



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. Clare Mercy Hospital,
St. John's, Newfoundland: 1922-1961**

Source: Courtesy of the
Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland
and Labrador

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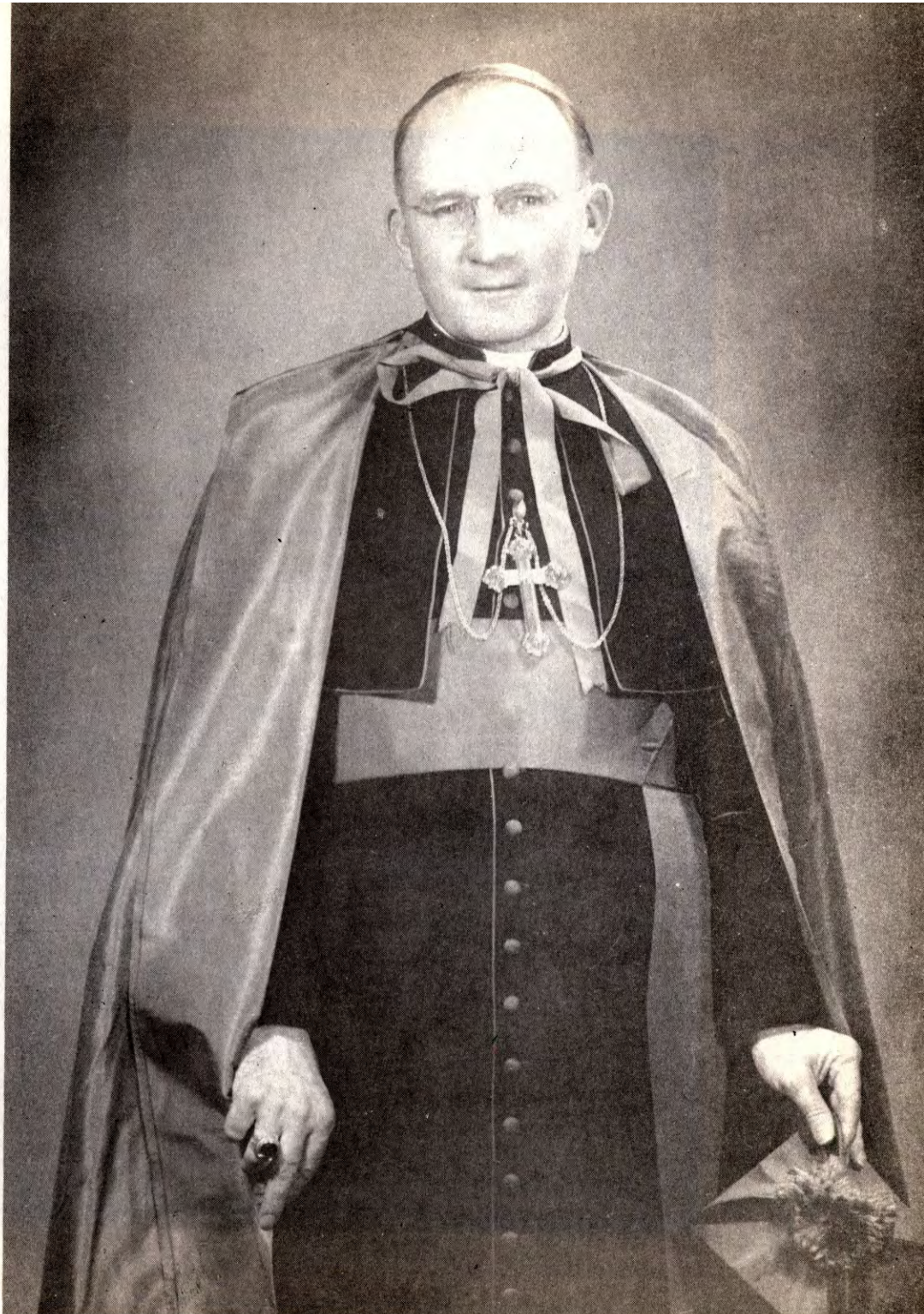
St. Clare's Derry Hospital

