HOSPITALS, COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERS JOIN HANDS IN NEBRASKA BLUE CROSS TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Need to Preserve American Principle of Free Choice Stressed by Banquet Speaker — Guests from Seven States at Conference

The Tenth Anniversary of the Nebraska Blue Cross Plan, which witnesses the growth of the organization from an original enrollment of 100 hospital employees in Omaha to a statewide membership of more than 116,000, was celebrated at a banquet in Omaha, February 26th, as the highlight of a two-day Tenth District conference of Blue Cross and Blue Shield leaders from eight hospital and seven medical plans in five states, and two provinces of Canada.

The one hundred fifty hospital administrators, health officials and directors of the Nebraska Blue Cross and Blue Shield organizations who were present heard a stirring challenge by Prof. John P. Christianson, D.Sc., Superintendent of the School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, that citizens of our country return to the principles of social and economic freedom which inspired our forefathers to develop here the greatest country in the entire world.

"Our great United States grew strong under the individual initiative which induced our forefathers to come to this country where they might exercise the rights of free choice to work and worship as they pleased. These rights now are being denied by the paternalistic forces which seek to exercise them for us," declared the speaker. Thrift is being outmoded under their newer concept of life, he said, and self-reliance disappears when people become dependent upon government.

"Civilization has five major roots," Mr. Christianson stated. "These include the home, the church, freedom of assembly, moral responsibility and rights of property. The history of mankind is that civilization decays when these roots are severed," he told his audience.

In relating experiences on a trip to Europe last summer, the speaker learned that the people of Germany, France, the Scandinavian countries, and even some of the natives of Russia and her satellite countries, look to America for a continuation of the doctrines of freedom and free choice. When these two principles disappear from the face of the earth, all civilization will die in the opinions of freedom-loving peoples of these foreign countries, he said. "Such freedoms now are denied many of the residents of Europe."

Arthur L. Coad, President of Nebraska Blue Cross, presided as master of ceremonies at the dinner which was under sponsorship of Nebraska Hospital Assembly. Donald W. Duncan, state organization president, brought greetings from George Bugbee, Executive Director of American Hospital Association, and on behalf of the Assembly.
Rev. Harry E. Hess, of Ogallala, former head of Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha, and first president of the Associated Hospital Service of Nebraska, was on hand to recall tribulations as well as humorous incidents during the organizational period and early years of the hospital-sponsored pre-payment care plan, now celebrating its tenth birthday. He commended highly the loyal group of business men and physicians who have served on the Board of Directors through the first decade of the Association's development and have seen it become an outstanding force in the social and economic life of the entire state.

Greetings were read from the American Medical Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Commissions, American College of Hospital Administrators, American Nurses Association, and the American College of Surgeons. J.H. Pfeiffer, Executive Director of Nebraska Blue Cross since its inception, was presented with a ten year service pin and a leather traveling bag by President Coad. Tribute was paid also to Donald J. Burke and Francis J. Bath, of Omaha, past presidents of Blue Cross. The invocation was given by Rev. Thomas R. Niven, D.D. and the benediction by Rev. Harry P. Crimmins, S.J., of Creighton University School of Medicine. "The Nightingales," popular nurses trio of St. Joseph's Hospital, entertained delightfully with several vocal numbers. The trio, Rita Darnell Grogan, Dorothy Sand and Louise Kleespies, had as their accompanist, Miss Marie A. Burian, a classmate in student nurse days.

A special feature was the presence at the dinner and program of James Skryja, Jr., Nebraska's "first Blue Cross baby," Jimmy, who was born March 7, 1940 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, was presented with a pen-and-pencil set to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary celebration. His parents also were guests. Another of the honor guests was Miss Catherine Coad, of Omaha, reigning queen of Ak-Sar-Ben.


Arthur J. Calvin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Hospital and Medical Service Plans, presided at the opening joint meetings of the BLUE CROSS and BLUE SHIELD conferences, February 26 and 27, as which Plan representatives were in attendance from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Nebraska, and from the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba, in Canada. Program topics included discussions of the extension of Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits, individual contracts, extending the voluntary health system through the two plans on a national basis and development of the Inter-Plan Bank program.

Dr. A. J. Offerman, of Omaha, president of Nebraska Medical Service and F. G. P. Lattner, Director, Hospital Service, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa were re-elected Blue Shield and Blue Cross commissioners of the Tenth District for 1949.

Arthur L. Coad, president of the Packers National Bank, Omaha, was elected as President of NEBRASKA BLUE CROSS at the annual meeting, January 24, succeeding Francis J. Bath, who had held the office the past five years. Rev. B.O. Lyle, Methodist Hospital, Omaha, was chosen as vice-president; J. H. Pfeiffer, Secretary and Joseph O. Burger, treasurer. Donald Duncan, Business Manager, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln, and Dr. E. J. Kirk, Omaha, were named as new members on the Board of Directors. Eleven directors were re-elected. Mr. Bath was presented with a "two-suiter" case as he turned over the gavel to Mr. Coad.

Dr. Arthur J. Offerman was re-elected President of NEBRASKA BLUE SHIELD on January 26th. Dr. Howard B. Hunt, Omaha, was chosen vice-president; Arthur L. Coad, treasurer and Edward K. McDermott, secretary. Dr. John P. Redgwick was elected as a new Board member; Drs. N. J. Everitt, Omaha and W. W. Carvath, Lincoln, were re-elected.
The public attitude in Nebraska toward the President's proposed compulsory health program is forcibly demonstrated by the action of the Sixty-First session of the Nebraska State Legislature, which on February 7, by unanimous vote, adopted the following resolution, memorializing the Congress of the United States with respect to a national sickness insurance plan:

"THEREAS, the American people enjoy the highest level of health, the best standards of scientific medical care and the finest medical institutions ever attained by any major country in the world; and

"THEREAS, these accomplishments of American Medicine are the results of a free people working under a system of free enterprise; and

"THEREAS, the experience of countries where Government has assumed control of medical care has been a progressive deterioration of medical standards and medical care, to the detriment of the health of the people,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE IN SIXTY-FIRST SESSION ASSEMBLED:

"1. That the Legislature of the State of Nebraska here­in respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to refrain from imposing upon the citizens of this nation any form of compulsory insurance, or any system of medical care designed for national bureaucratic control.

"2. That Nebraska Senators and Representatives now in the Congress of the United States be and are hereby respect­fully requested to use every effort at their command to prevent the enactment of such legislation.

"3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature to the President of the United States, the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives and to each Senator and Congressman from Nebraska."
HOSPITAL GROUP OFF Exceptionally good programs featured the January and February meetings of the OMAHA AREA HOSPITAL COUNCIL, and advance indications point toward a continuation of the interesting sessions. Membership has attained an all-time high record, with 16 hospitals and three affiliated organizations represented at the February meeting, held at Clarkson Hospital, Omaha.

Hal G. Perrin, Administrator of Clarkson Hospital, assumed the duties of president of the Council at the January session, held traditionally at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha. He succeeded Dr. Harold Lueth, retiring leader. As President-elect, the members named James G. Carr, Jr., fiscal officer of University Hospital, Paul G. Finnman, business manager, Immanuel Hospital, was chosen secretary and Sister Mary Kevin, R.S.M., Director of the School of Nursing, St. Catherine's Hospital, treasurer. Eugene J. Saxton, Dodge County Community Hospital, Fremont, was named member-at-large of the Executive Committee, which includes the officers and immediate past president.

New institutional members of the Council include St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska Student Health Center, Lincoln, while the Omaha Chapter of Medical Record Librarians has been elected to affiliate membership.

The January program was featured by discussions of "Out-Patient Service," by Dr. Ben Slutzky, Director of Out-Patient department of the Creighton University School of Medicine; the proposed state sales and service tax, by Donald W. Duncan, president of Nebraska Hospital Assembly, Lincoln, and the national Blue Cross Inter-Plan Bank, now under consideration, by Fred P. G. Lattner, Executive Director of the Des Moines, Iowa Blue Cross Plan.

