



# WHAT'S HAPPENING...

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

December 9, 1974

## MIS IS HERE

A two-year task by the MMC Computer Committee to evaluate computer systems and to establish data handling and storage requirements of the hospital ended last week with the signing of a contract with the Technicon Corporation. Beginning within days--at least by the first of the year--will be the active phases of implementing a Medical Information System to solve the problems and meet the needs that have been identified and determined by the Computer Committee over the past two years. The committee, headed by Dr. Robert F. Ritchie, has decided--with input from a wide range of hospital departments--what such a system should do for MMC, and has found a system that can do it.

Now the committee's task is to educate and guide us all in the use of the system in order that its full benefits to patient care and hospital efficiency may be realized.

The MIS system will consist of a central computer and video display terminals and printers at key stations throughout the hospital. Orders or data entered into the system from the terminals will be automatically stored, sorted and selectively used to construct requisitions, reports, schedules, laboratory and pharmacy orders, patient charts, bills and statistical information, all of which, and much more, will be available for immediate recall.

Patients will benefit, professionals will be helped, paperwork will be reduced, many presently time-consuming functions will be immediate, many tasks will be error-proofed, and if all we hear is realized, MIS will change the pace and lengthen the strides of MMC toward patient care of the ultimate quality.

## GIVE A PINT

It's time again for blood donations, and the hope is that MMC regulars, plus many who may be giving for the first time, will be on hand in Classroom 1 Wednesday. You can drop in if you wish, but it would be helpful if you'd sign up in advance. This can be done Monday and Tuesday in the Admitting Lobby. If you're a newspaper reader, and we hope you are, you know that the bulk of Maine's blood needs in the past several weeks has been met by blood donors in other areas of New England, and that Maine Red Cross, Maine hospitals and Maine patients have been helped by a lot of generous out-of-staters during the initial stages of the effort in Maine. Maine Red Cross and every subscribing hospital in the state would like to turn this around, and many individuals and members of employee groups are helping. They're looking to us for help, too, so let's do it Wednesday.

## FLORENCE WOULD HAVE FLIPPED

The unit clerks, aided by nurses, unit managers and others, presented "An Evening for Nursing" Wednesday with a skit entitled "Florence Nightingale Never Had It So Good" written by Mary Murphy, Sue Fernald, Kathy Zahl and Julie Strump. The cast included Bev Perry, Joan Walker, Mary Quimby, Fern Meyer, Ruth Cott, Anita Jennings, Jan Cipriano, Bea Corey, Dorothy Walsh, Ed Gallant, Robert Erickson, Art Stevenson, Cindy Croteau, Helen Cash, Debbie Kimball and Darlene Farnum. Olivia Thibeau was MC, Delores Anderson was property manager, and Pat Kelley was overall chairman of the committee. Mr. Reiman and Miss Agnes Flaherty, director of Nursing, welcomed the group.

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's here again, and most of us haven't started our Christmas shopping...the Annual Employees' Christmas Party, that is, scheduled Tuesday afternoon. There'll be three sittings, at 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., each with the usual fine Christmas dinner, and this year, we hope, enough time to enjoy it. Besides the dinner, there'll be music and gifts, much merriment and a lot of ho-hoing, and wait until you see Santa Claus!

## R-3 IS FIRST

...To send it's Christmas card kitty to the Bruce Roberts Santa Claus Fund, rather than circulating cards. If your department would like to do this, fine, and if not, Social Service can suggest families and individuals whose Christmas will not be merry without some help.

## FOR LONG MMC SERVICE

Two of our favorite MMC Volunteers, Mrs. Isabel Allen and Miss Charlotte R. Moore, were honored Friday for their more than 5,000 hours of Volunteer service at MMC. They received gifts whose value amounts to only the tiniest fraction of their contribution to the hospital over the years, along with the gratitude of the institution as expressed by Volunteer Director Elsie J. Mead and others at a coffee in the Director's office.

#####