



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. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon
50th Anniversary
1907-1957

Source: courtesy of
Service des archives et des collections
Soeurs de la Charité de Montréal « les Sœurs Grises »

Copyright: Public Domain

Digitized: August 2013



271.91
S149s

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

1907-1957

Imprimatur
April 23, 1957
† Francis J. Klein, D.D.
Bishop of Saskatoon



*Most Rev. F. J. Klein
Bishop of Saskatoon*

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

Anniversary
50

1907 - 1957

SASKATOON

SASKATCHEWAN

SOEURS GRISES
PROVINCE VILLE-MARIE

271.91
\$ 149 n

The Foundress

Spread across both Canada and the United States are a large number of hospitals and nursing homes owned and administered by the Institute of Sisters of Charity, Grey Nuns of Montreal. St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, is a member of this family of institutions devoted to the care of the sick—institutions which, if all assembled in one place, would make an imposing little city.

The foundress of this great order and its many institutions was a native Canadian, Madame D'Youville. Born at Varennes in 1701, she married young, bore six children, four of whom died, and was widowed in her thirtieth year. Madame D'Youville, with her two surviving sons destined to enter the priesthood, determined to devote the rest of her life to the care of the sick and afflicted. This she did, bearing great hardships and sufferings herself. When she died in 1771, she left behind the order which today flourishes all over this continent and which reveres her name.

In 1890 Mother D'Youville's cause for canonization was introduced at Rome. Venerable Mother D'Youville's virtues were proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on May 3, 1955 and her cause is continuing, helped by the prayers of her Sisters of Charity and many others.

3, 5/8

Introduction

A traffic bridge under construction across the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon more than a half century ago . . . Bridge workers falling sick with the dread typhoid . . . Sisters of Charity coming on the scene providentially and ministering to the suffering typhoid patients . . . The purchasing of a well-known landmark on the heights of Pleasant Hill and the opening of central Saskatchewan's first Catholic hospital . . .

These are the ingredients of the beginning of the story of St. Paul's Hospital, a story which has been unfolding for 50 years. Looking back on this occasion of the hospital's Golden Jubilee, it is readily seen that St. Paul's story is truly a golden one. From the very beginning it has had an invincible motive: "Omnia Vincit Caritas." Love—Christian love conquers all.

The Order

St. Paul's story, then, is part of a larger story—the story of the order of the Grey Nuns of Montreal and, more particularly, the order's pioneer endeavors in Canada's vast Northwest. Not many realize, perhaps, that the Grey Nuns first came to what is now the province of Saskatchewan nearly a century ago. A recent statement of the Saskatchewan Hospital's Association sums up the order's pioneer contribution in these words:

" . . . the credit for initiating the first stages of organized nursing and hospitalization on Saskatchewan soil must go to a small group of pioneer nuns. It was in the year 1860 that the Grey Nuns of Montreal, who had already penetrated to the west as far as St. Boniface in 1844, took up permanent residence at Ile a la Crosse. In 1907 the same order opened hospitals in Saskatoon and Regina . . ."

This is the context in which the stirring story of Saskatoon's St. Paul's Hospital belongs. The unusual beginning of that story—a beginning in which the working of Providence was evident—follows.

St. Paul's Founding

On Saturday afternoon, September 29, 1906, two Sisters of Charity knocked at the door of St. Paul's rectory in Saskatoon, then a newly-incorporated city of 6,000 souls. That knock—although the Sisters did not know it at the time—led to the founding of St. Paul's Hospital six months later and the beginning of a half century crowded with achievements.

Fr. H. Vachon



Fr. J. Paille



But first, let us go back a bit. The two religious were Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay, members of the order of Grey Nuns of Montreal, then in the Canadian Northwest soliciting alms on behalf of the order's establishments at St. Boniface. They had left the Battleford district by team and wagon on Tuesday, September 25, and when they arrived in Saskatoon on the last day of that week, they decided to stay over for Sunday Mass. They went directly to the rectory to pay their respects.

They must have been taken aback by the most enthusiastic welcome accorded them by Father Joseph Paille when he opened the rectory door in response to their knocking. But Father Paille's enthusiasm at the sight of two nursing Sisters was most understandable. Inside the rectory at that moment were a number of very sick typhoid patients. Father Paille assumed the Sisters had arrived in answer to an urgent appeal his superior, Father H. Vachon, had sent to Montreal, pleading with the Mother House to open a Grey Nuns hospital in Saskatoon.

His plea had followed the outbreak of a typhoid epidemic earlier that fall. The dread disease seems to have started among the workers employed in building the Grand Trunk Pacific railway bridge. The typhoid spread rapidly—despite everything the several competent physicians in Saskatoon could do—in part because of the lack of sewerage and the absence of any hospital accommodation except for a private nursing home. Early in September Father Vachon had admitted the first typhoid victim to the rectory and by the time the two Sisters arrived there were several patients housed there.

Of course, Sisters Phaneuf and Guay stayed over in the emergency; the Fathers, the doctors, the community as whole insisted that they should and they wanted to do so, even though it interrupted their alms-gathering. Dr. P. D. Stewart subsequently obtained permission from their provincial house at St. Boniface for them to stay indefinitely. And in the meantime, Father Vachon, with the doctors' backing, renewed his efforts to have a permanent Grey Nuns' hospital opened as soon as possible.



Sr. Guay



Sr. Phaneuf

By the time the two Sisters had nursed some three dozen patients under the most difficult conditions, and with the epidemic over, Saskatoon had a delegation en route to Montreal, headed by Father Vachon. There the delegation presented its case for a permanent hospital and soon after its return to Saskatoon it learned that its request had been granted.

On January 21, 1907, three Sisters—Sister St. Dosithee, the first superior; Sister Mailloux and Sister Blakely—left Montreal for Saskatoon to found the new hospital. Their train journey from St. Boniface to Saskatoon was marked by long delays, great discomfort and minor mishaps, but, fortunately, they arrived safely and, joining Sisters Phaneuf and Guay, began to make immediate arrangements to open a Grey Nuns' hospital.

In a short time, the order purchased the large Pleasant Hill residence of Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby and the Sisters hurried interior alterations for an early opening. That historic day was March 19, 1907, when the first two patients—both fracture cases—were admitted to the 17-bed residence-hospital.

Soon most of the beds were filled and as fast as one patient returned to normal activity in good health, another took his or her place. The Sisters, meanwhile, set to their many tasks with a will, undeterred by the lack of electricity, automatic heating, built-in sewer and water system—facilities deemed absolutely essential today.

Within the first month—on April 13, 1907, to be exact—the first operation was successfully performed at St. Paul's. On that same memorable day a telephone was installed.

In May, Sisters Phaneuf and Guay, justly beloved by the Saskatoon community, resumed their former duties where they had left off the previous September and returned to St. Boniface. In June, a large frame addition to the converted Willoughby residence was opened in order to accommodate the steadily increasing flow of patients.

The weeks and months hurried past. By the end of that first memorable year of 1907, the new hospital on Pleasant Hill had cared for some 340 patients, cared for them physically and spiritually—an augury of the service still to come to literally thousands of individuals and families in the years that were ahead.

A Living Link

St. Paul's Hospital's living link with its first modest beginnings is a devout and jolly native of Salem, Massachusetts. Her name is Sister St. Bridgit, s.g.m. Fifty years ago she was one of the pioneer Sisters who ministered to the sick at St. Paul's during its first historic months as a hospital. Today she is the same hospital's kindly and understanding spiritual aid, bringing solace and good cheer into the lives of many patients.

Coming to Montreal from Salem, Sister St. Bridgit entered the order of Grey Nuns in April, 1900. Less than three years later she was sent to St. Boniface to train as a nurse at the order's hospital there. Her training completed, and gifted in both English and French, she was sent with Sister Agnes on a canvassing mission into the great Northwest, travelling on the few rail lines which crossed what is now Saskatchewan.

In October, 1907, Sisters St. Bridgit and Agnes arrived at Saskatoon's St. Paul's, then in its sixth month as a hospital, where they joined Sisters St. Dosithee, St. Placide and Beauvais. The hospital at that time consisted of the converted Willoughby residence and an adjoining frame building.

