



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

St Martha's Hospital 1951 Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Source: Archives of the Sisters of St. Martha

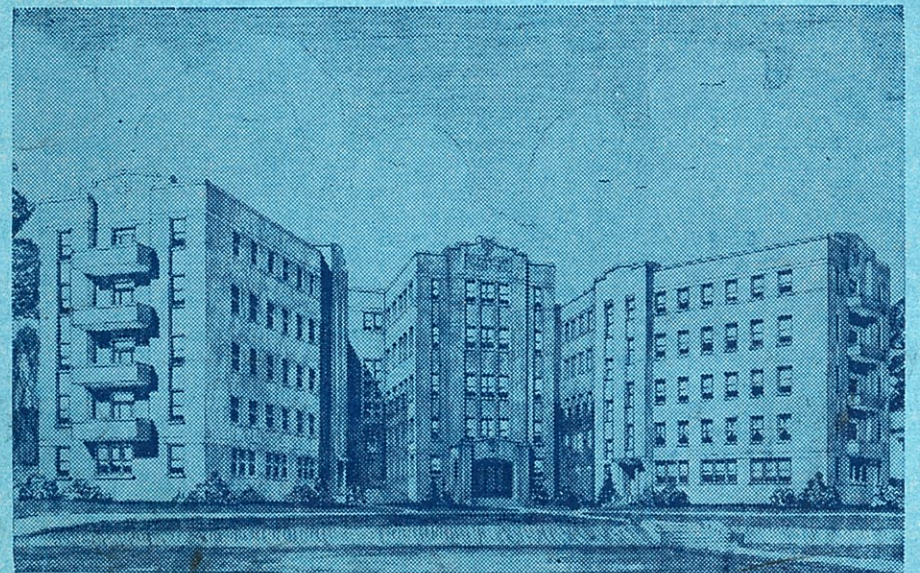
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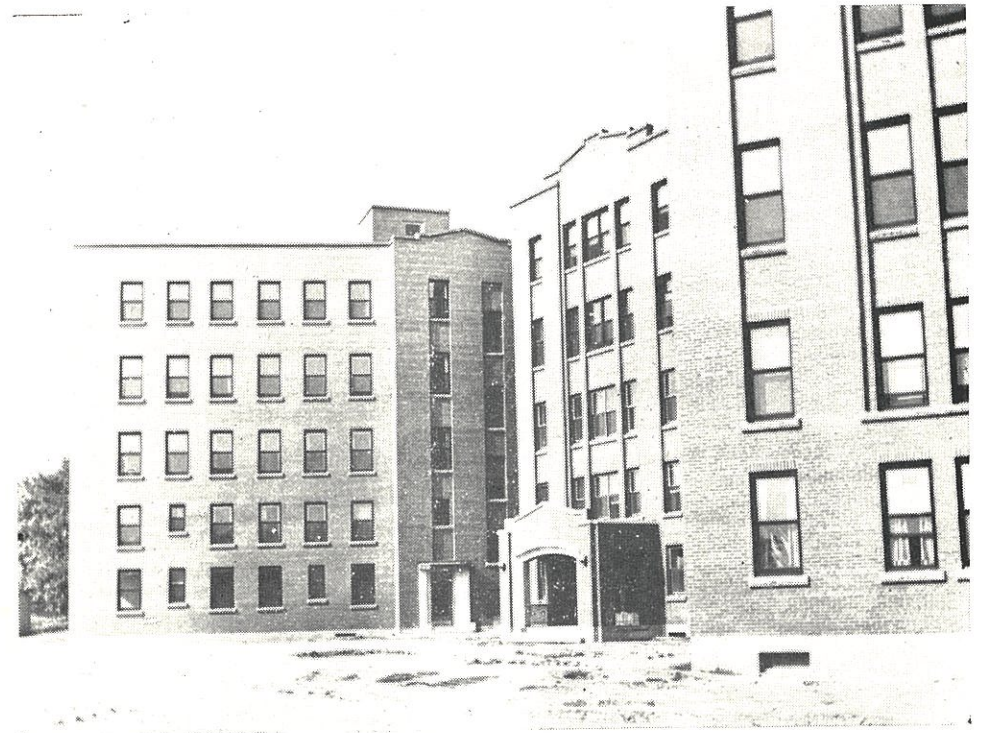
St. Martha's
Hospital



1951



Sister Jane Mary Boyle



St. Martha's Hospital

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Approved By

American College of Surgeons
Dalhousie University for Internes

Member of

American Hospital Association
Maritime Hospital Association
Catholic Hospital Association
of United States and Canada
Blue Cross Plan

The Story In Brief

- 1906 — St. Martha's Hospital opened a small cottage on St. Ninian Street in Antigonish.
- 1907 — The Harris property was purchased and the fine residence was used for the accommodation of patients.
- 1912 — A wing was added to the hospital giving accommodation to forty patients.
- 1914 — The Bernasconi property, now known as the "Hawthorne House" was purchased and used to relieve the hospital of its congested conditions.
- 1918 — A cottage was built to the rear of the hospital for the accommodation of student nurses.
- 1922 — St. Martha's Hospital was examined by a representative of the American College of Surgeons and was found prepared to meet the requirements for standardization.
- 1925 — A new building with a hundred and twenty-five bed capacity was erected and modernly equipped.
- 1926 — The School of Nursing affiliated with the University of St. Francis Xavier.
- 1932 — The Tuberculosis Unit was built and equipped by the Provincial Government.
- 1937 — The unit which comprises the power house and laundry was erected.
- 1951 — Three new wings were added to the hospital giving an additional hundred bed capacity, and extending its services.

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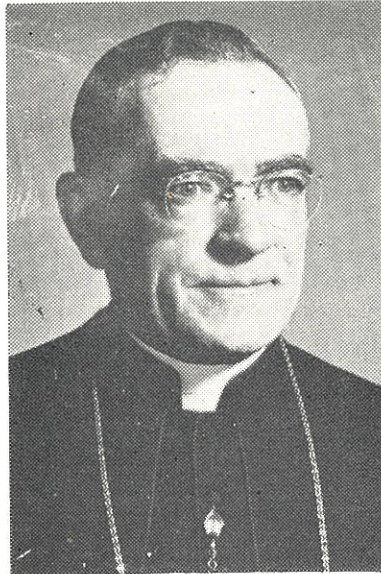
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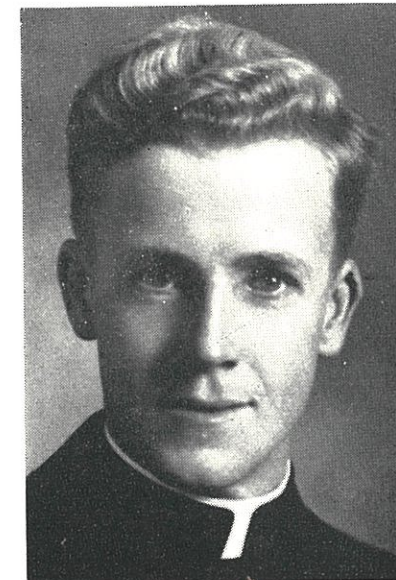
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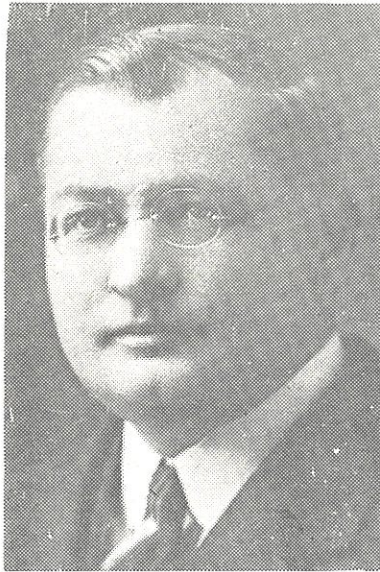
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St. Martha's Hospital

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Dr. R. C. Griffin

Dr. R. H. Fraser, E. E. N & T. Spec.

Dr. C. N. MacIntosh

Dr. R. C. Fraser, Anaesthetist.

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Dr. H. D. Knodell

Dr. G. L. Silver

Dr. R. Sers

Dr. J. H. Robbins

Dr. G. M. Fraser

OFFICES

The Doctors' Offices are located on the Ground Floor in the West Wing. Each office has its own Examining and Waiting Room.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Offices for the use of the Public Health Department are also located on the Ground Floor in the West Wing.

St. Martha's Hospital

Administration

The Administrative Offices are located on the first floor of the centre wing. These include the offices of the Administrator, the Accountant, the Treasurer, the Admitting clerk, and the general office staff. The switch-board is also located in this area.

The Chief Administrator Officer is Sister Paul of the Cross, a member of the American College of Administrators, who has had ten years experience in hospital administration.

The Assistant Administrator is Sister Mary Joseph, who has had six years experience in administration and eighteen years in general office work. She is also the hospital treasurer.

Sister Baptista Maria is the Purchasing Agent and General Stores' Manager. Sister has considerable experience in purchasing and in various hospital activities, and has filled the above position for the past two years. The Purchasing Office is located in the West Wing on the first floor of the old building.

Mr. S. J. Bradshaw is our Chief Accountant. Mr. Bradshaw has wide experience in accounting, and has served faithfully in this capacity for the past seven years.

Sister Patricia Marie, who joined our staff a year ago is in charge of the Admitting Office.

Miss Carmel Sears has been on the General Office Staff during the past five years, and has rendered valuable service in this department. She also assists the Accountant.

At the present time the Misses Betty McLeod and Ruth Mason are the Switchboard Operators.

Medical Records Department

The Medical Records Office is located on the first floor. In this department are filed the completed records of the patients. From the filed records, statistical information is drawn for Local, Provincial and Federal purposes. In addition to this, the completed record provides the physician with a valuable source of information in research studies directed towards better medical care.

Sister M. Mercedes, Registered Medical Record Librarian, who is also a registered nurse, has been Medical Records Librarian at St. Martha's for six years. Miss Cecilia McNeil has assisted Sister M. Mercedes in this department for the past five years.

Sister M. Raymond has also been assisting in the work of the Records Department for the past two years, by transcribing patients' medical histories. The doctors record such information on the Ediphone from whence it is transferred to their permanent record by Sister M. Raymond.

Clinical Laboratory

The Clinical Laboratory is located in the north-west wing of the old building. It formerly occupied only one half of this wing, the delivery and labor rooms being located in the other half. Provision has been made in the new wing for all the obstetrical work, and this additional space has been assigned to a much needed expansion to the clinical laboratory.

This department is under the direction of Dr. O. C. MacIntosh, who received his Post-Graduate Pathology course in the far-famed Banting Institute, Toronto. He is a certified Pathologist of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a charter member of the Canadian Association of Pathologists.

This department is equipped for chemical, bacteriological, hematological, and histological examinations. It is staffed by two registered technicians, Miss Janet Gillis and Miss Ruth MacDonald.

The Clinical Laboratory Department is approved by the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists for the training of technicians. It is one of the three laboratories in Nova Scotia to achieve this distinction.

Parenteral Therapy

Parenteral Therapy, a sub-department of the clinical laboratory, is under the same director and located in the same area. The administration of all blood transfusions and other forms of intravenous therapy is under the direction of this department. Miss Myrtle MacLeod, R. N., a well qualified and experienced nurse is in charge. Approximately twenty-seven hundred intravenous injections are given annually.

Department of Roentgenology

The Department of Roentgenology, also under the direction of Dr. O. C. MacIntosh, is located on the fourth floor of the west wing in the old building. Dr. MacIntosh is an associate member of the Canadian Society of Roentgenologists, and received his post-graduate training under the direction of Dr. Kreager of the Toronto Western Hospital.

This department is equipped for all phases of diagnostic roentgenology, and also for superficial X-ray therapy. Approximately six thousand X-ray film examinations are performed yearly.

Sister M. Rosalina, a registered technician, has been on the staff of this department for the past eight years. Two students are at the present time qualifying for registration as technicians.

Medical Nursing Department

The Medical Nursing Department is located on the second floor with a seventy bed capacity, including an isolation unit.

Mrs. M. B. MacNeil, who graduated from St. Martha's Hospital in 1928, is the supervisor of this department. Mrs. MacNeil served in this capacity for two years following graduation and in 1948 resumed the position which she has since capably filled.

Assisting the supervisor is Miss Anne M. MacDougall, R. N. and Miss Marguerite MacLellan, R. N., both graduates of St. Martha's School of Nursing and well qualified for their work. These graduate nurses are responsible to some extent for the guidance and direction of the clinical experience of the students, in cooperation with the clinical instructor.

Charles Boudreau, Orderly, who has been on the staff of St. Martha's for the past twelve years, gives service in this capacity on both the medical and surgical division.

A Clinical Conference Room for the instructing of student nurses is also located in the Medical Department.



SEMI-PRIVATE WARD



WARD

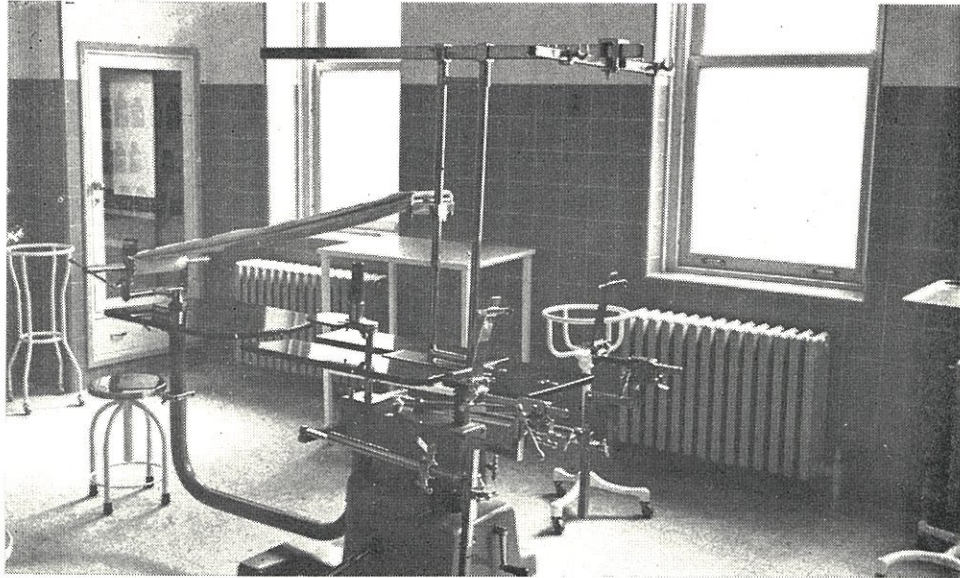
Pediatric Department

The Pediatric Department is located on the third floor—centre wing. This department, newly renovated and enlarged upon, which constitutes a complete unit in itself, has a bed capacity of twenty-six. In this total, accommodation is provided for contagious as well as non-contagious cases. The Unit arranged in cubicles is designed to care for children twelve years of age and under, including sick infants.

This department is under the capable supervision of Miss Iona Shaffner, R. N., a 1945 graduate of St. Martha's. Miss Shaffner is well qualified for her position, having taken a post-graduate course in the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, and during the term 1950-51 studied at McGill University, Montreal, taking a course in Teaching and Supervision, majoring in Pediatrics. She is totally responsible for the clinical and theoretical education of the student nurses during the course of their experience in this department.

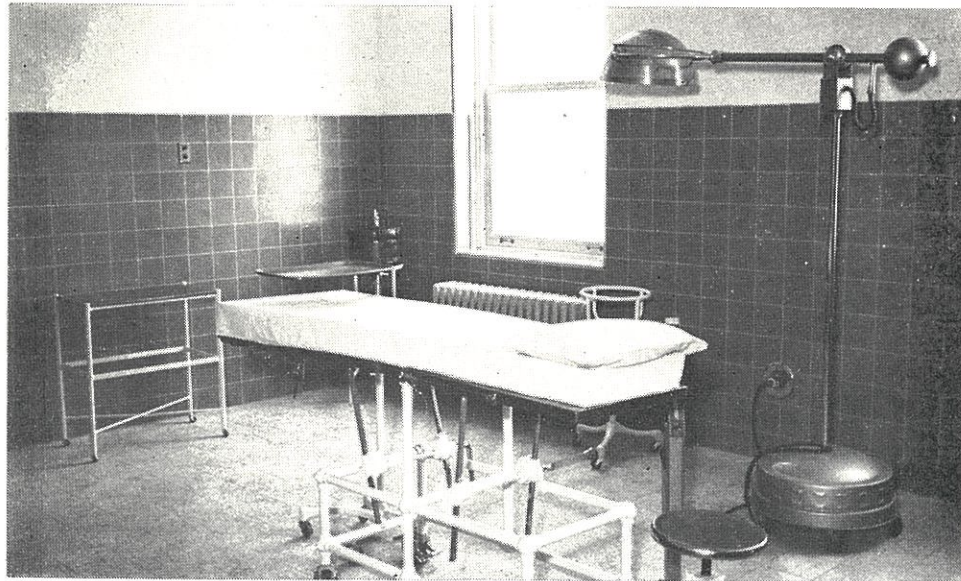
The Operating Room Suite

The new surgical set-up is located on the fourth floor in the centre wing. It is electrically grounded and completely equipped to meet all surgical needs and emergencies. Here we find the Orthopedic Room equipped with an Abbee-Comper fracture table which will take care of any type of fracture, and an X-ray viewing box to facilitate the surgeon in treating open or closed fracture cases.



ORTHOPEdic ROOM

Close by is the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Room which is furnished with a surgical table and all the appliances necessary for this specialized type of surgery.



EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT ROOM

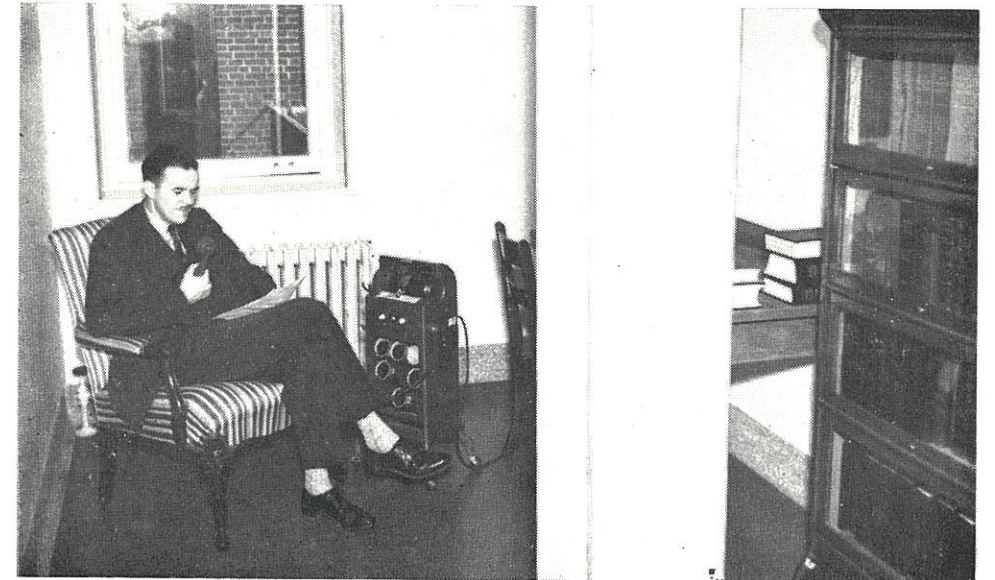
Located in the Surgical Unit is the Recovery Room, equipped with oxygen wall suction, and individual post-operative appliances. It is a spacious room furnished with three beds, each screened off to facilitate privacy for each patient.



RECOVERY ROOM

This Unit will prove of great value to the patients while recovering from an anaesthesia, as it will afford constant care and observation, thus minimizing immediate post-operative complications. The patients are taken back to their respective rooms only when fully recovered.

The Major and Minor Operating Rooms are located in the old building adjacent to the new surgical wing and are completely equipped to meet all surgical requirements.



THE DOCTOR'S LIBRARY

The Doctor's Library is also located in the Operating Room suite comprising the latest books in surgical and medical procedure. A dictaphone is available here, so that the surgeon after each operation may record the operative report concerning the patient.

The Surgical Unit is under the management of Sister M. Etheldreda, R. N., a graduate of St. Martha's with a post graduate course in operating room technique and management from St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. Sister has had fourteen years experience in operating room management.

Surgical Nursing Department

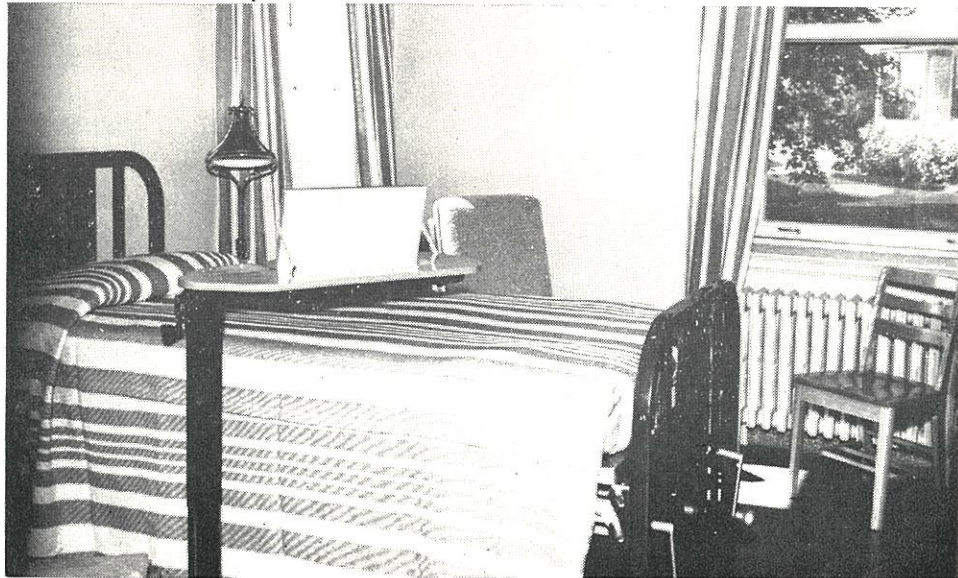
The east and west wings of the third floor constitute the surgical nursing facilities with a seventy bed capacity. There is also a clinical conference room for the instruction of the student nurses in this department. The department is supervised alternately day and night by Sister M. Annette and Sister Veronica Maria.

Sister M. Annette, R. N., graduated from St. Martha's School of Nursing in 1934, and has a wealth of experience in clinical supervision, having served in this capacity in different hospitals for seventeen years both in eastern and western Canada.

Sister Veronica Maria, a graduate of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Glace Bay, 1940, is also well qualified by experience in this field. Sister has supervised at St. Martha's for three years and has had four years experience in other hospitals.

Assisting the supervisor is Miss Moira L. McCarthy, R. N., and Miss Christine Tompkins, R. N., also graduates of St. Martha's, who are rendering efficient service.

These graduate nurses assist in the supervision of the surgical unit and also participate to some extent in the guidance and direction of the clinical experience of the students in cooperation with the clinical instructor.



PRIVATE ROOM

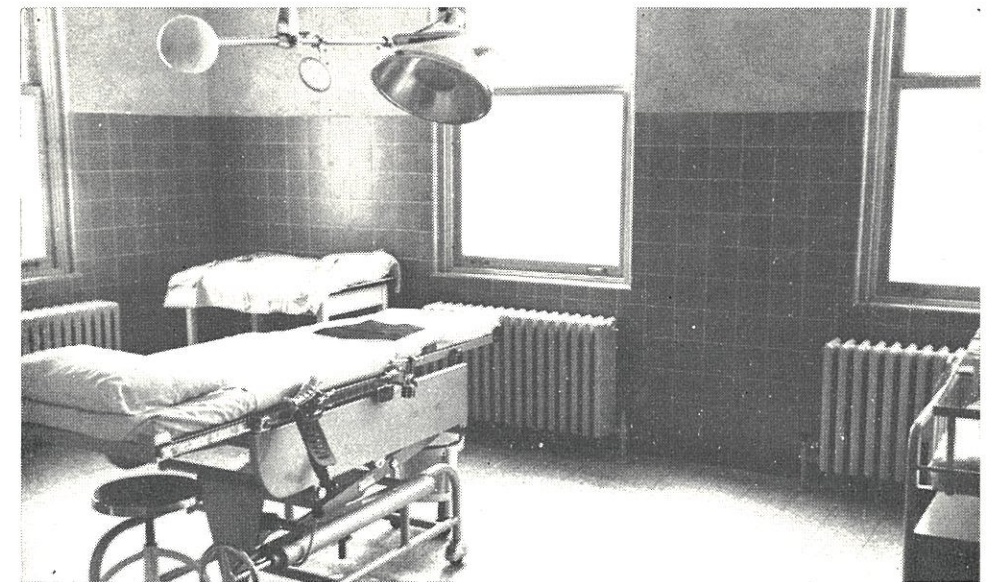
Central Supply Room

An important part of the surgical nursing service is the sterilization of all materials and equipment used in surgical dressings and in the giving of treatments. This responsibility is carried by the Central Supply Room, located on Second Floor—just left of the centre wing. Non-sterile and contaminated materials and equipment are delivered to the department through one entrance; sterile supplies are received from the department through another.

Sister Joseph Andrew, R.N., a 1944 graduate of St. Martha's School of Nursing has been in charge of the central supply room for the past seven years. Sister has had a special course in this particular line of work at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

The Obstetrical Department

Second to none—is the new Obstetrical Department located in the East wing of the fourth floor. At the extreme end of the new wing are two delivery rooms, spacious, well-lighted and well-equipped with modern conveniences. Close to the delivery rooms are two labor rooms with adjacent lavatory. The general nursery is on the east side and includes a work room and examining room. Included in this unit is a nursery for premature babies and also a suspect nursery. A room for the preparation of formulas, planned and equipped for the cleansing and sterilization of feeding bottles and utensils, completes this unit.



DELIVERY ROOM

An important feature of the Obstetrical Department is the piped oxygen supply available in both delivery rooms and nurseries.

Supervisor of the obstetrical department is Miss Mary Augusta Floyd, R. N. who has completed a post-graduate course in obstetrics at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. The clinical instructress is Miss Anne MacDougall, R. N., who has taken a post-graduate course in obstetrics in the Boston Lying-In Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Physiotherapy Department

The Physiotherapy Department is located in the west wing on the first floor of the old building. The forms of treatment offered by this branch of medical science in properly selected cases, hasten convalescence, shorten the patient's stay in the hospital and improve end results.

This department is equipped for hydrotherapy treatments as well as with ultra and infra red lamps, inductothermy and diathermy machines for applying heat treatments.

Sister M. Dolorosa, R. N., a physiotherapist with years of experience is in charge of the department.

Out-Patient Department

A small emergency Out-Patient Department is located on first floor—West Wing. Immediate needs of patients who do not require hospitalization are taken care of in this department; minor accidents; application and removal of casts; suturing of cuts; physical examinations; etc. If the condition of the patient requires further investigation or treatment, all the facilities of the hospital are at the disposal of the medical staff to insure efficient care of the patient.

Miss Vera MacKinnon, a graduate of St. Martha's Hospital School of Nursing is in charge of the Out-Patient Department. Miss MacKinnon who has many years of wide and varied experience, has given faithful service to St. Martha's throughout her entire nursing career.

Cardiology

Located adjacent to the Out-Patient Department is the Cardiology Room. This department is also under the supervision of Miss MacKinnon.

Dental Service

This department has been organized only during the past year and comprises all the dentists of the town. Dr. Ronan is President, and Dr. MacLellan, Secretary. The organization has its own By-Laws and Regulations and its members meet bi-monthly.

In the near future a Dental Room will be set up on the first floor opposite the Out-Patient Department, with a recovery room located nearby for the benefit of patients who may be recovering from the effects of anaesthesia.

Pharmacy

The Pharmacy occupies two spacious rooms on the second floor, centre wing of the old building. It has the essential equipment and is well-lighted and ventilated. An average of fourteen thousand prescriptions are filled here each year.

The department is in charge of Sister John Bosco, who has a B. Sc. degree from St. Francis Xavier University and a three-year Pharmacy Course from Dalhousie University.

The Pharmacist's activities are definitely recognized as a major factor in the efficiency of hospital routine.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing Office is located on the first floor of the West Wing, in the old building. The Administration of the School of Nursing and of the Nursing Service is under the direction of Sister Mary of Calvary, who has her B. Sc. degree in Nursing from St. Francis Xavier University and M. Sc. in Nursing Education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. Sister has been at St. Martha's the past eleven years.

Sister Claire Marie, Director of Nursing Education, has a B. Sc. degree from St. Francis Xavier University and a M. Sc. degree in Nursing Education from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. Sister has been at St. Martha's for eight years.

Sister M. Jovita, Nursing Arts Instructor, contributes a great share to the educational program of the School. Sister has a wealth of experience as Administrator and Instructor, having filled these positions almost continuously for the past forty years.

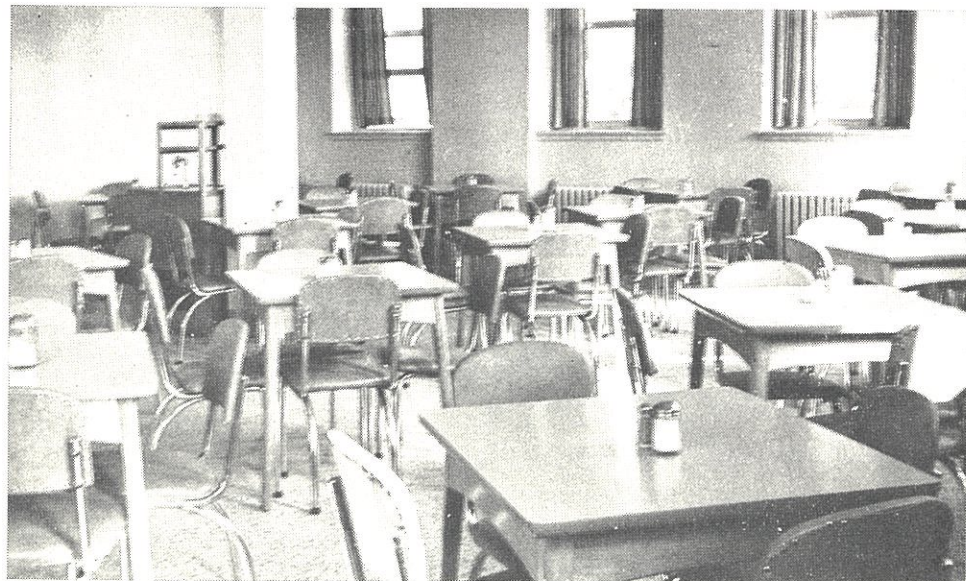
Additional members of the Faculty are the Clinical Instructors in the various departments: Surgical, Pediatric and Obstetrical. These instructors carry a dual role, functioning both as nursing service and as nursing educational personnel. Reference has already been made to these staff members in the description of their specific nursing service departments.

Dietary Department

The Dietary Department is comprised of the Central Service, which provides meal service for the patients, and the Cafeteria, which gives similar service to the personnel. The Central Service section of the department is located in the East Wing of the first floor; the Cafeteria is directly below it on the ground floor. The Department is under the supervision of Sister Marie Monica who holds a B.Sc. degree in Home Economics from St. F. X. and who has followed a post-graduate Dietitian's Course at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Sister Monica has been dietitian at St. Martha's for the past eleven years. Assisting in the serving and distribution of trays to the patients is Sister M. Francesca, who joined our staff within the past year.

The management of the Culinary Department is under the capable supervision of Sister Miriam Carmelita who has had eight years of valuable experience.

A very important member of this Staff is our Chef, Leon Theriault, who has been with us for twelve years. His assistant is Joseph Cote, who has served in this capacity for over two years.



DINING ROOM

The preparation of desserts is the responsibility of Miss Eleanor Bond, who has been on the staff of the Dietary Department rendering excellent service for six years.

Additional personnel who have given us faithful service in this department for many years, includes the Misses Evelyn Hudson, Doris Mason, Elizabeth Mason, Joyce Taylor, Tena Kaiser and Mrs. Foley (nee Mary Farrell). Recently added to the staff, are Misses Alice Dort, Margaret Chisholm, Mamie Chisholm and Janet Doucette, whose services are much appreciated.



THE CAFETERIA

The Cafeteria service is under the direction of Sister M. Cabrini, who is assisted by the Misses Alice Fogarty, Violet LeBlanc and Mary Jane Murphy. The equipment of the Cafeteria is centrally located so that service is given promptly and efficiently to the student nurses and personnel as they file to their respective dining rooms.

The Maintenance Department

The maintenance department comprises several units, all essential cogs in the wheel of service.

ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING—Mr. E. Oicle, Chief Engineer, has held this position at St. Martha's during the past twenty-five years. Mr. James Macdonald, Assistant Engineer, has served in this capacity for fifteen years. All electrical and plumbing fixtures are kept in repair by this department and also the mechanical apparatus which so frequently needs attention.

HEAT & STEAM—The boiler room located adjacent to the laundry contains two large furnaces equipped with stokers, steam valves and piping. Through this department, steam and heat are provided for the entire hospital plant including the Nurses' Residence and the Sanatorium. Three firemen are responsible for keeping the furnaces in operation over the twenty-four hour period. Mr. Edmund Rogers and Mr. Lawrence Snook has served here for seven years and Mr. William Ash for six years.

CARPENTRY—Mr. J. DeWolfe, Carpenter has given efficient service in carpentry and general repair during the past seven years. Assisting in this unit is Mr. Thompson, Painter, who recently joined the staff.

TRUCKING—An important figure on the premises is Mr. Alex Sam MacPherson, Truckman, who has been on the staff for seven years.

JANITOR—Another member of the staff who has given faithful service over a long period is Mr. Stephen Bellfontaine, the janitor. He has served in this capacity during the past twenty-three years.

Laundry Department

The Laundry Department is located north of the hospital in a separate building and connected with it by an underground tunnel. This department is equipped with two washers, a tumbler, dryer, mangle, and two steam presses. It plays an important role in service to the patients and personnel.

The laundry is under the capable management of Sister M. Hilda. The washers are operated by Mr. William Ryan who has given splendid service during the past six years. The additional pieces of intricate machinery are operated by a staff of workers under the direction of Sister M. Hilda.

The Housekeeping Department

This department is under the direction of Sister Dorothy Louise, who supervises and directs the personnel who are responsible for the cleanliness of the hospital. Those who have been thus engaged for some time are the Misses Doris Myette, Evelyn LeBlanc, Frances Mason, Dorothy Smith, Joyce Taylor, Beatrice Quirk, Mary Wells, Eva Goyetche, and Lydia Farrell—all of whom are giving splendid service.

A recent arrival is Clarence LeBlanc, who is doing janitor work, and who gives promise of becoming an asset to this department.

Sewing Department

The Sewing Department provides the bed linen for the Hospital and Nurses' Residence, as well as keeping it in repair. In addition to this tremendous task, all sewn supplies for hospital and household use are prepared in this department.

Sister M. Loyola is in charge of the Department and is assisted by Mother M. Stanislaus. Miss Eileen DeCoffe is also an assistant seamstress, having been on the staff of the Sewing Department for over a year.

The Sanatorium

The Sanatorium for the treatment and care of patients suffering from tuberculosis is located in a separate building connected to the main hospital by a passageway. It has a capacity of forty-six beds and is equipped to meet the needs of the patients.

Sister Maria of Perpetual Help, who has been in charge of this unit for a number of years, has been replaced this year by Sister M. Imelda, R. N. a graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay who has had many years of nursing experience. Sister is assisted by Sister Leo Agnes.

Miss Ann Buchanan, R. N., Mrs. A. Tutty, R. N., and Mrs. C. F. Gorman, R. N. have given faithful service over a number of years. Nurse-aides who have been some time on the staff are the Misses Marguerite Wheaton, Marcia MacNeil, Dorothy MacIntyre and Evangeline MacNeil. Additional staff who have spent a number of years on the staff are, Sam Hartling, and the Misses Cecilia Power, Martha Deon, Bernice Gallagher, Evelyn Cormier and Ann Benoit.

The Sanatorium is also equipped with a Patient's Radio-Program Distribution Service. Each patient is provided with individual earphones. This system is also used for educational programs such as public addresses, instructions to the patients and for various other activities.

The Patient's Library

Bacon has said: "Reading maketh the full man." The importance of a library for the use of patients in a hospital cannot be too greatly emphasized. More and more is there a growing awareness of the therapeutic value of reading in this business of curing the "genus homo" and restoring him to normal life and occupation.

Selected reading for the hospital patient can serve as an escape from worry sometimes, even, from the physical discomfort of pain. It serves, too, to lessen the emotional disturbance which is created by illness and often aggravated by hospitalization. It can be a mental rehabilitation—opening up new avenues of thought, introducing novel and varied interests, creating a diversion of mind which in many cases plays its part in the cure of the body. The problem of finding time to read is automatically solved for the hospital patient—time is the one thing of which he has plenty, and if a hospital library does nothing more than while away the weary hours which are the legacy of the sick, then it assumes the role of an essential and worthwhile department.

Dr. L. O. Bradley, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Hospital Council, has this to say of reading service for the patient:

"Hospital library service meets an important patient need and no progressive hospital which has a good patients' library service would be without one. The patient's reading exerts a therapeutic effect on his mind when it is diverted from his medical condition."

St. Martha's Hospital has had a library for the free use of the patients since 1940. Starting with a nucleus of 300 volumes, it now numbers over 1000 and covers a range of subjects—arts, science, labor, religion, economics, biography, practical volumes on gardening and photography and a host of other subjects. The ever popular fiction fills the major part of our shelves. A book truck makes its daily rounds of the rooms and wards and enables the patient to make his own selection of reading. By whom is this reading supplied? Most of it is purchased by hospital funds,—an added burden to the ever increasing cost of medical and surgical care, yes—but we consider, a necessary one. And until some other source of revenue is found, St. Martha's will continue as best it can to contribute to the happiness and well-being of its patients by providing this service.

Sister M. Alphonsus has been the Librarian at St. Martha's Hospital for several years.