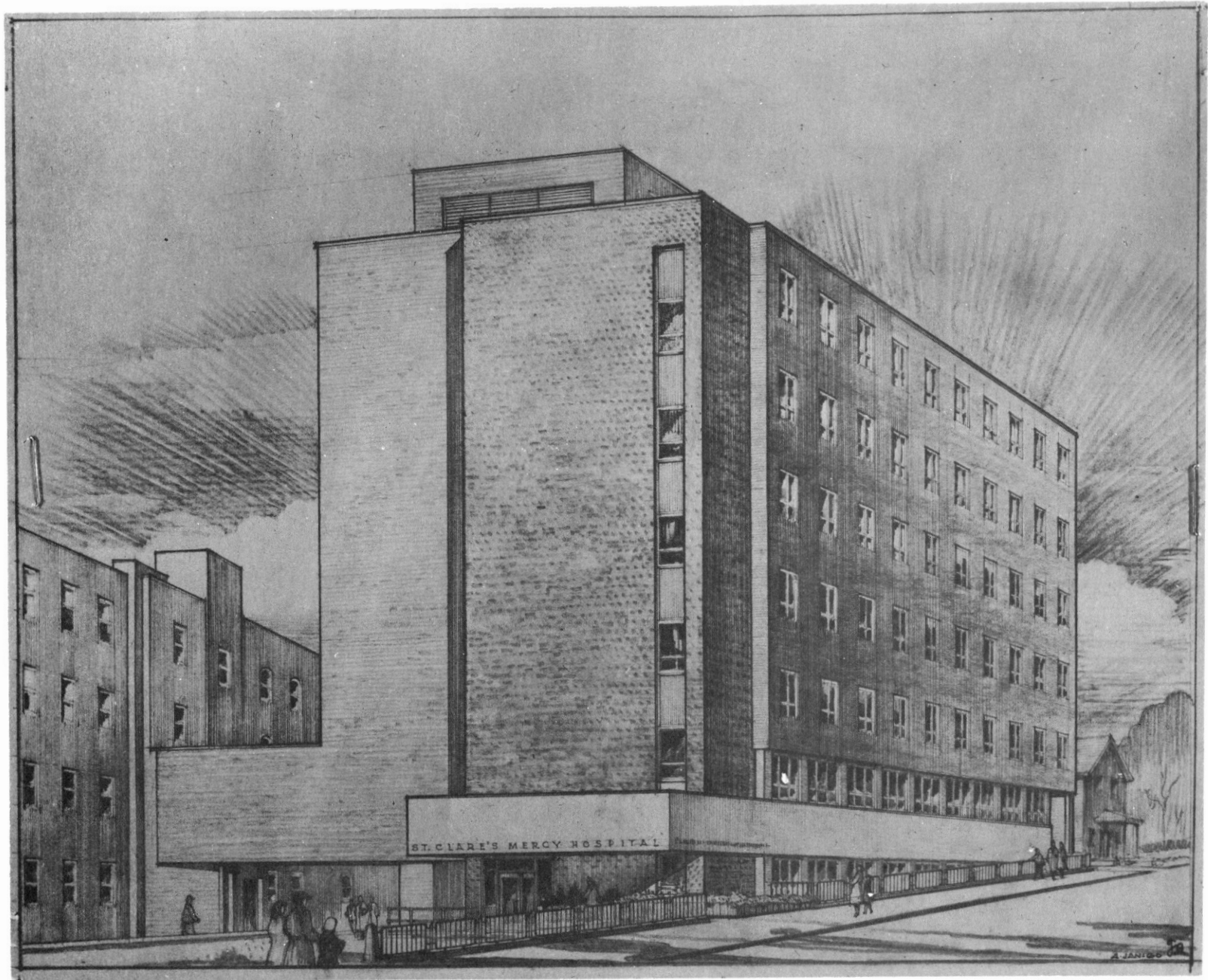
St. Johns Newfoundland



1922--1961

His Grace, Most Reverend Patrick J. Skinner, C.J.M., D.D.
Archbishop of St. John's
Chairman of the Board of Governors







Rt. Reverend Monsignor Harold A. Summers, P.A.
Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of St. John's
Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors
Chairman of the Finance and Building Committee



Reverend Mother Mary Imelda
*Superior General of the Congregation of
Our Lady of Mercy in Newfoundland*

Board of Governors -- 1961



His Grace, Most Reverend Patrick J. Skinner, C.J.M., D.D. — Archbishop of St. John's, (*Chairman*)

Rt. Reverend Monsignor Harold A. Summers, P.A. — Vicar General of the Archdiocese, (*Vice-Chairman*)

Rt. Reverend Monsignor E. P. Maher

Mr. R. S. Furlong, K.S.G., Q.C.

Mr. E. J. Phelan, K.S.G., Q.C. (*absent*)

Mother Mary Imelda (*absent*)

Mother Mary Assumpta

Sister Mary Loretto

Sister Mary Fabian

Sister Mary Xavierius (*absent*)