Winter—the first winter season for the new hospital—was coming on. What was it like? The story is best told in Sister St. Bridgit's own words.

“There was nothing but prairie around us but I did admire the beauty of the winter. We were not on the waterworks then and so we did not have a water line, drainage or sewage. This meant many hardships in a small, crowded hospital. Everything was primitive and we had to do everything by hand, including large washings. Water was delivered by the barrel at \$1 for each barrel. Sometimes we did not have the money and sometimes after a heavy snow the delivery man could not reach us in time. Then we had to melt snow. Dr. Peterson and Dr. Croll used to shovel the snow into buckets for us and we would put it on to boil. They didn't think anything of it—any of the doctors. We were much encouraged by all of them; they were always kind and the spirit of co-operation was always there. They helped us persevere.”



What about the first Christmas—Christmas, 1907? Sister St. Bridgit recalls that “Billy”, the hospital's horse, was “harnessed up” and that the Sisters drove downtown to Midnight Mass at St. Paul's Church, near the present site of the Cathedral. She remembers Father Vachon preparing the altar for that Midnight Mass and how the Sisters had a late (or early) lunch on their return.

Typhoid is a particularly dread word for Sister. She recalls when there were as many as 35 typhoid patients at St. Paul's. At that time or on another occasion when there were a large number of typhoid sufferers needing constant care, the Sister Superior and another Sister fell ill to the same disease, as did the hospital's hired man and maid. Sisters St. Bridgit and St. Placide were left to carry on as best they could—taking care of the patients, their sick colleagues, their help, and also tending to the horse “Billy” and two precious milk cows. The two Sisters managed—thanks to God, their own hard work and unflagging spirit, and to the assistance given them by the doctors and others.

Sister St. Bridgit reveals a little known but important facet of St. Paul's story; one which illustrates that its history might have been very short indeed. Sometime in 1907 or 1908, she says, the Mother House decided that St. Paul's would have to be closed in a few weeks. The Sisters here were disappointed but, of course, fully prepared to obey. Nevertheless, they looked hopefully for a sign, some sign that they should remain. Almost within hours, a farmer suffering from a grievous wound was brought by wagon across country to St. Paul's. He was almost dead from loss of blood on arrival. The Sisters did what they could to relieve his suffering, having first called a priest who administered Extreme Unction, moments before the farmer died. Then the Sisters wired the Mother House that had they not been there a soul probably would have departed without the Last Sacraments. This was enough to convince the Mother House that St. Paul's already filled an indispensable place in the small prairie city of Saskatoon. So the hospital remained and grew and prospered.



Sr. St. Bridgit, s.g.m.

Sometime in 1908, Sister St. Bridgit was transferred to another Grey Nuns' hospital and in the next 46 years she gave her services in the order's institutions in such far-distant places as Ohio and New Hampshire, New Brunswick and Montreal. Then in July, 1954, she returned to St. Paul's.

On arrival, her admiration for all that had been accomplished in the intervening years was quite boundless. Now that she has been back nearly three years, she is still amazed. And she is profoundly grateful that Providence has allowed her—"a feeble instrument"—to play some part in the St. Paul's story. But she is happy to have others given the credit. She said:

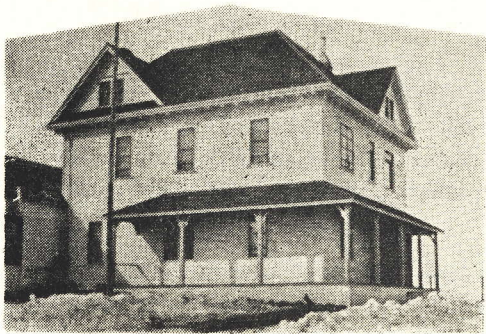
"As a humble voice of the past, I would like to pay a tribute of gratitude first to our Reverend Mothers who labored under countless difficulties and hardships to maintain this work. Also to all our doctors, past and present, who, from the first dollar given for a barrel of water, have never ceased to be generous and interested in making St. Paul's a hospital of friendly welcome to all."

Pioneer Doctors

It is interesting to note that just over one dozen medical doctors had taken up residence in Saskatoon by 1907, the year St. Paul's Hospital opened. The first M.D. had come in 1883, the year in which the first influx of settlers arrived at the new Temperance Colony along the South Saskatchewan river. He was Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby, who, however, concerned himself in the main with business pursuits other than medicine, since, it is said, the first colonists were "too healthy." Some time later Dr. Willoughby left Saskatoon, but he returned in 1900.

In June, 1902, Saskatoon's first full-time medical practitioner arrived in the person of Dr. Peter Donald Stewart. Others who followed in the next several years were Drs. S. Dickey, J. T. McKay, G. R. Peterson, H. E. Munroe, who later became Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, J. A. Valens, H. D. Weaver, Andrew Croll, H. A. Stewart, J. P. DesRosiers, A. MacGillivray Young, J. S. Brown, T. W. Walker, C. W. Doran, J. E. Bromley, G. A. Wright and A. B. MacKenzie.

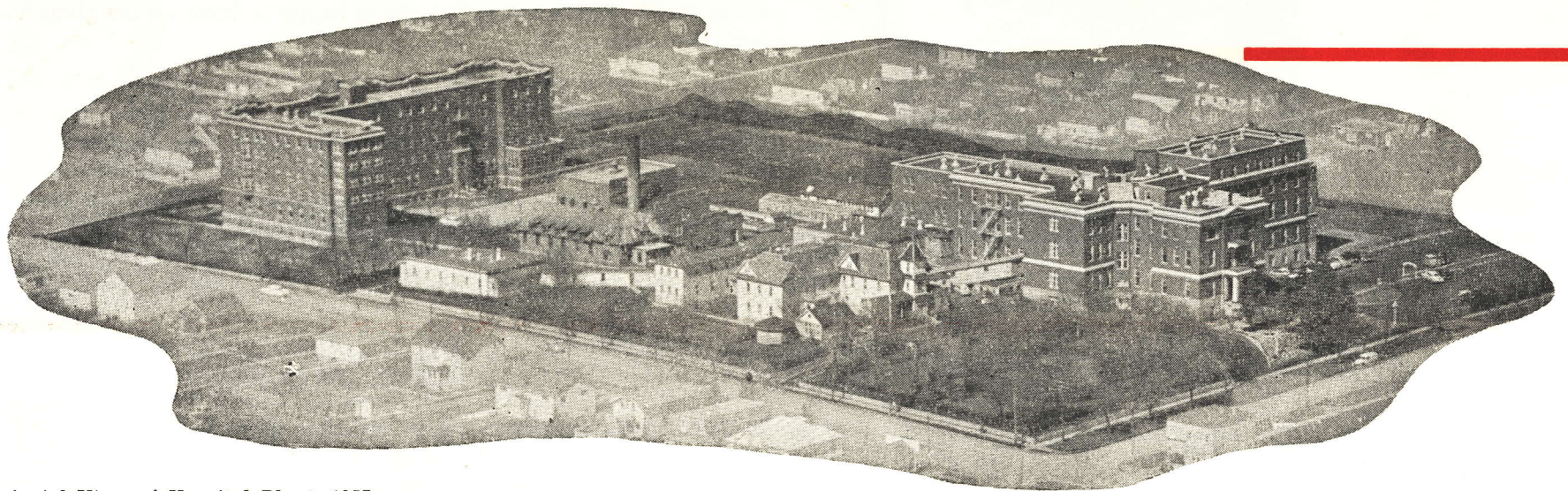
It has been observed that "these were the doctors who laid the foundation of the medical practice in the city and played a prominent role in the development of the city's two hospitals"—St. Paul's and City.