At the February session, Mr. Duncan supplemented a follow-up report on the sales tax bill with a resume of proceedings at the Mid-Year Conference of the American Hospital Association, Feb. 4-5, and a paper on "Credits and Collections."

Meetings during the next three months will be held at St. Catherine's Hospital, Thursday, March 10; Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs, April 14 and Lutheran Hospital Omaha, on National Hospital Day, May 12. The survey of hospital facilities in the Council area, begun in 1948, will be repeated this year on a more comprehensive scale.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS Members of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society in January inaugurated a series of three meeting programs devoted to a discussion of economic questions as they affect the medical profession.

Representatives of four Omaha hospitals participated in the initial meeting of the series, on January 11th, entitled "The Physician and His Hospital." Subjects were "Why are Hospitals Bills so High?", by Hal G. Perrin, administrator of Clarkson Hospital; "Why are Nurses so Hard to Find?", by Sister Olive Cullenberg, Superintendent, Immanuel Hospital, and "Hospitalization Insurance - Is it Adequate?", by Francis J. Bath, business manager, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital. Dr. Harold C. Lueth, serving as moderator, summarized the presentations and led the discussions which followed, with these doctors taking part: Maurice C. Howard, Earl A. Connolly, Herman M. Jahr, B. Carl Russum, Floyd Murray, Arthur J. Offerman, Harry H. McCarthy, A. I. Finlayson and Roy W. Fouts.

The second meeting of the series was held February 8th, with Arthur Conrad, Executive Director, National Physicians Committee, Chicago, speaking on the topic, "The National Physicians Committee and What it is Doing for the Physician." The concluding program on Medical Economics is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8.
Construction work on the proposed $750,000 WEST POINT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL is expected to get under way in the early spring, according to Sister Frances Marie, Superintendent of the St. Joseph Home nursing unit, which now contains 22 beds for the sick.

When a new hospital first was proposed, in 1945, Cuming county residents contributed $107,000 toward the construction costs. An increase in the number of beds and higher building costs have more than doubled the originally estimated cost of the structure, and another community campaign for additional funds will be conducted after construction work gets under way in March, W. T. Knievel, treasurer of the hospital board, has announced. The new hospital, which will have 75 beds, will be operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Holy Family Convent, Manitowoc, Wis., who also conduct St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, which stands a block west of the site for the new structure, upon which grading has been completed. Leo A. Daly Co., Omaha architects, has drawn the plans. A Federal grant for one-third of the cost of the new hospital has been approved by the State Advisory Council.

Contributions totaling $88,000 have been made and pledged by citizens of Colfax County for the proposed COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, at Schuyler. The campaign, scheduled from December 6 to 17, and retarded by bad weather and road conditions, will be continued until the entire county has been canvassed. Largest individual contribution was by Gerald Ehernberger, chairman of the hospital committee, who led off the campaign with a gift of $10,000. A donation of $2,000 by Mrs. and Mrs. L. M. Shultz and twenty contributions of $1,000 each spurred the committee, led by William H. Roether, on toward their goal of $165,000. The proposed 25-bed hospital is expected to cost $250,000, of which one-third will be a Federal grant.

Upward of $100,000 is expected to be realized by ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA HOSPITAL from the estate of Mrs. Ethel Barnett Armour, who died January 21 in Washington, D. C. The Sisters of St. Dominic who conduct the institution, are named as residuary beneficiaries of the estate. Mrs. Armour also bequeathed $50,000 to Father Flanagan's Boys' Home and $10,000 to St. Alban's Episcopal Church, at McCook.

Gifts toward the building fund drive for the School of Nursing and Nurses' Home at ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL have reached $185,000, toward the goal of $250,000 for the project which is expected to get under way in the spring. Total cost is estimated to run at $500,000, of which The Sisters of St. Francis have agreed to furnish one-half, Sister M. Mechtildis, R. N., Superintendent reports.

A general renovation program, in progress during the past eight months, has resulted in many improvements in ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL. Rubber tile flooring has been installed in all the corridors on second, third and fourth floors. All patient rooms, dining rooms and offices have the "new look" with installation of Fabron wall coverings in appealing patterns and colors; bathrooms and service rooms have a new coat of paint, and basement dining rooms have been sound-conditioned with acoustical tile. A new and enlarged waiting room, completely re-furnished, occupied the former library on the main floor and new quarters for the hospital Chaplain have been completed adjoining the Chapel. Two new oil burners supplement the gas unit in case of emergency and water softening equipment is a boon to the laundry, resulting in big savings on soap and linens. The X-ray department also has received a new deep therapy unit for treatment of patients.

An addition, to increase the capacity of PLAINVIEW GENERAL HOSPITAL to 30 beds when completed this summer, is under way. Arland L. Schmitt has been elected president of the hospital board for 1949. Other officers are: Fred Saathoff, vice president; T. J. McHenry, secretary-treasurer; Directors, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Saathoff, Robert P. Bush and B. C. Rasmussen.
FALLS CITY - Removal of the laundry of OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP HOSPITAL from the ground floor of the structure to a brick building adjoining the hospital has provided a splendid new store room for supplies and surplus equipment for the institution. A new Carmen tumbler replaced the steam dryers when laundry equipment was transferred to the new location. Recent new equipment includes a McDessel anesthesia machine in the Operating Suite, and two American bed pan sterilizers on patient floors.

Sister Mary Owen, R.N., B.S. has been appointed Superintendent of the institution, succeeding Sister Mary Alexine, R.N., who has been transferred to a similar post at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, Colo., after three years as head of the Falls City hospital. Sister Mary Owen formerly had been stationed at St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica, Calif. Sister Mary Faber is Office Supervisor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity.

OMAHA - Enclosure of eight open porches at DOUGLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL, to begin as soon as special steel sash are obtained, will add 60 beds to relieve overcrowded conditions in the institution's mental ward. A contract for the alterations let to W. Boyd Jones Co., Omaha, for $55,868, will be paid out of a $67,000 surplus in the hospital bond fund. Plumbing, heating and wiring costs are expected to approximate an additional ten thousand dollars. John Latenser & Sons, Omaha, are architects.

LEXINGTON - Plans are under way to double the capacity of the present twelve bed COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, at an anticipated cost of $55,000 for the building and $35,000 for equipment. A fund drive to raise the required amount is being formulated under direction of the Community Service Committee of the Lexington Rotary Club. Members of the committee are Harold Barrett, chairman; Rev. L. R. Davis, C. C. Rosenberg and Harold Stevens. The present hospital cost $25,000 and is debt-free.

OMAHA - The CREIGHTON CLINIC will receive a new electrocardiograph unit as a result of the annual benefit ball of the Creighton Medical Students' Wives' Club, held February 5th in the Hotel Fontenelle ballroom.

A Hubbard tank, valued at $1,500, contributed by members of the Omaha Building Trades Council, and a $750 electrocardiograph machine given by Alpha Phi Sorority alumnae, are recent welcome additions at CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

METHODIST HOSPITAL and MANUEL DEACONESS INSTITUTE, Omaha, are latest recipients of machines for projecting pictures and reading matter upon ceilings for bed patients, the gifts of the Omaha High Twelve Club, a Masonic luncheon group. The Club previously had presented a similar projector to UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

The growth and progress of LUTHERAN HOSPITAL since its establishment in 1928 was featured in picture and story in the winter issue of "Lutheran Missions and Charities", commemorating the institution's twentieth anniversary. From its opening on May 1, 1928 in the 35-bed former Presbyterian Hospital building, 1240 South Tenth street, the institution has made steady progress throughout its 20 years and now occupies a modern plant at 24th Ave. and Harney Streets, which includes 84 general hospital beds and a separate 46-bed psychiatric unit. The present structure was purchased in 1933 from Wise Memorial Hospital Association, which had discontinued operations in 1931. A new wing was added in 1940-41. Miss Lillian Amgwert, R.N. has served as Superintendent since, October, 1936. Plans now are under way for an entirely new hospital plant, costing approximately $750,000, on ground adjacent to the University of Nebraska Hospital and School of Nursing, Omaha.