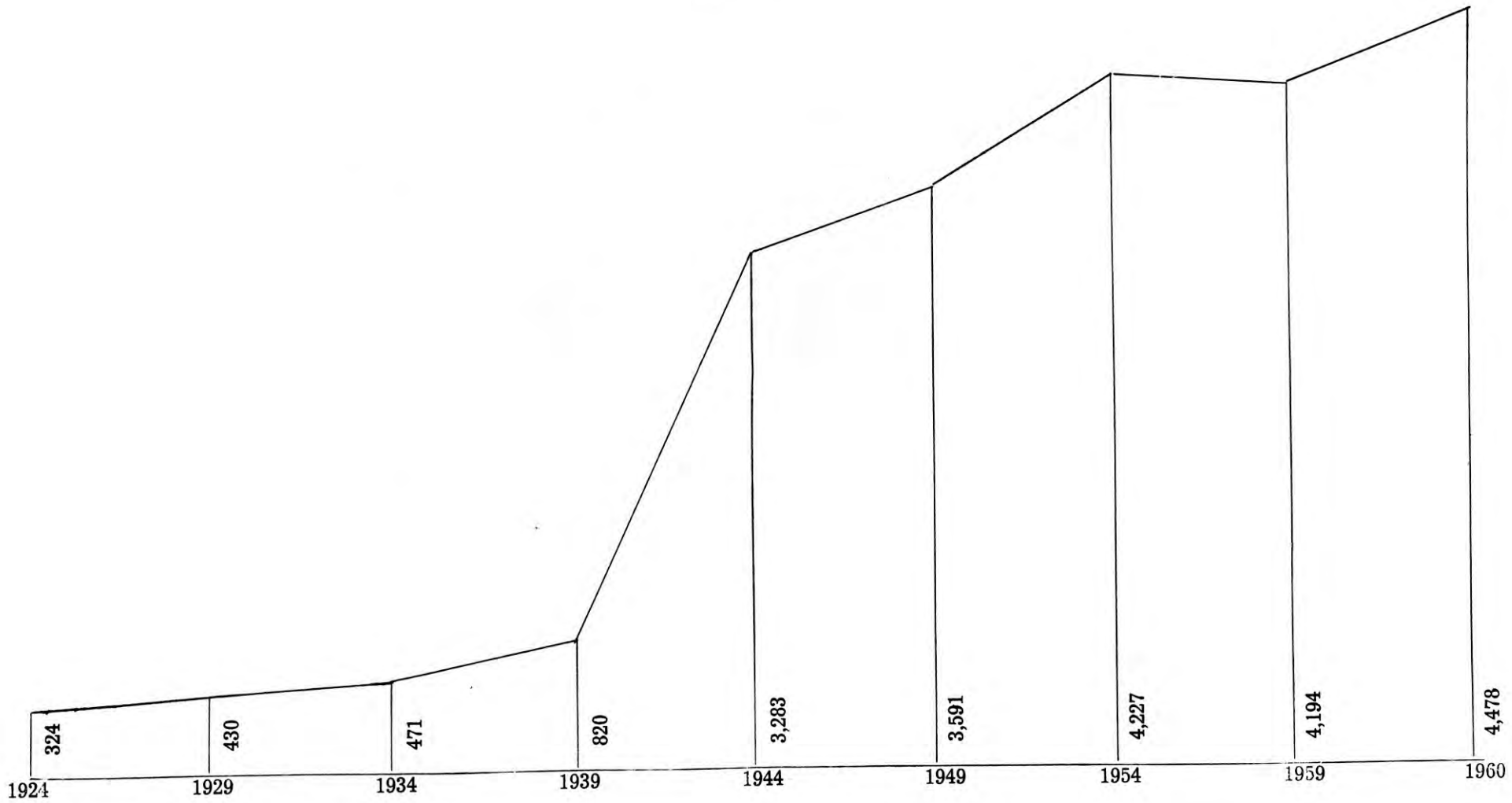


Sister Mary Fabian, R.N.
Administrator



Dr. Garrett M. Brownrigg, F.A.C.S.
Chief of the Medical Staff

Admissions — Adults and Children
1924 — 1960



Total Admissions — 83,817

History of Hospital

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital was opened in 1922. It was a modest building which originally had been operated by the Sisters of Mercy as a boarding home for working girls.

The original idea of a Home for Working Girls, conducted by Religious was conceived in the mind of Sister Mary Clare English, a member of the Presentation Congregation at Cathedral Square. In various ways she managed to collect money for this deserving cause — donations from friends, sale of knitted articles, and school entertainments. The largest contribution was from the sale of a Rosary, made of gold nuggets brought to Sister Clare by Mr. James Funchion, a miner from the Klondyke. The sale of this Rosary to the Knights of Columbus through Mr. James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight, realized the sum of one thousand dollars. The Knights presented the Rosary to His Eminence, the late Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore on the occasion of his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee. The funds collected were used to purchase the residence of the Honourable E. M. Jackman on LeMarchant Road, known as the "White House". On the Feast of St. Michael, September 29th, 1913 the "Home" was opened.

After a fair trial this Institution was found to be unsatisfactory as a home for working girls, and the need of a Catholic Hospital being considered important, it was opened as such in 1922.

For seventeen years with limited accommodations and facilities, the Sisters worked zealously and faithfully in caring for the sick, with rewarding results.

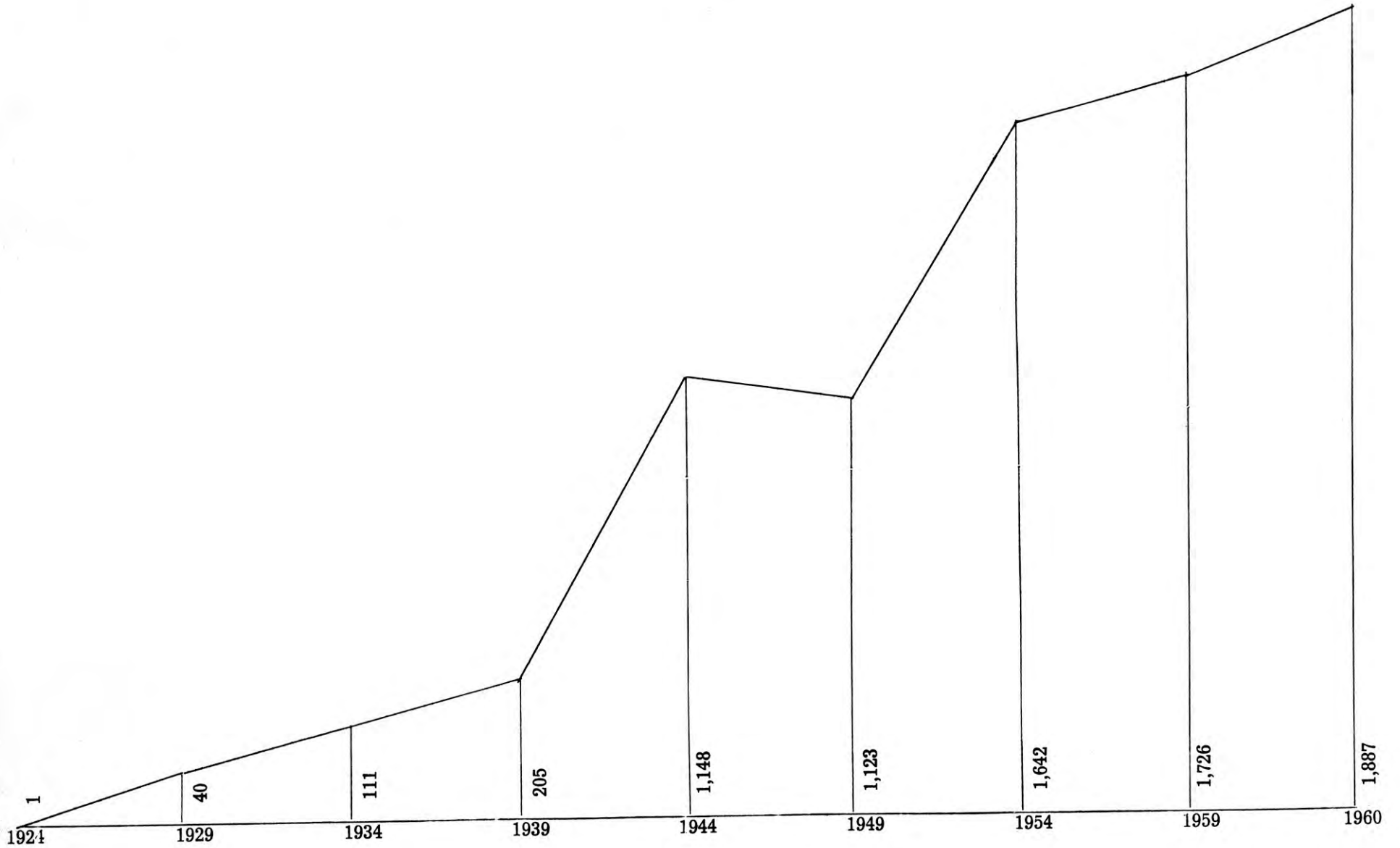
In 1937 the late Archbishop E. P. Roche, D.D., realizing the need for a larger structure planned for a hospital of 100 beds, which was opened in 1939, and which was at that time up to date in every respect, with modern equipment and facilities. Funds for this building were contributed from church collections, the public, and the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy.

With the rapid growth of the Hospital, the Nursing Staff and student body increased, and it was necessary to purchase the two adjoining dwellings west of the hospital. These were remodelled for dining rooms and sleeping apartments.

The Laundry was inadequate to meet the growing needs, and in 1946 a central heating unit and laundry was begun.



Newborn Admissions
1924 — 1960



Total Births — 28,271

History of Hospital

In 1947 to commemorate the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of His Grace, Most Reverend E. P. Roche, D.D., his friends and admirers throughout the island, both Catholic and Non-Catholic presented His Grace with a gift of over \$80,000.00 which he donated to the Sisters to assist in the erection of a new chapel and additional facilities for the hospital. This was completed in 1950.

Additional Laboratory and X-Ray facilities were provided in 1958.

The School of Nursing was founded in 1939, and has kept pace with modern trends in Nursing and Nursing Education. Today it has an enrollment of over one hundred students.

His Grace, Archbishop Patrick J. Skinner, C.J.M., fully realizing the importance of the care of the sick in the work of the church, gave approval in 1958 for the erection of a beautiful new Residence and School of Nursing. This was completed at a total cost of \$611,078.75. A Federal-Provincial Grant of \$250,000.00 was received. The remainder of the cost was financed by the Sisters of Mercy, and by private donations. No appeal was made for public funds.

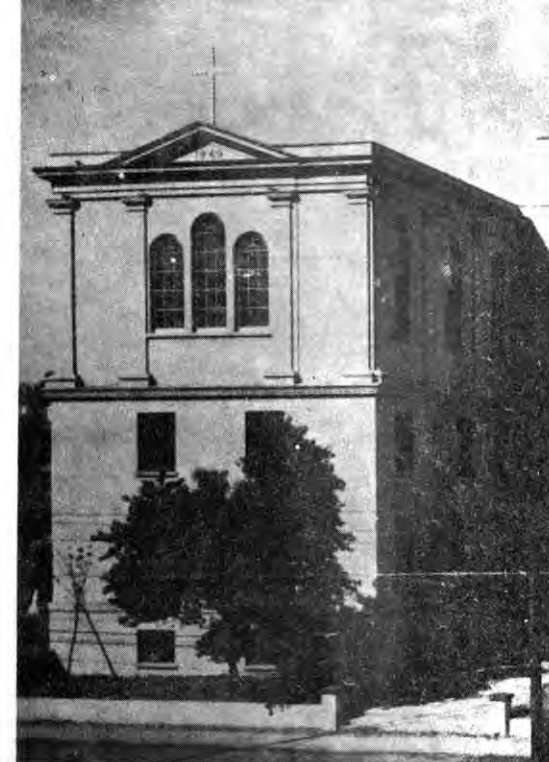
The round the clock rush for service and accommodation is causing excessive hardships for patients and staff alike. At present the Hospital is operating 100% occupancy in medical—surgical departments, and many patients if not requiring immediate attention, must wait several weeks for admission.

With characteristic foresight the Board of Governors of the Hospital, in consultation with hospital architects, completed plans in 1960 for construction of a New Wing, which will provide accommodation for one hundred additional patients, a new dietary department and small emergency unit. The plans have the full approval of the Provincial Department of Health. The Department acknowledges the necessity to expand St. Clare's, and thus help reduce the shortage of hospital beds and services in the St. John's area.

The total estimated cost of the new hospital wing and renovations is \$2,652,000.00. A Federal Construction Grant of \$285,000.00 and a Provincial Grant of approximately \$580,000.00 have been approved.

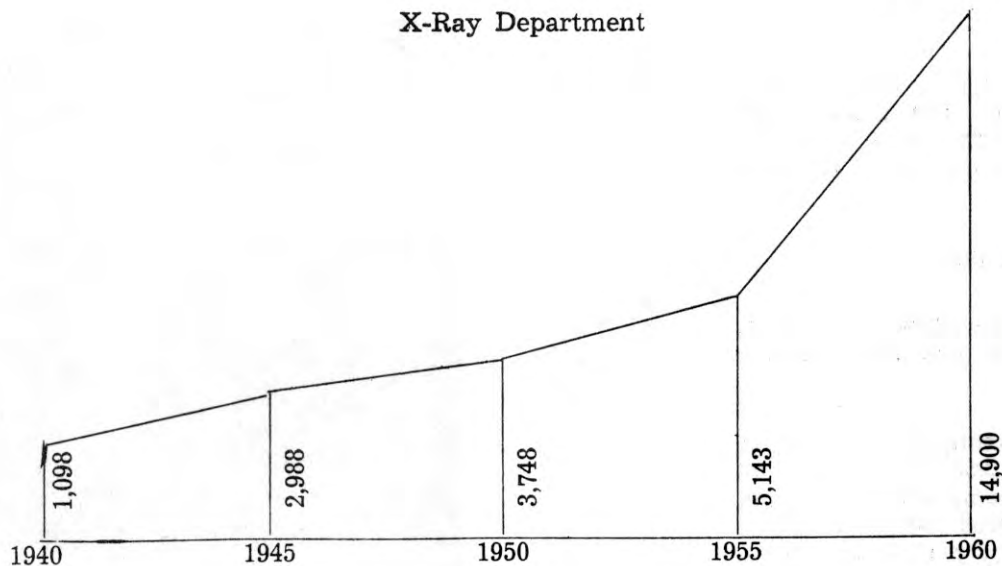
To get construction started, the Sisters arranged for a Bank Loan of \$750,000.00. Work began on May 1st, 1960. The building is now well advanced. It should be ready for occupancy early in 1962.

And so once again St. Clare's Mercy Hospital is assisting in a community problem. This time the hospital requires financial assistance from those, whose lives and livelihoods it protects and strengthens.



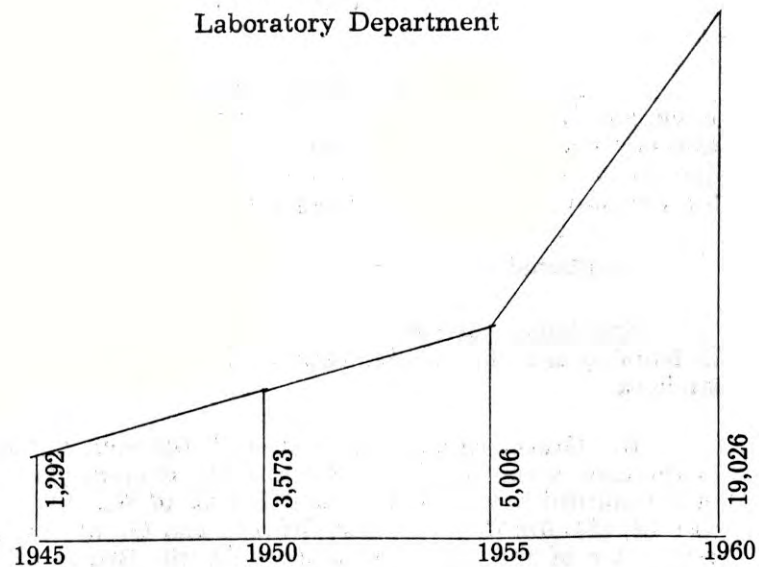
STATISTICS

X-Ray Department



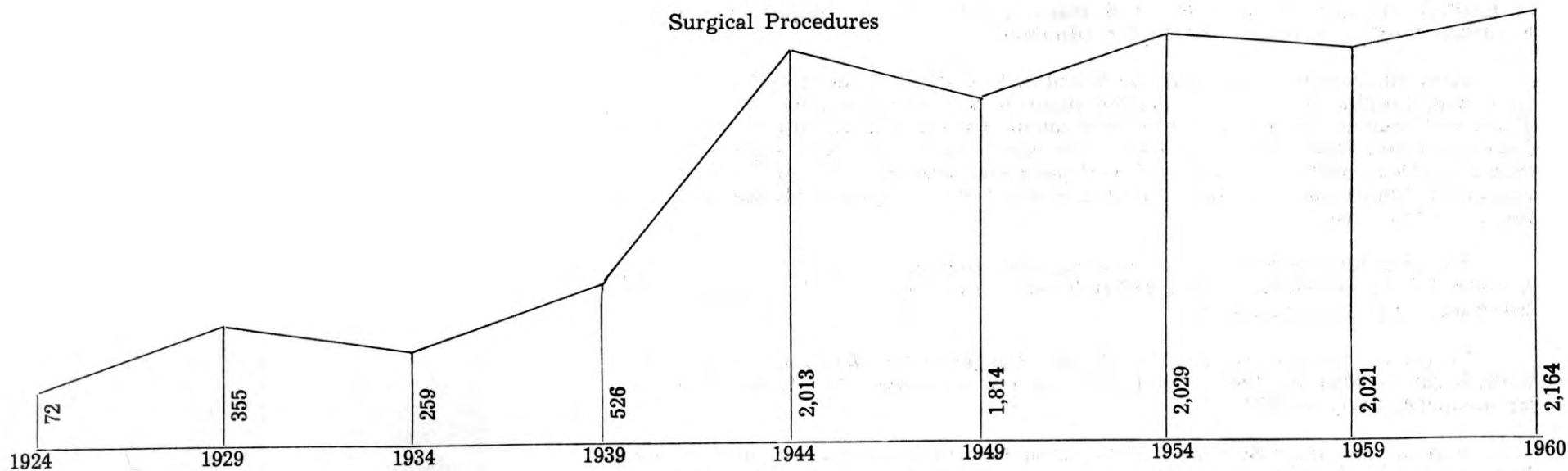
Total Patients — 108,378

Laboratory Department



Total Patients — 86,587

Surgical Procedures



Total Surgical Procedures — 44,281

History of Hospital

For the first time since the original building was completed in 1940, St. Clare's is appealing for financial help.

