service and has been with the Service since its inception four years ago. With the exception of accidents, serious cases are rare and usually of the psychological type. Dr. Wheler's hours at the Service are from 10-12 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. While he may not come upon much medical exotica, the

Service doctor is kept busy. On November 8, for instance, there were a total of 56 patients of which Dr. Wheler saw 32.

The other doctor at the Service is Dr. J. N. Tomson, a newcomer to York. His hours are 10-12 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Both doctors are affiliated with Humber Memorial Hospital. Thus patients needing hospital services are referred there where the doctors have better access to their case histories.

The Service does other referrals, as well, for services beyond its capacity. Students needing a dentist, for instance, are sent to a particular one in this area who makes room for Service patients. The same is done for laboratory tests, etc.

There are three registered nurses at the Service. Holding down the fort five days a week, from nine to five, is Mrs. R. (Irene) Hobman. She has been with the Service since it moved into its present Vanier location two years ago from temporary quarters in Founders.



DO THEY SELL BANANAS?

The 4,000 square feet of Service area is Mrs. Hobman's domain. During the day she moves busily about the reception room, the doctors' office, the two examining rooms, the "resting" room, the lab, the four infirmery rooms...and the Service kitchen. The latter usually for a well-earned cup of coffee, although the kitchen does have a good stock of fruit juices and clear and cream soups for those patients needing a bit more than a dose of antibiotics.

Service nursing is especially enjoyable for Mrs. Hobman. Being a mother of six, the nine to five hours are good, but what she especially enjoys is the variety of work.

For example, in hospitals blood tests are done exclusively by specialized departments. At the Service, however, Mrs. Hobman is your friendly neighbourhood vampire. For someone who didn't do blood tests before she came to the Service, she has become quite adept at pricking fingers and

checking hemoglobin for mono. (Infectious mononucleosis isn't that all infectious. The Service found five cases last year and three so far this year.)

Mrs. Hobman is also the one to see about allergy shots. These are given (mornings) 9-10 and 12-1. There are "regulars" for this, at least thirty people with allergies.

The average day is busy but not particularly exciting. There is little life-or-death excitement, as a representative hour shows: 1 nose bleed, 2 allergy shots, 1 blood test, 2 bad colds, etc.

During the summer vacation, Mrs. Hobman keeps her hand in by going back to hospital nursing — as part-time relief in any part of the hospital. It's a good way of keeping informed about changes in the field. Two other nurses are on duty on alternate evenings and weekends taking care of the infirmery and any emergencies.