March 1907



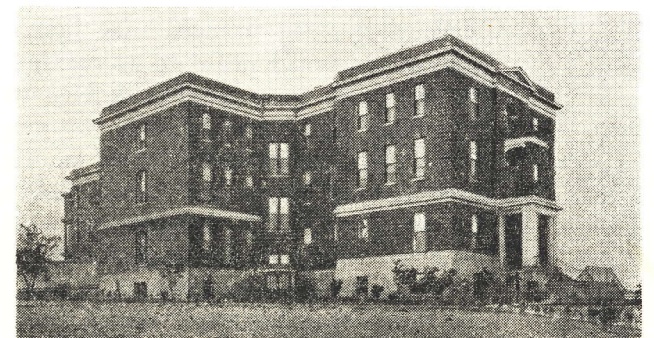
June 1907



Aerial View of Hospital Plant, 1957



1924



1912



Sr. St. Dosithee

Gentle Captains

The present superior of St. Paul's Hospital, soft-spoken, hard-working Sister Marie Laforce, s.g.m., is the seventeenth superior in the Catholic institution's half century. She came to St. Paul's last year from the General (Grey Nuns') Hospital in Edmonton, where she had been assistant superior, in order to succeed Sister Annette Lachance, s.g.m., who was transferred to St. Boniface.

The first superior was Sister St. Dosithee, who, with two other Sisters, came to Saskatoon in January, 1907, in order to join Sisters Guay and Phaneuf in opening a permanent Catholic hospital in the then small prairie city.

The superiors who followed in Sister St. Dosithee's footsteps over the years, up to the present holder of the important and onerous position, have been Srs. L. Dandurand, G. Duffin, St. Ligouri, A. Duckett, J. Weekes, Ste. Praxede, A. Casey, M. A. Fennel, M. Murphy, M. O'Grady, P. Vincent, L. Mansfield, A. Lachance (1947-50 and 1953-56), and B. Bezaire (1950-53).



Served and Serving



Rev. Mother
F. St. Croix, s.g.m.
Superior General



Rev. Mother
B. Dorais, s.g.m.
Provincial



Sr. L. Buckley, s.g.m.



Sr. M. Letarte, s.g.m.

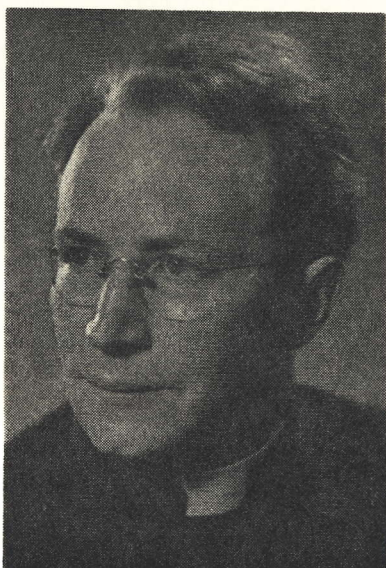


Sr. J. Longtin, s.g.m.

Following is a list of St. Paul's Hospital employees with 10 or more year's service as of May, 1957. Dates signify time employees came on staff.

Miss Phyllis Uchman, X-ray technician, October 12, 1930
Miss Helen Collins, pharmacist, September 1, 1932
Mrs. Hally McKay, supervisor-nurse, July 1, 1934
Mr. Reginald Cranstone, orderly, September 4, 1934
Mr. Steve Hnenny, chef, January 22, 1934
Mr. Frank Kelsey, engineer, October 25, 1936
Miss Mary O'Hara, O.R. supervisor-nurse, May 1, 1937
Mr. James Scott, orderly, November 13, 1939
Miss Lena Fix, aide-chapel, October 22, 1939.
Mrs. Jeannette Dinelle, seamstress, July 2, 1940
Mr. Ray David Adrian, engineer, August 2, 1942
Mr. John Ferre, orderly, November 17, 1942

Miss Eleanore Guittard, aide-kitchen, April 1, 1943
Mrs. Bertha Edwards, bookkeeper, January 7, 1944
Mrs. Elsie Hannon, cashier, June 6, 1944
Mr. Hugh McDonald, engineer, February 15, 1945
Miss Katie Kwas, aide-O.R., June 5, 1945
Miss Anne Harelklin, aide-O.R., November 26, 1945
Mr. Michael Monaghan, engineer, July 9, 1946
Mr. George Derrick, X-ray technician, August 12, 1946.
Mrs. Yvonne Saucier, medical librarian, January 27, 1947
Mr. Walter Hoscheit, painter, March 17, 1947
Mr. Joseph Simon, laundryman, May 8, 1947
Mr. John Sielsky, engineer, September 1, 1947
Mrs. Anne Pozniak, aide-kitchen, December 15, 1947



Fr. G. J. Redmond, C.Ss.R.



The Chapel

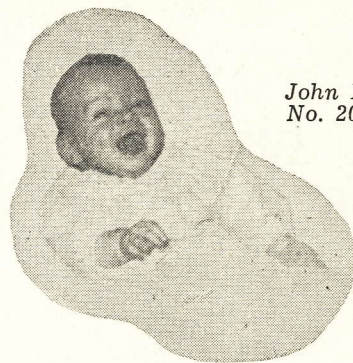
The real heart of St. Paul's Hospital, as with any Catholic hospital, is the chapel. The present chapel, a beautiful and quiet haven on the second floor capable of accommodating approximately 120 worshippers, was completed shortly before Christmas, 1924. Here, Mass is celebrated each day, as well as devotions, and here Sisters, staff, patients and visitors often retire for private prayer.

St. Paul's, of course, has had a chaplain since its origin. Father Joseph Paille, O.M.I., was the first chaplain. The present chaplain is Father G. J. Redmond, C.Ss.R., of St. Mary's parish.

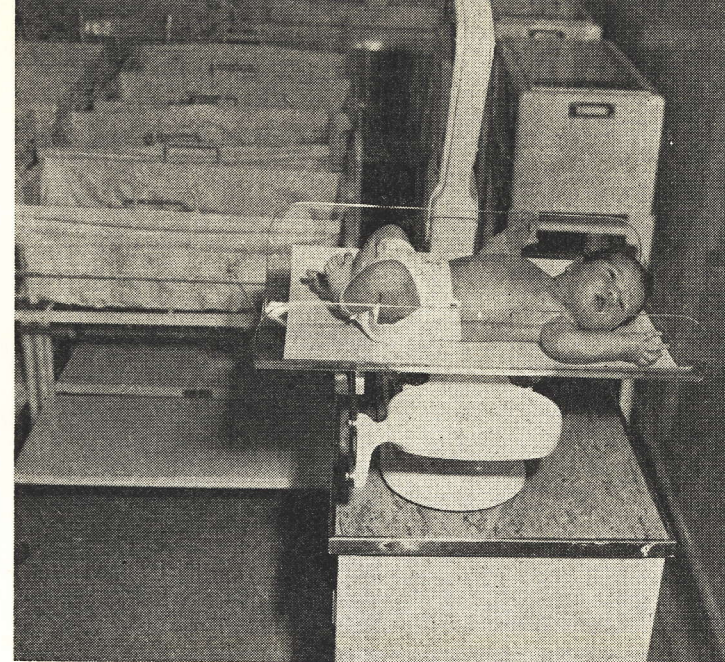
SŒURS GRIS
PROVINCE VILLE-MARIE



*Theresa Latour, First Baby Born
in Present Building*



*John Brian Gow
No. 20,000*



Weighing In

Maternity Department

Since St. Paul's Hospital in every way is concerned with human life, an account of the hospital's day-to-day patient-care activities should begin with the beginning of life itself. And that, of course, means beginning with the maternity department, the ward most familiar to thousands of married couples in central Saskatchewan.

Here in this busy ward three to four babies come into the world daily—some 1,000 to 1,200 a year. More than 22,000 newborns have been delivered since the hospital opened. Unfortunately, the identity of what is believed to have been the first baby born at St. Paul's is not known. That historic delivery took place on October 5, 1909, but the old records report only that the newborn was a girl. There is no doubt about the identity of the boy who had the distinction to be No. 20,000, however. He is John Brian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gow, 510 - 10th Street, East, Saskatoon. Master Gow was born on April 15, 1955, and presented a silver cup as a life-long memento of his contribution to St. Paul's story.

The obstetrical department has as personnel one Sister, eight graduate and five student nurses, three nurses' aids and one ward helper. There is accommodation for 24 patient-mothers and in the nursery are the same number of bassinets and six incubators. Modern equipment and strict aseptic techniques ensure mothers and offspring the best possible care. And in addition there are those little "extras" which count for so much with young mothers: twice each week a baby-bath demonstration, instructions in the preparation of formulas and other practical information. Prenatal talks are planned as soon as there is space available.

Children's Ward

The children's ward is a bright, cheerful spot where little Masters and Misses ranging from tiny newborns to strapping 12-year-olds go when in need of expert hospital and medical care. Anxious parents need not worry about their little loved ones when they are patients at St. Paul's children's ward. There each child receives skilled and considerate attention.

As many as 33 children can be accommodated here. Seven registered nurses are assigned to the department, along with 11 student nurses, two nursing assistants, three aids and one kitchen girl. Modern equipment includes two incubators and two croupettes with compressor machines, and, of course, there are books, toys and other playthings, and also radio and TV.



The Medical and Surgical Story

St. Paul's medical and surgical story dates back to the very day the Grey Nuns hospital opened on Pleasant Hill a half century ago. Indeed, the contributions made by the medical profession to St. Paul's began even before the hospital came into existence: Medical men had an important part to play in persuading the order to locate here, with Drs. P. D. and H. A. Stewart, G. R. Peterson and H. E. Munroe being particularly "instrumental" in 1907 in helping to secure a favorable answer from the Grey Nuns Mother House in Montreal.

Once the hospital opened in Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby's former residence, the medical profession co-operated with and assisted the Sisters in every respect, as they have done ever since.

One of the earliest milestones was passed on the hospital's 26th day—April 13, 1907. On that day the first operation was performed in St. Paul's—an operation which was a medical and an historical success. Dr. Andrew Croll, a pioneer doctor at St. Paul's, has written: "I believe I did the first surgical case in the converted home of Dr. Willoughby. That was a gastroenterostomy for duodenal ulcer. I also did an appendectomy. Both patients did well."

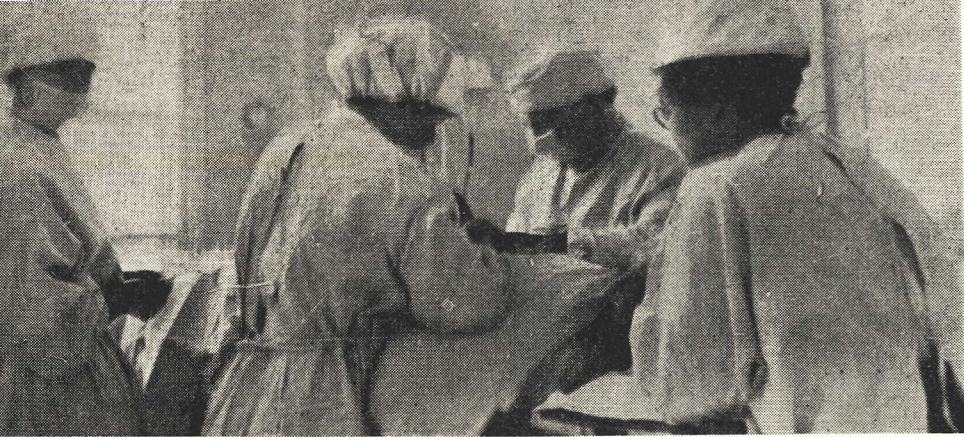
Space permits only a cursory review of the many achievements since then. It can rightfully be claimed that members of St. Paul's Hospital medical staff have been in the vanguard of progress. The records show many "firsts" in this province and beyond, which stand to the credit of many physicians and surgeons active in this hospital.

Surgery of the chest in the course of its modern development was introduced by the late Dr. R. H. MacDonald. The first lobectomy and later the first pneumonectomy were performed in this hospital—the first in Saskatchewan. As consultant surgeon to the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League, this field of surgery was extended by Dr. MacDonald to the treatment of tuberculosis of the lung and

other previously incurable conditions. At the time of his death Dr. MacDonald was Chief of Staff.

Amongst other "firsts", it is of historical interest that Electrocardiography was introduced at St. Paul's Hospital before this method was used elsewhere in the province. The first transurethral resection for prostatic obstruction in Saskatchewan was performed at St. Paul's by the late Dr. E. R. Myers, pioneer urologist. The present chief of urology is currently president of the Urological Society of Canada.

It is noteworthy that many significant contributions to medical literature were made by members of the staff. A "first" in Saskatchewan and the second in Canada is a publication on human Brucellosis (undulant fever). Incidentally, upon this discovery, the source of infection among several herds of cattle was traced by the provincial department of public health. The infection in humans and animals is now a rarity. A "first" in Canada was a report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal concerning a "tropical" type of bronchial infection. A "first" in the Western Hemisphere was the discovery of a hitherto unknown hereditary type of cyanosis or "Blue Blood" reported in medical literature by members of this staff. The authors claimed to be the first to describe this abnormality until a physician in Athens, Greece, informed them that their findings corresponded with a report he made a year earlier, and he proved priority in the publication of the description of the disease. Besides Greece, France and Canada, there are no published reports of this abnormality from any other countries so far. Another "first" in world medical literature is a report on a patient at St. Paul's with a form of brain disease with new glandular complications previously unknown; this was described in detail and published. Later two additional cases confirming the original observation were reported by Dr. J. S. Brown, former Chief of Pediatrics of the hospital, in collaboration with Dr. R. Altschul of the University of Saskatchewan, in papers published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. There are other important contributions on children's diseases and infant mortality.



First Operation, April 13, 1907

A member of St. Paul's Hospital interested in Cardiology was one of six delegates from Canada to attend the Premier Congrès Mondial de Cardiologie in Paris in 1950 and also represented the Canadian Heart Association in Buenos Aires in 1952, contributing to the scientific program in both places.

Last but not least, St. Paul's Hospital has been conscious of the new role of the modern family doctor or general practitioner. We can say of this aspect that a decline was seen and a rise was foreseen, to the end that for the first time in Canada a Section of General Practice was formally established in a fully accredited hospital, in addition to the traditional departments of medicine, surgery and other specialties.

Following an ancient custom, physicians still actively connected with their departments in the hospital are not mentioned by name in the above references. The roll call of all who departed and who did so much is a long one. The precedents set forth augur well for St. Paul's future share in the progress of medicine.

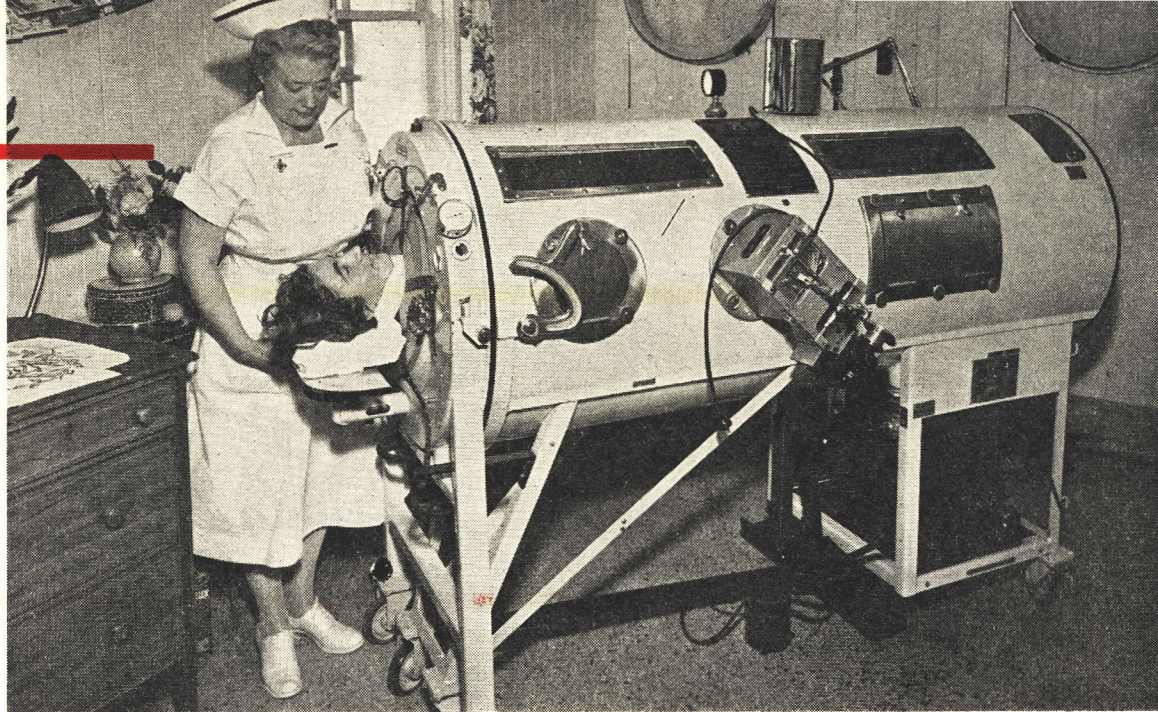
For a further account see pages 26-28.

"C. D. R."

More than 5,000 emergencies are handled at St. Paul's Hospital each year. The department assigned this formidable task is "C.D.R.", the central dressing room. But the reception and treatment of emergency cases is by no means all that this busy department undertakes. It is responsible for much else, as for example, the preparation of more than 3,000 dressings annually for both in-patients and out-patients. "C.D.R." also prepares all compresses and fomentations, administers all penicillin injections, prepares supplies and handles sterilization procedures for most wards, takes care of minor surgery and treatments and, finally, it is responsible for all regular out-patient services.

Such an onerous assignment calls for a large staff. The personnel include a supervisor, a clinical instructor, three head nurses, seven to 10 student nurses, and three ward aids.

More than half a dozen rooms are used by "C.D.R." The very large supply of high-standard equipment ranges from large machines to electric needle sharpeners.



The Polio Clinic

Expert medical and nursing care, and following that, rehabilitation treatments under the guidance of a physiotherapist, are available to patients who come to St. Paul's suffering from severe respiratory and bulbar-type polio. When patients are in the acute stages of the disease, they have constant special nursing care around the clock. One registered nurse as supervisor, six student nurses and six ward aids make up the personnel in this department where there is accommodation—including iron lungs and rocking beds—for 26 patients.

The polio clinic is in its fourteenth year as a separate entity in St. Paul's Hospital. Since 1943, the Grey Nuns hospital has been the major centre in the province which has provided ward, nursery and medical care for patients with poliomyelitis, with the first patient having been admitted to the new clinic on August 29 that year. At

that time St. Paul's Clinic was the only one in Saskatchewan.

At the height of the 1953 polio epidemic in this area, St. Paul's handled up to 36 polio patients at one time. As many as nine iron lungs were in use simultaneously. When the beds available in the ward were all occupied, additional polio patients for a brief time had to be placed in other beds, well separated from other patients.

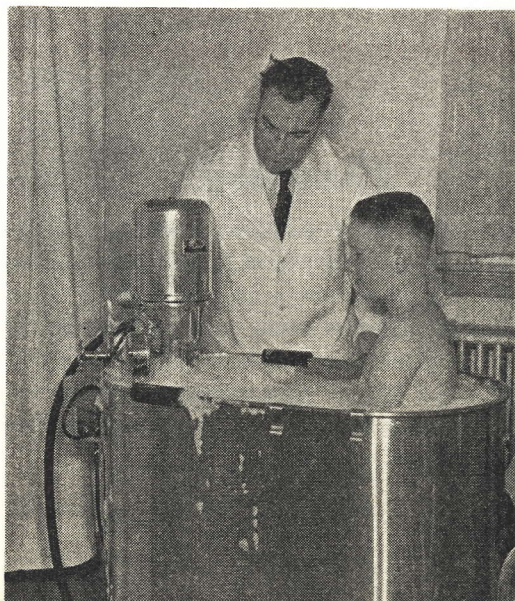
Since 1953, the department has made up some former equipment deficiencies and has added many new facilities, thanks to private donations, government assistance and aid from the March of Dimes. Today, as a result, the polio clinic boasts such things as specially-designed respirators and rocking beds, and as well, such material amenities for the patients as a TV set, a radio, magazines and treats—contributions made by different local clubs and societies.

For a further account see page 26.

Physiotherapy

More than 800 people each year take advantage of the treatment and modern facilities available in St. Paul's physiotherapy department. Physiotherapy is the treatment of disease and deformity, not by means of drugs and surgery, but through the use of heat, light and friction. Such things as wax baths, whirlpool baths, ultra-violet ray, low-voltage electrical current, massages, short-wave therapy and exercises are employed. All treatments in the department are prescribed and supervised by the physicians and surgeons attending St. Paul's, who work in close collaboration with the two physiotherapists in attendance.

The department has experienced a rapid growth since its establishment in a small basement room in 1946. Sister Jeanne Longtin, s.g.m., expertly guided the department's growth in its early stages until 1952. In order to meet the steadily-growing demands, six times the original space was provided so that 30 to 40 patients could be handled at once. Now, with two registered physiotherapists in charge, assisted by a ward aid, the department provides more than 15,000 in-patient and out-patient treatments each year, thus making a notable contribution to relief of suffering.

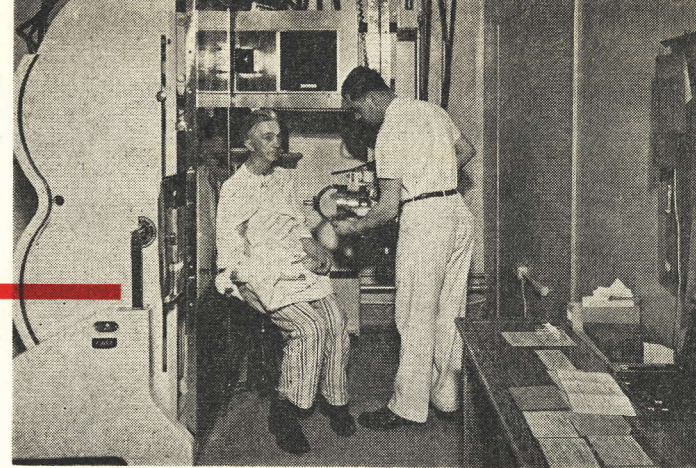


Radiology

As long ago as November, 1913, St. Paul's Hospital installed X-ray equipment. This promptness in keeping pace with modern medical and hospital developments has always been a distinguishing feature of St. Paul's in this as in its other departments. Records show that in 1924 the X-ray department was rearranged and that again in 1935 and 1936—despite the depression—expensive new equipment was installed. As recently as 1951 a costly addition was made to the department's facilities in the form of a new X-ray machine.

The radiological or X-ray department is an indispensable part of the modern hospital, providing both vital diagnostic and therapeutic services. Evidence of this is seen in the fact that the number of X-ray procedures at St. Paul's is increasing at a phenomenal rate year by year. As an instance, there were just over 25,000 X-rays given to in-and out-patients in 1954 and the year following there were well over 30,000, an increase of 5,000. Then in 1956 the number climbed to 41,279. Increases of this magnitude have been going on since the Second World War. The fact that chest X-rays are taken of every patient coming to St. Paul's—a contribution to the province's war on tuberculosis—helps account for the very large volume of work done in this department by one radiologist and two registered technicians, who are assisted in their duties by two student technicians and two aids. Two stenographers look after the film files, in which a record of every X-ray taken is kept for a minimum of 10 years.

For a further account see page 26.





Dietary

Imagine serving more than half a million meals each year. That is the gigantic assignment carried out efficiently and cheerfully by St. Paul's dietary department year after year.

Here one Sister and two dietitians preside over the complicated task of feeding and nurturing patients, newborns and hospital staff, and they are ably assisted by seven student nurses and a cooking and catering staff of 13 men and women. Besides selecting and preparing meals for the hospital's patients and staff, the dietary department also trains student nurses in the preparation of diets and baby formulas. Then there are those special occasions—teas, luncheons and banquets—to which the department caters.

Much of the produce served comes from the hospital's large vegetable garden.