It is only reasonable that those for whom the Hospital exists, and whose demands for increased service make public expansion imperative, be asked to share now, in the cost of new construction and renovations. The Sisters, without outside help, have financed the capital cost of expanding and improving the hospital from the day it opened, with the exception of the Government Grants which they received in 1958 for the Nurses' Residence, Our Lady of Lourdes Hall, and grants for the present construction. These grants are available to all public hospitals of Canada. The National Health Insurance Plan is concerned only with the annual operating expenses of the hospital, not the physical expansion. It does not include funds for expenditures of a capital nature, for depreciation of buildings, for new buildings or renovations.

St. Clare's is also in urgent need of parking facilities for patients, visitors, doctors and employees. Lack of funds is the only obstacle to the purchase of the adjoining dwellings on St. Clare Avenue, which could be used for this purpose.

Your help is earnestly solicited. No doubt when you know the Hospital's story and immediate problems, you will enlist yourself among the staunch friends and supporters of St. Clare's, and give as generously as you are able.



A Hospital provides 24 hours



THE 1600TH PATIENT SINCE 1961



CHECKING FOR ACCURACY



A PREMATURE BABY THRIVES IN THE ISOLETTE



THE NEW ARRIVAL MUST BE REGISTERED



RECEPTIONIST-SMILINGLY DIRECTS VISITORS



SURGEON'S SKILL & GOOD NURSING CARE



THERE ARE BABIES TO BE FED



1924--'61 NO DETAIL MISSED



DRUGS ---- FOR LIFE & HEALTH!!!



900 MEALS PREPARED DAILY

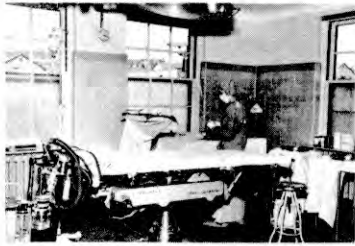


SPECIAL DIET IMPORTANT—
PART OF TREATMENT FOR MANY ILLNESS

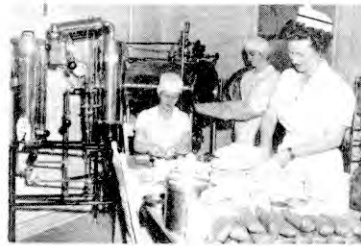


2500 LBS. LINEN WASHED DAILY

service every day of the year



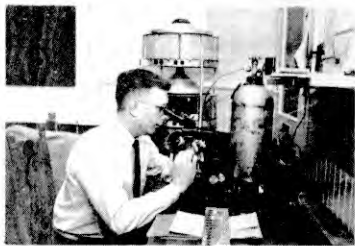
3.15 P.M. — MORNING WORK JUST ENDING



EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN FOR
PROPER STERILIZATION



2589 LABORATORY TESTS WEEKLY



PATHOLOGY -- DIAGNOSIS IS CONFIRMED!



EMERGENCIES HANDLED WITH
KINDNESS AND CARE



PATIENTS RECEIVING THE KINDLY
MINISTRATIONS OF THE STUDENT NURSES



TENDER LOVING CARE -- THE HEART AND
SOUL OF PEDIATRIC NURSING



PREPARING FOR FLUOROSCOPY



THERE ARE MORE TO COME!!



ELECTROCARDIOGRAM!



REMINDERS TO THE MEDICAL
STAFF



PREPARING NURSES FOR THE
FUTURE



BUSY HANDS -- CHEERFUL
SERVICE

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital

Building Program

Seven Storey Wing (connected to existing building)

100 New beds (35 Pediatric : 56 Maternity : 9 Emergency)

An Emergency Out-Patient Unit.

3 Delivery Rooms

5 Labour Rooms

Recovery Rooms and Special Care Unit

66 Bassinets for Newborn

Premature Nursery

Dietary Department (Central service)

Storage and Locker Room

New Boilers and Improvements to Heating Plant

Renovations of Existing Buildings.

Improvements to X-Ray and Physiotherapy with additional operating room facilities.

Parking Facilities

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital

Building Program

TOTAL COST :

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WING -----	\$1,892,000.00	
ALTERATIONS TO PRESENT HOSPITAL -----	90,000.00	
EQUIPMENT -----	300,000.00	
INTEREST CHARGES ON BANK LOAN OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS (ESTIMATED) -----	370,000.00	\$2,652,000.00

THE COST IS TO BE FINANCED AS FOLLOWS :

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -----	\$285,000.00	
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT -----	580,000.00	
FEDERAL--PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR ALTERATIONS -----	60,000.00	
EQUIPMENT COVERED BY NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN --	300,000.00	
	\$1,225,000.00	

TO BE CONTRIBUTED BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY AND FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL -----	1,427,000.00	\$2,652,000.00
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The amount of one million, two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$1,225,000.00) represents 46.2 per cent of the total cost.

The amount of one million, four hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$1,427,000.00) to be contributed by the Sisters of Mercy and friends of the Hospital, represents 53.8 per cent of the total cost.

An appeal will be made in the Churches of the Archdiocese on Sunday, July 16th, 1961 for funds, which will be devoted to the repayment of the Bank Loan.

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital

APPRAISAL VALUE

Hospital 1939	\$662,479.59
Laundry & Boiler Room	398,000.00
Chapel Wing	368,000.00
Convent	20,000.00
Residence for Staff	23,447.56

BUILDINGS AT COST

Students' Residence & School of Nursing	\$611,078.75
LeMarchant Road Staff Residence	12,000.00

EQUIPMENT

Value	\$300,000.00
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Financial Statement -- 1960

STATEMENT OF REVENUE FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1960

Net Income	\$789,146.69
Operating Expenses	
Miscellaneous	\$748,289.74
Depreciation	73,310.93
Bond and Bank Loan Interest	23,136.69
	\$844,737.36
Excess of Expenses over Income	55,590.67
Payments to the Sinking Fund Bank Account for the Redemption of Bonds	19,600.00
Deficit for the year	75,190.67

Actual average cost to the Hospital for ONE PATIENT per day for 1960 — \$16.72

In 1960 there were :—

- 6,365 Admissions.
- 1,930 Births.
- 2,386 Operations.
- 34,684 X-Ray Examinations.
- 162,790 Laboratory Test Units.
- 305,910 Meals served.
- 750,000 Pounds of Laundry washed.
- 3,096 Patients treated in the Emergency department.
- 848 Electrocardiographs.

Budget for 1960 (including interest and depreciation) \$1,067,106.00

School of Nursing

Our Lady of Lourdes Hall, Student Residence and School of Nursing was opened on September 24th, 1958 by His Grace, Most Reverend P. J. Skinner, C.J.M. His Grace, realizing the need for adequate facilities to meet the needs of modern education, gave approval for its construction in 1957. The plans and specifications were drawn up by Mr. John E. Hoskins, F.R.A.I.C., of St. John's, who died suddenly in December 1957, at a time when the building was only partially completed. Durnford, Bolton, Chadwick and Ellwood of Montreal, who had been Associate Architects with Mr. Hoskins on Holy Heart of Mary Regional High School, undertook the duties of Supervisor. Mr. W. B. Guihan came to St. John's as representative of the Architects and under his capable supervision, Our Lady of Lourdes Hall was completed in 1958.

The building includes in addition to private and semi-private rooms for 100 students, up to date educational and recreational facilities.

The building—four floors plus a sub-basement—is constructed throughout of reinforced concrete and steel. Acoustical ceilings have been provided in all corridors, main entrance, lobby, washrooms, lecture rooms, science laboratory, laundry, kitchenette, recreation rooms and the library.

The shower and toilet rooms have door-height tile wainscots and ceramic tile floors throughout; the partitions here are in steel and aluminum, finished in baked enamel paint, all done in an attractive colour scheme. Full sash double glazing units are on all windows. The door frames are steel, and the doors themselves are slab-type birch.

The entrance lobby, waiting rooms and elevator lobby, have terrazzo floors in a checkerboard lay-out, and the wood finish in these areas is in oak-natural stain. The corridors are wide, well lighted, and very attractive with gray walls, and furniture in strawberry with black finish.

The recreation rooms and library walls, are in maple panelling from floor to ceiling, and are floored in rubber tile. The basement floors are finished in vinyl asbestos tile. Student's rooms and corridors, are covered in heavy linoleum. All corridors have a special four foot high plastic enamel wainscot.

Cabinets, science tables, bookcases, bedroom wardrobes, students' study desks are all in birch, with natural stain and varnish. Each room is equipped with a built-in locked wardrobe, a study desk with fluorescent light, bedside tables and comfortable chairs in which the students can relax or study. Each room also has a full length mirror.

The rooms are attractively decorated—the walls are painted in single and two-tone colours of green, buttercup, pink, gray, blue and taupe. Beds and furniture are of varied colour schemes, with matching spreads on the beds. Pretty curtains of various designs and colours add to the rooms an atmosphere which is warm and homelike.

The teaching unit, which consists of two lecture rooms, science laboratory, demonstration room, library and instructor's office, is well equipped with teaching aids of all types and in keeping with modern trends.



School of Nursing

The educational program of the school has developed with the changing standards of modern education. The main purpose of the school is the complete development of students, not only in technical knowledge and clinical skills but in the building of such on a sound cultural and spiritual basis. Since every phase of nursing education is influenced by the philosophy upon which it is based, the moral and spiritual values of nursing are emphasized, throughout the course.

The basic course covers three years of study and clinical experience and the curriculum is divided into four main sections: (1) the physical and biological sciences, (2) the social sciences, (3) medical sciences, and (4) nursing and allied arts.

Since knowledge without application is an unproductive hoarding of facts, the curriculum of the school combines formal classroom teaching with an organized clinical program in the hospital, where the student learns to correlate theory and practice, and develops the ability to give comprehensive nursing care.

Classes are admitted once a year in September, with an average enrollment of thirty five. Applicants must be at least seventeen and a half years of age—this is a provincial requirement. The minimum requirement for entrance is a public examination Grade XI diploma, but preference is given to applicants who have matriculation or university entrance, or those who have advanced educational standing.

Examinations are held at the end of each course in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year and the general standing of the student is determined by the character of her nursing ability, her adaptability and deportment, as well as her scholastic achievement. Sixty percent is required in each subject. Provincial State Board examinations are written at the completion of the course.

The faculty of the school is organized with standing committees, and as a whole in a faculty council. In addition to an advisory school committee, the standing committees comprise the executive committee, committee on health, committee on curriculum and clinical instruction, and a library and finance committee.

The health of the students is carefully supervised, and regular physical examinations are under the direction of a school physician.

The past 32 years have been very rewarding in our school of nursing, and through continual growth and progress the present day standard of nursing education has been achieved. We appreciate that the pioneers of our school worked hard to lay the foundation on which our present system has been built.



Medical Staff

HONORARY STAFF

Dr. T. Anderson
Dr. C. Macpherson
Dr. E. Knowing
Dr. T. A. Knowing

COURTESY STAFF

Dr. J. L. Land
Dr. E. McCann
Dr. H. D. Roberts
Dr. R. K. Shapter
Dr. J. E. Walsh

ATTENDING STAFF

MEDICINE

Chief of Department
Dr. R. J. Simms
Dr. J. B. Roberts
Dr. I. Rusted
Dr. P. A. Spurrell

NEUROLOGY

Dr. A. M. House

PEDIATRICS

Dr. T. G. Anderson
Dr. J. F. Collins
Dr. C. J. Joy
Dr. K. L. Linegar
Dr. M. T. C. Randall
Dr. D. C. Simms

PSYCHIATRY

Dr. G. J. O'Brien
Dr. J. G. Williams

SURGERY

Chief of Department
Dr. G. M. Brownrigg

General Surgeons

Dr. J. D. Baird
Dr. G. W. Battcock
Dr. H. J. Blackwood
Dr. J. O. Fraser
Dr. P. J. Horan
Dr. B. J. Kennedy
Dr. R. F. Kennedy
Dr. A. S. Lewis
Dr. J. A. McNamara
Dr. A. J. Neary
Dr. N. F. Rusted
Dr. J. T. Smith
Dr. P. J. Whelan

GENITO-URINARY SURGERY

Dr. A. R. Mercer
Dr. E. F. Moores

NEURO SURGERY

Dr. D. L. Sutherland

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. R. D. Lawton

OPHTHALMOLOGY -

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Dr. A. W. Blackler
Dr. P. Lockwood
Dr. J. G. Lynch
Dr. P. J. McNicholas
Dr. J. H. Molloy

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Dr. L. O'N Conroy
Dr. D. E. Cowan
Dr. D. G. Landells
Dr. A. E. Shapter

ANESTHESIA

Dr. C. U. Henderson
Dr. J. J. Kennedy
Dr. R. McDonald
Dr. H. N. Peisley
Dr. T. G. Stentaford
Dr. J. W. Tyl

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Chief of Department

Dr. F. L. O'Dea
Dr. J. B. Boulos
Dr. G. H. Flight
Dr. C. Loveys

PATHOLOGY

Chief of Department

Dr. J. E. Josephson
Dr. S. C. Lauchlan
Dr. E. Pike
Dr. W. B. Hyatt

RADIOLOGY

Dr. W. D. Henaghan
Dr. W. J. Higgins
Dr. E. A. MacLaughlin
Dr. H. B. Murphy

GENERAL PRACTICE DEPARTMENT

Dr. T. A. Buist
Dr. D. E. Butler
Dr. J. V. Coyle
Dr. J. Crowley
Dr. J. M. Edgecombe
Dr. P. J. Fahey
Dr. C. H. Gould
Dr. A. M. Guy
Dr. E. W. Hildebrand
Dr. C. J. Hutton
Dr. C. D. Kean
Dr. L. E. Lawton
Dr. N. J. Lush
Dr. K. H. Marshall
Dr. C. A. Morris
Dr. E. J. Quinlan
Dr. J. Robinson
Dr. H. D. Rosenberg
Dr. E. L. Sharpe
Dr. H. J. Warrick
Dr. A. M. Wells

MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL BOARD

Doctor G. M. Brownrigg
Doctor J. G. Lynch

Doctor R. J. Simms
Doctor J. A. MacNamara

Doctor W. J. Higgins
Doctor F. L. O'Dea

NURSING SERVICE

Head Nurses ----- Miss Josephine Goss, R.N.
Miss Mary Goff, R.N.
Miss Shirley Freake, R.N.
Miss Frances O'Toole, R.N.
Miss Beatrice Walsh, R.N.
Miss Regina Horan, R.N.
Miss Margaret Cole, R.N.
Miss Anne Wiseman, R.N.

REGISTERED STAFF NURSES ----- 27
Operating Room Nurses ----- 4
Delivery Room Nurses ----- 5
Nursery ----- 6
Emergency Room Nurses ----- 2
Central Supply ----- 1
Orderlies ----- 5
Certified Nursing Assistants ----- 2
Nurses' Aides ----- 8

X-RAY DEPARTMENT

Supervisor ----- Sister Mary Magdalene, R.N., R.T.
Registered x-ray technicians ----- 4
Students ----- 3
Stenographers ----- 2

LABORATORY

Supervisor ----- Sister Mary Aiden, R.N., R.T.
Laboratory Technicians ----- 7
Student ----- 1
Aide ----- 1
Stenographer ----- 1

PHARMACY — PHYSIOTHERAPY & ELECTROCARDIOGRAM

Supervisor ----- Sister Mary Raphael
Miss Lillian Coleman, R.N.
Technician ----- Miss Olga Stoyles

MEDICAL RECORDS

Medical Record Librarian ----- Sister Mary Brenda, R.N., R.R.L.
Medical Stenographers ----- 3

DIETARY

Dietitian ----- Sister Mary Andrea
Dietary Assistant ----- Sister Mary Thomasina
Cooks & Dining Hall Attendants ----- 22

LAUNDRY

Supervisor ----- Sister Mary Anita
Laundrymen ----- 2
Laundry Workers (Women) ----- 12

LINEN ROOM

Seamstress ----- Miss Muriel O'Leary

HOUSEKEEPING

Housekeeper ----- 1
Resident Supervisors ----- 2
Domestics ----- 16

PHYSICAL PLANT

Engineer ----- William Power
Firemen ----- 4
Janitors ----- 2
Driver ----- 1
Elevator Operator ----- 1

MAINTENANCE

Mr. Felix McCarthy



The Chapel — Heart of the Catholic Hospital

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Expansion Program, and the specialized equipment to be acquired, afford many opportunities for memorial and commemorative gifts that will be of lasting benefit.

What better opportunity could there be than to endow St. Clare's with a memorial to a loved one.

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND