



EDITORIAL

York Central Hospital

This may strike you as an odd topic for an Observatory News Letter, but the fact is that a community's hospital is of vital importance to all who live or work in the community, and ours is deserving of the interest and support of all of us.

When the Observatory was opened in 1935 Richmond Hill's population was about 1100, and it had three doctors only. They were Dr. John P. Wilson on Church St. and the Doctors Langstaff on Yonge St. North. Dr. Wilson was a family doctor in the best sense of the word, as also were the Langstaff's, Dr. Rolph and Dr. Lillian as they were always known. Dr. Wilson died about two years ago, and Dr. Rolph died last year at the age of 100; Dr. Lillian is still alive, but, of course, no longer practising. Dr. Rolph's father had been a pioneer in medicine in this district in the mid-nineteenth century, and the son of Dr. Rolph and Dr. Lillian, Dr. Jim Lagstaff, is a well-known G.P. in Richmond Hill. It was Dr. Jim who was the prime mover for the establishment of a hospital in Richmond Hill; but the man who gave the project its final impetus was Mr. Douglas Storms of Thornhill who died only last week.

York Central was opened in December of 1963 with 126 beds - rather more than enough to cope with the community's needs at that time, the community in this context meaning Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Markham, King, Maple, and Vaughan and Markham Townships. Meanwhile, however, this community has grown so much that the size of York Central is already desperately inadequate, and plans are now ready for a 250-bed addition which, with its associated services, will triple the size of the present hospital, while the full-time-equivalent staff will increase from 200 to 865. By way of comparison with 1935, there are now 50 local doctors on the medical staff of York Central with an additional 25 who come from time to time. About half the local doctors practise in Richmond Hill.

A community hospital in this province is a corporation operated with government assistance. Federal-provincial grants pay two thirds of new construction, and the Ontario Hospital Services Commission pays some but not all of the operating deficit. Our hospital is operated by

a Board of Trustees elected by the York Central Hospital Association to which any resident may belong for an annual fee of \$5.

An important part of any hospital is the Auxiliary, a group of women who do volunteer work in the hospital, and in various ways raise funds for the purchase of such equipment as the hospital is unable to purchase from operating surplus or donations. During 1969 the York Central Hospital Auxiliary turned over to the hospital \$8,800 for the purchase of equipment and put \$6,000 into a sinking fund towards equipping the new addition.

It goes without saying that it behooves us all to support our hospital. Tonight at 8 o'clock the annual meeting of the Hospital Association will be held in the cafeteria of Y.C.H.; come if you can, and join if you feel so inclined. Within a year there will be a public campaign to raise a part of the community's share of the \$12,000,000 addition; respond generously. On May 1st the Auxiliary will be holding its biggest event of the year, the White Rose Ball at the Inn on the Park; plan to come, or at least support the associated raffle for Canada Savings Bonds.

J.F.H.

OBSERVING

At no other season is the contrast between observing conditions here and in Chile more spectacular. Dr. Garrison, returning at the end of January from Cerro Tololo, reported the loss to cloudiness of just one hour out of his assigned 12 nights on the 36-inch telescope; he brought back with him approximately three hundred spectrograms. Here, on the other hand, we have been plagued with a succession of clear days and cloudy nights, making this February a particularly poor one. Dr. Roeder and Bob Hawkins had one reasonably good night on the 74-inch and were able to record infrared signals from 3C273, the brightest Quasar.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. MacRae was in Washington Feb. 9-11 at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Universities Space Research Association, and in Ottawa Feb. 11-14 at a meeting of the Council of Section III of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Garrison was away Feb. 12-13, giving a colloquium at the University of Michigan on "Peculiar B-Star Spectra" and paying a brief visit to Michigan State University.

Dr. Percy was in London on Jan. 22, giving a colloquium at U.W.O. and speaking to the London Centre of the R.A.S.C. on "The Brightest Stars". On Feb. 5 he addressed the Hamilton Centre of the RASC on the same topic.

Dave Blyth has returned from a three-week visit to his ailing father in Scotland who has now improved somewhat.

APPOINTMENTS

Miss Gloria Evans has been appointed assistant secretary in the Department following the departure of Alice Streit at the end of last month.

Miss Nonna Russ has been appointed research assistant as of Feb. 1. Nonna has had some experience in data reduction while enrolled in a science course at York University and at present she is measuring spectrograms for Dr. Heard.

SEMINARS

FEBRUARY seminars were held as announced last month.

MARCH

- Tues. Mar. 3 Dr. Stephen Strom, Stony Brook, N.Y., "Helium
DDO Abundance in Population I and II B-Stars".
- Tues. Mar. 10 Jeff Crelinsten, "The Magnetic Fields of the Local
 Spiral Arms from Radio Astronomical Observations".
- Tues. Mar. 17 Dr. Hyron Spinrad, University of California at
DDO Berkeley, "On Metal Abundance in Nearby and Distant
 Stars".
- Wed. Mar. 18 Dr. Spinrad - topic to be announced.
Room 202
McLennan
- Tues. Mar. 24 To be announced
DDO
- Wed. Mar. 25 Dr. J.D. Poll, Department of Physics - topic to be
Room 202 announced.

APRIL

Visiting speakers in April are expected to include Dr. Phillip Morrison of M.I.T. and Dr. Peter van de Kamp of Sproul Observatory.

IAU National Committee Meeting

At Queen's on March 13-14; guest speaker Sir Bertram Lovell. Students wishing to attend the scientific sessions please see your supervisors.

Papers Submitted in February

J.D. Fernie A Method for Determining the Intrinsic Colors
of Cepheids.... (Ap. J.)

Lecture

Dr. Hogg spoke to the ladies of the teaching staff of the University at a dinner meeting on Feb. 9 on "Pulsars, Quasars and Radio Astronomy".

Alumni

Doug Hube (Ph.D. 1967) writes that at Edmonton with their new photometer and telescope they have had partial success in observing interference effects at the edge of the moon's shadow during an occultation.

Bill Sherwood (M.Sc. 1967) gave a talk on "The Work of the David Dunlap Observatory" at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. Incidentally, Dave Blyth has a group picture of the Edinburgh staff and students. DDD is offering a suitable prize to anyone who can pick Bill out on the first try. Enter this interesting and profitable contest today!