Most recent equipment additions include a Luminaire Surgical light in Surgery, and a electrically cooled oxygen tent for patient service.
HUMBOLDT - HUMBOLDT HOSPITAL, with facilities for 14 patients, was opened officially with a public "open house" on January 8 and 9. The new hospital was made possible by the gift of the old Holman family home to the community by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Kotouc, and the combined contributions of money and labor by many residents of the vicinity.

GRAND ISLAND - Many hours of enjoyment have been afforded patients in the Polio Ward of ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL through the kindness of the local KIWinis Club, which has contributed a record player and a number of records. Proceeds from the Club's gum vending machines provided funds for the gift.

OLKH - A $10,000 research grant has been made to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine by the Toni Company, St. Paul, Minn., to investigate the possible poisonous effects of chemicals in cosmetics. Dr. A. R. McIntyre, chairman of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, will direct the project.

ST. PAUL - Two gash-type hospital beds, complete with all accessories, have been presented to the HUMBOLDT HOSPITAL by Mrs. K. O. Arnold and Mrs. F. C. Hanisch, and eight easy chairs by the American Legion Auxiliary.

GRAND ISLAND - Local business firms, social organizations and individuals have joined forces to provide LUTHERAN HOSPITAL with a general "face-lifting" job, which now is nearing completion and is transforming the interior of the institution. Members of the Lutheran Hospital Guild, under Mrs. Clyde Kelso as re-decorating chairman, have been responsible for the renovation project. Practically all of the patient rooms have been repainted and woodwork refinished, and Venetian blinds installed on the windows. Average cost has been $125 per room. Members of the Medical Staff have contributed funds for repainting of the corridors.

Hospital records for 1948 show a total of 1,477 patient admissions and 369 birth, compared with 1,059 patients and 364 births in 1947, contrasted with 1940 figures of 601 admissions and 127 births. Operating costs for 1948 were $111,958, including payroll of $49,574 for an average of 40 employees. Mrs. Hazel Whitehead is Superintendent for the operating agency, the Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of America. Mrs. Helen Krieger is president of the Guild.

ALMA - The offer of the W. G. Haskell family to donate its home as a hospital for the community is under consideration by a citizens' committee. The house would provide facilities for approximately 14 patients.

LINCOLN - A total of $1,347,595.35 in Federal funds has been allocated by contract and estimated requirements, as of February 1, 1949, for the 21 new hospital construction projects which have been approved by the State Advisory Council, a report from the office of Verne A. Pangborn, Director of the Division of Hospitals, State Department of Health, indicates.

Formal contracts have been signed the Federal board and sponsors of hospital projects in Albion and Oakland, and for equipment costs only of the hospitals under construction or in operation at Scottsbluff and Hebron. In addition, bids are expected to be asked within the next thirty days for new construction projects at Rushville, Kimball, West Point, Wakefield, Crete, Seward and Spalding. Most recent proposed projects receiving approval are for $55,000 on the 18-bed Burwell Hospital municipal project, and the non-profit Pawnee County Memorial Hospital of 26 beds at Pawnee City, allocated $70,000. The Gothenburg Memorial Hospital project application has been withdrawn, temporarily at least, because of financial difficulties.

Total estimated cost of the 21 projects is approximately $5,077,785.
COURSE OPENS IN OMAHA

A formal training course for practical nurses, to run for a full twelve-month period, opened February 1st at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, with 28 students, including one male orderly, enrolled.

Sister M. Edwardina, O.S.S., R.N., is Director of the course, which includes regular class work and a rotation of services through various hospital departments to provide students with actual experience in the many nursing duties which they will be trained to perform for the sick. Members of the hospital's professional, dietary and administrative staffs will serve as instructors. Two hours of class work and 6 hours of practical work will comprise the daily schedule. Students will receive $85 a month while in training. Another class will be admitted in October, Sister M. Crescentia, R.N., F.A.C.M., Administrator of St. Joseph's, has announced.

* * * * * * * Alumni of Creighton University School of Medicine will stage "QUICKIES" a three day Post-Graduate Assembly, April 5 to 7. Chairman of the planning committee, Harold N. New, M.D. '35 is accepting applications for the Assembly, which will be conducted in single-day sessions at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Catherine's Hospital and the Creighton Medical School, with a combination of lectures, demonstrations and practical work. On the committee with Dr. Neu are John B. Courtney, M.D. '30, Harry H. McCarthy, M.D. '37, and Clifford H. Hansen, M.D. '37. Daniel Blain, M.D., of the American Psychiatric Association, will participate in a panel discussion on mental hygiene problems, and also speak at a public meeting at the Joslyn Memorial, Omaha, on Thursday, March 10, under auspices of the Nebraska Advisory Committee in Psychiatry of the University of Nebraska. Also on the panel program are Dr. Janet Palmer, State Department of Health; Dr. Robert W. Wight, Omaha and Dr. Juul C. Nielsen, Superintendent, State Hospital, Hastings. The panel program will begin at 2 p.m. and the public meeting at 8 p.m. - - SISTER MARY SCHOLASTICA, O.S.F., on February 9th celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of her reception in the order of The Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph. Diamond Jubilee ceremonies for the 81-year-old nun were held at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, where she is organist and choir director. - - A net loss of $10,636.93 was sustained in the 1948 operation of the Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, Hastings, after a contribution of $10,172 from the institution's Trust Fund. Lester Stiner has been elected president of the Board of Directors for 1949; Thomas Frahm, vice-president and Ralph A. Miller, secretary and treasurer. Ed Wilkin, who continues as business manager, reports a daily average census of 107 patients; 5,634 patients had 39,194 days of care, 2815 operations. - - Candlelight capping ceremonies for 26 Freshmen students of Clarkson Hospital School of Nursing, Omaha, took place January 23rd - - 33 students were presented caps in similar ceremonies at University of Nebraska School of Nursing. - - F. Lowell Dunn, M.D. is new president of the Clarkson Hospital medical staff; Dr. John P. Edmondson, vice-president; Dr. W. R. W. Haws, secretary-treasurer. - - Ten percent of the Douglas County tax dollar budgets go for Health and Welfare expenditures, Chamber of Commerce Research Bureau statisticians show - 4 cents go to Douglas County Hospital operation; 3 cents each to Assistance and Direct Relief, and Sanitation. - - 1949 March of Dimes figures disclose $52,000 given in Douglas County to Polio relief; this amount is expected to grow to about $58,000 when all coin boxes are collected, after March 1st; the Douglas County Chapter expended $61,144 between June 1, 1948 and January 31, 1949, of which $53,049 was for patient care and $6,320 for hospital equipment. Treasurer Leslie Martin reports.

"WANTED" FOR SALE: 2 American autoclave sterilizers, 16x48", old style, but usable; Hot-and-Cold water sterilizers, 8 gal. Prices reasonable. Write R. B. Saxon, Operating Superintendent, University Hospital, Omaha.

FOR SALE: 2 Prosperity laundry presses for rough work; Leif sleeper; 2 Operay Multi-beam lights. Reasonably priced. St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha.

EXPERIENCE IS THE SUM OF A MAN'S MISTAKES
CHRISTMAS BELLs

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play.
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

But in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
HOSPITAL FOLKS TURN OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS FOR MOST
INFORMATIVE CONFERENCE — AHA AFFILIATION APPROVED

Dr. Harold C. Lueth Takes Office as President as Members Vote
Changes in By-Laws and Administrative Board — Novel
Program Affords Insight of Television Mysteries

Continuation of the three-year program of nursing education, radical
changes involving sacrifices of some of the smaller schools and concentration of
training in fewer schools with stronger educational programs were some of the pre­
dictions broadcast for thought at the half-day discussion of nursing problems which
helped to attract attendance-breaking registration of 185 people for the thirteenth
annual conference of the NEBRASKA HOSPITAL ASSEMBLY, November 17 and 18, in Omaha.

Four full and highly interesting sessions, coupled with a banquet program
feature as educational as it was novel, combined to provide Nebraska's hospital folks
with a quality of "brain food" and entertainment that they long will remember. Most
pleased, thrilled indeed, were officers of the organization by the fact that the vast
assemblage remained almost as a welded unit from the opening number to the closing
event of the two-day session, evidencing united interest in the four-point program
which covered professional as well as administrative phases of hospital operation.

Forecast of the things to come in nursing education was made by Sister Mary
Kevin, R.S.M., Director of the St. Catherine Hospital Unit, Creighton University Schools
of Nursing, Omaha, in her address entitled "Where are Nurses Going?"

To complaints of hospital administrators "we do not need all nurses with
degrees," Sister Mary Kevin declared that statistics reveal that only 25% of all nurses
hold degrees, many NOT degrees in nursing; only the pitiable number of 25 individuals
have a Doctorate. "Progression in nursing service, demanded by the progress in medical
care, calls for a better prepared nurse to meet the needs of the patient," she said.

A three-point program for care of the sick was advocated by Miss Hilda M.
Torrup, R.N., executive secretary of the National Association for Practical Nurse Edu­
cation, of New York, in summarizing her lengthy and interesting dissertation on the
subject, "Does the Hospital Patient Need Practical Nurses?"

Miss Torrup recommended a hospital staffing pattern providing: 1) Profes­sion­
al staff nurses in sufficient number to care for the acutely ill, to perform highly
technical procedures and to supervise teams of practical nurses working with them. 2)
Trained practical nurses to carry the bedside nursing care of the largest number of
patients. 3) The auxiliary group (nurse aides and attendants) who carry on the impor­
tant but non-nursing duties of the institution and who can be taught on the job the
particular patterns of a specific hospital.
The assertion that members of the Board of Trustees of a hospital legally are liable, individually and collectively, for its operation, if they are guilty of negligence, was made by G. Paul Spence, attorney, of Franklin, in his address, entitled "The Hospital's Responsibility Under the Nebraska Licensure Law." Mr. Spence has been a member of the Nebraska Hospital Advisory Council since that body was created by the state Legislature. Ethical conduct on the part of the Medical Staff also is the responsibility of the Trustees, in Mr. Spence's opinion, as they also are for establishment and enforcement of proper standards and levels of care for patients. He urged hospital administrators to present their ideas for betterment of the Licensure Law to the proper authorities, stating that it could be of great value to Nebraska's institutions if it is kept up to date by proper modifications and amendments.

Sixty-eight percent of Nebraska's hospitals are of non-fireproof construction, with 35% of frame and 33% of brick exterior and wood joist construction, State Fire Marshal E.C. Iverson stated in his address concerning the fire inspection drive which has been made during 1949 by state and local fire department heads. Of the 110 hospitals inspected in 1949, 35 have complied fully with orders for changes and 29 have complied partially, he reported. Inspections of 175 major buildings in 16 institutions under the state Board of Control resulted in recommendations that eight of the buildings be demolished; major repairs be made in ten, additional fire escapes erected for 6, and automatic sprinkler systems be installed in 13 of the major units. A statewide fire safety survey of Nebraska hospitals will be undertaken in the very near future by the Nebraska Inspection Bureau, fire insurance representatives and city and state officials, and, he declared, very detailed inspections will be made.

Mrs. Ruth D. Shoemaker, assistant director of Mary Lanning Hospital School of Nursing, Hastings, discussed the new rules and regulations for schools of nursing in Nebraska, pinch-hitting for Miss Blance Graves, state director of The Bureau of Education and Registration for Nurses, who had been called to Washington just prior to the NHAConference. Mrs. Shoemaker stated that hospital schools of nursing must improve their policies if they hope to attract the superior type of student. "Nursing demands, and should have, the best graduates our high schools have to offer," she said. "We, in turn, hope to bring to the hospital nursing service the well-prepared professional nurse whose care the patient wants and so richly deserves."

Dr. R. Russell Best, of Omaha, reported that 44 hospitals in 23 counties of Nebraska and western Iowa now are served by the Omaha Regional Blood Center, operated by the American Red Cross. He told of the development of the blood collection program and of the expanding service which is made possible by the traveling Blood-mobile, which visits out-state communities on regular schedule to collect blood, returns it to Omaha for processing and storage and then re-issues the whole blood or blood plasma to any hospital or doctor who may require it for a patient. The entire program is administered without cost to the patient for the actual blood but hospitals are permitted to make a service charge for necessary equipment, blood typing, cross-matching and serology.

Speakers on the Thursday afternoon program discussed various methods of reimbursement to hospitals for the care of the medically indigent. Maurice J. Norby, assistant director of the American Hospital Association, spoke of plans in Illinois and Maryland; Charles G. Newell, President of the Mid-West Hospital Association and Administrator of the University of Kansas Medical Center told of methods employed in Kansas while Nebraska plans were outlined by Philip H. Vogt, Douglas County Welfare Administrator, Omaha, and Donald W. Duncan, Business Manager, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln. The fact that an Oklahoma Supreme Court decision places responsibility for care of the indigent upon the counties and requires county boards to pay hospitals not less than cost for such care, was brought out by Mr. Newell. University of Kansas Medical Center average cost for the care of indigents is $14.58 per day, Mr. Newell declared.

The progress of the BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD pre-payment medical care plans in Nebraska was related by J. H. Proffer, executive director; Mrs. Mildred Bengston, public relations director and Floyd M. Edwards, enrollment director. Arthur L. Coad, Blue Cross President, and Dr. Arthur J. Offerman, Blue Shield head, also participated.
Nebraska Tom Turkey was the pièce de résistance on the annual banquet menu, Thursday evening, in the Hotel Paxton Ballroom, with drumsticks being picked clean to the accompaniment of a splendid program of semi-classical music provided by the string sextette of Central High School, Omaha. Donald W. Duncan, retiring president, served as Chairman of a brief program which included installation of newly elected officers by Charles B. Newell, President of the Mid-West Hospital Association.

The SURPRISE FEATURE of the banquet was adjournment of the formal program at 7:30 o'clock, and transfer of the entire setting to the new studios of Radio Station WOW-TV, two miles west of the hotel, where the hospital folks and their guests were initiated into the mysteries and intricacies of television broadcasting. Through the courtesy and cooperation of John J. Gillin, Jr., President of WOW, and of Lyle DeMoss, Program Director, the WOW-TV studio was turned over completely to visiting hospital delegates. Tours of the entire plant were conducted by Mr. DeMoss and Joseph L. Herold Technical Director and by the time that explanation had been completed, the visitors learned that hospitals are not the only institutions complex and highly technical in nature and operation.

When the tours had ended, Nebraska's hospital folks saw the presentation of a Wayne King production, by film, and they then were taken directly into the studios to witness a "live" television broadcast, through rehearsals of the amateur performers from Nebraska and Iowa communities to the "on the air" performance, which provided another highly interesting phase of a splendid educational and entertainment program. A cordial welcome to the special guests was extended by the Announcer during the television broadcast.

"The Program Committee could not have provided higher class entertainment or a feature of greater educational value had it spent $300 on the banquet program!"

"I had NO IDEA how highly technical nor how great a task would be the staging of a TV broadcast, nor the vast amount of equipment needed!"

"That program was truly wonderful - I wouldn't have missed it for any show on Broadway!"

Such were the typical comments --

A thousand thanks, JOHNNY, and LYLE, nad JOE, for a WONDERFUL EVENING!!

During the Business Meeting of the annual Conference, action was taken toward establishing the state organization as an integral unit of the American Hospital Association, in view of the fact that more than 50% of the hospitals in Nebraska now are institutional members of the national group. By vote of the assembly, the name of the state body was changed to the NEBRASKA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION and an application for A. H. A. affiliation approved.

By virtue of this change, member institutions of the American Hospital Association will be billed, effective January 1, 1950, for both national and state dues by the Treasurer of the Nebraska Hospital Association. A fee for the billing and collection activity will be paid to the state group treasury, providing a new source of income for N. H. A. to assist in expanding its program for benefit of members.

The N. H. A. membership also voted a change in the Constitution and By-Laws, providing for creation of a new office of Vice-President, incumbency of which, however, will not mean automatic succession to the office of President or President-Elect. Purpose of the new officership is to provide an opportunity for another individual in Association work, and to offer potential hospital leaders a possibility of four years of active service through three years in officeships and an additional year, as immediate past president, on the Executive Committee.
OFFICERS ELECTED

New officers elected for the ensuing year include:

President - Harold C. Lueth, Dean, University of Nebraska School of Medicine, Omaha.
President-elect - Eugene J. Saxton, Administrator, Dodge County Community Hospital.
Vice-president - James G. Carr, Jr., Fiscal Officer, University Hospital, Omaha.
Secretary - Donald W. Duncan, Business Manager, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln.
Treasurer - Paul G. Finnman, Business Manager, Immanuel Hospital, Omaha.
Directors - Sister M. Mechtildis, O.S.F., R.N., Administrator, St. Francis Hospital, Grand Island (4 years); Hal G. Perrin, Administrator, Clarkson Memorial Hospital, Omaha (3 years); Frederic R. Veeder, Superintendent, West Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Scottsbluff (2 years); Miss Lillian Angwert, Superintendent, Lutheran Hospital, Omaha (1 year).

Representatives to House of Delegates, American Hospital Association, 1950 convention in Atlantic City, N. J. and 1951 convention, St. Louis, are Harold J. Hamilton, Manager, Brewster Hospitals and Clinic, Holdrege, and Francis J. Bath, Business Manager, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha.

CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

Representatives of Nebraska's twenty hospitals under Catholic auspices gathered in Omaha following the N.H.A. afternoon session, Thursday, upon the invitation of His Grace, the Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan, D.D., Archbishop of Omaha, to discuss the organization of a new Nebraska Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association of the U. S. and Canada.

The Rev. Harry B. Crimmins, S.J., Regent of the Creighton University School of Medicine, and Archdiocesan Director of Catholic Hospitals in Nebraska, presided at the meeting, which was attended by fifty Sisters. Following adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws, the Sisters voted to hold their annual meeting each Fall, concurrent with and in the same city as the annual convention of the Nebraska Hospital Association. The purpose of the new organization will be to promote discussions of the theoretical and practical principles of Catholic hospital operation, technical management, business administration and special laws and regulations governing hospitals and nursing schools.

Officers elected for 1949-50 are:
President - Sister M. Crescentia, O.S.F., R.N., F.A.C.H.A., Administrator, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha
Vice President - Sister Mary Barbara, O.P., R.N., St. Catherine Hospital, McCook
Secretary-Treasurer - Sister M. Virginia, R.N., St. Joseph's Hospital, Osmond.

Nebraska's growing list of Catholic hospitals includes:

St. Joseph's, Alliance; St. Mary's, Columbus; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Falls City; St. Francis, Grand Island; Good Samaritan, Kearney; St. Elizabeth, Lincoln; Sacred Heart, Loup City; Sacred Heart, Lynch; St. Catherine of Sienna, McCook; Seeley Memorial Mercy, Minden; St. Mary's, Nebraska City; Our Lady of Lourdes, Norfolk; St. Mary's, North Platte; Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's and St. Catherine's, Omaha; St. Francis, Osceola; St. Joseph's Osmond; St. Mary's, Scottsbluff; St. John Sullivan Memorial, Spalding; and St. Joseph's, West Point.

PRACTICAL NURSING

As a follow-up to the Nebraska Hospital Association meeting, a one-day Institute on Practical Nursing was held in Omaha, November 19, under the leadership of Miss Hilda M. Torrup, R.N., Executive Secretary of the National Association for Practical Nursing Education. The institute was sponsored by the Community Welfare Council, Omaha, the Nebraska Hospital Association and the Omaha Area Hospital Council. Real interest in the subject was evidenced by an enrollment of 54 individuals, representative of the professional nursing organizations, vocational education, hospital administrators and directors of schools of nursing, the medical profession, practical nurses and interested lay persons.

Miss Torrup encouraged Nebraskans to explore the possibility of setting up an area school in cooperation with Department of Vocational Education, possibly aided by Federal funds.
"OF FOLKS WE KNOW . . ."  DR. EARLE G. JOHNSON, physician and surgeon, of Grand Island, and G. PAUL SPENCE, attorney, of Franklin, have been reappointed for three-year terms to the Hospital Advisory Council, effective to September 16, 1952, by Governor Val Peterson.

VEN. MOTHER MARY BASILIA, O.S.F., R.N., immediate past Provincial of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph, has been appointed President of Catholic Teachers College, Alburquerque, N. Mex., Mother Mary Reginalda, O.S.F., Provincial, has announced. Mother Basilia was a frequent visitor during her term of office at the five hospitals conducted by the Franciscan Sisters in Nebraska, including Good Samaritan, Kearney; Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's, Omaha; St. Elizabeth, Lincoln; St. Mary's, Columbus and St. Francis, Grand Island.

MISS ALICE FOLDA, Dietitian at University of Nebraska Hospital, Omaha, is the new President-elect of the Nebraska Dietetic Association, filling the office previously held by Miss Lucille Backemeyer, of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, who has succeeded to the presidency. Other recently elected officers are: Vice-President, Miss Doretta Schlaphoff, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Secretary, Mrs. Marion Holmes, Lincoln, and Treasurer, Mrs. Jane Hildebrandt, Grand Island.

DUANE E. JOHNSON, administrative intern, BISHOP CLARKSON HOSPITAL, Omaha, was married October 15 to Miss Nancy McCaul, of Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Johnson, native of Salt Lake City, Utah, took his course in hospital administration at the Washington University, St. Louis, and assumed his residency duties with Hal G. Perrin, July 1st. Wedding bells for another Clarksonite, MISS ARDIS CHODOMELKA, R.N., news editor of "CLARKSON SPARKS", semi-monthly bulletin of the institution, also rang on October 23, when she was united in marriage to Dr. Melvin L. Scheffel, intern at Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs.

EARL A. CONNOLLY, M.D., of Omaha, has been elected president for the coming year of the Nebraska Chapter, International College of Surgeons. Also elected to office were: DR. TIMOTHY McCARTHY, Lincoln, vice-president; DR. S. J. CARNAZZO, Omaha, secretary-treasurer, and DR. LOUIS D. McGUIRE, Omaha, regent.

SISTER MARY PAULINE, R.S.M., R.N., who had served as X-ray department head at Mercy Hospital, Valley, City, N.Dak. for the past year, has returned to St. Catherine's, Omaha, in a similar capacity, Sister Pauline had served a six-year term as Superior at St. Catherine's before her assignment to Valley City. Her place there has been filled by the transfer of SISTER MARY ROBERTINE, R.S.M. from the Omaha hospital.

C. R. PRICE has been appointed technical representative in Nebraska of Baxter Laboratories, Morton Grove, Ill. He will reside in Omaha.

FIVE CATHOLIC NUNS have come from the Benedictine motherhouse at Tutzing, Bavaria, to augment the staff at OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL, NORFOLK, where a whole new plant now is under construction. The quintet includes Sisters Mary Centa, Richildis, Regiswinde, Gilberta and Polycarpa. The Sisters plan to become citizens of the United States and to serve in the three Nebraska hospitals conducted by their Community, including Sacred Heart Hospital, Lynch, and Sacred Heart Hospital, Loup City.

DR. J. RUDOLPH SCHENKEN, Professor of Pathology at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and pathologist at Methodist Hospital, Omaha, has been named a governor of the American College of Pathologists.

SISTER M. EDMONDINE KUDLACZ, O.S.F., R.R.L., has assumed her new duties as Medical Records Librarian at St. Francis Hospital, Grand Island, having been transferred there from St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus, New librarian at St. Mary's is MISS ANGELA FIDLER, R.R.L., a native of Glidden, Iowa.
WILLIAM J. REALS, M.D., who completed his residence in pathology recently at Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, has been appointed assistant pathologist at that institution, and instructor in pathology in the Creighton University School of Medicine, from which he graduated with the June, 1945, class.

LESLIE E. MARTIN, president of the Nebraska Savings and Loan Association, has been re-elected as president of the Board of Trustees of METHODIST HOSPITAL, Omaha. DR. PAUL M. HILLMAN has been elected vice-president of the Board, and JOSEPH O. BERGER, Omaha attorney, secretary-treasurer. REV. B. O. LYLE remains as Administrator.

THREE YEAR TERMS have been voted to five members of the BISHOP CLARKSON HOSPITAL Board of Trustees, including Dean Chilton Powell, Trinity Cathedral; Robert S. Trimble, Robert D. Neely, R. M. Sutton and Chester Cunningham, all of Omaha.

MISS VESTA F. DAVIS, of Omaha, has been appointed as head dietitian at ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL, Omaha, according to announcement by Sister Mary John, R.S.M., administrator. Miss Davis also will serve on the Faculty of the St. Catherine School of Nursing, as instructor in dietherapy. She has been active in local and state dietetic association work and has served as president of several such groups.

DR. F. J. STEJSKAL, of Crete, was honored by the residents of that vicinity November 1st, which the citizens had designated as DR. STEJSKAL DAY, in recognition of his completion of 42 years of service within the Saline county community. The program was sponsored by the business and professional women and men of Crete, many of whom have been life-long patients of the widely-respected physician. Over 1,200 friends attended the program. Dr. Stejskal is a graduate of the Creighton University School of Medicine, '07, and served his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha.

DR. FRED P. LONG, Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, and DR. EDWIN D. LYMAN, acting director of the Omaha-Douglas County Health Unit, addressed a well-attended meeting of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society, November 8th, in Omaha. The former spoke on the public health program of the Nebraska State Medical Society, and Dr. Lyman on the proposed union of the Omaha and Douglas County health activities, planned for January 1st.

MRS. JEANNE HOPPER, of Omaha, was elected president of the Nebraska Association of Licensed Nursing Home Operators; at the annual meeting, in Omaha, succeeding Clifford M. Dahl, of Wayne. Other officers elected include Mrs. Ila Petersen, of Lincoln, vice-president; C. D. Adams, Lincoln, secretary; Chris Klinger, treasurer. On the executive board were named Mrs. Esther Kruse, of Norfolk; Ralph Peterson, Coleridge and Miss Edith Stollard, Omaha. Following his retirement as head of the state group, Mr. Dahl was elected secretary of the American Association of Licensed Nursing Homes. The 1950 national convention of the organization will be held in Omaha.

BEN C. BISHOP, M.D. AND LEROY G. BROWN, M.D., '44 graduates of Creighton University School of Medicine, have opened the Crawford Clinic, at Crawford. Dr. Brown formerly practiced Onawa, Iowa and Dr. Bishop in Omaha.

ROBERT B. HAWKINS, M.D., Creighton University School of Medicine, '45, has been named head of the new department of otolaryngology of the Cogley Clinic, Council Bluffs, Iowa. He recently completed a post graduate course at University of Wisconsin.

MISS LEETA M. HOLDREGS, executive director of the Visiting Nurse Association, Omaha, on November 29th was presented a citation naming her "Woman of the Year" by the Omaha Business and Professional Women's Club, for her "outstanding contribution to the civic and cultural life of Omaha." Miss Holdrege has been with the VNA since 1921 and has taken a leading part in health activities in the community.
BLESSED WITH BEAUTIFUL LATE FALL WEATHER, unsurpassed within recent memory, Nebraska hospital administrators whose institutions are engaged in construction or remodeling projects, breathed a united prayer of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day to an all-merciful Divine Providence for temperatures which have permitted almost uninterrupted work by equally grateful contractors. Successful "closed in" goals have been achieved on several projects, assuring uninterrupted work throughout the winter months.

OMAHA — Largest hospital undertaking in the state is the $10,000,000 Veterans Administration facility, providing an additional 500 beds for service and ex-service men, in Omaha. The 11-story structure is rapidly nearing completion and it is expected ready to open by June 1, 1950.

Second project in size in Nebraska is the six-story Our Lady of Victory Wing of CREIGHTON MEMORIAL ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, Omaha, upon which exterior brick work was completed on December 5th. Mechanics will spend the winter in erecting interior walls, laying terrazzo floors, completing plumbing, heating and air conditioning installations and generally in readying the new 135-bed unit for use by early next fall. The $1,666,000 structure will provide the most modern facilities in the entire middle west for the care of psychiatric patients in a private institution, with 100 beds devoted to various phases of care of the mentally ill, while the remaining 35 beds, on the first floor, will be allotted to general medical cases, Sister M. Crescentia, O.S.F., R.N., Administrator, states.

The four-story, $300,000 addition at ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL is moving along rapidly, and present indications point to occupancy around Easter, 1950, with facilities for an additional forty beds for patients, a completely new dietary unit, new laundry quarters and a modernistic one-story structure to the south which will house administrative offices and other services. Sister Mary John, R.S.M., R.N., Administrator, reports that construction is progressing fully according to schedule. Cornerstone laying ceremonies for the structure were held June 26, 1949.

A new $20,000 addition on the east side of LUTHERAN HOSPITAL is moving along well and Superintendent Lillian Amgwert anticipates occupancy within 60 days. The unit will provide new administration offices and consultation rooms for the medical staff. The basement will house an entirely new dietary department. In addition to this project, two of the operating rooms in the hospital proper have been remodeled and glass brick windows installed, besides the hanging of two new surgical lights and sterilizers. Four additional beds will be provided through the release of present offices for patient facilities.

Rev. B. O. Lyle, Administrator of NEBRASKA METHODIST HOSPITAL, plans to "show off" his new entrance, Chapel and laboratory unit as a special event of the coming holiday season. Work of the $100,000 project has been under way for the past year. Bishop Dana Dawson will speak at the dedication, Monday, Dec. 12, 3 P.M.

Remodeling activities recently completed at DOCTORS HOSPITAL included installation of an entire new front entrance, with all glass doors and a vestibule finished in "Dillon" marble. The adjoining waiting room has been redecorated and all new furniture installed. A brilliant new neon sign "Doctors Hospital," graces the front entrance. A new parking lot nearby affords better facilities for visitors. In addition, two private rooms, three 2-bed rooms and one 7-bed ward have been outfitted with new wooden furniture; new electric refrigerators have been placed in the main kitchen, floor diet service kitchens and the laboratory, and ice cube and crushing machines, with ice conveyance carts have been purchased. The Operating Room has a new autoclave sterilizer and two large north windows have been installed, while water softener equipment and a new bed pan sterilizer also make for easier operation. Installation of a flatwork ironer, tumbler and dryer in the laundry completes the 1949 renovation program, Miss Josephine Dorsey, R.N., Superintendent, declares.
OMAHA — The annual Thanksgiving offering of the Episcopal Church in Nebraska was dedicated toward the raising of funds for installation of a completely new Central Supply department at BISHOP CLARKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. A two-page center spread in the November issue of "The Nebraska Churchman," official organ of the Episcopal diocese, urged its readers to supply the $6,000 needed to purchase the new autoclaves. Conversion of the boiler plant from coal burning to gas fired equipment has been completed and Administrator Hal G. Perrin announces that the electric-generating plant will be abandoned, and electric current purchased in the future from the Nebraska Public Power District. Cost of the Central Supply Room, which will occupy the space that formerly housed the laundry, will be $40,000.

HOLDREGE — BREWSTER HOSPITAL will more than double the size of its clinic when the new addition and remodeling project, started August 8th, is completed, Harold J. Hamilton, Manager, states. The new unit, filling in the front area of the present L-shaped structure, will provide waiting rooms, offices, laboratories, a pharmacy, staff and waiting rooms, an employees' lounge and storage space. Two new operating rooms will be on the second floor and an additional five-bed ward on the fourth floor, giving a total capacity of 72 beds. The exterior of the structure will be faced with Indiana Bedford limestone and the front entrance will be in Wisconsin ruby granite. All rooms will be air-conditioned when the remodeling project is completed, in February. C. A. Christensen, Holdrege, is general contractor.

FALLS CITY — OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP HOSPITAL, conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, has completed the laying of a new alumina foil roof over the hospital structure itself, while an asbestos shingle roof has been laid on the Convent. Equipment recently added has included a deep freeze and an electric coffee urn in the dietary department, and an American autoclave sterilizer. Sister Mary Owen, Superintendent, also reports the gift of a chest of fine sterling silver from the Graduate Nurses Club, a Castle HumiCrib for the nursery from the Falls City Lions Club, and an organ for the Chapel, by several friends.

LINCOLN — Erection of a new nurses home is the plan of Rev. Edwin C. McDade, Superintendent of BRYAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, as the direct result of an $88,000 bequest from the estate of Miss Carrie Kleiser, of Ashland, who died in June, 1948. Four hundred acres of land included in the benefaction have been sold for $57,800, which will be added to an additional $30,000 from the estate. The hospital stands on the site of the home of the late William Jennings Bryan.

BRIDGEPORT — The new 12-bed MORRILL COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL here has been completed and equipped for a total of $40,000, all provided through local contributions and financing. Walter A. Canaday was chairman of the committee which successfully campaigned for and constructed the brick structure. In addition, the community has expressed its appreciation of the services of Dr. Claude Palmer, who has practiced in Bridgeport since 1906, by the presentation of a new Chevrolet automobile to the Doctor and his good wife, who has worked right along with him in the interests of his patients and the western Nebraska community.

WORFOLK — The new OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL structure is fully under cover, and the Hutter Construction Co., of Fond du Lac, Wis. gives assurance that the building will be completed and ready for occupancy next summer. Mayor B. A. McCrory and Dr. A. J. Schwedhelm, of the medical staff, paid tribute to the courage of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in deciding to erect the new building to replace the present frame structure, which they took over in 1935 and which they have operated under great handicaps because of its antiquity.

ORD — A fund of more than $50,000 has been contributed by residents of this community for remodeling and renovation of the Ord Hospital, which reopened November 20 as the ORD COOPERATIVE HOSPITAL. Mrs. Grace Buckfinch, R.N., is superintendent. Latest major gift is $1,000 from the Veterans Club, of Ord.
OSMOND - Residents of this progressive community have undertaken organization of the St. Joseph Hospital Building Club as a means of presenting the Sisters of St. Casimir with a substantial contribution on the fifth birthday anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital, next September, to help finance a building expansion program which now is in the planning stage. A recent issue of the Osmond Republican devoted several pages, including generous first-page space, to stories about the institution, which is the community's pride and joy, and urged its readers to subscribe generously to the Building Club, in which minimum memberships are $5 annually. Nearly 300 extra copies of the special issue were printed and distributed free to doctors, hospitals and individuals to publicize the project and pledged full cooperation to assist the Sisters in their proposed undertaking. Sister M. Ambrose, Superintendent, and her staff of nine Sisters, all registered nurses, conduct the institution.

AXTELL - Bids will be opened on December 19th for Home Bethesda, the proposed new building of the Bethphage Inner Mission Association of Nebraska for housing of invalids and chronically ill. Hospital facilities to care for patients suffering with chronic ailments will be a feature of the new structure. The Association has as its object the furnishing of Christian homes for the epileptic, feebleminded, and the destitute or otherwise unfortunate, and depends upon free will gifts from friends to finance its activities. Rev. Arthur A. Christenson, Director and Treasurer, reports that sufficient funds are on hand to cover the cost of the new unit.

OGALLALA - Steps toward the building of a community hospital here have been taken by Chamber of Commerce officers and group of interested citizens from the surrounding territory. Frank J. Kersenbrock, of Ogallala, has been elected president of the incorportating group, which includes representatives from these towns; Keystone, Brule, Paxton, Big Springs and Arthur, Nebr. Preliminary plans are for a hospital of from 20 to 30 beds.

WEST POINT - Gifts of $5,000 from the Farmers Fire Truck Association, which recently disbanded, and $1,000 from the Catholic Daughters of America, Court No. 138A, have been received by the Sisters of Saint Francis, to assist in financing costs of construction and equipment for the new West Point Memorial Hospital, now being erected at a cost of $1,050,000. The main building will be 45x304 feet in size, with one wing 44x50, and the nurses' home and Chapel, 126x87 feet. The entire structure is to be air-conditioned, Sister Frances Marie, Administrator, states.

ALBION - Construction work is practically finished on the new Boone County Community Hospital here and equipment is being installed, Ray E. Hall, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, states. An operational staff now is being recruited for the new 20-bed institution and dedication ceremonies are being planned tentatively for January.

OMAHA - Members of the Medical Staff of Children's Memorial Hospital have donated more than $3,000 for the completion and furnishing of a new recreation room, nurses' lounge and classroom on the third floor for the graduate and student nursing personnel. The previous classroom in the basement has been converted into a physical therapy treatment center. A gift of $750 as a memorial to Irving Zerzan, prominent Omaha business man who died October 29 after a lingering illness, has been received by Miss Grace Barbor, R.N., Superintendent, from the Young Business Men's Association of Omaha. The money will be used to purchase an oxygen tent. Proceeds of the Boys Town-Scottsbluff football game at Municipal Stadium, Omaha, on September 29, has added the sum of $9,015 to the coffers of the institution.

NEW SUPERIOR NAMED - Sister M. Aloysius, O.P., R.N. has been appointed as Superior of the Sisters of St. Dominic at St. Catherine of Sienna Hospital, McCook. She succeeds Sister Mary Jane, O.P., R.N., who has been seriously ill for the past five months. Her friends will be glad to learn that she now is able to be up for several hours a day, and is continuing to improve slowly.
X-RAY SHORT COURSE

Nineteen Catholic Sisters from Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota, and one from Mexico City, D.F., attended the annual short course on X-Ray Technique, November 1 to 4, at Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha. In charge of the institute was H.O. Mahoney, of Milwaukee, Wis., chief instructor of X-Ray technique for General Electric X-Ray Corporation. He was assisted by Leo D. Kane, of the Omaha G. E. office.

Nebraska Sisters in attendance were: Sister Mary Alcantra, O.S.F., Saint Mary's Hospital, Columbus; Sister Mary Marcella, O.S.F., St. Mary's, Nebraska City; Sister Mary Nicasia, O.S.F., Good Samaritan, Kearney; Sister Mary Pauline, R.S.M., St. Catherine's, Omaha; Sister M. Romana, S.S.C., St. Joseph's, Osmond; Sister M. Sylveria, O.S.F., St. Mary's, North Platte; Sister Mary Anthony, O.S.F., St. Elizabeth, Lincoln; Sister M. Francis Salesia, O.S.F. and Sister M. Beatricia, O.S.F., St. Francis, Grand Island; Sister M. Alice, O.S.F., Our Lady of Lourdes, Norfolk, and Sister Mary Liberia, O.S.F., St. Joseph's, Omaha. Sisters Mary Eileen, R.S.M. and Mary Lucien, R.S.M., of Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs, Iowa, also were in attendance as were nuns from Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, as well as Sister Dominica Infante, Beneficiencia Espanola Hospital, Mexico City, Mex.

NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR

FRANK D. RYDER, M.D., retired Army medical officer, now of Grand Island, has been appointed Director of the State Board of Health by Governor Val Peterson. Colonel Ryder on November 15th succeeded DR. WILLIAM S. PETTY, who had held the office for two terms, by appointment, and who resigned due to provisions of the state law which limit the salary of the post to $5,500 annually. Dr. Petty now is Director of Local Health Services and as such has supervision of all health departments in the state.

COSTS "ESCALATE" AGAIN

Surgical dressings, which zoomed to unfathomable heights in the wake of post-war price control releases and then started a gradual decline that hit its low point on June 30, 1949, again are on the ascendancy. Two price schedule increases, Sept. 30 and Nov. 30, have sent costs upward approximately 10% above the June 30th list. Adhesive tape costs, at $2.32 per 12-inch x 10 yard roll are up 12% over the June low figure of $2.08 while 20x12 gauze has jumped from $4.52 to $5.00 per 100 yards, with other constructions advancing proportionately. Manufacturers state the increases "are due to price advances in the textile market."

Textiles, too, have scored advances totaling more than ten percent during the past ninety days, with sheets, pillow cases and sheeting suffering the greatest increases. Some hospital garments also have followed the upward trend of sheetings and further advances in the prices of all cotton goods undoubtedly will follow in the wake of the newly enacted Federal minimum-wage law, which specifies minimum earnings of 75¢ per hour for all workers in industries engaged in inter-state commerce, effective January 25, 1950. BEWARE!!!

STUDENT NURSES ELECT

Miss Bonnie Fitzke, of Mary Lanning Hospital School of Nursing, Hastings, was elected president of the Nebraska Student Nurses' Association, at the annual meeting in Grand Island. She succeeded Miss Patricia Farmer, of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Omaha, who was the first president of the organization. Miss Margaret O'Halloran, of St. Joseph's, Omaha, was named vice-president and Miss Ladonna Ketchmark, of Methodist Hospital, Omaha, secretary. Bonnie Lusy, of Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, was elected a director.

WOCHER FACTORY SOLD

Another step in the expansion program of the American Hospital Supply Corporation, Evanston, Ill. has brought under the "American" banner the manufacturing plant of Max Wocher & Son, Cincinnati, Ohio. This old-established factory, which has been engaged in construction of high grade hospital equipment for many years, in the future will be known as Institutional Industries Inc., according to Owen A. Trimble, of Omaha, who is the Nebraska "TOMAC" representative.
HOUSPITAL INSURANCE

DEC. MEETING TOPIC A presentation on the various types of hospital insurance coverages will feature the program of the December meeting of the Omaha Area Hospital Council on Thursday, December 15, at Methodist Hospital, Omaha. Collaborating in discussing the subject will be James G. Carr, Jr., of University Hospital, and Francis J. Bath, of St. Joseph's. At the conclusion of the program, Rev. B. O. Lyle, Superintendent of Methodist Hospital, will lead his guests on a tour of the newly opened lobby, Chapel and laboratory unit.

The November meeting, at Clarkson Hospital, featured a presentation on "The Care of Communicable Diseases in the General Hospital" by Dr. Miles Foster, pathologist and director of Laboratory Service at the institution. Dr. Foster declared that success in caring for such diseases is only of quite recent achievement. He urged administrators to review routines and procedures frequently and to eliminate such procedures which are based on fallacy rather than fact. Administrator Hal G. Perrin conducted those in attendance on a tour of inspection of new and current projects.

DEATH BECKONS THREE The Grim Reaper laid heavy hands upon the ranks of Omaha medical practitioners in late-November and early-December, summoning three of the community's best known physicians within a two-week period.

The first called to his Eternal Reward was Dr. John W. Duncan, 59, youngest of the trio, who died on November 20th, a few hours after having been stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage while attending Mass at St. Patrick's church, Elkhorn. As a 1912 graduate of the Creighton University School of Medicine, Dr. Duncan was serving his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, when the fateful tornado struck the city on Easter Sunday, 1913. With his fellow interns, Dr. Duncan worked for 48 hours without sleep in ministering to the tornado victims. He later took post-graduate work in Vienna and also made numerous later trips to Europe and other distant points to observe and study the newer medical developments. Dr. Duncan was Clinical Professor of Surgery at Creighton, and attending surgeon at St. Joseph's, St. Catherine's and Children's Memorial Hospitals. He also was chief of staff and chief surgeon at Douglas County Hospital from 1930 to 1938, as well as president of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society and Mid-West Clinical Society. Dr. Duncan was one of the organizers and first directors of the present NEBRASKA BLUE CROSS PLAN, in 1939, and was one of the foremost proponents of voluntary hospital and medical care prepayment plans.

Dr. C. Elizabeth Lyman, 78, practicing physician in Omaha since 1903, died November 24 after a three months illness. When her husband died, in 1893, Dr. Lyman studied nursing to support her three children and later entered Creighton University College of Medicine, from which she received her degree in 1903, at the age of 32.

Dr. ELIAS HOLOVITCHER, 89, who came to Omaha in 1887 from his native Russia after frequent tiffs with government officials, passed away December 2nd following a short illness. Dr. Holovitcher practiced his profession actively for 60 years, until his virtual retirement two years ago. He once served for nine years on the Omaha School Board and was active in promotion of vocational training. The aged doctor was the last surviving charter member of the old Omaha Medical Society.

DR. FISHBEIN LEAVES AMA As one of his last official acts before retiring as Editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, from which position he resigned December 1, Dr. Morris Fishbein made dual appearances in Omaha before medical groups on November 29 and 30. Addressing members of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society on the 29th, Dr. Fishbein spoke on his observations of the British National Health Act while on a recent eight-week tour of Europe. Medical practice, teaching and research have deteriorated under the government system, he declared and costs of operation have doubled over the original estimates. He spoke Nov. 30, at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

Dr. Fishbein has accepted a position as consultant medical editor with Doubleday and Co., Philadelphia publishers, after 37 years as Editor of Journal AMA.
A program leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing has been arranged between the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, Grand Island, and Duchesne College, Omaha. The program, approved by the Nebraska Bureau of Education and Registration for Nurses, will go into effect in September, 1950. Students will spend the first two semesters at Duchesne College and return to St. Francis for their second and third years. Those who wish may return to Duchesne for an additional year for their B.S. degree in Nursing. Graduates and currently enrolled students also may receive degrees in nursing by meeting the college requirements, making it possible to complete the basic nursing course and to receive a college degree in four calendar years, Sister M. Mechtildis, O.S.F., R.N., Administrator of the Hospital, and Sister M. Gerharda, O.S.F., R.N., Director of the School of Nursing, have announced.

DOCTORS HONORED

Six members of the Faculty of the Creighton University School of Nursing, Omaha, were honored in the presentation of plaques upon the completion of 25 years of service to the medical school. The awards were made by the Very Rev. William H. McCabe, S.J., President of the University, at the annual Founders' Day dinner, December 5, at the Hotel Fontenelle. Principal speaker of the evening was the Very Rev. Edward J. O'Donnell, S.J., president of Marquette University, Milwaukee. Physicians honored were: Dr. James A. Borghoff, professor of Dermatology; Dr. James W. Martin, professor of Orthopedic Surgery; Dr. Arthur J. Offerman, associate professor in Surgery; Dr. Louis D. McGuire, associate professor of Surgery; Dr. Wm. H. Schmitz, associate professor in Urology; Dr. John G. Chaloupka, instructor in Medicine.

CLINICAL GROUP ELECTS

Dr. Louis E. Moon, Omaha surgeon, was installed as president of the Omaha-Mid-West Clinical Society at the annual meeting, November 30, in Omaha. New President-elect is Dr. Alfred Brown; Dr. J. D. McCarthy was re-elected counselor and Dr. Donald J. Wilson director of clinics. These officers, with Mrs. Maurice C. Howard, Earl A. Connolly, J. Perry Tollman and Warren Thompson, comprise the executive committee. Dr. B. Carl Russum was appointed editor of the Journal of the society. Dates of the 1950 meeting will be October 23-27, in Omaha.

ACHA PLANS WORKSHOP

The first workshop in preceptor training under the newly expanded program of the American College of Hospital Administrators will be held December 18 to 20 at the University of Minnesota Continuation School, Minneapolis, Mr. Dean Conley, Executive Secretary, has announced. Purpose of the workshop is to develop a program for hospital administrators interested in taking graduate students in hospital administration for residence periods.

WITH THE BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD PLANS IN NEBRASKA

As another step forward to make BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD benefits available to the largest number of people, governing boards of the two organizations have authorized the issuance of a Non-Group Member contract, which may be offered to any one not eligible for group enrollment. The same identical benefits apply on the Non-Group policy as on the Group Policy, but at a slightly higher premium structure. The new type of contract will be offered until January 31, 1950 only.

John W. Castelucci, field assistant of the Associated Medical Care Plans, Chicago, addressed a one-day gathering of 50 members of the Blue Shield Liaison Committee, at the Paxton Hotel, Omaha, upon the promotion of Blue Shield contracts.

WANTED:

WANTED: Capable Nurse-Superintendent for new 20-bed out-state hospital, soon to open. Write BOX 10, c/o NHNEWS.

FOR SALE:

FOR SALE: Copper and stone bed-warming "Pigs" - also flesh-colored plastic eye-shield, elastic cord. Cheap. Sample on request. St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha.

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