Laboratory

St. Paul's ultra-modern laboratory was added to the hospital in 1949-50; work began on the structure immediately above the maternity ward in April, 1949, and the \$45,000 addition was completed and blessed on October 27, 1950. In this space of 2,850 square feet are facilities for the whole range of modern diagnostic procedures in haematology, biochemistry, bacteriology and histology.

Some idea of the great volume and importance of the laboratory's work is to be seen in two 1955 figures. That year more than 150,000 units or separate items of work were handled in clinical pathology and in the same year, more than 3,000 surgical tissues were examined. Besides its other duties, the department operates a blood transfusion service in conjunction with the Canadian Red Cross.

Thirty-one persons are assigned to the laboratory at all times, 11 of them students enrolled in the hospital's school of laboratory technology. Both the department and the school enjoy the endorsement of the Canadian Medical Association. As well, the school has the official approval of the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technology, and the department as a whole is approved by the C.M.A. for post-graduate training in pathology.

For a further account see page 27.

Pharmacy

St. Paul's pharmacy—source of drugs and similar medical supplies—provides an irreplaceable service at the Grey Nuns hospital. Its importance in these days of modern pharmaceutical wonders is even greater than in the past. At St. Paul's, the pharmacy department annually receives and prepares over 50,000 prescriptions. Four people—a Sister, two pharmacists and an aid—handle these dispensing and prescription services.

Lay Staff

Nearly 250 persons make up St. Paul's competent lay staff. In very general terms, they include nurses' aids, orderlies, housekeeping and dietary workers and the clerical personnel connected with the business administration.

Business Office

More than two dozen well-qualified persons devote all of their time at St. Paul's to the business administration of this large modern hospital. It is a large assignment, this business of admitting several thousand patients each year, keeping their records and other important information in order and up-to-date, and handling the multitude of details associated with the hospital's accounts and collections. In addition, a medical library (separate from medical records) is being organized. Then there is the skilled operation of the switchboard—the hospital's vital round-the-clock contact with the community outside.

Mr. W. O'Neill is the present business manager at St. Paul's. He succeeded the late J. C. Saunders.

In caring for one patient in a single day, these and others provide their services



Participants in the first medical clinic held in St. Paul's, March 3, 1931.



*Dr. D. M. Baltzan, Chief of Staff
Chairman, Medical Advisory Board*



*Dr. F. W. Rosher
Chairman, Medical Executive Committee*

The Medical Staff

As of January, 1957, there were 142 medical doctors associated with St. Paul's Hospital. This impressive total includes the active and associate members of the medical staff, visiting consultants and visiting physicians.

The chief of staff is Dr. D. M. Baltzan, who is chairman of the Medical Advisory Board and also chief of the department of medicine. Other departments and their chiefs are as follows: surgery, Dr. J. E. Leddy; obstetrics, Dr. R. H. MacPherson; ophthalmology and otolaryngotomy (eye, ear, nose and throat), Dr. A. G. Genereux; urology, Dr. J. M. Campbell; pediatrics, Dr. A. E. Buckwold; anaesthesia, Dr. W. E. Upthegrove; general practice section, Dr. F. W. Rosher; radiology, Dr. A. Becker; and pathology, Dr. F. O. Young.

The Medical Advisory Board over which Dr. Baltzan presides has as its other members: Dr. M. H. Smith-Windsor, secretary; and Drs. J. M. Campbell, A. G. Genereux, J. E. Leddy, F. W. Rosher and F. E. Wait.

President and chairman of the Medical Executive Committee is Dr. F. W. Rosher. Dr. S. Worobetz is vice-president; Dr. H. Collins, secretary, and executive members are Drs. A. E. Buckwold, J. E. Leddy and H. Sugarman. Other committees of the medical staff are the Tissue, Medical Records, Interne and Library committees.

Lay Advisory Board

St. Paul's Hospital has had a lay advisory board representative of the Saskatoon community since February, 1941. This board, composed of Saskatoonians prominent in their respective fields, acts in an advisory capacity for the Sister Superior with respect to many matters affecting the hospital and its relations with the community and governments.

Chairman of the first board was the late Mr. Justice McLean. The current chairman is Emmett Hall, Q.C., who was also a member of the first board. Other current members are Mr. Justice McKercher, Alderman Sid Buckwold, Ross Pinder, C. F. Grady, A. A. Murphy, R. V. Real, B. W. Hoeschen, E. A. Scissons, D. E. Walker, and T. H. Kinahan, who has been a member of the board since its inception. Mr. W. O'Neill, S.P.H. business manager, is the board secretary.



Emmett Hall, Q.C.



Mrs. W. E. Upthegrove

Ladies Auxiliary

In October, 1941, the St. Paul's Hospital ladies' auxiliary came into being. The auxiliary, made up of lay women, interested in promoting the welfare of the hospital and its patients, dedicated itself from the first to the task of providing St. Paul's with small but important amenities and special equipment to the extent that limited resources permitted. The first president was the late Mrs. J. A. Elhatton. Before the auxiliary was more than a year old it was ready to open its first "project"—a patients' library. This auspicious beginning has been followed by many more similar projects, all contributing to the hospital's and the patients' well-being. The current president is Mrs. W. E. Upthegrove.



Graduating Class, 1957

The School of Nursing

"In Minimis Perfectio." It is a perfect motto for nurses, this pledge to strive after perfection in the little things—the many little but important details which go with patient care in a Catholic hospital. And this perfect motto is borne proudly by every young woman who takes up a nursing career through St. Paul's School of Nursing. The 1957 graduating class of 52 brings to 1,428 the number of women who have made this motto their own in the 48 years that St. Paul's School of Nursing has been functioning.

The very first of this small army of dedicated women who have chosen the glorious career of nursing at St. Paul's in Saskatoon came to the hospital as a probationer on November 21, 1909. Soon two others joined her and the first graduating ceremony took place almost two years later on September 2, 1911, when these three young women, Misses Hannah Eliason, Leonie Lachappelle and Charlotte McLoughlin, and two Grey Nuns, Sisters Beauvais and St. Polycarpe, graduated.

The school, so modestly begun, very soon obtained a high reputation, one it has preserved and enhanced over the years. Since the first graduation, an average of 50 to 65 students have graduated each succeeding spring, although in the first decade there were only 85 graduates, an average of between eight and nine annually.



*Style of Uniform
First Used.*



*Registered Nurse's
Uniform, 1957.*

Cited are only a few of the highlights of the school's success story. In 1917, when in its eighth year, the school was recognized by the University of Saskatchewan, a very young institution itself at that time. In August, 1930, the grounds for a new nursing residence were blessed. When completed in 1931 the residence was hailed as one of the finest structures of its kind in the West; indeed, it so ranks to this day. In 1936, the nurses' alumnae association was established by charter. The association has always worked closely with the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, its local chapter, and with the Canadian Nurses' Association. In 1938, the school was approved for training purposes in the University's five-year program leading to the Bachelor of Science of Nursing degree. Last summer, work began on a \$80,000, 30-room, 36-bed addition to the residence. An excellent library, an extra classroom, a demonstration room and new laboratory space are also provided in the addition, towards the capital cost of which the federal and Saskatchewan governments each contributed over \$22,000.

Within the residence, the nurses in training elect a representative student council which collaborates with the Sisters in maintaining discipline and becoming conduct. Through the council, the students are also enabled to have periodic social affairs and other enjoyable pastimes. Many members of the school channel their religious activities through the Sodality of Our Lady. Every first Friday, for example, Sodalists receive Holy Communion in a body.

Sister Jeanne Quintal, s.g.m., R.N., B.Sc., is the present director of the school, having succeeded Sister A. Ste. Croix, s.g.m., in 1955. The first superintendent was Sister M. du Saint Sacrement, who was director from 1909 to 1912 and in 1913-14.



St. Paul's Nurses' Residence.



Executive, Sodality of Our Lady.

All Work As One

Operation of St. Paul's Hospital is a mammoth undertaking. From the day it opened until December 31, 1956, 220,441 patients were received, 21,960 babies were delivered and 104,461 operations were performed at this Grey Nuns' hospital. Taking the year 1956 alone, St. Paul's received 6,714 patients, saw 4,752 operations performed, 1,080 babies delivered, 41,279 X-rays taken and 51,870 prescriptions filled, and these were only some of the tasks carried out in that time. And how much happens in an average day at St. Paul's is graphically illustrated elsewhere on this page.

It is not surprising, then, that it takes between 600 and 700 persons to perform the manifold duties connected with St. Paul's functioning. In January this year 18 Sisters (plus a visiting consultant), a medical staff of 142, a nursing staff of 258 (78 registered nurses and 180 students), and a lay staff of 246 persons were working within the hospital, caring directly and indirectly for the patients and newborns in the 279 beds and 30 bassinets.

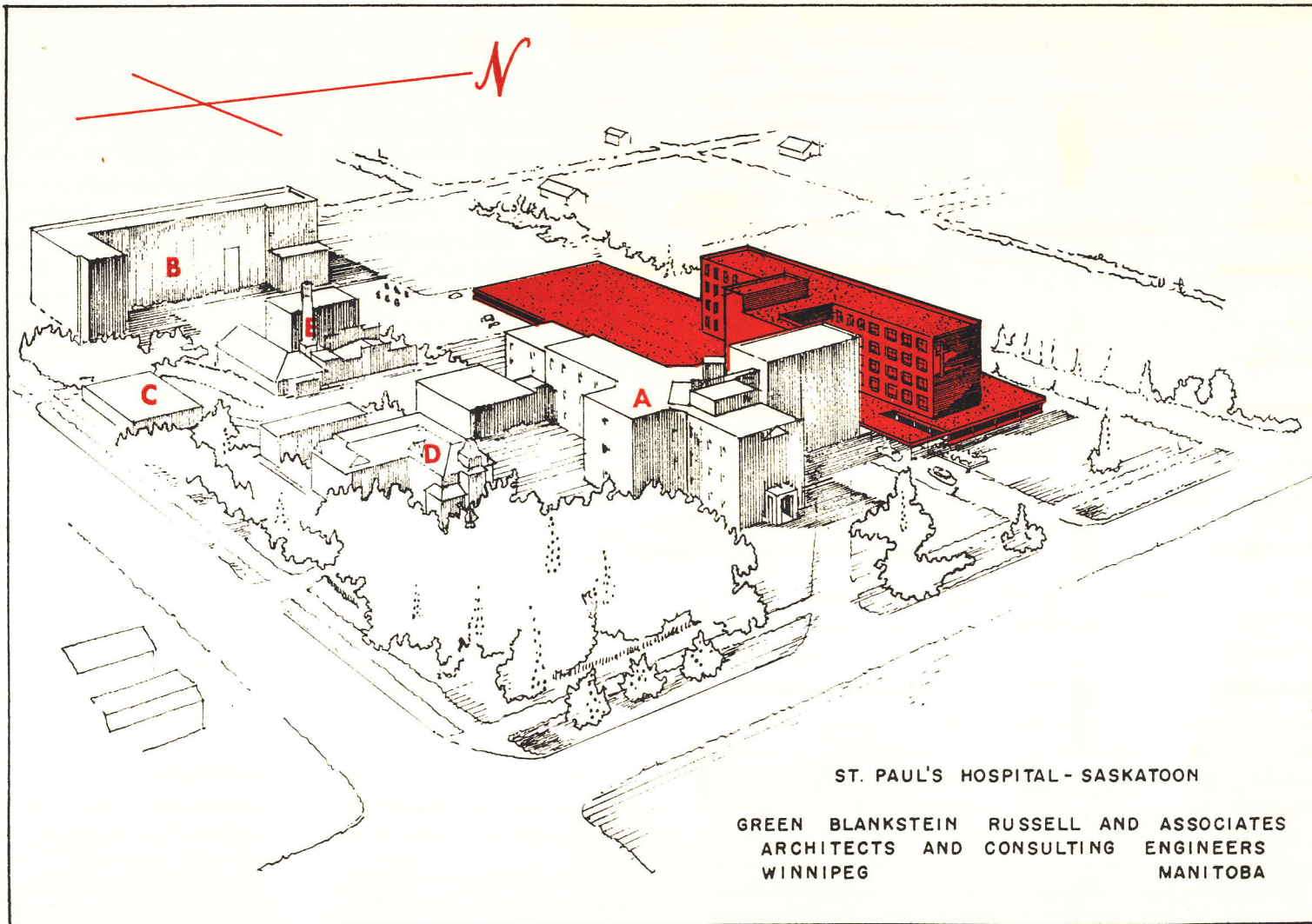
Proof that St. Paul's Hospital is performing its task with sustained excellence is readily at hand:

Accreditation

St. Paul's Hospital enjoys the highest official rating which can be accorded to a hospital on this continent. As a result of an expert evaluation in October, 1954, it is in possession of the "full accreditation" rating accorded to top-ranking hospitals by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. This body has as its member organizations the Canadian Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and three other U.S. organizations representing hospitals, physicians and surgeons. The "full accreditation" accorded St. Paul's in 1954 is effective for three years, after which time another evaluation will be conducted.

St. Paul's has enjoyed such a high status for many years. In the 1930's, for example, when the method of accreditation was somewhat different, St. Paul's was granted "full approval" and like approbation by the organizations then handling accreditation of North American hospitals.





A—Hospital, B—Nurses' Residence, C—Isolation Wing, D—Original Hospital, E—Power House, Portion in Red—Proposed Extension.

In Retrospect . . .

Introduction

Sister Superior Laforce asked me to write a few intimate sketches of some sections of the hospital. Her thoughts are about a living institution. The editor looked for a link between the present and the past. The measure of my penumbra was considered sufficient in size.

In the flash-back of memory, deeds supercede the recollection of the physical alterations. The spirits of men and women, the success and failures, the ambitions and frustrations in their attempts to develop the worthy record this hospital enjoys overshadow the quality of the inanimate structure no matter what expensive material might be used.

I am glad space is limited because memory is long and omissions are thereby accounted. For this period in the history of this City, the role of this first hospital will be a never-forgotten one. It will weave into the tapestry of medicine of the future, as in the past, its shades and shapes of practice and service, the color of its contributors and the illumination of a Spiritual Order.

—D. M. BALTZAN, M.D., F.R.C.P.(c), F.A.C.P., Dip.A.B.M.

Polio Ward

The polio ward at St. Paul's Hospital is symbolic of two unusual events: it marks the starting point of the evolution of a disease and the beginning of a new look in the treatment of the same disease.

The date was the year 1943. Up to this time we had sporadic and minor epidemics of "polio," which was more popularly known as infantile paralysis. The disease was uncommon in adults. The "bulbar" or respiratory paralysis variety, was either unrecognized or it did not occur, although Sir William Osler long ago described acute anterior poliomyelitis superior. Up to this time any febrile case suspected as "polio" was not called polio until paralysis developed, usually in about three days time; otherwise it was not considered polio. The paralysis was quick, permanent—it neither extended nor regressed. Both the clinical picture and our views have changed a lot in 15 years.

News came from Australia of Sister Elizabeth Kenny's treatment of poliomyelitis. If her work did nothing more than kindle a new interest in the treatment of the disease, it was alone a milestone in the

history of the disease. It did much more; it changed our belief in the irreversibility of the disease and that much salvage work could be done.

In the late summer of 1943 a 22-year-old man was admitted to St. Paul's Hospital from Dundurn with both his lower limbs paralyzed. It was late at night. Immediately the new era came into being. Right away a means was improvised to steam strips of blankets, which were applied to the aching limbs. More cases arrived and the same procedure was followed. There was no epidemic. We had time to think and follow the experiences in Minneapolis. The weak muscles were given special attention and a program of re-education was started. As a result of the local and pioneer work, St. Paul's Hospital was recognized and designated by the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health as the centre for the treatment of all polio cases in the whole province. One of our doctors—Dr. H. D. Hart—proceeded to Minneapolis to observe the methods used there, based on the stimulus derived from Sister Kenny, even more than the theories she advanced.

The provincial Department of Public Health made generous provisions for all types of modern equipment, beginning with the "iron lung" and followed by a steady stream of all modern forms of respiratory and other refined instruments. The Department of Medicine of the Hospital, which operates the polio unit, is organized in teams to meet all types of complications.

In writing of this short account one wishes this might be the end of an evil. This Jubilee Year, by immunization, is expected to see "polio" conquered as typhoid fever was conquered—the disease which brought St. Paul's Hospital into existence.

Radiology

The X-ray department can be regarded as a barometer in the rise and fall in the progress of developments of the hospital.

In the beginning, a huge X-ray apparatus (as was the construction custom at the time) with a 100 m.a. capacity occupied space on the third floor, not too far separated from the operating room. The chief factotum was Sister Letarte, who is now in aged retirement in the Mother House in Montreal. She was the operator, technician and general expert. It was the most economical department in the hospital. The machine received the most tender care; doctors ordered only absolutely necessary films—no more, no less.

Laboratory

It was only a "lab" at the start; it made a late start and grew fast. Clinical Medicine stood on its own feet until the advent of bacteriology, biochemistry and microbiology. It was a long time before these developed into practically applied sciences. And so doctors in the beginning of things looked down their own microscopes, made their own urinalyses and sent occasional blood samples away, chiefly for Wasserman tests. Autopsy examinations were scarce and were confined mostly to medico-legal examinations.

When the American College of Surgeons undertook to bring hospitals up to some uniform standards, this department had to conform. Trained radiologists were uncommon. The few who worked and developed the skills, the pioneers, bore their trade marks of burned fingers and burned skins. They were victims of the rays which helped in the diagnosis of other people's troubles. To meet the minimum requirements of the American College of Surgeons in a formal manner, Dr. Pierre DesRosiers signed reports and the good Sister still bossed the job. For other reasons the good doctor came to an early death (the first clinically diagnosed coronary thrombosis in Saskatoon).

Another physician, who had some training in this work, substituted, while serving as an assistant in another field of medicine. There was no money to pay for such service. The economic depression struck in 1929. A compromise compliance with the requirements was managed. The demands upon the department increased. X-ray therapy was added to the armamentarium of hopeful cures. The department had to be enlarged and for extra space it gravitated to the basement, as was the custom of the day. Dr. Earl Shepley (with scarred fingers) helped out while carrying on practice as the first regular radiologist in a downtown establishment. Pressure became increasingly great and the pocket book was in the same shape as Mother Hubbard's cupboard. At a modest salary Dr. Del Johnston was brought here from Sherbrooke, Quebec. The hospital was in its first glory of a full-time radiologist, complete with X-ray technicians. Physiotherapy was incorporated in this department.

Since then, with the increasing demand and short supply of top-rate radiological specialists (who by necessity have to spread themselves thin), the chief of the department, a fully-qualified specialist, serves part time, and is assisted by reliable technicians, who now must hold diplomas in recognition of their training.

A new chapter in the extension of this department is beginning, judging by the blue-prints of the modernized hospital wing.

In the early 1920's, one self-trained young man (Robert Atkinson) was the sole operator of the laboratory. Drs. W. S. Lindsay and George Rae, who a few years before began teaching pathology and bacteriology respectively at the University, were called upon for a few special examinations that were then available. As time went on laboratory services counted for more and more in diagnosis. Both doctors gave more time to both hospitals. Their other duties permitted them to act only as pinch-hitters. The demand increased and the elders of the hospital felt compelled to bring pressure and regularize the service. Our innovation was the importation of Dr. O. C. Gruner from Montreal to become the first full-time head of the Department of Pathology at St. Paul's Hospital. A break came in the service caused by family sickness when Dr. Gruner had to leave Saskatoon and we were left stranded for a time.

Dr. D. F. Moore came to us from Regina as full-time pathologist. We now had more money and he had a lot of energy. As a result the cubby hole used as a laboratory was abandoned. A new and elaborate laboratory was constructed on the roof of the hospital. It was for many years the leading and best-equipped hospital laboratory in the province and our pride and joy.

The chapter on the advances of techniques, laboratory procedures and pathology examinations could best be written by the head of this department but he would take up more space than the editor can spare. The present size of the laboratory, the number of assistants (31 including 11 students in training) who serve in the department is catapulting and makes within a lifetime the original "lab" look like a pin point.

To this department belongs the honor of becoming the first qualified in Saskatoon, by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, to accept residents for training towards fellowships in the college in this specialty.

Educational Activities

The credit for the first teaching efforts to establish the hospital as a creative organism side by side with service to the sick, belongs to the School of Nursing. In 1909, when this training began, it also served as the initiation of doctors as teachers along with their regular duties as physicians and surgeons serving the community. This beginning for the young doctors at that time and for a long time afterwards was their only experience in teaching medicine. It was a good start for many who are today regarded as able teachers and fine lecturers.

In 1926 the first interns came to St. Paul's Hospital. Teaching began on a different plane. Programs were arranged for bedside teaching and for practical instruction. There was not a great volume of hospital work or enough interns to create any great enthusiasm for teaching at this level. But the writing was plain on the wall and momentum gathered. In 1931 weekly medical staff luncheon meetings were organized and interns presented case histories and patients. This means introduced regular clinics in the hospital. Interns desired action, participation in making the diagnosis and knowledge about treatment. They were indifferent to formal lectures after finishing their medical course.

At this stage, as part of the record, the part played in the stream of history by St. Paul's Hospital must be mentioned. The Charity of this hospital in the tragedy which befell total strangers from foreign lands proved itself at the highest. The hospital became a haven for refugee doctors to the limits of its capacity. The majority who escaped racial extermination and reached us were of the Jewish faith and many of them were too frightened to admit their origin. Regulations required a year's hospital residency in Canada to enable them to take the Dominion Council licensing examination.

After the war a new crop of homeless doctors arrived. These were now known as "D.P. (displaced person) doctors." Again with the same generosity, all that could be accommodated were enrolled as interns in the hospital. D.P.'s were of different creeds from many European countries and a good many were of the Roman Catholic faith. The only question asked of the refugee and the D.P. doctors was proof of their qualifications as doctors of medicine.

The School of Medical Sciences of our University extended the course to two years. The second year included an introduction to clinical medicine, surgery and obstetrics. Medical students now entered our wards for clinical teaching. Selected doctors of the staff became clinical teachers and lecturers. St. Paul's Hospital shared with the Saskatoon City Hospital in providing clinical instruction to the medical students for many years before the opening of the University Hospital. It continues to serve as an undergraduate medical teaching hospital of the University of Saskatchewan and as a graduate teaching hospital for interns and residents. Many members of the St. Paul's staff belong to the faculty of Medicine at the University.

This rapid rehearsal of this hospital's share in the medical educational activities in this community culminates in a measure of pride and satisfaction. Our Jubilee Celebration coincides this year with the first graduation of Doctors of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

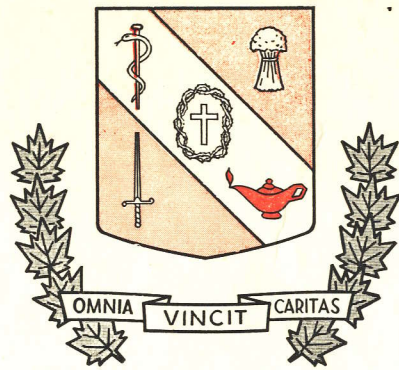
Conclusion

Everyone knows that Sisters' hospitals are distinctive. It is sometimes difficult, however, to describe this distinctiveness in words which will give a reader a proper appreciation. Here is one attempt at defining this intangible but distinct quality—an anonymous attempt which is perhaps more successful than most:

"In St. Paul's Hospital, as in any Sisters' hospital, the objective is not only to provide a service capable of meeting modern scientific and sociological achievement, but to do so in the knowledge that this is a Christian work of love and charity; the heart of the hospital lies not in the wards or the operating rooms, but in the beautiful chapel where Sisters, staff and patients may find comfort and spiritual aid."



A View of Saskatoon From St. Paul's



ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN