



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT ■ MAINE MEDICAL CENTER ■ PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

June 24, 1974

NICC IS OPENED

Before the paint was really dry, Thursday, hospital leaders and guests formally opened the new Neonatal Intensive Care Center on P4. The new area, re-arranged, re-piped, re-painted and re-wired by the MMC maintenance forces, is the permanent home of the MMC program that already has treated 202 Maine newborns and dramatically cut the rate of infant deaths from respiratory disease. The Center has 15 isolettes, each with its own electricity, oxygen, suction and compressed air supply. There are devices to monitor heart rates, respiration rates, pulse rates and temperatures; there is a photo therapy light for the treatment of jaundiced infants; there are radiant heat fixtures, special scales, day-light illumination and built-in precautions against bacterial infection. The atmospheric pressure within the NICC is ten pounds greater than the outside pressure, preventing the entrance of airborne contaminants.

The Center is directed by Dr. George W. Hallett, chief of Pediatrics, and Dr. John C. Serrage, a neonatologist. Mrs. Jean Sanborn, R.N. is nursery supervisor; Mrs. Lorraine Poore, R.N. is head nurse and Mrs. Jennie DeGruchey, R.N., assistant head nurse, of the new unit.

Funds for construction and equipment of the new Neonatal Intensive Care Center were provided by the Maine Department of Health and Welfare, the Visiting Board of Children's Hospital, and contributors to the 1973 MMC Annual Fund.

NAMED TO NATIONAL POST

Miss Agnes Flaherty, R.N., MMC director of nursing, was elected a member of the Commission on Nursing Services of the American Nurses' Association last week in San Francisco. There were six other candidates for the post. The Commission a) establishes the scope of the Association's responsibility for nursing practice; b) works to bring about adherence to ethical, professional and legal standards of nursing practice; c) receives and takes appropriate action on complaints and related problems in nursing practice from the profession and the public; d) encourages and stimulates research and studies relating to nursing practice; and e) coordinates activities of the members relating to functions and qualifications for practice.

NAMED VICE-PRESIDENT

Russell C. Briggs, M.D., Nuclear Medicine, has been elected vice president of the American Society of Nuclear Medicine. His election was announced last week at the Society's annual meeting in San Diego, Calif, attended by more than 7,000 physicians and scientists. Dr. Briggs is a former trustee of the organization.

486 MAINE COMMUNITIES

A total of 20,258 patients were admitted to Maine Medical Center in fiscal 1973, representing seven nations, 30 states including Alaska and Hawaii, and 486 Maine cities, towns and neighborhoods. The total is some 1,300 more than were admitted in the previous year.

THE J.C.A.H. SURVEY

You could feel the tension and almost touch it early last week when inspectors representing the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals surveyed Maine Medical Center. From what we've heard, few areas or functions of the hospital were missed in the two days they were with us. With few minor exceptions, it went well, although the final report will not be received for several weeks.

On Wednesday, after the departure of the inspection team, Executive Director Philip K. Reiman sent this note to department heads and employees of MMC:

"Over the past two days, as I accompanied the JCAH surveyors on their inspection of our institution, my pride in the Maine Medical Center and in all the people who make it what it is, was renewed a thousandfold.

"Please accept, individually and collectively, my thanks and appreciation for all your efforts toward making this survey a successful one."

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