

Torrance Hospital Serves Total of 206,000 Persons

Young women lie on stretchers in hospital hallway. Hospital jammed. Additional patients must go elsewhere. State Board of Health says dangerous situation exists. A disaster situation? No. But an emergency situation? Yes. Because of overloading of the present facilities of Torrance Memorial Hospital the above conditions are facts today.

The young women are maternity patients in labor. It has become almost standard, though terribly hectic, practice for as many as eight women at one time to have to occupy the emergency stretchers. They must lie in the hallway of the crowded maternity-surgery wing of the hospital because two more women already occupy the only two labor-delivery rooms.

The hospital's facilities are jammed and have been for some time. The bed space is filled to capacity and shortened bed-stays are required of patients because other patients are waiting to enter. Still it remains true that no patient has ever been refused treatment by Torrance Memorial Hospital because of creed, color, or financial position — for any reason except that there was no room inside to treat him or give him a bed.

Elements of Danger
The California State Board of Health has decreed that there is a great element of danger present in having the treatment of surgical cases and maternity located in the same close area which exists in Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Pvt. Lynch Completes Signal School Course

Pvt. Gerald K. Lynch, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Lynch, of 1604 Juniper Ave., graduated this week from the South-eastern Signal School at Camp Gordon, Ga.

He received training in operation of military communications equipment, with a week of field training under combat conditions, during the nine-week course.

Durant Goes Overseas

Pvt. Alton T. Durant Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Durant, of 2106 W. 24th St., Lomita, left last month for duty in the Far East after spending four months at Camp Pendleton in the staging regiment.

Thief Takes Wheels

Two wheels and tires from his car were taken while the auto was parked inside the garage, R. S. Bluff, of 22817 Anza Ave., reported to Torrance police.

The hospital has always depended upon for the protection of themselves and their loved ones. While this whole area has grown magnificently in population, business and industry, it has let its hospital protection lag far behind.

The hospital itself could do nothing about this. Incorporated as a non-profit corporation, it is legally prohibited from building up any surplus money which could be used for the desperately needed expansion. Furthermore, the public has never been asked to give any money which could be used to correct this situation.

In spite of their greatly increased use of their hospital, the people of Torrance have just not seen to it that their hospital grew with them.

Adequate When New
When new, Torrance Memorial Hospital had 25 beds and was considered adequate to care for the population. As the city grew, two additions of beds were made to the hospital, though there was no increase in the necessary service facilities of the hospital. Since 1926, the patient use has far outstripped the modest enlargement of the hospital. The number of patients admitted has jumped from 891 to 4400 for 1953.

In the early years, only about one patient in seven was a maternity patient. Modern medical practice has changed this, and last year more than one patient in three admitted to the hospital was a woman about to have a baby.

The hospital is not to blame for the recent ruling of the Board of Health, either, for the design of the hospital which was inherited from an earlier day. Today, doctors know that it is wrong for maternity patients to be exposed to whatever cases may be treated in surgical operating rooms.

Record Outstanding
In spite of these handicaps, the health record of Torrance Memorial Hospital is outstanding. That is because the staff has continued to maintain its high standards of professional practice while handling the tremendously increasing load.

The problem has only one cause: The people of Torrance have outgrown the hospital they



HOSPITAL PLANS DISCUSSED . . . Mrs. Jeanette Mathys, registered nurse, head of the obstetrical department at Torrance Memorial Hospital, and Dr. Clifford E. Easley discuss crowded conditions in the hospital with Mayor Nicholas O. Drake. Discussion particularly centered around the maternity ward, in which there are now only 16 beds.



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MARINE IN KOREA . . . M/Sgt. George O. Walls, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Walls, of 1727 Marina Ave., is serving as an electronics chief with Marine Aircraft Group 12, now serving in Korea. His wife, June, lives in Hazel Park, Mich.



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