



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
Our Story, 75 Years of Caring
Grey Nuns of Saskatoon**

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OUR STORY

75 Years of Caring



ST. PAUL'S
HOSPITAL
Grey Nuns' of Saskatoon

In the Charity of Christ
The Board of Directors,
Grey Nuns,
gratefully dedicate
Our Story: 75 Years of Caring
to the Sisters, Staff and Physicians
of
St. Paul's Hospital,
who, through their untiring
service to our patients,
continue to follow in the
footsteps of Marguerite d'Youville

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL (GREY NUNS') OF SASKATOON

Our Story: Seventy-five Years of Caring

A History by Sally Clubb

On a graceful sloping site in the Pleasant Hill area of west Saskatoon stands an imposing structure of rust-colored brick.

Resting at the apex of the wide entrance lawns leading to the building, the bronze Statue of the Sacred Heart offers solace and comfort.

The rust brick structure is St. Paul's Hospital, established in 1907 by the Order of Grey Nuns as the first hospital for the general public in the City of Saskatoon. For seventy-five years St. Paul's Hospital has flourished on the same site, evolving from the simple cottage hospital housing a few patients in 1907 to the present well-equipped, modern complex.

For the span of three-quarters of a century the Order of Grey Nuns has fulfilled the spirit of solace and comfort to the sick and ailing of Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan. This hospital is now celebrating its special Seventy-fifth Anniversary year.

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This History was researched from source materials contained in "Chronicles of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, Volumes I, II, III", with rough translations from the French original, and from the Archives of St. Paul's Hospital, including newspaper clippings, letters, documents and photographs, as well as information received from St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon.



My Dear Friends:

Congratulations on your 75 years of service to the citizens of Saskatoon. While every year of that service has been precious to the people, I am particularly grateful for your 21st year during which I was born in St. Paul's!

Although Saskatoon is blessed in the quality of medical service given at its three hospitals, some of us have a special place in our heart for St. Paul's. Call it what you will, there has always been something exceptional about our hospital. Running through the 75 years like a golden thread has been a distinctive spirit attributable to the Grey Nuns of Montreal and to the many many wonderful doctors, nurses, administrators and staff persons who shared the Sisters' vision and built up the hospital as a place of loving care. In the final analysis it is still the spirit of Blessed Mother Marguerite d'Youville adapted over the 75 years to the changing conditions of the times.

Speaking for the Roman Catholic community in particular, I would like to express my thanks for the spiritual care provided by the chaplaincy department and others all these years. For so many people the hospital has been a place where the curing of the soul as well as the body has occurred and there are many families whose thanks to St. Paul's can never be adequately expressed.

I think 75 years is a pretty good start and I join my fellow citizens of Saskatoon in saying Happy Birthday St. Paul's. Your perennial youthfulness inspires hope in us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Mahoney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James P. Mahoney
Bishop of Saskatoon



*Sister Germaine Hetu S.G.M.,
Chairman, Board of Directors.*

MESSAGE FROM SISTER GERMAINE HETU, PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF THE GREY NUNS

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital is indeed an occasion for much rejoicing and thanksgiving. The Grey Nuns are proud of their hospital and grateful to the pioneering sisters who arrived in Saskatoon 75 years ago on a mission of mercy, that of caring for the sick.

In 1906, two Grey Nuns from St. Boniface, Manitoba, had visited Saskatoon in the midst of an epidemic of typhoid fever and had immediately busied themselves ministering to those afflicted by this disease. They were thus carrying on a tradition set forth by their Foundress Blessed Marguerite d'Youville, that of caring for people in need of assistance of any kind while at the same time manifesting the tenderness and the love of God the Father.

Faithful to this tradition, the Grey Nuns founded St. Paul's Hospital which has gradually expanded to its present capacity, offering a variety of health care services.

The Grey Nuns are deeply grateful for their opportunity of caring for the people of Saskatoon and they are looking forward to continue this service with love and compassion for many years to come. They also wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to their many collaborators in the accomplishments of St. Paul's Hospital for the population of Saskatoon and its surrounding areas during the past 75 years.

May the History of St. Paul's Hospital reveal to its readers the genuine devotion, the concern, the love and the appreciation of the Grey Nuns for the people of Saskatoon.

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This history celebrates 75 years of the Grey Nuns' dedication and commitment to the health care field in Saskatchewan through St. Paul's Hospital. It, indeed, is a remarkable achievement and as you read through the history, it becomes obvious that the Grey Nuns were and are leaders in the development of the health care system in our Province.

It is good to look at where we came from, project that into where we are today, and it can do nothing but give us added encouragement for the direction in which we are going tomorrow. This history tells a story of dedication, faith and commitment and should serve as a reminder to all of us that much can be accomplished when dedicated people turn their efforts towards a much cherished goal.

Our most sincere congratulations to the Grey Nuns for 75 years of devotion to the people of Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan.

David J. Hart
Executive Director



Superiors and Administrators — 1907 to 1981

1907 - 1908: Sr Rose-de-Lima Arsenault - St. Dosithee	1943 - 1947: Sr Loretta Mansfield
1908 - 1909: Sr Léa Dandurand	1947 - 1950: Sr Annette Lachance
1909 : Sr Mary O'Brien - Duffin	1950 - 1953: Sr Bernadette Bézaire
1909 - 1914: St. Mary Kelly - St. Liguori	1953 - 1956: Sr Annette Lachance
1914 - 1916: Sr Albertine Pepin - Duckett	1956 - 1957: Sr Marie Laforce
1916 - 1919: Sr Joséphine Weekes	1957 - 1964: Sr Yvonne Prévost
1919 - 1922: Sr Anna Dubé - Ste-Praxède	1964 - 1967: Sr Ann Ell
1922 - 1926: Sr Mary Ann Casey	1967 - 1971: Sr Florence Keegan
1926 - 1932: Sr Mary Ann Fennell	1971 - 1974: Sr Léonie Poirier
1932 - 1934: Sr Mary Murphy	1974 - 1977: Sr Lydia Noel
1934 - 1940: Sr Margaret O'Grady	1977 - 1980: Sr Cécile Pedneault
1940 - 1943: Sr Rose Vincent	1980 : Sr Désanges Gionet

Sisters of St. Paul's Hospital — 1981



Sister D. Gionet, Sup.



Sister A. Cyr



Sister J. Chaille



Sister C. Gauthier



Sister T. Langlois



Sister I. Laramee



Sister S. Mageau



Sister A. Martineau



Sister L. Savidan



Sister V. Violini



Sister F. Wylie

THE ORDER OF GREY NUNS

The Founding of the Order of Grey Nuns

The Institute of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns" has an unparalleled record of service throughout Canada and the United States, and in far countries overseas. Over the years the Grey Nuns have owned and operated many hospitals, schools and nursing homes in communities from the tropical areas to the frozen north, in many cases pioneering hospital care wherever they were asked to serve. In Saskatoon, St. Paul's Hospital is owned and operated by the Order of Grey Nuns.

The history of the Order of Grey Nuns reaches back into Canadian annals nearly two hundred and fifty years. Members of this Order have been an important force in nursing and teaching in Western Canada since 1844, and in what is now the Province of Saskatchewan since 1860.

In humble surroundings of the bustling trading community of Montreal, New France, a dedicated and determined young widow pledged the remaining years of her life to the care of the sick and the afflicted, the elderly and the orphans. The year was 1737, and the young widow was Marguerite d'Youville, who had married young, borne six children of whom two sons survived, and who had suffered the loss of her husband, Francois d'Youville, before she was thirty years of age.

Marie Marguerite Dufrost de la Jemmerais was born in Varennes, near Ville Marie, on October 15, 1701, the eldest child of the union of two of the most important families in New France. From the Chateau de la Jemmerais near Medreac, a town in Northern Brittany, her ancestors first came to New France. Pierre Boucher, her paternal great-grandfather, was a leading citizen of the French colony, and an important advisor to the King of France. Pierre de la Verendrye, the great explorer of Western Canada and the Northern United States, was her uncle. One of her brothers accompanied de la Verendrye on his expeditions over the Great Lakes and the woodlands to the open prairies of



Blessed Mother Marguerite d'Youville founder of the Grey Nuns in 1738.

the Great Plains. Marguerite's maternal grandfather was Rene Gaultier, Governor of Trois Rivieres.

During her married life Marguerite d'Youville lived at Place Royale, near the original Notre Dame Church in Ville Marie. Francois led an adventurous life in the fur trade, and upon his untimely death in 1730, the young widow and her two sons were left almost destitute and debt-ridden. At first Marguerite operated a small store and took in fine sewing to support herself and her family. Her little shop prospered, and to her humble home the young widow welcomed the unfortunate of the parish of Notre Dame, entrusted to her care by the Sulpician Fathers.

In 1737, Marguerite d'Youville and several of her industrious companions consecrated themselves to God, and solemnly pledged "to consecrate their time, their days, their wit and charity ... putting all in common, the produce of their labor to be used to

provide for as many poor as possible". This marked the beginnings of the illustrious Canadian Order, the Sisters of Charity, which became known as the Order of Grey Nuns, the first order of nuns founded by a Canadian.

On September 21, 1978, Postmaster General Gilles Lamontagne announced that Canada Post was issuing a commemorative postage stamp "honouring Mere Marguerite d'Youville, who founded the Sisters of Charity, called the Grey Nuns". The design of the stamp, predominantly in blue and gold, featured Mother d'Youville praying, and in the background, the poor of Montreal helped themselves from barrels of flour. The design was inspired by an incident from the



The Grey Nuns in Western Canada

The Order of Grey Nuns has amassed a unique history of service in Canada. In the century following its foundation in Montreal in 1737 by Mother d'Youville, the Order spread its good works to establishments in other centres of Quebec, into Ontario and the Northeastern United States. The Order of Grey Nuns ventured to the far West in 1844 at the invitation of Archbishop Provencher of St. Boniface, almost on the site of historic Fort Rouge which Sieur de la Verendrye established on the Red River. Their duties were to impart the knowledge and skills of household tasks and needlework crafts to the young girls of the Red River district, and to nurse the ill and the elderly.

In 1860, after an arduous journey of fifty-seven days over the fur trade route, Bishop Grandin led three Grey Nuns to the pioneer Oblate mission of Ile a la Crosse. Here Sisters Agnes, Boucher and Pepin set up a convent, a dispensary and a mission school to serve the inhabitants and their children who lived in the

life of Blessed Mother d'Youville, when, during a famine in Montreal in 1760, food for the poor mysteriously appeared in the refectory of the Sisters of Charity.

"Mere d'Youville's compassion was such that she set about caring for all the wretched, the poor, the old and the abandoned. She never turned anyone away," said Mr. Lamontagne in making the announcement. "That spirit lives among her followers today, and many troubled people continue to think first of the Grey Nuns when they seek help and comfort."

After the special events and ceremonies marking the occasion of the issuance of this stamp, Governor-General Jules Leger paid this tribute to the Grey Nuns Order:

"My brother, Cardinal Paul-Emile Leger, and I are quite familiar with the Grey Nuns' firm spirit of freedom; first, because we have two aunts in the Congregation, Sisters Laberge and Beauvais, and because my brother spent 17 years trying to 'convert' them.

"To those women who seek liberation, I would suggest they meditate on the history of a woman like Mother d'Youville, keeping in mind that liberty consists less in receiving than in giving."

At its formation in 1737, Marguerite d'Youville set down the precepts of the Order of Grey Nuns: "To care for the sick, the forgotten, the aged and the orphans." The gracious portrait of the Blessed Mother d'Youville in the entrance lobby of St. Paul's Hospital reminds those who enter that the Order of Grey Nuns has continued its Foundress' original precepts on this site in Saskatoon for over seventy-five years.

In spite of fire and flood and great personal hardship, the Grey Nuns maintained these vital services over the years until in 1927 when the government built a hospital and asked the Grey Nuns to operate it, which they did for several decades.

The story of how Sisters of the Order of Grey Nuns arrived in Saskatoon in 1906, and established a hospital known as St. Paul's Hospital in 1907, is told in the pages of this History. A few months later, other Grey Nuns began the Regina Grey Nuns Hospital, subsequently sold to the Government of Saskatchewan. Several smaller hospitals were established by the Sisters of Charity in Saskatchewan in the first two decades of this century.

During the past two centuries Mother d'Youville's followers have ventured far afield to continue the good works of their Foundress. Today the Grey Nuns have communities in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and in the United States, and foreign countries.

HEALTH CARE IN EARLY SASKATCHEWAN

The First Hospitals

There were few trained medical practitioners or qualified nurses among the early settlers of Saskatchewan, and even fewer hospitals. Although the North West Territorial Council had provided for health districts, and had designated a Health Officer, by 1900 only two hospitals existed in the present province — at Regina in the Assiniboia Territory, and at Prince Albert in the Saskatchewan Territory, providing a grand total of fourteen patient beds.

For a few brief months in 1885, Saskatoon gained recognition as the site of a busy little base hospital during the Northwest Rebellion. Sick and wounded casualties first arrived in Saskatoon on May 11, 1885, from Fish Creek and Batoche, on the steamer "Northcote". These were cared for in "three settlers' unfinished houses and the commodious schoolhouse" by Surgeon-Major Bell, chief nurse Miller and three other trained nurses from Eastern Canada. The nurses worked long hours in primitive conditions, and identified themselves with Red Cross armbands on their print dresses. A small house on 11th Street East which was used as a hospital in 1885 has been designated a "historic site" and is being restored.

Qualified medical practitioners began registering with the Northwest Territorial Council in 1885, and by 1888 the College of Physicians and Surgeons had been

incorporated. Medical health officers in various districts, recruited in 1899, began keeping statistics on contagious diseases and other health related matters.

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century, several "Cottage Hospitals" were established under the auspices of the Victorian Order of Nurses and of Lady Minto, wife of the Governor-General of Canada at the time. In 1898 the first hospital to be assisted by the Victorian Order was the cottage hospital in Regina, where a V.O.N. trained nurse was placed in charge. Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert opened on November 7, 1899, and received the "government grant of 13 cents per patient hospital day, and 25 cents per day for free (charity) patients". The names of "Lady Minto", "Victoria", and "Jubilee" were given to hospitals during this period, and into the new century, and these names have carried over until the present time.

Between these two pioneer hospitals, over hundreds of square miles of prairie, nursing and health care was in the hands of untrained "practical nurses", and often the Northwest Mounted Police, miles away from any qualified doctor. By 1905, with the formation of the Province of Saskatchewan, only six hospitals with a total of 75 patient beds served a growing population of 250,000 from the forty-ninth to the sixtieth parallels of latitude.

The Typhoid Epidemic

The concerted drive by the Government of Canada Department of the Interior, under Clifford Sifton, and the Canadian Pacific Railway to attract settlers and homesteaders to fill the empty lands of the great northwest brought an influx of large groups of immigrants from Great Britain and Central Europe.

This flood of prospective settlers, as many as 15,000 per year, created health and sanitation problems beyond the scope of the sparse existing health facilities. Dr. M. M. Seymour, the first Provincial Health Officer, reiterated the pressing need to establish hospitals with trained personnel, and empha-

sized his concerns over the spread of a dread, age-old debilitating disease, typhoid fever.

The chief health menace in the formative years of our province proved to be typhoid fever, in those days a feared disease that took a heavy toll of lives, especially in urban areas experiencing the most rapid growth. The huddling together of hundreds of settlers in make-shift immigration sheds, as well as the arrival of large numbers of railway and construction workers into the province, combined with the general disregard for the necessary precautionary health measures, contributed to an alarming incidence of typhoid fever.

First reports of a severe epidemic occurred in October, 1905, in the new town of North Battleford, and the report of Dr. M. M. Seymour, at that time issued by the Department of Agriculture, stated that: "The history of the disease justifies us in saying that wherever men congregate and live together without adequate sanitary provisions . . . typhoid fever will appear. This statement has been confirmed by the severe epidemics of typhoid which occurred in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert, as well as many towns and villages throughout the province."

In addition to the dearth of hospitals in the

province, Dr. Seymour deplored the lack of concern for health and sanitation matters among civic authorities. He related how the Canadian Pacific Railway was constructing a bridge across the river just north of Saskatoon in 1907, and how "one of the main sewers of the city empties its contents directly into the Saskatchewan River about half a mile above this work. . . . In a very short time, typhoid fever broke out among the men, and soon fifty out of a gang of 75 men were laid up with typhoid fever. Stopping the use of river water and procuring a supply of pure water from another source prevented the development of further cases". In 1908, Saskatoon reported 199 cases of typhoid fever and 12 deaths, "which shows the city to be in need of improving its water supply and drainage system".

In 1908, the Provincial Government, acting on Dr. Seymour's reports, passed sanitation regulations governing lumbering, railway and construction areas, and the incidence of typhoid fever lessened as a result. By this time, the establishment of several well-run hospitals observing strict rules of sanitation in caring for typhoid patients, helped diminish the number of patients suffering from this communicable disease.

The First Hospitals in Saskatoon

Saskatoon, first a village of 113 people in 1890 when the railway line from Regina to Prince Albert crossed the South Saskatchewan River over the new bridge, became a bustling town of nearly 500 in 1903 when the Barr Colonists camped to buy supplies on their way to the Lloydminster settlement two hundred miles to the north and west. It achieved city status in 1906 with a population of 2,000, which rapidly grew to over 3,000 by the end of that year.

Several pioneer doctors served the growing community, but with the increasing spate of immigrants and land-seekers, the problems of sanitation, pure water and sewage disposal increased. Contributing to the severe health problems were large railway gangs housed in tent communities while building the railway lines in and around the city, and the construction crews erecting the 19th Street traffic bridge, as well as the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific bridges over the South Saskatchewan in the vicinity of the new city.

The enterprising and astute business men and city officials of early Saskatoon, whose untiring efforts had assured that the railway lines would pass through this city, determined that Saskatoon should own its main service facilities, such as electrical power, sewer and water lines, public transportation, and a modern hospital. Expansion of the new city occupied most of the attention of the City Council of this day, although

in 1906 plans were formulated and funds to the amount of \$30,000 were set aside for the construction of a Municipal Hospital in the City Park district, which had been purchased in 1903 for \$1,500.

Even before the architect's plans were approved for a municipal hospital, the severe outbreak of typhoid fever sweeping the province reached Saskatoon's bridge and railway workers, and immediate plans had to evolve for the sick and the dying. The frantic search for hospital beds soon filled the 6th Avenue nursing home of Nurse Sisley, a British-trained army nurse, and this residence was the first Saskatoon Municipal Hospital. As more typhoid patients arrived daily, the few beds in the overcrowded home were filled to capacity; cots for ill patients were set up in all the surrounding buildings and even the open grounds around the little hospital. The overflow of typhoid patients were taken to the new Roman Catholic rectory on 5th Avenue, to be cared for by the Oblate Fathers Vachon and Paille.

At this crucial time, Providence intervened and guided to the door of the 5th Avenue rectory two Sisters of Charity, Grey Nuns from the Provincial House at St. Boniface, Manitoba, who were travelling in the Catholic communities of the northern prairies on a fund-raising mission for the Grey Nuns' charitable homes in St. Boniface.

The Grey Nuns Come to Saskatoon

With intermittent lay assistance and under very trying conditions, Father Vachon and Father Paille had been attempting to cope with as many as eight typhoid patients at a time, lodging them in hallways and the one large downstairs room of the rectory. On a Saturday afternoon, September 31, 1906, two Grey Nuns, Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay, accompanied by their guide, arrived at the door of the temporary hospital after a five-day journey from North Battleford. The original purpose of their mission over hundreds of miles along the North and South Saskatchewan River communities had been to solicit funds for the orphans and the elderly in homes administered by the Order of Grey Nuns in St. Boniface. With their knock on the rectory door that fateful Saturday, their purpose changed, as did the future of nursing and hospital care in Saskatoon.

Father Paille welcomed Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay as answers to his urgent request of the Grey Nuns' Mother House in Montreal for experienced nursing aid. The good Father implored the two Grey Nuns to stay in Saskatoon, and to nurse the very ill typhoid victims lying in every available space in the rectory. An urgent telegram to the Mother Provincial in St. Boniface brought permission for the two Grey Nuns to remain for a short time as an emergency measure as the dreaded disease spread to more and more people in the community.

The two sisters agreed to stay to nurse the most seriously ill, and accepted rooms generously offered at the hotel of James Flanagan on Third Avenue. A prominent business man, Matthew Cahill, pleaded with them to care for his mother, stricken with typhoid fever and seriously ill. Sister Phaneuf arranged to stay with the ill woman during the daylight hours, and to join Sister Guay to provide night duty at the rectory. To enable the Grey Nuns to make up for the funds they would have collected on their original mission, the citizens of Saskatoon raised \$200 weekly, and the sisters promised to stay until they received further word from the Provincial Superior.

The improvised hospital at the rectory was in dire need of linens, utensils and provisions to aid in the



Rev. Sister Phaneuf, Foundress of St. Paul's Hospital March, 1907.

proper care of the patients. A concerted drive in the little city among citizens of all faiths helped to supply these needs, and the sisters made do with what supplies and equipment was available.

In early October, as more and more folk fell ill with typhoid fever, it became evident that the Grey Nuns' prolonged stay in Saskatoon was urgently required. Dr. P. D. Stewart, a pioneer medical man of the city, sent a telegram to the Mother Superior in St. Boniface asking for an extension of their stay, and this request was granted.

The small St. Paul's Church not far from the rectory was the scene of a joyous celebration on December 24, 1906. The church overflowed with celebrants for the Midnight Mass, who were joined by many citizens who wished to give grateful thanks for the nursing efforts of Sister Guay and Sister Phaneuf. The two Grey Nuns had cared diligently for thirty-four typhoid patients during their sojourn in the temporary hospital quarters, and of these patients four died, among them one man who had given assistance as an orderly.

Saskatoon's Need For A Grey Nuns' Hospital

The citizens of Saskatoon, encouraged by the nursing success of the Grey Nuns, decided to request that the Order establish and operate a permanent hospital in Saskatoon, at that time one of the most rapidly growing communities in the west. With the generous help of Matthew Cahill, Mother Despins of the St. Boniface Provincial House, accom-

panied by Sister Archambault arrived in the city to examine the feasibility of such a project. Mother Despins' consequent report to the Mother House in Montreal, however, proved negative for it advised against the establishment of a Grey Nuns' hospital in Saskatoon.

This rejection did not deter the prominent busi-

ness and professional men, and the city council of the prairie city. They realized that, with the rapid growth of the city, the proposed municipal hospital would not serve its health needs, and they were convinced that the Directorate of the Grey Nuns' Order in Montreal would grant their request for a hospital if they could plead their cause directly. Thus, on January 10, 1907, four prominent citizens, with Father Vachon as advocate, travelled by train to Montreal on this important mission. In a short time after their return, the Mother House in Montreal granted permission for the Grey Nuns to establish and operate a hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Immediately, plans were put into motion to facilitate the opening of such a hospital. Sisters Phaneuf and Guay, with the backing of the medical doctors and the entire community, began to solicit funds to meet the costs of a suitable site and building for a Grey Nuns' Hospital.

Meanwhile, Mother Mathilde Hamel, Superior General of the Montreal Mother House, wasted no time in making the hospital a reality once the permission of the Directorate had been granted. On January 21, 1907, three Grey Nuns, chosen by the Order to found and operate the new hospital, left Montreal for Western Canada. Sister St. Dosithee, Sister Mailloux and Sister Blakely travelled by train to St. Boniface (Winnipeg) without too much discomfort, but the consequent journey to Saskatoon encountered extreme difficulty.

Nature had decreed that the winter of 1906-1907 should be the coldest and most severe on record in Saskatchewan. Heavy blizzards blocked railway tracks and roadways, steam engines froze up and could not operate, a coal strike in Lethbridge cut off essential supplies of fuel in mid-winter. The usual eighteen-



Doctor Willoughby's residence which became the first St. Paul's Hospital.



Sister St. Dosithee First Superior and Administrator of St. Paul's Hospital.

hour trip from St. Boniface to Saskatoon took five and one-half harrowing days, with temperatures reaching fifty-five degrees below zero adding to the problems of trying to clear railway tracks of solid snow drifts and the wreckage of a freight train collision.

Finally, by the end of January the three Grey Nuns arrived in Saskatoon, and were heartened to learn that Sisters Phaneuf and Guay had made an excellent start on collecting the substantial sum of \$5,000 needed to start the hospital. Tentative arrangements had been made with Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby to purchase part of his former homestead on Pleasant Hill, with a good-sized two-storey and attic frame house. The sisters decided to name their establishment "St. Paul's Hospital" to honour the first Roman Catholic parish in Saskatoon. Sister St. Dosithee, in her capacity as first Superior, supervised the conversion of the house into a suitable hospital.

Because Dr. Willoughby, a busy land and real estate dealer, left Saskatoon for a few weeks, the final transfer of the property and buildings to the Order was delayed until February 22, 1907. With extraordinary faith and hard work, the Grey Nuns successfully converted the former dwelling into a residence-hospital by partitioning rooms, outfitting them with beds, cots and other furniture, and purchasing the necessary modest equipment and linen supplies.

On March 10, 1907, Saskatoon's first permanent hospital, St. Paul's Hospital with 17 patient beds, was declared open and ready for patients. Two fracture cases transferred from the temporary hospital in the rectory were the first admissions. Father J. Paille became the first Chaplain, and Sister St. Dosithee the first Sister Superior and Administrator.

THE FIRST ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

The Pioneer Years

The site of St. Paul's Hospital, then as now, was part of the original homestead proven by Dr. John Henry C. Willoughby in 1884 as "the north ¼ of Section 30, Township 36, Range 5" and later designated as "two full blocks running from Avenue P to Avenue R between 20th and 21st Streets", was one mile west of the city limits in 1907.

Although the new City of Saskatoon was installing water and sewer lines and planning its own electrical utility, the pioneering hospital had none of these amenities — no piped-in water, no plumbing, no electricity. In addition there was no central heating; a large coal range for cooking helped heat the building, augmented by smaller heaters placed on the various wards. Water for washing and cooking purposes had to be heated on the kitchen range.

The Grey Nuns' prime concern was the care of their patients, so they exerted all their efforts to overcome these difficulties. Doctors, who in winter reached the hospital by sleigh and team over snow-blocked trails, assisted with the chores, shovelling buckets of snow for the sisters to melt in large boilers

for washing clothes and bedding. When roads were passable, a City of Saskatoon tank and driver delivered water at \$1.00 a barrel to the hospital, and sometimes when the sisters had no funds the doctors would pay for the water supply. The simple act of snapping on a switch to illuminate a room was not possible — the only light was supplied by coal-oil lamps, even in the operating room.

In spite of hardships and primitive conditions, the Grey Nuns gave compassionate care to a steady flow of patients in the new St. Paul's Hospital. The first floor of the building provided residential quarters for the sisters, and a chapel for religious services. The second floor provided space for the women patients, and the attic for men.

Henderson's Directory in 1908 lists the following charges for patient care at St. Paul's Hospital:

Private wards, \$2.00 — \$3.00 per day
Semi-private, \$1.50 per day
General ward, \$1.00 per day
Charity patients free."

Early Medical Men of Saskatoon

They didn't think anything of it (the hardship) — 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." This tribute to Saskatoon's early medical men comes from the reminiscences of Sister Ste-Brigitte, S.G.M., who nursed at St. Paul's Hospital from the fall of 1907.

The pioneering physician of Saskatoon was Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby, who arrived in the Temperance Colony settlement in 1883, and in the early years

before the railroad came visited patients from as far north as Prince Albert and as far south as Regina. After an absence of a few years, Dr. Willoughby returned to Saskatoon in 1900 to build the large residence on Pleasant Hill which the Grey Nuns purchased and converted into the first permanent hospital in Saskatoon. At that time Dr. Willoughby owned large tracts of property in Riversdale, and devoted his time to the real estate business.

Dr. Peter Donald Stewart, a graduate of the Manitoba Medical College, arrived in Saskatoon in

June, 1902, and became Saskatoon's first full time medical practitioner. Soon to follow, and to begin practice in the growing city in those early years were:

Doctors S. Dickey, J. T. McKay, G. R. Peterson, J. A. Valens, H. D. Weaver, Andrew Croll, H. A. Stewart, G. A. Wright, J. P. DesRosiers, J. S. Brown, T. W. Walker, G. E. Holmes, C. W. Doran, J. S. Bromley, A. B. MacKenzie, D. G. Cameron, F. S. Eaton, as well as Dr. A. MacGillivray Young who became a Member of Parliament, and Dr. H. E. Munroe who was later a Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

These were the physicians who laid the founda-

tion of medical practice in Saskatoon, and who played a prominent role in the development of the city's two hospitals, St. Paul's Hospital and Saskatoon City Hospital. The municipally owned City Hospital first opened in the Nurse Sisley nursing home on 6th Avenue during the typhoid epidemic, and moved to the permanent 56-bed brick structure on Queen Street in the City Park district in 1909. As well, Mrs. Arnold, a trained nurse, operated a private hospital for maternity patients as early as 1902 in the Eighth Street and Lorne Avenue district, where Drs. P. D. Stewart and H. A. Stewart became attending physicians.

Hardship and Heroism

During the pioneering years of the new St. Paul's Hospital on Pleasant Hill, the Sister Superior in charge and her Grey Nuns received and attended an ever-increasing number of patients. An important date was April 13, 1907, when the telephone was installed, but more significantly, the first operation was performed at the little hospital. Achieving this pioneer surgery was Dr. Andrew Croll, who wrote: "I believe I did the first surgical case in the converted home of Dr. Willoughby. That was a gastroenterostomy for a perforated ulcer. I also did an appendectomy. Both patients did well."

In May, Sisters Phaneuf and Guay left their beloved St. Paul's Hospital to resume duties assigned to them at St. Boniface. With them, they carried the eternal gratitude of their patients and the families, and of all the citizens of Saskatoon for their efforts in making the new hospital a reality.

With the constant increase in patient load in Saskatoon's first permanent hospital came the immediate need for more accommodation. On June 22, 1907, St. Paul's Hospital opened a large frame addition to the south side of the original dwelling. Sister Anne Fernand in a letter dated August 23, 1907, describes this addition:

"The new pavilion was ready June 22nd. It was an extension of Dr. Willoughby's house, comprised of one storey and an attic, and measured 60'x35'. It would receive 26-28 patients. The sisters found it an improvement over the old facility where they constantly had to go up and down the stairs."

By reaching the new total of 45 patient beds, St. Paul's Hospital had achieved the distinction of being the largest hospital in the whole of the province.

Sister A. Fernand's letter, recorded in the *Annals of the Grey Nuns*, illustrates the compassionate

attitudes and the loving care extended by the Grey Nuns at their hospital that first summer.

"Since we have taken possession of St. Paul's on Pleasant Hill, surely the most beautiful site in the area, we have received and attended 117 patients, most of whom were very sick with typhoid, fractures, pneumonia, accidents and serious operations. Sister Superior refuses no one and we accept them as brothers and sisters, accepting very often only a promise for payment even if we know they will probably never pay the bill."

Unfortunately, the dread typhoid fever spread over the province again that summer, due to the constant construction of railways and bridges, and Saskatoon was not spared the plague. Many of these sufferers were admitted to St. Paul's Hospital, and required much nursing care. As a consequence, two sisters took ill from the disease, multiplying the duties of the remaining sisters.

"Our sisters, Agnes and Blakely, worked hard before they left," reports Sister A. Fernand in her narrative of August, 1907. "The sisters have not time to be lonely. Sisters Ste-Anne and Ste-Brigitte, who had spent 15 days in the camps by the railroads to solicit alms, returned yesterday to their work. Sunburned and tired, they had lost nothing of their courage and good humour."

To lighten the work load of the Grey Nuns, the City of Saskatoon agreed to supply large tanks of water to fill a cistern in the cellar of the hospital. The city electricians installed an electric pump which forced the water up to a reservoir in the attic, thence by newly-installed water pipes to all floors.

Concerns for the winter ahead were much in evidence that pioneer summer, as Sister A. Fernand continues:

"Sister Superior brings a second load of coal

today to avoid the rationing in the winter. The cost is \$8.25 per ton. We received a shipment of wood from Reverend Father Delmas (of Duck Lake) but the freight and transport is very expensive. Another load will come in the fall."

Happy events occurred in those early months to brighten the day to day duties of the sisters. They enjoyed visits from Bishop Albert Pascal, Bishop of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, who was impressed with the work of the Grey Nuns, and from Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Forget along with Mrs. Walter Scott, wife of the first Premier of Saskatchewan, who were in Saskatoon to officiate at the opening ceremonies of the annual exhibition.

As the winter approached, most of the 35 typhoid patients treated during the summer months at the new hospital recovered. Falling ill with the disease, however, had been Sister Superior St. Dosithee, and Sister Francois d'Assise, along with the hired man and a maid. Sisters Ste-Brigitte and St-Placide managed to carry on their additional duties with their usual compassion and faith, with the welcome assistance of the attending doctors and volunteer help. "Besides the ill sisters and workers, and the many patients," reminisced Sister Ste-Brigitte later, "there was the hospital horse 'Billy' (the gift of Dr. P. D Stewart) and two precious milk cows to tend." Because of her slow recovery from the illness, Sister Superior St. Dosithee found it necessary to return to St. Boniface to recover.

The first full winter of operation, 1907-08, sorely tried the determination and capacities of the Grey Nuns operating the hospital. Because of its site on a high rise of the open prairie, St. Paul's was buffeted by the fierce, swirling winds and frigid temperatures of another severe winter. A March blizzard, the worst of the season, isolated the hospital for two days. Ice frosted the telephone wires and no calls could be made in or out of the premises. Snow drifts, heavy and hard, blocked the roadways and piled up by the doorways;

no one could get in or out of the hospital, no deliveries of food or fresh water could reach the sisters and those in their care.

Finally, after the two-day winds and whirling snows abated, one resolute doctor with horse and sleigh reached the entrance roadway to the hospital, and shovelled a narrow path to the entrance so he could visit his patients. To add to the difficulties of this rigorous winter, the city's power station was destroyed by fire and took some time to repair, returning the hospital to its primitive lighting conditions.

The spring and summer months of 1908 sped by. The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's, who had cared for 345 patients in their first year of operation, were too busy with the ever-increasing arrivals of new patients to reflect on the trials and tribulations of the previous winter. The Sisters Superior, first Sister Dandurand and later Sister Duffin, supervised the care of the many typhoid patients once again filling the hospital beds during the summer, as well as other medical and surgical cases.

The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital heard indications in this second year that the Mother House in Montreal was considering closing their hospital. The sisters successfully reversed this decision by staunchly supporting the importance of their hospital in the growing community of Saskatoon and environs.

Circumstances were beginning to improve before the onset of another winter for the hospital. The City of Saskatoon agreed to pay St. Paul's \$200 for the charity patients treated during 1907, and \$300 for those patients during 1908. A newly constructed storehouse provided ample space for produce from the hospital garden on the grounds, and from generous donations from interested citizens and farmers of the district. With supplies of coal and wood, garden vegetables stored or preserved, meat and flour and other essentials on hand, the Grey Nuns were able to cope very well with another long, cold winter.

GROWTH AND PROGRESS, 1909-1913

Boom Years For Saskatoon

From 1909 to 1914 the City of Saskatoon entered a period of tremendous growth and development — these marked the important “Boom Years” of the city’s history. Three main railway lines and nearly a dozen important branch lines to rich farming communities brought demands in Saskatoon for more business, office and warehouse space. Several large wholesale firms from Winnipeg, and well-known farm machinery suppliers from the northern United States chose to locate in spacious buildings near and on 24th Street East, on the edge of the main business area of the city. Imposing office and apartment buildings sprang up along First, Second and Third Avenues; schools and churches rose to accommodate the spreading residential areas in the newer parts of the city, such as Mayfair, Buena Vista, City Park, Albert, Haultain, Westmount and Pleasant Hill.

Saskatoon, already in 1909 becoming known as an important business and distributing centre, made strides to establish its reputation as a medical centre. The arrival in the city of a score of well-qualified physicians and surgeons enhanced this reputation, as did the two well operated but crowded hospitals. The Grey Nuns’ Hospital on Pleasant Hill, with 45 patient beds and an excellent reputation for service, was filled to capacity. The small frame house on Sixth Avenue, pressed into service as a temporary municipal hospital during the typhoid epidemic, was out-of-date and inadequate.

On April 17, 1909, the City of Saskatoon proudly opened the first municipally-owned hospital in the West, the Saskatoon City Hospital located on Queen Street and Seventh Avenue. Plans for this modern, 55-bed well-equipped facility were based on those recommended by Dr. M. M. Seymour, who became the first Deputy Minister of Public Health in 1923 when that department was established by the provincial government.

For their part, the Grey Nuns added another frame addition to their original hospital in 1908, and erected several outbuildings on the grounds. The sisters moved their living quarters to the new addition, making room on the first floor of the Willoughby house for patients, and freeing the attic area for a major innovation to take place the following year. Through the vigorous efforts of the Sister Superior, and as a result of a strongly-worded petition to City Council, the City of Saskatoon agreed to construct sewer and water lines to serve St. Paul’s Hospital in August, 1910. With fresh, pure water piped to the hospital from the direct source, and plumbing and sewage facilities, the Grey Nuns felt they had indeed entered the modern age.

Dramatic and felicitous events during the next few years brought St. Paul’s Hospital indeed into the progressive pre-war age, enabling this Grey Nuns’ Hospital to offer facilities surpassed by none in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Opening of St. Paul’s School of Nursing

Many of the nursing sisters who came to serve at Saskatoon Grey Nuns’ hospital had trained at the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing. Since the formation of their institution in Saskatoon, the Grey

Nuns had been planning a Training School for nurses. The City Hospital had pioneered the training of nurses in temporary quarters on Sixth Avenue under the matron, Miss Mansell. Upon the opening of the

permanent City Hospital in 1909, Miss Nellie Parker became the first Superintendent of Nurses and organized a Training School.

"It was difficult to obtain students. For the first few years probationers were paid \$5.00 a month, \$10.00 if they were worth it, and \$15.00 in the second year. The Superintendent of Nurses received \$60.00 a month. In 1912 the City Hospital built a frame nurses' home." These quotations are contained in "The First Fifty Years", a history of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association.

The St. Paul's Training School for Nurses opened on November 21, 1909, under the direction of the first Superintendent of Nurses, Sister Marie du St. Sacrement. One probationary nurse joined the school on that date, soon followed by two others and two Grey Nuns. Classrooms were improvised on the third floor attic space of the original hospital, and the girls slept in this area also. Salaries were similar to those paid at City Hospital with board and room provided without charge. Hours of work were from 7:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. with one hour off daily, one free afternoon each week, and two weeks vacation every year. To meet the rigorous training requirements, only young, enthusiastic and healthy women were recruited. In addition to good health and exemplary character, the recruits had to be at least eighteen years of age and in possession of a Grade VIII Saskatchewan certificate, or equivalent.

The young students immediately entered into their studies, and duties on the wards under the direction of the Superintendent of Nurses and the senior staff, who taught them bedside procedures. Doctors offered lectures in fundamental subjects such



The nurses' graduation, 1915.

as anatomy and physiology, reinforced by classes by the Director of Nursing. After two years of arduous training in theoretical and practical nursing, the students received certificates as trained nurses.

On November, 1911, five young women graduated from St. Paul's Hospital as the first nurses of many hundreds trained at this institution to enter their honourable and dedicated profession. These nurses were:

Miss Hannah Eliason, Miss Charlotte McLoughlin, Miss Leonie Chappelle, and two Grey Nuns, Sister Beauvais and Sister St-Polycarpe.

Sister du St. Sacrement remained as Director of Nursing at the hospital from 1909-1912, and again from 1913-15, at which time nurses' training continued on the premises of the new, modern St. Paul's Hospital.

The Need For A Modern Hospital

Because of the burgeoning population in the western section of Saskatoon, particularly in the Riversdale, Westmount, Pleasant Hill and King George districts, St. Paul's Hospital in the early boom years found its role as a family-oriented hospital expanding beyond its facilities. The increasing number of rural patients who came to Saskatoon to seek medical consultation and consequent hospital treatment added to the predicament. More women were deciding to seek medical and hospital care when giving birth to their children, and St. Paul's happily recorded the first new-born baby to arrive at this hospital on October 5, 1909. The decision to open and expand the St. Paul's School of Nursing meant that additional space would be required for living quarters and classrooms for prospective nurses.

To keep pace with the rapid development of Saskatoon, the "Hub City" whose spokes extended 100 miles or more in each direction of the compass, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital took bold and progressive steps to meet the anticipated demands for hospital service.

With the guidance and co-operation of the Provincial House in St. Boniface and the Mother House in Montreal, St. Paul's Grey Nuns' Hospital began to make plans for a modern, well-equipped brick complex to be constructed on the existing Pleasant Hill Property, immediately to the north of the original hospital.

The Annals of the Grey Nuns' Hospital, Saskatoon, in which the sister chronicler recorded important events in the life of the hospital, gives interesting

statistics for the busy years closing off the first decade of the new century:

"Number of patients treated from January, 1909, to January, 1910: Surgical, 171, Medical, 109, Typhoid, 155, Gynecological, 35. Total treated: 468; Died, 19; Cured, 408; Remaining in hospital, 22. Operations: 146, Surgical Dressings, 3,083, Prescriptions, 7,600. There are 50 beds in the hospital — six private wards. It is possible, in periods of great necessity, to place 20 more beds in the hospital. Catholics: 139. Non-Catholics: 329. The religious opinions of every patient are absolutely respected, and clergymen of any denomination are at liberty to visit any patient at any time."

The report of the chronicler goes on to give a short financial statement of the costs of running the St. Paul's Hospital for one year:

"Expenditures 1909.. \$21,381.57
Receipts, 1909..... 19,410.25

Deficit, 1909 1,971.32
Water, \$850.00 ...Fuel, \$862.00
Extraordinary Expenditure For
Building..... \$14,650.84

The water for the hospital has to be purchased at the ordinary rate, there being a well only for drinking water. A pump must be kept running, which accounts for the expense for the water."

Early in 1910, under the guidance of the practical and industrious Sister Superior St. Liguori, who served in that capacity in the important growth years from 1909-1914, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital began to press the case for a new, substantial hospital.

In short order, suitable architectural plans were approved and funding arranged for the important undertaking of a new masonry St. Paul's Hospital, destined to serve Saskatoon and district for half a century.

THE BLOSSOMING YEARS, 1913-1930

The New Hospital A Reality

Mother Anna Piche, newly-elected Superior General of the Institute of the Sisters of Charity, Grey Nuns of Montreal, arrived in Saskatoon on September 2, 1911 for her first official visit to St. Paul's Hospital. At that time, the staff was comprised of eleven sisters, twelve nurses, fourteen employees, to care for a total of 64 patients. On this special occasion, Mother Piche planted a cross to signify the location of the proposed St. Paul's Hospital. All the Grey Nuns joined in the procession, and each in turn had the honour of turning a scoopful of earth.

On the significant date of June 30, 1912, the cornerstone was laid for the construction of the new St. Paul's Hospital. Reverend Father Lacoste, O.M.I., who had replaced Father Vachon as parish priest of St. Paul's Church, conducted the ceremony to bless the construction, and inserted in the cornerstone a scroll bearing the following names: His Holiness Pope Pius X, King George V, Monsignor Stagni, Monsignor Pascal, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, Mother Anna Piche, Reverend Father Lacoste, Major James Clinkskill of Saskatoon and Sister St. Liguori, Superior of St. Paul's Hospital.

Estimated costs of the imposing masonry St. Paul's Hospital, containing 145 patient beds, and situated facing Avenue P between 20th and 21st Streets, were set at \$100,000. Construction of the new hospital proceeded without delay, continuing over the summer months of 1912 and into the fall of 1913.

A document lodged in the Archives of St. Paul's Hospital gives particulars of the Agreement and Contract for Building a Hospital at Saskatoon, Sask. Dated March 16, 1912, this contract names the "Hopital General des Soeurs Grises", acting by Sister M. M. McKenna as party of the first part, and M. H. Pigott and Son, Contractors, Saskatoon, Sask., as parties of the second part. Under this contract the parties of the second part, M. H. Pigott and Son,

covenanted and agreed to "make, erect, build, complete and finish a Hospital (all trades included) at Saskatoon, Sask." The contractor further agreed to carry out this contract according to the designs and plans of Edward and W. S. Maxwell, Architects, and to furnish all materials and labor for the purpose, with the best quality craftsmanship and materials available.

Completion day, to the satisfaction of the party of the first part and of the architects, was set at March 1, 1913, when the building would be ready for occupancy. Any delays in the completion date would mean a payment of \$50.00 per diem by the contractors to the Hospital. The payment for this completed work is outlined as follows in the contract:

"On the full and final completion of the said building, the party of the first is to pay, upon the certificate of the said architects that the same is due, the balance then unpaid of the contract sum, the price agreed upon being the sum of One hundred thousand dollars."

To finance this large expenditure for a modern hospital, the Grey Nuns found it necessary to obtain a mortgage under the Saskatchewan Land Titles Act. This mortgage, between the Sisters of Charity, of the NorthWest Territories, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Credit-Foncier Franco-Canadien of Regina, Saskatchewan, pledged the land and property of the Order in Saskatoon "in consideration of the sum of \$100,000 with interest at 7% per annum." In addition to the yearly interest payments, the Grey Nuns agreed to pay "any amount not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) on account of principal on the first day of December in each of the years A.D. 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917, and . . . to have the further privilege of paying off the whole of the outstanding principal or any amount on account thereof on the first day of December A.D., 1918 or on any first day of December thereafter."

It is interesting to note that the Sisters of Charity,



St. Paul's Hospital completed in 1924 with north wing addition.

of Saskatoon, were able to make the final payment of "Twenty-three Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eight Dollars" by cheque as full payment of the mortgage on St. Paul's Hospital, which mortgage was held by Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien, on December 1, 1927.

The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital and the entire surrounding community proudly rejoiced when the handsome three-storey masonry hospital, complete with the latest operating and x-ray equipment, and an electric elevator, with spacious, well-lighted patient rooms and lounges, was declared ready for the official opening on November 1, 1913.

At the opening ceremonies, when the hospital was blessed by Bishop Matthieu of Regina, the Grey Nuns received accolades from all the dignitaries present for the achievement of this modern hospital.

"By their quiet and constant hard work, they have raised an edifice that brings honour to our city, and which, from an architectural and utilitarian point of view, would be difficult to surpass," stated His Honour Mayor Harrison of Saskatoon in his remarks, reported in the *Annals of the Hospital*. Dr. H. E. Munroe, pioneer physician and supporter of St. Paul's Hospital, gave these words of appreciation: "This new establishment is the last word in perfect development of a hospital; its rooms are well lighted and airy, its operating chambers and dressing rooms splendidly equipped; its balconies and its 'roof garden' superb." Dr. Munroe pointed out that the Roman Catholic sisters offered their devoted care "to all who needed it, without distinction of race or creed. In our cosmopolitan city, the well-being of each and every one is being considered."

According to a report in the *Daily Phoenix* of Saskatoon, "St. Paul's Hospital plans three stages of construction. When circumstances decree, the flexible plans allow for the construction of additional wings to the North and the South. It is actually estimated that



Laboratory Department.

the cost of the new hospital, including furnishings and equipment, will reach \$175,000."

Generous donations and bequests from friends and supporters of the hospital enabled the Grey Nuns to supply St. Paul's new complex with the latest efficient equipment and comfortable furnishings. These supporters included private citizens, business firms and municipal organizations in surrounding areas. To commemorate their donations, the hospital placed bronze engraved plaques on walls and doorways, and most of these plaques have been preserved on the north wall of the present hospital near the elevator area.

According to Henderson's *Directory* of 1914, Saskatoon's population had reached almost 25,000 people, and the two main hospitals were listed as the Saskatoon City Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. Terms of admission for St. Paul's Hospital were as follows:

"Private Rooms, \$3-\$4-\$5 per day; Double Private, \$2 per day; Semi-private, \$1.50 per day; General, \$1.00 per day; Charity cases, Free."

The hospital had available the following accommodations: 8 private beds for ladies; 4 semi-private beds for ladies; 2 double rooms for ladies; 8 private rooms for men; 4 semi-private rooms for men; 2 double rooms for men; 3 public wards containing 19 beds; children's ward of 6 beds. In the old hospital, maternity, typhoid and medical cases were treated. Total beds in the old and new hospitals reached 175.

The staff in 1914 at St. Paul's Hospital included: Sister M. St. Liguori, Superintendent; Sister Niquette, Assistant; Sister Ste. Praxede, Secretary-Treasurer; Sister Marie du St. Sacrement, Superintendent of Nurses; Counsellors Sister Dorsey and Sister Robichaud, with Reverend Father L. Larose, O.M.I., as Chaplain.

Pioneer Saskatoon physician, Dr. H. A. Stewart,



X-ray Department with Sister M. Letarte and aide.

who had been associated with St. Paul's Hospital since its earliest days, wrote the following report as part of his remarks about Health Care in Saskatoon contained in the harvest edition of the Saskatoon Phoenix, 1914:

"The new St. Paul's Hospital was begun in 1911, completed and opened for patients, November, 1913. The new and old buildings now have 150 beds, approximately the same number as the new City Hospital provides, with main buildings, annexes and isolation.

"The high, airy, well-lighted wards make St. Paul's an attractive place for the sick. A maternity department is being arranged for by the Sisters. In planning St. Paul's Hospital, the necessity for future extensions were kept in mind, so that additions can be made to the building when required.

"The City Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital provide accommodation for the sick, not only of Saskatoon, but also very largely for the sick needing hospital care for a radius of 100 miles around Saskatoon. Both hospitals have well-equipped operating departments, and have developed a technique that has resulted in excellent success in this department of hospital work.

"The advantage of ample hospital accommodation is seen in the readiness with which epidemics of infectious diseases are stamped out. Occasionally cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid fever occur; then these are immediately isolated in the hospitals and the possibility of the disease spreading is reduced to a minimum.

"Typhoid fever, once so great a scourge, is now almost unknown in Saskatoon. This is of course very largely due to the city's excellent water supply, and to the vigilance of the Health Department, but also to the hospitals that make it possible to isolate all cases when they occur."

The Great War and Aftermath, 1914-1919

The busy years between 1914 and 1919, though marred by the Great War being fought in Europe, were marked by continual progress at St. Paul's Hospital in medical and surgical advances, and in the physical plant.

The first surgical operation in the new hospital, using the modern facilities, took place in January, 1914. The patient, Sister Saunders, was on staff at the hospital at the time.

The installation of the latest available X-ray equipment as early as 1913 at St. Paul's Hospital illustrated the progressive attitude of the Grey Nuns and their advisors. This acceptance of modern advances in medical science continues to the present day at this hospital. At that time, the science of medical diagnostic radiography was in its infancy.

The huge 100 m.s. capacity X-ray apparatus was housed in space on the third floor of the new hospital, near the operating theatre. In those days there were no trained radiology technicians, and few experts in the science among the medical staff. Sister Letarte of the Grey Nuns became the sole operator, technician and general expert on the X-ray machine. Doctors ordered

only the most essential X-ray films because of the costs involved, and because of the lack of refined techniques available in those days.

Those who worked with the X-ray equipment in the early days of the science were usually nurses, orderlies, or other hospital employees. As their skills developed, often they became victims of the machine itself, for they received unsightly and painful burns on the skin and hands from the rays.

The American College of Surgeons adopted in 1914 strict standards for the use of X-ray equipment, and St. Paul's Hospital joined other larger hospitals in conforming to these rules. Dr. P. DesRosiers, the main medical diagnostician in radiology, signed formal reports addressed to the College on behalf of St. Paul's and Sister M. Letarte was allowed to continue as chief technician.

To standardize Saskatchewan hospital procedures and regulations, the Provincial Medical Association was formed on January 22, 1915, with St. Paul's Hospital as one of the founding institutions, naming as representatives to this important body Dr. G. R. Peterson and Dr. Reeve-Cameron.

Capital expenditures for the construction, equipment and furnishings of St. Paul's Hospital, gauged to reach the highest standards of the day, required strict economies, and extra funding from many sources, including public subscription. During the first few years in the new hospital, the outstanding indebtedness on these expenditures caused much concern among the Order of Grey Nuns.

The co-operation of all concerned to help defray this debt brought forth many innovative ideas. A note in the Annals for 30th September, 1914, reports that "Three sisters went with the girls to dig potatoes four miles from here, on rented ground." In October, another economy measure helped somewhat: "We closed the men's ward in the old hospital. The new hospital is sufficient for the moment. Because of this, we will reduce the expenditure by \$100 per month."

On September 21, 1916, the nursing students and other ladies held a "soiree musicale" which resulted in \$275 for the hospital funds. In July, 1917, Sister St. Liguori organized something new for those days — the raffle of a new automobile. This money-raising scheme resulted in the fine sum of \$4,851 to help pay off the debt. The chronicler reports that "The winner was Mr. Charles Levesque, of Conquest." Another imaginative idea, a "Rose Day," netted \$1,010 for the cause.

The year 1917, the penultimate year of that tragic struggle known in history as "The Great War" and which touched every corner of the country, nevertheless brought happy occasions to St. Paul's Hospital.

The Grey Nuns and nursing students of St. Paul's Hospital were proud of their achievement when the University of Saskatchewan, in 1917, recognized St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing as a certified teaching school. The University itself was less than a decade old.

The New Year of 1917 had been ushered in with a not-so-felicitous gift for St. Paul's Hospital — the influx of a large increase of patients. The military authorities had asked for space in the hospital for ill and convalescent soldiers, and the Grey Nuns complied with a special ward for these cases. The sisters and their staff, along with the medical practitioners, surmounted the difficulties of trying to provide care for more than 175 patients in the existing bed space.

With the waning years of World War I and its aftermath, arrived another virulent epidemic to add increasing problems to the hospitals in Saskatoon. This epidemic, "la grippe espagnole" — the Spanish influenza — swept rapidly through the general populace from the returning soldiers. As a result, many seriously ill victims of this disease were rushed to the already over-taxed St. Paul's Hospital.

Sadly, as a result of their dedicated and untiring efforts, five Grey Nuns and six nurses contracted the disease helping to care for the 45 influenza patients. Of these, one Grey Nun, Sister St. Leonce, and two nurses succumbed. Because of the fear of contagion, the sister's body could not be transported to St. Albert, and Dr. DesRosiers offered a resting place for the beloved Grey Nun in his family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Annals of November, 1917, contain another sad note:

"November 5, 1917: Today is announced the death of dear Sister Guay, one of the foundresses of the St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. What acts of charity and devotion she accomplished at the rectory in Saskatoon, transforming it into a hospital! This was a generous soul, oblivious of herself. Relieving the suffering was her sole ambition." All those who recalled the unselfish efforts of Sister Guay and Sister Phaneuf in starting this highly regarded hospital joined in the sadness felt at Sister Guay's death.

Progress in Health Care

As the growth of private and public hospitals accelerated in Saskatchewan during the first two decades of this century, the Saskatchewan Health Department, under the determined leadership of Dr. Maurice M. Seymour, initiated far-reaching measures in preventative medicine and public health. Such measures included legislation for the availability of pure water and food supplies, for the sanitary disposal of wastes in both urban and suburban areas, and for the prevention of communicable diseases by education, immunization, and isolation of patients. As a

result of government measures, the patient loads on hospitals were alleviated to a large degree.

By means of provincial ordinances and acts pertaining to public health, Dr. Seymour directed attacks on the virulent contagious diseases decimating the newly-settled communities of the opening province. Among these were: small pox, the ancient scourge prevalent in the West since fur trade days; diphtheria and scarlet fever, killers of innocent children; typhoid fever, spreading like prairie fire wherever large groups camped in close, unsanitary

quarters; influenza, brought from Europe with the returning soldiers; tuberculosis, the wasting affliction, the age-old "consumption" which often felled several members of the same family.

Appointed Saskatoon's first Medical Health Officer in 1906 was Dr. W. J. MacKay, a graduate of the Manitoba Medical College. The first public health nurse was Miss Isabelle McPherson, a Scottish hospital graduate. At the same time, public school boards in the larger cities saw the necessity of raising standards of health among school children, "thus improving conditions of mental, moral and physical development of children."

During Dr. Seymour's tenure at the helm of public health, many health advances, commonplace today, were started. Compulsory immunization against small pox was provided by provincial Order in Council in 1908. Comprehensive regulations were approved in 1910 by the provincial Advisory Council on Public Health, covering control of communicable diseases, public health in cities, towns and municipalities, control of tenements, hotels and places serving food, and regulations concerning dairies for production and sale of milk. The Act of 1909 gave control over sewage, waterworks, isolation and emergency hospitals in larger centres. Saskatoon's progressive city officials quickly adopted the latest advances to supply pure water from the South Saskatchewan River by means of the most modern filtration and purification methods, and also measures for the sanitary disposal of sewage.

Soon after the opening of St. Paul's new hospital, the government in February, 1914, passed an Order in Council requiring all hospitals to complete records of admissions, diseases and treatments for each patient, with details of age, occupation and relatives. Twice a year these records were sent to the Commissioner of Public Health in Regina, as were monthly reports of the number of admissions. Local medical health officers received weekly notification required by law, of typhoid, trachoma and tuberculosis cases and other communicable diseases upon admission of the patient to hospital.

Although it consumed a great deal of time and effort, this compilation of health information, the forerunner of the reams of paper work required through the years by the provincial health department, proved very valuable to those who guarded the public health.

Before 1917 hospitals were required to provide bed space for tuberculosis patients up to one-tenth of their capacity. This strain was relieved with the opening of the first tuberculosis sanatorium in Fort Qu'Appelle, with Dr. R. G. Ferguson named as Director. The efforts of the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League from the earliest days of the province's existence deserved credit for this important step in the control of a major disease. The Saskatoon Sanatorium opened in 1925, to be followed by the facility at Prince Albert in 1929. Saskatchewan's programs to combat tuberculosis by preventative measures including the testing of school children, provided standards for other parts of Canada, and throughout the world.

Mental disease, as well, received innovative attention and treatment in Saskatchewan. The first mental hospital opened in North Battleford in 1914, and this was followed by a second in Weyburn in 1921. Much emphasis, then as now, was placed on education for good mental hygiene and the prevention of mental disease. The province entered into another far-reaching program a decade later for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

The effects of World War I emphasized the importance of good health in the general public, spurring Saskatchewan's efforts to control disease. Free vaccines to combat certain diseases were distributed from 1917; public health nurses travelled around the province providing vaccination to school children; venereal disease clinics were opened in the four main cities. Examination by school board physicians and nurses began for pre-school children in 1919. The watchful eye of the Medical Health Officer and his staff kept the common communicable diseases in check during these early post-war years.

Growth of St. Paul's in the 1920s

Enthusiasm from all greeted the ushering in of the era of the 1920s. The "Brave New World," with a sordid and devastating war finally ended and a League of Nations to solve the world's ills, augured well for advances in all fields — economic, scientific, educational and social.

On this note of optimism, and with over a decade

of community service behind them, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital settled into the post-war period administering their usual dedicated care to the ill and the suffering, and accepting with customary enthusiasm the latest medical advances of the day.

Saskatoon's growth accelerated once again. Many more qualified physicians and surgeons, after service

in the war, set up practice or returned to the city, and affiliated themselves with the hospitals. With the influx of specialists added to those who formed the nucleus of medical practice in Saskatoon, the city's reputation as an important medical centre solidified. For every two patients from Saskatoon entering St. Paul's Hospital, another patient arrived from outside the city.

In fulfilment of government requirements of 1922 that all communicable disease patients be housed in separate quarters from other patients, St. Paul's Hospital added a frame isolation annex comprised of 36 beds. The same year, another \$24,000 was expended for a new power house, boiler and commodious chicken barn. By means of their chicken flock and the productive vegetable garden they tended, the Grey Nuns were able to achieve some self-sufficiency in

food supply.

Mundane departments, so essential to the efficient operation of a hospital, required repairs — the kitchen and the laundry areas received modern equipment. Three utility rooms were supplied; a modest pathological laboratory and a records room were equipped. In the early 1920s, before the advent of refrigeration for general use, the hospital used ice for cooling and refrigeration. Large blocks harvested from the river and delivered by the Arctic Ice Company were delivered to a new ice storage building at St. Paul's Hospital. In June, 1924, another frame annex made space available for additional patients. Later, in 1926, practical, labor-saving devices were installed at the hospital — a Thermo-Vent drying machine for the laundry, and an automatic stoker for the furnace room.

The North Wing Added

The welcomed progress of the 1920s in medical and related sciences nevertheless brought problems to the Saskatoon hospitals. The St. Paul's administration, headed by Sister Superior Ann Casey, struggled once more to find additional space for the incoming patients, and to finance the increased capital expenditures for those auxiliary buildings and equipment already mentioned, as well as funds for additional staff.

The year 1924 was of particular note in the history of St. Paul's Hospital. The administration decided that the addition of more annexes would not meet the needs of the expanding patient load, so plans progressed for a three-storey brick North Wing to adjoin the existing main hospital. Construction work on this much-needed addition, estimated to cost \$75,000, commenced on April 23, 1924. The sister chronicler gives her account in the *Annals of the hospital*:

"Wednesday, April 23: Under the patronage of St. Joseph, work commences on the foundation of the right wing, to cost \$75,000. Men with their teams of horses are on the ground to start their excavation." As work progressed, Sister Superior Casey inserted in the wall of the new construction a little box that contained the blessed medals of the Sacred Heart, of the Virgin, of St. Joseph and of Mother d'Youville.

Before completion of the North Wing, adjustments and renovations were carried out in other parts of the hospital. In October the children's ward was moved to the annex from the first floor. In its place, the hospital installed the X-ray equipment and divided space to provide for a small lounge for the doctors. On October 27, the *Annals* report: "The work is finished on the X-ray machine. With what satisfaction Sister Letarte takes possession of her new domain!"

The spiritual aspects of care always evident at St. Paul's Hospital received added impetus with the completion of a new chapel on the second floor and a new refectory. The beautiful chapel, a peaceful and quiet haven, accommodated 120 worshippers and offered comfort to staff and patients. Blessing of the new chapel took place on Dec. 14, 1924, with Reverend Father Blanchin conducting the services.

Finally, in January, 1925, the handsome new North Wing of St. Paul's Hospital, with space for a maternity department and a modern laboratory, was ready for occupancy. It offered eighteen bright, inviting private rooms and 60 patient beds, increasing the total of beds available at St. Paul's Hospital to 245.

The Statue of the Sacred Heart

For over two decades, the Grey Nuns who served at St. Paul's Hospital constantly hoped and prayed for a figure or statue to symbolize the loving charity and devoted care they offered to all who came through the doors of their hospital.

In 1924, their prayers and anticipations were fulfilled with the arrival from France of the splendid bronze Statue of the Sacred Heart, depicting the Lord Jesus Christ standing with outstretched arms, offering solace and comfort to the ill and infirm. The *Annals*



Statue of the Sacred Heart placed on top of the hospital November 1924. After the hospital was demolished, the statue was installed in the park area of the new hospital using the corner stone of the old hospital as its base.

record the eventful day this Statue was installed at the hospital:

"November 26, 1924: At last, the promise of our two founding Sisters, Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay, is accomplished. The beautiful statue of The Sacred Heart of Montmartre, eight feet in height and 1,000 pounds in weight, is erected on the roof by Mr. Thompson and his workers."

The Statue of the Sacred Heart, designed and cast in bronze by a commissioned sculptor in France, was an exact replica of that in front of the famous Cathedral de Montmartre, in Paris, France. This wonderful symbol had reached its destination in Saskatoon over thousands of miles by transatlantic steamship and transcontinental freight train on October 30. November 26 was a great day of rejoicing for the Grey Nuns, their staff and associates when this handsome statue was raised by block and tackle to a prominent position on the uppermost roof of the entrance facing Avenue P, South. Lighting installed previously on the surrounding grounds enabled all to see this statue which stood atop its lofty realm for nearly forty years.

Opening Of the Sanatorium

By mid-decade, the availability of hospital beds in Saskatoon increased considerably with the opening in 1925 of the Saskatoon Sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis patients. Situated in the southwest area of the city, in a parklike surrounding by the South Saskatchewan River, the Sanatorium contained the latest X-ray diagnostic and surgical equipment for the treatment of this dread disease, once the leading cause of death in the province.

Under the direction of Dr. Harvey C. Boughton, the new Sanatorium freed many isolation beds from both city hospitals. Tuberculosis of the lung previous to the 1920s had been considered incurable, but new treatments and chemotherapy gave hope for recovery of many patients.

The Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League, always in the forefront in prevention and treatment of chest diseases, operated the three sanatoria at Fort

Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Consultant surgeon for the Saskatoon institution was Dr. Ronald H. Macdonald, who introduced many advances in chest surgery. Dr. Macdonald performed at St. Paul's Hospital the first lobectomy and later the first pneumonectomy in Saskatoon, and later carried out many similar operations at the Saskatoon Sanatorium. At the time of his death, Dr. R. H. Macdonald was Chief of Staff at St. Paul's Hospital.

In April, 1925, the tuberculosis patients were transferred from St. Paul's Hospital to the new Saskatoon Sanatorium, and another era in hospital care ended. With each ending, there is a new beginning, and so it was at St. Paul's for the hospital management decided to open a Maternity Ward in the North Wing. With no sister to place in charge, one of the graduate nurses of the hospital, Miss Ella Woodcock became the supervisor of this new department.

St. Paul's, A Teaching Hospital

The consulting physicians and surgeons of St. Paul's during this progressive decade of the 1920s achieved noteworthy results in the pursuit of new techniques and in advances in medical science.

After a visit by the representative of the American College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Eaton, St. Paul's Hospital received the Standardization Certificate issued by the College. In her acknowledgement of

December 1, 1926, Sister Superior M. A. Fennell wrote:

"I hereby acknowledge receipt of the Hospital Standardization Certificate of the American College of Surgeons. It is understood that this Certificate is accepted and retained by St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada only so long as, in the opinion of the American College of Surgeons, it is fully complying with the requirements of the Minimum Standard as laid down by the American College of Surgeons."

Such accreditation was necessary to become designated as a "Teaching Hospital." Thus St. Paul's Hospital was able to recruit its first medical internes in 1926. Prior to that time, young graduate doctors since the opening of the nursing school had given lectures to the student nurses. The interne program, arranging for bedside teaching and practical instruction, gained momentum in 1931 when regular clinics on medical topics were introduced at the hospital, at which internes could present case histories and discuss patient treatment at staff medical meetings.

Advances in radiology and laboratory technology necessarily kept pace with other advances in medical science and treatment. The first laboratory technician, self-taught, to serve at St. Paul's was Robert Atkinson, but most of the physicians relied on their own skills with the microscope to interpret blood and urine samples. More complex analysis became available with the opening of the provincial laboratory in Regina. With the advent of the applied sciences of bacteriology, biochemistry and microbiology, modern laboratory work in hospitals developed.

Recent arrivals at the University of Saskatchewan, who taught pathology and bacteriology to pre-medical and pharmacy students, offered their services on a part-time basis to St. Paul's Hospital. These professors, Dr. W. S. Lindsay and Dr. George Rae, found it impossible to keep up with their duties at the University and their part-time work at the hospitals, so more permanent arrangements had to be made. St. Paul's Hospital imported from Montreal Dr. O. C. Gruner who became the first full-time head of the Department of Pathology at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's initiated another advance in Saskatoon's hospitals by the appointment in 1927 of the first staff dietitian. This young lady supervised meal planning and special diets. She assisted in the teaching of nurses as well, giving lectures on nutrition and diet to the student nurses.

The reputation of St. Paul's School of Nursing and the availability of positions in the profession meant more and more qualified young women sought to enrol in the nursing school. In June, 1927, twenty-seven graduate nurses received their certificates, and as many as one hundred young women each year were trained at the hospital, and provided with living quarters in the old hospital. It became evident that, if the School of Nursing was to progress at a comparable rate and keep up with the demand, new quarters and classrooms for the nursing students would have to be made available. This problem was solved in the early 1930s with the construction of a fine new nurses' residence on the hospital grounds.

Twentieth Anniversary 1927

Twenty years, two decades of loving care and efficient operation received special attention in September, 1927 when St. Paul's Hospital celebrated its founding by two valiant and unselfish Grey Nuns, Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay. Sister Superior Fennell, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's and all the nursing and lay staff, the medical advisors and associates were proud and happy to receive the accolades of all their friends and supporters. At special masses and ceremonies, Bishop Prud'homme, Bishop of Saskatoon, Mayor Norman, and other dignitaries expressed kindly sentiments about the place of St. Paul's Hospital in the city and surrounding area.

A report in the newspaper of the day states:

"At present, St. Paul's Hospital, with a capacity of 250 beds, had a staff membership of 42 physicians, 100 nurses in training, and 20 Sisters supervising the various departments. During the first year, 1907-08,

417 patients were admitted. Ten years later, during 1917, 2,464 patients were admitted. Twenty years later, during 1927, 4,736 patients were admitted. During the hospital's existence, 43,339 patients were cared for."

St. Paul's Hospital, firmly established as an important adjunct to Saskatoon as a medical centre, had received each year for the past four years a coveted Hospital Standards Certificate, issued by the American College of Surgeons.

To round this year of achievement, St. Paul's Hospital and the Grey Nuns welcomed a special important visitor, His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Andrea Cassulo, accompanied by Mgr. Prud'homme, Bishop of Saskatoon, and other religious personnel. His Excellency toured the hospital, chatting with the patients and staff, and celebrating mass in the beautiful chapel. During his visit to

Saskatoon, he suffered from a minor medical problem which the Grey Nuns and Dr. DesRosiers administered to, much to his relief and gratification.

Operation of an institution the size of St. Paul's Hospital with the addition of the North Wing entailed much expenditure and economic planning. The industrious sisters supervised the chicken flocks, the large garden on the grounds and potato plot outside the city, the filling of the shelves and storehouse with the fruits of their labours, and those of their gardeners and helpers. The gardeners planted fine trees around the buildings, making an attractive park-like setting. Many friends of the hospital donated or bequeathed funds to help with the furnishings and equipment in the new wing.

Nevertheless, the St. Paul's Hospital administration found itself in the unwelcome situation of incurring a deficit on operations each year, in a great part due to the number of charity patients admitted without question. The City of Saskatoon paid a small per diem rate for these "indigent" patients, which the Grey Nuns considered inadequate. As a consequence, Sister Superior Casey in 1924 addressed an urgent letter to the City Council of the day asking for an

increased grant from the City. In her letter of March she states:

"St. Paul's Hospital in its range of work is cosmopolitan. It has refused admittance to no patient, rich or poor, during the last year. We are not a money-making institution. We have had deficits for years which we have met in extraneous ways, and our net profit for the past 12 years is represented in our equity in a plant still less than half paid for. . . . We are doing our best in an unendowed hospital to serve humanity."

For the years 1924, 1925 and 1926 the City of Saskatoon allowed St. Paul's Hospital a grant of \$4000, increased to \$5000 in 1927.

The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital were able to close off the eventful year of 1927 on a positive note. Because of shrewd economic planning and efficient methods of fund-raising, they were able to make final payment on the mortgage for St. Paul's Hospital, built in 1912. The receipt from Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien, dated December 1, 1927, acknowledges receipt of \$23,808 from the Sisters of Charity, Saskatoon, in full payment of their mortgage with the company.

DECADE OF DEPRESSION AND DOUBT, 1930s

The Buoyant Year of 1930

As the decade of the fateful 1930s began, Saskatoon was enjoying a buoyant economy. The population increased 10,000 in the expansive years of the twenties; by 1930 it was estimated at 47,000.

Building permits issued by the City of Saskatoon, as listed in the Daily Star Business Edition of 1931, reached \$5½ million in 1930, second only to Winnipeg among Western Canadian cities. Imposing buildings erected at that time highlighted Saskatoon's downtown cityscape for half a century, until the recent-day boom in lofty glass-fronted edifices.

Important structures built during the 1930s included the Federal Building, Eaton's Department Store, Police Station, Saskatoon Technical Collegiate, a handsome Canadian National Railways Station on First Avenue, and the beautiful Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon's castle by the river. This Gothic-style structure, built by the Canadian National Railways in a serene and parklike setting, cost over \$2½ million by

the time construction ended in 1935. The attractive Capitol Theatre, several important new bank structures, and two new apartment blocks accentuated the downtown scene. Farther afield, a new Arts and Science building costing \$700,000 rose on the University of Saskatchewan campus, and the City Hospital added a \$250,000 wing. City Park Collegiate opened to serve the northern end of the city in 1929.

In 1930 permits for new houses totalled 450, these ranging in price \$4-5,000 for the average bungalow, to \$10,000 or more for more substantial dwellings. Of these, 148 houses were built west of Avenue A (Idylwyld Drive) and south of 20th Street, heralding increased growth in the Riversdale and King George districts, thus filling in the residential area to the east and south of St. Paul's Hospital. The Federal Government, under R. B. Bennett, decided to expand the Government Elevators on 11th Street west with a 2 million bushel addition, anticipating continued agricultural growth in the rural areas.

St. Paul's Nurses' Residence

On the crest of this economic buoyancy, the administration of St. Paul's Hospital applied for a building permit for another major construction project. This project, to cost approximately \$342,000, encompassed the erection of a handsome Nurses' Residence on the hospital property.

Plans for the three-storey structure to serve this purpose were well under way at the close of the second decade. The chosen site, to the west of the hospital with the entrance to face Avenue R, was blessed August 30, 1930, and the construction of the new St. Paul's Nurses' Residence, the finest of its type in Canada, began without delay. The Grey Nuns chose J. F. Guay of Saskatoon as the general contractor.

Sister Fennell, Sister Superior of the hospital,

proudly reported to the Mother General of the Grey Nuns' Order in Montreal the religious and civil ceremonies that marked the opening of this splendid addition to the St. Paul's Hospital complex. On November 21, 1931, at 9:00 a.m. His Excellency Mgr. Prud'homme, Bishop of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, offered the benediction for the opening of this residence, in the company of several priests, representatives of religious orders, and the Grey Nuns. Two days later the St. Paul's Nurses' Residence was officially opened by Bishop Prud'homme, the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour Dr. H. E. Munroe, a supportive friend of St. Paul's Hospital since its foundation, Dr. D. M. Baltzan, President of the Medical Council, and civic dignitaries.



The Nurses Residence completed in 1932.

The completely modern residence contained 29 double rooms, 90 single rooms, an auditorium, classrooms, study rooms, offices, kitchenettes, bathrooms, comfortable parlor with fireplace and large windows, and a restful little chapel.

"Le Patriote de l'Ouest", distinguished French language newspaper of Western Canada, reported these events enthusiastically in its edition of November 25, 1931. This newspaper, along with others such as The Prairie Messenger, praised the new structure and its purpose:

Effects of the Depression

Prospects for employment in nursing and other callings grew dimmer during the depression years of the thirties. The following excerpts from "The First Fifty Years", a history of the S.R.N.A., will illustrate:

"During the first half of 1933 some hospitals that paid \$50 a month and maintenance for general duty — by November could only pay \$35 a month . . . nurses were glad to be able to work in their profession and be assured of board and room. Private duty nurses survived by various means. Lucky ones were employed in hospitals for general duty, some got a little hourly nursing, others worked for board and room as domestic help or as companion to an invalid. They turned to any kind of work that would provide food and shelter."

Similar hardships were encountered by graduate teachers, many of whom taught in rural schools in hard-hit areas for as little as \$250-\$350 for a 10-month period, paying board and room and transportation out of this amount. Secretaries sought positions in professional offices, often working for \$5.00 per month and experience if they were fortunate enough to live at their parents' home.

Heads of families who obtained or retained their employment during the worst years of the depression

"This imposing structure, of metal framework and concrete walls distinguished by a warm covering of brick, this new edifice is destined not for the direct use of patients, but for that of nurses. Two hundred will share between them private and semi-private rooms, study rooms, other rooms for the use of meals, recreation, etc."

The report went on to describe the modern and well-constructed residence, saying that "The structure is sedate in decor, but the economy of design does not exclude elegance."

The fortunate young women who were to inhabit this fine residence for the three-year term of training had to meet strict admission standards including a minimum grade eleven education, and age between eighteen and thirty years. They fulfilled heavy classroom requirements in addition to long hours of bedside duty during their comprehensive courses in nursing. Providing the student nurse had passed the necessary examinations at the end of the three-year training period, she received her diploma as a graduate nurse, and could display with pride her St. Paul's School of Nursing graduation pin and recognizable St. Paul's nurses' cap. In addition, to engage in the profession in Saskatoon, the young graduates were required to complete successfully the examinations of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association.

took drastic reductions in pay; others who could not find work applied for relief vouchers to feed and clothe their families. Relief camps for single unemployed men, such as that at Dundurn near Saskatoon, were set up by the Federal Government, and provided sleeping accommodation, meals, necessities of clothing, and a small amount of cash each month in return for which the men worked at various chores: cutting wood, tending furnaces, erecting sheds and other buildings. When "the clarion call of war" sounded in September, 1939, many of these same young men enlisted without delay in the Saskatoon Light Infantry or other battalions that formed the Canadian First Division.

Although the ensuing years of depression and drought brought mounting hardships and decreasing finances, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital proceeded with the repairs and additions so necessary to the efficient functioning of a modern hospital. Throughout this generally unprogressive era, the hospital administration and staff kept abreast of advances in health services, which received impetus from the breakthroughs in medical science following World War I.

Once again, practical materials received attention

— early in 1931 the heating plant and boiler room were both enlarged. Many important adjunct departments were transferred to more suitable spaces in the hospital. The sisters in charge of the kitchen and larder, ever industrious and prudent, filled a new provision shed with the potatoes and root vegetables harvested as customary from the commodious garden, and “made a bee” to stack the shelves with jams, jellies, preserves and pickles. A report in the *Annals of St. Paul’s Hospital* typifies the spirit of the times:

“October 7, 1933. Reverend Father Jan, O.M.I., blesses the storeroom where our cook is going to stock jams, preserves, and pickles; 16,940 pounds for the first, and 200 gallons of pickles. These represent a considerable lessening of expenses for the hospital and a worthy amount of work. Three older ladies came to ask for food for their families, and wanted to serve us in return, so they helped Sister Cousineau and her workers in this heavy work.”

The extent of the garden harvest that same autumn is reported in the *Annals* also:

“We have had a very beautiful garden this year, by grace of the diligent labours of dear Sister Dulude and her gardeners. Here is an idea of our garden richness: Over thirty tons of vegetables, including rhubarb, broad beans, cucumbers, pumpkin, squash,

onions, turnips, celery, carrots, Indian corn, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, potatoes, peas, radishes, lettuce, and other crops.”

The Grey Nuns responded with their usual compassion and practicality to help those hard-pressed by the continuing depression and drought:

“The financial crisis is great and disturbing. The prospects, the crops are failing because of lack of rain or the ravages of the grasshoppers. The crops and gardens are not thriving. Men can’t find work. Formerly well-off families become poor. And misery reigns in all homes.

“Certain people come to work at the hospital to pay their accounts. Others stretch out their contracted debts for five years at a time, paying them off with farm produce. Many in arrears will never be able to pay off their accounts.”

In these hard years, the good works of the Grey Nuns were appreciated by others:

“Through the intervention of Father Jan, O.M.I., we receive from Father Delmas of Duck Lake 250 lbs. of pork and beef, then from another priest in the Prince Albert area some mutton, pork, fowl, and a 110-lb. sack of flour, for at least a value of \$50.00. Truly, we are confused by all this bounty. We don’t know how to repay our dear Fathers.”

Medical Progress in the 1930s

In addition to the training of nurses, other educational programs at St. Paul’s Hospital progressed significantly during the years of economic stalemate. Five internes, Drs. Dickey, Campbell, Rogall, McBurney and Schmath received “excellent and merited reports” from Sister Superior Mary Murphy. These reports were semi-annual requirements of the Medical College.

The medical staff, consultants and internes all expressed much satisfaction with the spacious teaching and clinic room set up for their use in the former study room of the student nurses. Completely renovated and furnished with a large polished table and thirty-six padded armchairs, it became the site of monthly luncheons when internes and doctors presented and discussed medical cases. The Medical Association inaugurated this room on February 20, 1934, with a banquet and assembly for the election of a president and other officers. Dr. H. Alexander was re-elected president on this occasion. The Grey Nuns gave him warm congratulations, noting that his devotion and competence augured well for another year of progress at the hospital.

With the opening of the Saskatoon Sanatorium in 1925, and the passing of the Saskatchewan Cancer Commission Act in 1930, with the subsequent appointment of a Cancer Commission, strides were made in the education, diagnosis and treatment of two

incapacitating and deadly diseases. Health care workers in all hospitals were given special instructions in treatment and prevention of these diseases. In 1933, four nurses from St. Paul’s Hospital contacted tuberculosis, diagnosed partially by the required chest X-rays of all patients, sisters, nurses and other employees of the hospital.

A visit in December, 1933, by Dr. Ferguson, director of the Qu’Appelle Sanatorium, and Dr. H. Boughton, director of the Saskatoon facility, brought instruction to the student nurses stressing careful attention to prevention of infection.

In the last month of 1933, because of the shortage of qualified Grey Nuns to fill the position, Miss Kay Ruane, a graduate nurse with special obstetrical training received the appointment of head nurse in the maternity department. Unfortunately, just at the time the number of patients in maternity diminished because of an economy measure initiated by the City of Saskatoon council. The council agreed to pay each doctor \$17.50 for each maternity patient treated at home. The Grey Nuns reported: “The Council believes this will economize, but we hope that the plan will not meet with the approval of all those interested in maternal welfare.”

More seriously, the grant from the City of Saskatoon to alleviate the costs of caring for charity

patients diminished each year, and St. Paul's Hospital received the unhappy information in February, 1937 that the city, because of dire financial circumstances, was forced to refuse the hospital the usual grant.

Throughout these trying years, busy with their patients (averaging 150 to 200 each day), the financial woes of collections and payments for furnishings, equipment and mortgage on the nurses' residence, the requirements of meeting all governmental orders for sanitation and reports on each patient, the gathering, preserving and preparation of food for personnel and patients, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital found many occasions to rejoice.

In April, 1934, the Grey Nuns joined with members of the Roman Catholic community and other citizens of Saskatoon in welcoming Mgr. Gerald Murray, C.Ss. R., as the first Bishop of Saskatoon. They were saddened at the departure of the beloved Bishop Prud'homme, the last Bishop of the Prince Albert and Saskatoon diocese.

The new Bishop made an unexpected call on St. Paul's Hospital the day after his inauguration:

"Already the first Bishop of Saskatoon was to be tested by an ordeal. Transported in haste to our

hospital, His Excellency Mgr. Murray submitted to an urgent operation: a diverticulus. Dr. Lynch marvelled at the serenity of his patient."

In July, 1935, St. Paul's Hospital and the Grey Nuns were pleased and honored by a return visit of another important dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church. His Excellency Mgr. Andrea Cassulo, Papal Delegate arrived at the hospital with his secretary, Father Rousseau, O.M.I. Upon his departure, Mgr. Cassulo presented each sister with "a pretty little cross of gold", which each treasured with gratitude.

December, and the religious observations of the Christmas season were joyous occasions for the Grey Nuns and their hospital even during such dreary economic times. It was customary to pay an annual tribute to the medical staff and consultants who served at the hospital:

"December 20, 1935. This evening, the last monthly meeting of our doctors, for elections and a banquet. A large number are present. Dr. F. E. Wait is elected president for the year 1936. Sister Superior took the occasion to offer to each one a little 'Christmas box' as a small token of appreciation. The doctors are pleased." (Annals of St. Paul's Hospital.)

Keeping Up The Standards

Reorganization and re-equipping important hospital departments continued during the mid-thirties, entailing much expense, but assuring St. Paul's Hospital as a modern accredited hospital according to North American standards.

To fulfill the requirements for more efficient X-ray equipment, this department was moved to the basement area. The pharmacy department moved to the basement as well. In August, 1935, the hospital included diagnostic radiology in the X-ray department, when it installed a deep therapy machine. Dr. Earl Shepley, who had opened an X-ray laboratory in downtown Saskatoon, gave service to St. Paul's as chief radiologist on a half-time basis. Later, in spite of financial reverses, the hospital hired Dr. Del Johnston of Sherbrooke, Quebec, as the first full-time radiologist with responsibilities of training technicians as well. In a few years' time, it became mandatory for all X-ray technicians to pass examinations to receive their Saskatchewan Radiology Technician certificate.

The Physiotherapy Department, growing in importance for treatment and care of patients, was incorporated in the X-ray area also. Sophisticated machinery and equipment available at this time were purchased, including a diathermy machine, infra-red equipment and a water-cooled ultra-violet ray machine. It was ten years later before this important

adjunct to hospital care was moved to a separate "small basement room."

Around the same time another busy, necessary part of hospital operations found new quarters in the basement. This was the Central Dressing Room, as it was called in the 1930s. The CDR took charge of all emergency cases, incorporated a fracture room, and prepared up to 3,000 dressings for the use of in-patients and out-patients. A large staff set to work to prepare the sterilized dressings, the compresses and foment, and to sterilize all equipment used in the operating theatre. As the department expanded, the number of minor surgery and emergency cases needing attention increased to the extent that a half-dozen rooms were needed. With the emphasis on out-patient minor surgery and the need for sophisticated emergency attention, today's hospitals have long since separated the emergency department from that of the central dressing room.

The hospital entered the electronic age in 1936 with the installation of the first loudspeaker system to impart messages to doctors or supervisors on all floors and departments of the hospital.

Later in this decade, St. Paul's operating room was featured on a Board of Trade radio program depicting the daily functioning of this important area of the hospital.

Special Occasions To Celebrate

There were many happy occasions for the Grey Nuns and St. Paul's Hospital during the grim years of the thirties. In 1935, on the observance of the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King George V, citizens who had achieved distinction in their chosen professions received Silver Jubilee Medals. One of 84 citizens so honoured in Saskatoon was Sister Superior Margaret O'Grady. Later that same year, the sisters observed with pleasure another silver jubilee, that of Bishop Gerald Murray's twenty-fifth year as a priest, and as a token of their regard presented him with a three-layer cake weighing 16 lbs.

A very special observance occurred at St. Paul's Hospital in September, 1938. Starting September 26, the Institute of Grey Nuns began a three-day celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Order by Mother Marguerite d'Youville in Montreal. Grey Nuns across the North American continent and farther afield, operating hospitals, nursing homes, charitable institutions of all types joined in celebrations by solemn masses and prayers. To fulfill their avowed role as Sisters of Charity, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital shared these celebrations with their patients:

"September 30, 1938. It is decided that the Hospital will offer three days of hospitalization free to all the patients. Accounts paid by the municipalities will be deducted accordingly." (Annals)

For three days early in December each year, it was customary for the Catholic Women's League and later

the Women's Auxiliary to operate a bazaar, selling food and gift items to aid the hospital. The Grey Nuns welcomed such events, and generous amounts were turned over to the hospital — \$700 in 1935, increasing to over \$1,500 in 1939.

"A memorable day for all Canada," reported the Grey Nuns' chronicler of the visit in June, 1939 of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Representatives of the hospital gathered with other dignitaries on the special platform near the Canadian National Railways station, and were privileged to be introduced to Their Majesties.

With prayers of rejoicing, the Grey Nuns received the happy news earlier in 1939 of the election of Cardinal Pacelli, Secretary of State of the Vatican, as the new Pope. The Holy Father chose the new title of "Pius XII".

For St. Paul's Hospital, these "ten lost years" had been a trying decade, one of severe economic stringency, but also one of much progress in medical sciences and of advances in patient care. As the era drew to a close, optimism prevailed once more — welcome rains in the spring of 1939 soaked farmers' fields and augured well for the best harvest in years. But, far away in Europe the storm clouds were gathering, and the rumble of another terrible conflict, the Second World War, soon echoed across the ocean and the miles between to bring new anxieties and concerns to every home in Saskatoon, and to the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital.

YEARS OF MATURITY AND GROWTH, 1940s

The Advent of World War II

As the new year of 1940 and a new decade dawned, the chronicler of the Grey Nuns expressed these wishes: "1940 announces itself. We hope that it will be a happy one, at least for temporal affairs. The Good Lord knows that we are blessed!"

Sister Superior O'Grady imparted welcome news to the sisters in 1940 that the hospital administration had been able to settle all accounts in arrears: to the Mother House, the Provincial House, and to all the tradesmen for furnishings and supplies. Sister O'Grady, whose years as superior had been marked by courage and fortitude, terminated her superiorate with expressions of gratitude from all in August, 1940. On November 15, St. Paul's Hospital welcomed a new Sister Superior, Sister Rose Vincent. Provincial Mother Casey, a former superior at the hospital, visited many times, and brought inspiration to the Grey Nuns.

There were immediate effects on the hospital with the outbreak of another World War. The problems of maintaining medical and nursing staff multiplied. As stated by Dr. Harvey Agnew, Secretary of the Canadian Hospital Council at the 1940 annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Hospital Association: "We have not had to make the preparation or adjustments required for British hospitals. . . . In Canada, our problems are different: costs mounting rapidly, shortages of commodities and supplies; loss in income, depleted personnel, administrators called up and key men on medical staffs taken for full-time duties; office workers, orderlies and others enlisting in large numbers. The hospital field is blessed with clear thinkers, leaders of vision and courage, and we must not forget the necessity for clear thinking in the re-adjustment period following the War."

St. Paul's Hospital received no magic exemption from these major problems of wartime. The hospital administration and the advisors had to deal with these challenges with the usual flexibility and sense of

urgency. A report in the Annals of St. Paul's Hospital for early 1943 reads:

"With the ending of 1942, six of our doctors have left us for Heaven, and nine doctors have left to enrol in the Armed Services. That leaves for service at our Hospital 43 doctors."

Two of the doctors who passed away during this period were Dr. Cluff and Dr. Alexander. The Grey Nuns mourned their passing as long-time friends and mentors of St. Paul's Hospital. Dr. Alexander had attended patients at the hospital since 1912, and both physicians were admired as benefactors of the hospital.

The shortage of trained nurses for hospitals became acute during the war time years. Many qualified nurses joined the Armed Services and joined hospitals established on military bases in Canada, or overseas in Britain at Canadian Base Hospitals. As well, the government required that a percentage of patient beds must be reserved for soldier-patients, making an increase in the nursing staff required at St. Paul's Hospital.

With the intensification of hostilities in 1941, hospitals became desperate for help. Volunteer helpers, many from the Red Cross, nurses in retirement, and practical experienced nursing aides were recruited by hospitals to help ease the situation. The appeal for enrolment for emergency nursing service was supported by the press, radio and health agencies. Married nurses applied for part-time work in hospitals, and those who had found it difficult to secure employment during the depression years found a great demand for their services.

Better employment opportunities, better salaries, and the eight-hour day which had been instituted in 1936 improved prospects for student nurses, and St. Paul's School of Nursing attracted more nursing students during the war years. The Federal Government began assisting nursing programs with grants;

that of 1942 for Saskatchewan nursing schools amounted to \$25,000. Enrolment increased considerably; the 1942 graduating class numbered 37 nurses and that of 1940, 40 nurses. St. Paul's was one of several nursing schools sharing the federal grant to hire clinical instructors, and to receive financial aid to provide text books and teaching facilities.

Because of the shortage of medical doctors and internes, senior nurses were expected to take more responsibility for techniques formerly performed by physicians. Thus graduate nurses were encouraged, by the granting of bursaries from the government and loans from the S.R.N.A. loan fund, to enrol in graduate school. Saskatchewan nurses could avail themselves of upgrading programs offered at summer school and short courses. The physical proximity and professional association with the University of Saskatchewan School of Nursing afforded many St. Paul's graduates

the opportunity to enrol in post-graduate courses at the university.

At the end of the fourth year of the war, in December, 1943, statistics for the hospital patients were enlightening:

"In 1943, we had an average of at least 40 more patients than the year before. There have been 5,994 hospitalized and 1,643 came for treatments (out-patient or emergency). 1,640 recruits for the army and air force were radiographed. Certainly, the number of recruits has been considerable in 1943. In 1941, we had 10,000, and in 1942 5,000. . . ."

"At December 31, there were 168 patients hospitalized, 140 student nurses, and 20 graduate nurses employed for the wards. Three internes, two doctors, a radiologist, a licensed pharmacist, four registered technicians, 26 men and 63 women employees, as well as 23 religious sisters." (Annals, p. 351.)

The Poliomyelitis Clinic

Beginning in 1943, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital engaged in another war, one more benign and more merciful than the battle raging in Europe and other areas, for this war served to attack and eliminate a dread disease that caused death or crippling debilitation. The enemy was the scourge of poliomyelitis, and methods for the care and rehabilitation of its victims were to change dramatically during the early 1940s with acceptance of treatments recommended in far-off Australia by Nursing Sister Elizabeth Kenny.

Before this time, the disease had been termed "infantile paralysis" because it seemed to attack the young only. Symptoms of vomiting, headache, diarrhea, sore back and legs were not considered poliomyelitis until the limbs became paralyzed. At that crucial time, most physicians prescribed light diet, complete bed rest, and often splints or casts to immobilize the limbs of the young patients.

Sister Elizabeth Kenny reported many cases of improvement and eventual cure when her methods of hot, moist compresses, massage and special exercises were used to rehabilitate paralyzed muscles. Scoffed at by many, rebuked by medical associations, Sister Kenny persisted in her campaign and was invited to the University of Minnesota to demonstrate her techniques. As a result the Kenny Institute, privately funded by donations, was set up in Minneapolis to treat poliomyelitis patients by her methods, and to instruct nurses and practitioners in its applicability.

Dr. Davison, deputy minister of Health in the provincial government, endorsed these methods in

view of an increasing number of poliomyelitis patients being reported in the late summer of 1943. As a consequence, Dr. Davison travelled to Saskatoon and prevailed upon St. Paul's Hospital to set up a poliomyelitis clinic in one of the isolation annexes. The provincial Health Department assisted with the necessary equipment, and the Grey Nuns set about providing the required furnishings and other supplies, as well as hiring extra nursing staff and a trained physiotherapist. The first patient, a young man from a Dundurn farm was admitted August 29, 1943 with the classic symptoms, and given immediate treatment as prescribed by the Sister Kenny method.

As the number of polio cases, both of the "infantile" and the "bulbar" type increased, so did the need for more detailed descriptions of method of

Miss Humphreys, Reg. N., Head Nurse of Polio Dept. and patient in an iron lung.



treatment. Dr. H. D. Hart, physician in charge of the poliomyelitis clinic, journeyed to Minneapolis to study the Kenny treatments first hand, and brought back a comprehensive report. The provincial Health Department sent nurses to the Kenny centre also, and these nurses were able to instruct student nurses in the care of victims of the disease.

At first, an "iron lung" borrowed from the Saskatoon Sanatorium was the main assistance for respiratory polio victims, but the province and private sources soon supplied more up-to-date and essential equipment. Iron lungs and rocking beds were among the necessary equipment provided for the twenty-six patients in the clinic.

Additions and Renovations

In spite of larger issues of war and illness, St. Paul's administration continued during the 1940s with substantial up-grading and modernization in the hospital. The older annexes needed constant repairs; the opening of the Poliomyelitis Clinic incurred considerable expense. The maternity ward, the operating room, and the purchasing office required new flooring. Terrazzo floors installed in the operating room were to be replaced by soundproof tiles a decade later.

Some of the major expenditures during this period were: opening of a staff cafeteria with automatic dishwashing machine; renovating of an apartment for use by internes near the men's ward; repairs to maternity and nursery department; moving of the morgue to a more suitable location; a new ambulance entrance; an Otis-Fenton elevator to replace the original elevator; two new X-ray apparatuses; an electrocardiograph machine and cystology table; frigidaires for use in the pharmacy and the sisters' quarters; even a "new mangle with eight rollers for the laundry".

Of particular spiritual satisfaction to the Grey Nuns in 1949 was the completion of repairs and refurbishing of the chapel in the hospital. A gold tabernacle for the liturgical altar, a new ornamental crucifix, sideboard and pedestals hand-crafted "by our carpenter, Jerry Reznick", and the latest Minshall organ, comprised some of the installations. The Minshall organ was the gift of many benefactors: Shannon Brothers (contractors), Drs. R. H. Macdonald, D. M. Baltzan, A. G. Genereux, F. E. Wait, A. N. Matheson, J. M. Campbell, and the Nursing School.

The most expensive of all the expenditures contracted for during the 1940s were for construction of a new laboratory area over the maternity department in the North Wing, and a West Wing addition to

Ten years later, at the height of a wide-spread poliomyelitis epidemic, St. Paul's Hospital was in the forefront in this war against disease. As many as 36 patients were treated at one time, and nine iron lungs were in use simultaneously. Around the clock care was required to make sure the current to the iron lungs was not decreased or caused to cease.

Today we are happy to view poliomyelitis as another "conquered" disease because of the advent of sophisticated vaccines administered to all young children. As with another scourge, the dread typhoid fever, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's proved brave and energetic combatants in the battle to eradicate and minimize the effects of a crippling disease.

the main hospital. The laboratory, with fittings and equipment, entailed costs of \$45,000, and the West Wing of \$80,000.

The Annals of St. Paul's Hospital reports on the new methods of excavating. May 16, 1949: "This morning the excavation for our new wing begins. What a marvellous machine they have! It searches for the earth to dig with an enormous shovel, and then deposits it in a waiting truck which transports it where they want to take it."

The administration of the hospital was encouraged by the generous grant of \$20,000 from the Provincial Government, the promise of which was obtained by Sister Superior A. Lachance. The opening of the new areas received special notice in the Annals:

"March 25, 1950: At 2:30 p.m. the solemn benediction of the new wing and of the Laboratory, by His Excellency Mgr. F. Pocock, Bishop of Saskatoon. This addition to the west side of the hospital with a value of \$80,000 will accommodate 36 patients. It consists of six wards of four beds each, and six semi-private wards of two beds."

"The ultra-modern laboratory is situated in the North Wing. Total cost of construction and furnishing came to \$41,000."

Innovations in health care methods of this period over thirty years ago are viewed as familiar today:

"June 15, 1949: A salon in the Hotel Bessborough is fitted out for a display of medical science by means of television presenting operations performed at the City Hospital in Saskatoon. Several of our surgeons take part in the program. An invitation was extended to all our sisters to attend this interesting showing, the first in Canada, and several are able to be present."

This televised program was sponsored by the Squibb Pharmaceutical Company and consisted of six

surgical operations and three clinics: medical surgical, tuberculosis and cancer. It was televised from the City Hospital operating room, while a physician gave a running commentary from a separate room using a monitor.

Other events, perhaps not so dramatic, were to have far-reaching effects on the operation of St. Paul's Hospital. In 1949 the administration of the hospital held the first meeting to discuss the subject of a union for the lay employees. On the provincial scene, the

Advisory Committee to the Health Services Planning Committee functioned actively, meeting with the Commission which recommended to the government measures incorporated into the system of health care. The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association sponsored two recommendations to the Commission, both concerning the Federal Health Grant and dealing with construction of more residential accommodation for nurses and establishment of a central school for nursing.

Auxiliary Groups

In the space of the turbulent war years two important groups of citizens, exterior to the hospital but beneficial to its progress, came into existence.

On October 14, 1941, the St. Paul's Hospital Women's Auxiliary held its founding meeting. Sister Superior Vincent, named Honorary President, had expressed the wish to gather together the many ladies who helped with the various bazaars, ceremonies, etc. at the hospital. The aim of such an auxiliary would be "to help promote and expand the interests of St. Paul's Hospital". Sister Vincent desired to have such an auxiliary become a charter member of the new Provincial Hospital Aides Association organized later in October in Moose Jaw. This Association became known as the Saskatchewan Hospital Auxiliaries Association in 1956.

Selected as first President of the St. Paul's Women's Auxiliary was Mrs. J. A. Elhatton. Her executive included: Mrs. B. W. Hoeschen, Mrs. F. E. Wait, Mrs. A. P. Donnelly, Mrs. Denis Mahoney, Mrs. D. C. Kyle, Mrs. T.H. Kinahan, with committee composed of Mesdames C. Biro, A. G. Genereux, Emmett Hall, P. Walsh, F. W. Leeper and C. W. Thorne.

The first membership tea of the Auxiliary enlisted a total of 84 members, each of whom paid a membership fee of \$1.00. The first general meeting took place on November 24, 1941, and the objectives for the ensuing year were described: "To create a spirit of goodwill with the patients and the general public."

One of the main projects of the St. Paul's Women's Auxiliary is the Hospital Library Service, started in 1941 and continuing to this day. The auxiliary members gather and maintain a library of hard-cover books, paperbacks and magazines, which is open for the use of staff and patients. Twice a week the visiting cart of books and magazines calls around to all the wards, and the ladies supply the waiting rooms with new magazines weekly as well.

Among projects of this busy Auxiliary are: visiting programs, patient craft therapy, pediatric play therapy, hostess-receptionist service, sponsorship of the Candy Strippers, and children's hospital tours on a monthly basis. By means of varied money-raising schemes, the Women's Auxiliary has presented substantial financial support to the hospital, amounting to many thousands of dollars over the past four decades. Some of the major items purchased through funds provided by these ladies include overbed tables, stretcher-beds, oxygen tents, humidifier, resuscitator, and cafeteria chairs. A major project, completed in 1974 at a total cost of \$36,000 purchased monitoring equipment for the Intensive Care Unit. An ongoing project has been to furnish direct patient care equipment for the Out-Patient Emergency Department.



Members of the S.P.H. Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. H. Estey, Mrs. M. Smith-Windsor and Mrs. L. Brand inspect a stretcher donated as part of a project to equip the Post Anesthesia Unit.

The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital have appreciated all these forty or more years the excellent volunteer work and financial contributions of the St. Paul's Women's Auxiliary. At this time, the President of this group is Mrs. R. Marleau, and Mrs. H. C. Castle is President-Elect. Several founding members of the Auxiliary are still among its most active supporters.

A brief note in the Annals of St. Paul's Hospital mentioned another event with beneficial implications to the hospital for many decades:

"February, 1941. During the month, a Lay Board of Advisors is formed to look after the interests of the Hospital. Honourable Justice Donald McLean is named President." On April 23, 1941, the first meeting of this Board included a visit to the hospital premises and the nurses' residence and a banquet. Those serving on the first Board, in addition to Judge McLean included: Messrs. Ivan Byers, Emmett Hall, T. H. Kinahan, Dennis Shannon and H. J. Vossberg. These men represented a cross-section of business and professional life in Saskatoon, and each of them proved a true friend and supporter of St. Paul's Hospital and the Grey Nuns.

The Honourable Emmett Hall, Q.C., who was engaged by the hospital as chief advocate for many years, gave untiring time and effort as President of the

Advisory Board during the 1960s when the hospital entered its major expansion period. The sisters were overjoyed when Mr. Hall was named Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, and in 1962 was appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. A fine portrait of the Honourable Justice Hall in his official robes graces the new Board Room of the St. Paul's complex. Honourable Justice Hall retired from the Supreme Court in 1973, but has remained active as Chairman of many important governmental commissions.

Another long-time friend and prominent lawyer who served St. Paul's Hospital had received this signal honour earlier, in 1944:

"October 7, 1944: We are all rejoicing today. One of the good friends of this Hospital, the lawyer J. Willard Estey, who has been consulted many times on the subject of our affairs, is named Justice of the Supreme Court. All our felicitations are addressed to him. Saskatoon will lose a very distinguished member of the bar."

The Hon. Justice J. W. Estey served on the Supreme Court from 1944-1956. Three sons of this family have become prominent in professional fields: Justice of the Supreme Court Willard Estey, appointed 1977; Hon. Clarence Estey, Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, and Dr. Harold Estey, Chief of Urology at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, 1947

A most significant event affecting hospitals in Saskatchewan occurred during the 1940s. Saskatchewan's governments, of varying political views, had led the Commonwealth in original public health measures, and in effecting free treatment, paid from taxation, and free institutionalization for serious diseases that required months of care. From the time of the province's inception in 1905, government health officials had supervised efforts to eradicate infectious disease and to lessen the incidence of chronic conditions. Public health measures, facilitated these efforts under the energetic direction of Dr. M. M. Seymour, who became the first Deputy Minister of Public Health in 1923.

With the passing of the Saskatchewan Cancer Commission Act of 1930, free clinics were established for education, diagnosis and treatment of all types of cancer. Prior to this Act, free tuberculosis treatment at three large sanatoria in the province had been instituted for all those afflicted with this communicable disease; at an even earlier date, patients who required psychiatric care received free treatment and hospitalization at the two large mental hospitals and smaller clinics in the province.

On June 15, 1944, the eleven-year-old Saskatchewan Co-operative Commonwealth (CCF) political party, led by Reverend Thomas Clement Douglas, scored a resounding victory over the incumbent Liberal government led by the Honourable W. J. Patterson. The new party gained 47 seats in the Saskatchewan Legislature, contrasted to 5 seats for the Liberals, and well over 50% of the popular vote. With such a strong mandate, the C.C.F. government, with Hon. T. C. Douglas as Premier and Minister of Health, proceeded with an important plank of its election platform: "To set up a complete system of socialized medicine, so that everybody in the province will receive adequate medical, surgical, dental, nursing and hospital care without charge."

As Minister of Public Health, Premier Douglas' first priority was to institute the comprehensive Saskatchewan Hospitalization Insurance Plan, which became effective January 1, 1947. Preparatory studies conducted by the Health Services Planning Commission, with input from representatives of all health care agencies including hospitals, surveyed existing health care, and reported on the condition and availability of all hospital facilities, the training and distribution of

nursing services and other health personnel, as well as recommendations of the medical profession.

The Provincial Government approved the main recommendations of the Joint Commission, which urged plans to increase medical personnel and to analyze carefully the teaching programs of schools of nursing. Further, the report recommended that the government extend financial assistance for expected additional enrolments in nursing schools, and the consequential need for new classrooms and residential accommodations. As well, the report maintained that hospital facilities should be enlarged and upgraded to meet the increasing demand expected for hospital beds.

The Annals of St. Paul's Hospital reports on this significant event:

"Wednesday, January 1, 1947. Commencing today, residents of Saskatchewan will benefit from the new Hospitalization Plan of the Douglas Government. For the price of \$5.00 each year per person (the maximum for a family being \$30.00) all will have the right to be hospitalized with all hospital privileges save very expensive remedies such as transfusions and plasma."

Thus, with the introduction of the prepaid, compulsory Hospitalization Plan, each Saskatchewan holder of a current hospitalization card was entitled to a public ward hospital bed without further charge, upon recommendation of a medical practitioner. At first, the government made payments to the hospitals at a rate of \$6.05 per patient day. The Grey Nuns expressed gratification when the daily rate per patient

was increased to \$6.30.

After one year of operation, some of the main difficulties of the Plan became apparent. In a report to the Saskatchewan Hospital Association, Dr. J. F. C. Anderson of Saskatoon, representing the College of Physicians and Surgeons, stated:

"Shortage of hospital beds is becoming acute, and is partly due to the increased demand for admission through removal of fear of hospital bills, and a back-log of long-time chronic conditions, some of which have been neglected since the depression years. Many who would have been treated at home formerly demand hospital care, while certain diagnostic services are available at no cost only to hospital patients."

A social factor contributed to this increase in demand as well. The new type family home was a one-family bungalow, which did not provide space for elderly, infirm, chronically ill or handicapped family members. A lack of housekeeping and nursing service for ill people at home contributed to the increase in the overwhelming demands for more hospital beds. To relieve some of this strain, the Provincial Government began construction in 1948 of the University Hospital, a comprehensive teaching hospital, in Saskatoon.

The new decade of the 1950s with mounting demands for hospital care, resulted in subsequent over-crowding of all facilities. These problems were to reach a critical point at the end of the decade, and the resulting crisis threatened the very existence of the hospital.

NEW HORIZONS, 1950s

Medical Concerns

As the new decade of the 1950s dawned, St. Paul's Hospital, along with other major hospitals in the province, settled in to the aspects of patient care and documentation of that care required under the regulations of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Act. Fully detailed reports of each patient's stay, including tests administered, were itemized monthly for the Commission, which was under the aegis of the Department of Public Health. The regular government payments for each patient-day of hospitalization, based on the public bed rate, enabled hospitals to collect monies for current patients without delay and to concentrate on past-due accounts from former patients. The hospitals could also direct attention to other financial matters of urgent concern as well.

Statistics for the end of the first year of this mid-century decade showed a grand total of 274 hospitalized patients on the final day. Personnel on staff at that time included 20 Grey Nuns, 63 graduate nurses, 178 student nurses, 2 licensed pharmacists, 4 internes, 1 radiologist, 1 pathologist, 172 female employees and 36 male employees, all of whom performed necessary tasks to the smooth operation of St. Paul's Hospital.

As early as May, 1950, the combined Medical and Lay Advisory Boards reviewed the need to enlarge St. Paul's Hospital without further delay. This urgent question was considered at length at the annual combined meeting that month. The chronicler reports:

"May 1, 1950. At the combined meeting, a review is made of the events of the year. All present give support to the need to enlarge our hospital. A committee composed of Judge McKercher, Dr. D. M. Baltzan, and Mr. Emmett Hall is chosen to present this demand to the government."

This presentation to the government in Regina was to precede scores of such presentations made on behalf of St. Paul's Hospital during the decade to follow. By November, 1951, the Medical Council had

decided that a new wing or addition would not be sufficient, and reported its decision that, "The Medical Council of St. Paul's Hospital expounds the urgent necessity of constructing a new hospital."

Later in May, Premier T. C. Douglas in his capacity as Minister of Health visited the hospital. Sister Superior B. Bezaire guided the Premier on a tour of all departments and annexes so he could view first-hand the necessity of new construction. "Premier Douglas appeared sympathetic, and seemed to comprehend the need to replace the buildings," relates the chronicler of the hospital. After his visit Premier Douglas escorted Sister Superior Bezaire and Sister L. Boulet to the University of Saskatchewan for the inauguration of the new Medical Building, adjacent to the ongoing construction of the University Hospital, scheduled to open in 1953.

Due to the increased patient information required by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, more comprehensive patient records became necessary. For this purpose a large room was renovated for use as a Medical Records Department at St. Paul's, where complete and up-to-date files of all present and former patients could be available.

A report in the *Annals* of July, 1950, describes this room:

"July 8, 1950. A medical records room is being installed in a new and spacious location. It occupies a large room of the South Wing, the former parlor of Monsignor. All has been painted and decorated. The doctors are proud of their new addition."

A few months later, the doctors and internes expressed satisfaction with another facility at their disposal: "The little library for the doctors, under construction for such a long time, is finally finished, and ready for the use of the doctors today. It is small but compact, and of sober taste, but the intellectuals can't help but appreciate it."

The opening of a large and comprehensive Medical Library in the University Medical Building

provided access to reference texts, current and past issues of journals covering every medical discipline, and indexes to articles and dissertations published world-wide. This library was available for the use of all health disciplines.

Sister Superior Bezaire and Sister J. Quintal joined members of the medical fraternity and civil dignitaries in October, 1951, at the Cancer Clinic of the Univer-

sity Hospital to view the first Cobalt Unit for deep therapy treatment of cancer. This unit, designed by University of Saskatchewan physicist Dr. Harold E. Johns and built by John McKay of Acme Industries in Saskatoon, was the first such unit in the entire world for treatment of cancer and other diseases. In the view of the sisters: "No doubt it will render incalculable service to all humanity suffering from cancer."

Expenditures and Donations

Despite all these nagging problems of inadequate space and facilities, the administration of St. Paul's Hospital continued with substantial alterations, repairs and additions to the existing hospital complex.

Contracts for thousands of dollars were let as the 1950s progressed. Included in these were: an auxiliary power unit (\$2,400) to ensure an adequate supply of power to the operating room and maternity department at all times; a large and powerful X-ray machine (\$14,000), new aluminum window casings; a modern telephone switchboard linking all departments; an ophthalmology clinic furnished by Drs. Genereux and Kershaw for examining patients; and expanded space and equipment for the physiotherapy department, under registered physiotherapist Frank Connelly.

Early in 1953, coal-burning furnaces in the hospital were replaced by oil-burning units, which in turn could be converted to gas-fired furnaces when the supply of natural gas was made available to Saskatoon. The chronicler reports: "The installation was costly, but practical and necessary." A further report in the *Annals* states:

"October 1, 1953: This was a day of rejoicing for all the city. Several years ago the citizens of Saskatoon expressed the hope of being served one day with natural gas. To their great joy, their dream has become a reality today."

St. Paul's Hospital was equally happy to convert to the automatic, clean-burning natural gas in February, 1954.

In addition to the many practical gifts of the Women's Auxiliary and the Nurses' Alumni Association, grateful patients presented the hospital with substantial tokens of their sentiments during the 1950s. Mr. Victor Colleaux, whose mother had been a

long-term patient at the hospital, donated a needed oxygen tent, the first of many generous gifts of this family to St. Paul's Hospital. The sisters were named beneficiaries in the wills of other former patients: Mr. Tremel bequeathed the Grey Nuns an automobile, and Mr. Meyer the sum of \$6,800. In 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Colleaux donated a beautiful Persian carpet, costing \$2,800 which the sisters installed in the reception room of the Nures' Residence. Cecil Richardson, a former patient, gave the Grey Nuns six religious paintings which they hung in various wards of the hospital. Service clubs of Saskatoon, too, raised funds for special equipment for the poliomyelitis clinic, among them the Kinette Club, and the Cosmopolitan Club which presented a television set worth \$275 for the enjoyment of the polio patients.

The medical staff entered into the general spirit of Christmas in 1954 and promised the gift of a steam table for the sisters' dining room. This steam table, costing \$400 was installed early in 1954, and was greatly appreciated by the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital.

On the occasion of National Hospital Week, St. Paul's along with other hospitals opened its doors to the public on May 11, 1955. At this time the hospital received the good news that the provincial Department of Social Services was granting the amount of \$17,784.50 for the purchase of an ultramodern X-ray Keleket apparatus. On March 22, 1956, the Government of Saskatchewan Department of Public Health presented another cheque for \$11,819.10 "to cover expenses made in the Lab and X-ray departments," reports the chronicler. These generous government cheques received grateful approval from the hospital administration.

Trends in Nursing Education

During the progressive 1950s the education of nurses received detailed attention from the provincial Department of Health. More and better trained nurses were essential to fulfill the needs of

modern medical care, and particularly those of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. "The years 1950 to 1954 were a period of intense study of various stages of nursing education and a time of experimen-

tation and testing of many theories in Saskatchewan," wrote Marguerite E. Robinson, author of "The First Fifty Years", a history of the S.R.N.A.

Statistics quoted in the report of Miss K. W. Ellis, Advisor to Nursing Schools in Saskatchewan, showed a rapid expansion in nursing school enrolments:

	1937	1950
Bed capacity	1,901	2,510
Students.....	706	1,177
Instructors.....	10	42
Supervisors.....	102	199
General duty nurses	52	219

During this period, the daily average of patients in the province had increased from 1,716 to 2,285.

St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing participated in or observed closely all the new theories of education for prospective nurses. In 1952 the school joined in with the recently introduced Block System of training nurses.

Under the Centralized Teaching Plan of the early 1950s student nurses were required to attend and study the academic courses in a central place with students from other training schools in Saskatoon and area. This plan was adopted generally by most of the larger hospitals in the province, although St. Paul's Hospital and the Regina Grey Nuns' Hospital did not join immediately.

St. Paul's Hospital felt confident that the new systems of nursing would bring excellent results. These innovative plans were the precursors of a new and different concept for the training of nurses which came into effect about a decade later.

The number of student nurses graduating from

the St. Paul's nursing program increased from a low of 29 one year of the grim 1930s to a high of 60 during the ebullient 1950s. Notes on graduation ceremonies held May 4, 1952, mention that "59 students graduated as nurses today, marking the 1000th student to graduate from St. Paul's School of Nursing since the opening in 1909."

During these years the Federal Government was providing the Department of Health with grants for the education of nurses and nursing assistants, and for the upgrading of classrooms and residences for student nurses. The Canadian Vocational Training Schools, forerunners of the present provincial Technical Institutes, were training nursing assistants and nurses' aides to relieve the graduate nurses of many bedside nursing duties.

The Centralized Teaching Program, which operated between 1953 and 1955 on an experimental basis with funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Government of Saskatchewan, was pronounced a success, with some adjustments incorporated as part of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. With the emphasis on more and more professional training and specialized duties for registered nurses, and an active recruitment campaign carried out by the government, the necessity for more residential accommodation at the St. Paul's residence was an urgent requirement. The Grey Nuns and their advisors began to plan for a fourth floor on their fine nurses' residence, little knowing that, during the next decade, the need for accommodation would become obsolete with the phasing out of the hospital school of nursing.

The Polio Crisis of 1952-53

In addition to the problems created by the need for expensive equipment in all hospital departments and the provisions for educational programs carried on at St. Paul's Hospital, the administration, the physicians, the sisters and the nurses faced once more a challenge of great magnitude.

All who served at St. Paul's Hospital were drawn into a terrific struggle to deal once more with a severe epidemic of poliomyelitis which engulfed the province in the early part of 1952, and continued unabated into 1953. Because St. Paul's Hospital had been chosen as the Poliomyelitis Treatment Centre in the 1940s, this hospital was to continue its assigned role as the main centre in northern Saskatchewan for the treatment and care of patients, mostly young children, afflicted with this crippling disease.

The treatment centre, which followed the Kenny methods of treatment, was housed in the crowded

frame annex once again. At the start of the epidemic all patients occupied beds in this area, but by Sept. 1, 1952, it was necessary to move convalescents to the second floor of the main hospital, leaving the annex for contagious patients. Under the able direction of Dr. H. D. Hart, with Nurse Cowell as chief supervisor, the patients received the prescribed nursing care, therapy and medication.

The seriousness of the poliomyelitis epidemic is outlined in the Annals of St. Paul's Hospital:

"June 26, 1952. The cases of polio are multiplying. The epidemic is taking alarming proportions in the province. Sister Superior Bezaire and Dr. H. D. Hart find it impossible to supply all the demands for treatment. We are thankful for the gift of an oxygen tent, the gift of Mr. Colleaux."

Another entry illustrates the extent of the epidemic:

"September 25, 1952. To date our polio clinic registers the following statistics: since June 26, 156 admissions, 105 discharges, 16 deaths. There are actually 51 patients under treatment at the present."

The Department of Public Health assisted in a practical way during this trying period:

"September 9, 1952. The cases of polio continue to multiply. The Department of Public Health is sending us six nurses to assist the already overworked nurses in our clinic. Nine iron lungs are functioning without stop. Eight of these are borrowed from smaller hospitals in the province."

By September, 1953, the number of poliomyelitis patients was diminishing. On September 4, the clinic had admitted 54 patients since the first of June, 1953. Of this number, two patients died, one an adult and one a baby. There were still 28 patients under treatment.

The Grey Nuns acknowledged with thanks the gifts of two Emerson iron lungs costing \$1,350 each, one from the Department of Public Health, and the other from the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children.

Another gift from the Department of Public Health enabled the polio patient to receive respiratory aid without lying in the iron lung. This newly-designed respirator, the "Huxley," was attached to the thorax and abdomen of the patient, leaving head and

limbs free. Very compact and easy to operate, it did not cover the entire body and allowed the use of hot compresses and physiotherapy exercises so necessary to rehabilitate paralyzed muscles. Patients who had previously spent long hours supine in the iron lung found this new device of great benefit, as they did the two rocking beds donated by the department around the same time.

By the advent of winter, 1953, the poliomyelitis epidemic subsided, consequently the parents of young children were relieved of anxieties, and hopes were expressed that this dread disease would soon be eradicated.

"December 18, 1953. Dr. R. B. Roth, Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Health for the province, is visiting our poliomyelitis clinic. He is very kind and considerate to all the patients, and no one's problems go unnoticed. He is confident that the new serum (Salk vaccine) will stamp out all future epidemics of polio. However, he does not seem to believe the urgency of construction for the hospital." (Annals).

In May, 1955, the first of many groups of student nurses received injections of the newly-developed Salk vaccine which gave immunization against poliomyelitis, and the government supplied serum for all school children and preschoolers in the province. Today, few cases of this once prevalent disease are reported.

Occasions of Rejoicing

The decade of the 1950s afforded many pleasant and enjoyable occurrences for the Grey Nuns and their staff and advisors. The sister and hospital staff joined in welcoming to Saskatoon Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip in October, 1951. A special mass was celebrated in the St. Paul's chapel on the occasion of the coronation of the princess as Queen Elizabeth II, following the death of her father, in June, 1953.

Saskatoon and its citizens entered a great celebration period in the summer of 1952 to mark the 70th anniversary of the first settlement on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. To illustrate the place of St. Paul's Hospital in the development of Saskatoon, the Sister Superior obtained showcases and display space at the T. Eaton Co. department store, and there set up models of the hospital, with placards explaining its history and that of the nursing school. In July, during Exhibition week, the hospital entered a handsome float in the annual parade, depicting in miniature the hospital complex.

In the summer of 1955 the Province of Saskatchewan sponsored special ceremonies and celebra-

tions to observe the Golden Jubilee of the province. For the first time, PionEra Days took place at the old Western Development Museum grounds on 11th Street West, and St. Paul's Hospital employees entered a float which won a prize in the PionEra parade. Fine displays of the hospital and proposed additions at the Hudson's Bay Company store informed the public of the services offered by St. Paul's Hospital.

Special visitors brightened the daily routines during these years. The famous Van Trapp family of singers who had escaped the Nazi invasion of Austria to the United States (and who became well known with the release of the classic film "The Sound of Music") visited St. Paul's Hospital in June, 1955. They added their voices to the morning mass, then lunched in the cafeteria with the sisters. After lunch, the famous singers visited each floor of the hospital and presented a concert of songs to the delight of the patients.

John Diefenbaker, Q.C. and Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, addressed an assembly at the hospital in 1955. His topic was, "International Affairs

in the face of the Communist threat", which he presented to close a series of lectures for the graduating class of nurses.

A significant event in June, 1953, brought welcome news, according to the chronicler of St. Paul's Hospital:

"August 29, 1953. Following an inspection made in June last by Dr. Armand Brunet, of the Commission for Hospital Accreditation, we have received a letter from Dr. Edwin L. Crosby, M.D., President of the American Hospital Association and Director of the Joint Commission on Accreditation, who tells us the good news that our hospital is accredited in full.

"The report made by Dr. Brunet is the first of its kind made for the Joint Commission, which represents the American College of Surgeons and the American and Canadian Medical Associations. Annual inspections will serve to perfect the quality of patient care and the maintenance of the hospital."

In the summer of 1955 Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, accompanied by Madame St. Laurent and aides, called on the sisters and toured St. Paul's Hospital. The Grey Nuns presented a lovely rosary to the Prime Minister, and another to Mme. St. Laurent, who wrote a gracious note of thanks. Two years later, while in Saskatoon for a Liberal party gathering prior to the general election, Prime Minister St. Laurent called once more on the Grey Nuns and their hospital. This visit brought particular pleasure because it coincided with the Golden Jubilee week for the hospital.

Queen Elizabeth arrived in Saskatoon in July, 1959 for another pleasant visit. On this occasion, Sister Superior Prevost attended a reception at City Hospital for Her Majesty. Members of St. Paul's staff were invited to view the procession of the Queen's party to the Western Development Museum from the home of long-time employee Mrs. Yvonne Saucier on Avenue H, South.

Religious events of special importance received particular notice during the early 1950s. On February 28, 1952, Reverend Father Francis J. Klein was nominated Bishop of Saskatoon to replace Mgr. Philip Pocock. Soon after his inauguration, Bishop Klein visited St. Paul's Hospital to greet all the Grey Nuns, and to celebrate Mass in the chapel.

"June, 1952: After lunch, a visit to the community, where Monsignor asks us about many different things. Our Bishop is of great affability, and his beautiful simplicity sets everyone at ease". So wrote the chronicler in the Annals, and the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital were to count on Bishop F. J. Klein as a true and valuable friend and supporter later that decade in their struggle for a new hospital.

A future Bishop attended St. Paul's beautiful chapel to conduct mass later that same month:

"June 16, 1952. Our Mass this morning is said by a newly-ordained priest, the Reverend Father James Mahoney. He is a native of Saskatoon, and the parents of the new priest assisted at the Mass. Following this, we have the pleasure of congratulating the newly-ordained priest, and to serve lunch to his family." (Annals)

Of particular significance to the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal and all members of the Order spread far afield as an event that took place in far-off Rome:

"May 3, 1955. A memorable day, for today is held in Rome a general assembly of the Sacred Congregation of Rites to discuss the enactment of the decree declaring the Heroicity of the Virtues of our Venerable Mother d'Youville." In anticipation of this historic decree, the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital conducted special prayers and masses for three days, and were overjoyed to receive the answer to their prayers.

An especially happy event occurred on April 15, 1955:

"At 10:54 p.m. we registered the 20,000th birth in St. Paul's Hospital. The parents of the infant are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gow of 10th Street, Saskatoon. The television station announced this news to the public, showing Mrs. Gow and the baby receiving a gift from the Women's Auxiliary."

Following their annual custom, the Sister Superior and Grey Nuns acknowledged with appreciation the direction and wise advice of the St. Paul's Lay Advisory Board, and Medical Advisory Board:

"December 11, 1955. As the first prelude to the celebration of Christmas, this evening we are giving a



Doctor John E. Leddy, Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board until 1982.

special supper for our Medical Board. Tomorrow we will do the same for our Lay Advisors."

Interspersed throughout the years of St. Paul's Hospital history are the names of physicians and surgeons connected with the hospital and serving it well for many years. In 1952, at the annual dinner and election of the Medical Board, for example, the following names are listed:

"December 11, 1951. Election of officers for the Hospital Board. After the Christmas dinner, elections took place with these results: President: Dr. Harold Sugarman; Vice-Pres.: Dr. M. Smith-Windsor; Secretary: Dr. J. E. Leddy."

Of these physicians, Dr. M. Smith-Windsor became the first Lay Administrator of St. Paul's Hospital in 1967, and served in that capacity until 1977. Dr. Sugarman, prominent Saskatoon physician, has admitted and ministered to many hundreds of patients at the hospital over the years. Dr. Leddy is at the present time Chief of Staff and Chief of the Medical Advisory Board at St. Paul's Hospital.

Dr. D. M. Baltzan is mentioned in the Annals of St. Paul's as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board in 1954, and was Chief of Staff during the crucial years of the struggle for a new St. Paul's Hospital. In April, 1954, the first of Dr. Baltzan's ongoing representations to the provincial government on behalf of the hospital is mentioned.

Today, three sons of Dr. and Mrs. Baltzan follow this close connection with St. Paul's Hospital in active

ways: Dr. Mark Baltzan, Dr. Richard Baltzan, and Dr. Donald Baltzan.

The warm and pervasive feeling of family at St. Paul's Hospital is evidenced from the relationship between the sisters and the employees who served their hospital. The sisters accepted an invitation to a special party on December 15, 1957:

"The Employees' Social attracts the fine number of 130. They have engaged a professional singer, Mr. Victor Lester, who is accompanied by Mr. Boyd McDonald whose touch at the piano is magnificent. As in years past, a special lunch is served after the soiree." Boyd McDonald, is widely known across Canada as a concert pianist in twin-piano performances with Garth Beckett. Victor Lester was over thirty years a well-loved tenor soloist in choirs and musical presentations in Saskatoon.

The mid-1950's presented many changes in administrative duties at St. Paul's Hospital as well. Harry Richardson assumed the position of Asst. Business Manager. John McDonald filled the post of Accountant with added responsibilities of collecting past-due accounts. John Coble was welcomed as Purchasing Agent in charge of ordering supplies and equipment, and inventory control in 1955, and is at present Director of Purchasing at the hospital. Over the years, the name of James Scott, who became Chief Orderly, is mentioned with special thanks: "Mr. James Scott, whose automobile is at our disposal", as he provided transportation for the Grey Nuns and their many visitors.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

As St Paul's Hospital reached the important milestone of the Golden Jubilee — fifty years of devoted care and hospital services to Saskatoon and its citizens — in 1957, the Grey Nuns Order, the hospital staff, the medical and lay advisors entered into the joyous yet solemn celebrations with a sense of pride and thankfulness for the outstanding progress achieved by the hospital during five busy decades of existence.

May, the traditional month of Mary, included each year during its second week the annual National Hospital Day, and the annual graduation of student nurses from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing. Choosing the dates of May 5-12 for this half-century celebration, the Golden Jubilee Committee of the hospital planned activities to encompass the Grey Nuns, the Roman Catholic community, all the medical, nursing and lay staff, civic and provincial dignitaries, and the citizenry of Saskatoon.

The all-inclusive program offered religious observances, a civic banquet, a graduation banquet and ceremonies, musical and stage performances, open house at the hospital, the Women's Auxiliary jubilee tea, an important medical refresher course, and the symbolic turning of sod for a new wing to be added to the existing St. Paul's Hospital.

In preparation for the solemn masses and ceremonies which would commence this special week of celebration, the hospital chapel was bedecked with flowers and emblazoned with banners. The Annals reports:

"Saturday, May 4, 1957. For the great celebrations appear on the horizon, our mission has a golden adorning." On display in the chapel was the new crest designed for St. Paul's Hospital. The symbols on the crest showed the Sisters of Charity, represented by the emblem of the Institute (the cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the crown of thorns) in the centre, flanked

by the caduceus signifying Medicine at the right, and the lamp of Florence Nightingale signifying Nursing at the left. St. Paul, patron of the hospital, was represented in the lower background by a sword pointing upward, signifying victory for the militant faith of the Grey Nuns. Underneath, the motto of the St. Paul's Hospital, "Omnia Vincit Caritas — Charity Conquers All", was inscribed in gold letters.

On Sunday, May 5, a radiant sun and an ideal temperature greeted the celebrants on the first official day of the Golden Anniversary week. The mass in the hospital chapel was followed at 12:00 by a Pontifical Mass in St. Paul's Cathedral, celebrated by His Excellency Monsignor F. J. Klein, D.D., Bishop of Saskatoon, with Monsignor Frank Gerein of the Archdiocese of Regina presenting the sermon.

Terminating the busy events of this first day was a gala banquet held at the Bessborough Hotel. Emmett Hall, Q.C., chairman of the lay board, acted as toastmaster for the evening. Dr. J. Francis Leddy, Dean of Arts and Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, gave the key address of the evening, in which he commented on the place of St. Paul's Hospital in the life of Saskatoon:

"Who could imagine, or who could want, Saskatoon without St. Paul's? It is not merely another community asset, nor a factory, nor a utility, but an institution woven into the lives of countless individuals. There are few Saskatoon families with whom it has not been associated with deep feelings — joys, sorrows, great anxieties."

Dr. J. Francis Leddy concluded his inspiring remarks by stating: "The hospital will continue to grow. But whatever changes the rest of the century may bring, St. Paul's will remain in all essentials as it is today — alight with the gracious spirit of the sisters. It will be of good repute for the conscientious skill of its doctors and the care of its nurses, and it will still receive and deserve the trust and goodwill of this grateful community."

A post-graduate medical course, organized by Dr. John E. Leddy, scheduled for four full days of the jubilee week, commenced on Monday, May 6. This series of seminars featured lectures by experts in various medical disciplines, arranged by the Medical Bureau of St. Paul's Hospital. It attracted 60 doctors from outside Saskatoon and 100 local practitioners.

Welcome visitors were two pioneer physicians who served St. Paul's Hospital and Saskatoon for several decades: Dr. George R. Peterson from Vancouver, and Dr. Duncan Croll from Toronto, both enjoying retirement.

In the receiving line for Open House Day at the hospital on Tuesday were Sister Superior Marie Laforce and three Grey Nuns who had served the hospital in earlier years: Sister Jeanne Longtin, Sister Lillian Buckley, and Sister Ste-Brigitte. Guests were invited to tour the hospital, partake of a tea, and enter their names in the Golden Jubilee Book.

Three hundred former students of St. Paul's School of Nursing converged from all parts of the continent to attend festivities of the St. Paul's Alumni Association to celebrate the Jubilee. In attendance were several mother and daughter graduates, some of the mothers being among the earliest graduates of the school.

Graduation ceremonies for St. Paul's Nursing School culminated this extraordinary week of activities. Before the ceremonies, the student nurses presented a living three-act tableaux, representing the work of the Grey Nuns; the care of the sick, the care of the aged and the poor, and the teaching of children.

The achievements and accomplishments of St. Paul's Hospital during its fifty golden years of service are outlined in the Golden Jubilee history:

"From the day of St. Paul's Hospital opened until December 31, 1956, 220,441 patients were received, 21,950 babies were delivered, and 104,461 operations were performed at this Grey Nuns' hospital. In 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, over 14,600 units of laboratory work processed. These are only some of the tasks carried out in that year."

A quotation from the splendid words of Dr. D. M. Baltzan, Chief of Staff at the time of the Golden Jubilee, illustrates the sentiments of all associated with St. Paul's Hospital:

"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 colour of its contributors, and the illumination of a Spiritual Order." (Golden Jubilee History, 1957).

Plans For Future Growth

Prospects for continued progress at St. Paul's Hospital at the end of the jubilee year of 1957 were bright and promising. In that year, the first class of Medical Doctors graduated from the University of

Saskatchewan College of Medicine. The many world-renowned specialists and scientists attracted to the first new teaching hospital in the Commonwealth, the University Hospital in Saskatoon, augured well for the

continued advancement of medicine in the city.

The administration of St. Paul's Hospital expressed great satisfaction at the promise of government funding for renovations to the original 1913 hospital, and the erection of a large new wing to add to the existing hospital.

By December 31, 1957, the complete report for the recently completed fourth storey of the St. Paul's nurses' residence showed construction costs well within the budgeted amounts and this fine addition received the approval of all. The additional storey enabled the Grey Nuns who served the hospital to move into spacious new quarters on the first floor of the residence, giving up once and for all the original frame building that was the first hospital. The costs of this fourth storey on the residence amounted to \$76,901.07, partly covered by grants over \$22,000 each from the senior governments, and the balance being paid by the Institute of the Sisters of Charity.

Congratulations were proffered to the architect of the structure, M. G. J. Verbeke, and the contractors, Shannon Brothers of Saskatoon, who were able to complete the work under budgeted costs. In addition to building expenses, the sisters spent \$6,503.76 for furnishings in the expanded residence.

St. Paul's Hospital welcomed a new superior in November, 1957, in the person of Sister Yvonne Prevost, former superior at St. Margaret's Grey Nuns' Hospital in Biggar. Sister Marie Laforce, former superior, had been named to the position of Mother Superior of the Provincial House in Edmonton. At the end of 1957, on December 31, Sister Superior Prevost and seventeen Grey Nuns, each charged with respon-

sibility in a particular area of the hospital, had in their care over 250 patients, and up to 30 infants each day. The staff of St. Paul's Hospital included 250 graduate and student nurses, one Chaplain, 250 staff members in other hospital departments, including pharmacists, physiotherapists, X-ray and laboratory technicians, ward aides and orderlies, and 140 attending and visiting physicians.

1957 had proven to be a banner year, a year of jubilation not only because of the Golden Jubilee celebrations in May, but also because of the completion of the fourth storey of the nurses' residence, and the projected funding and construction to expand and modernize the hospital. Two months after Sister Superior Prevost assumed her new position at St. Paul's Hospital, this jubilation was dashed by a devastating report, and the consequential drama which ensued was to engage all the fervent faith and indomitable spirit of the Sister Superior and Grey Nuns, as well as the untiring efforts of the Lay Advisory and Medical Advisory Boards.

Before this engrossing drama was to reach its conclusion in the following decades, another drama began to unfold which involved the medical profession and the provincial government, but which was to have far-reaching effects on the health care system of Saskatchewan.

A wise French author of the last century, Alphonse Karr, wrote: "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" — "The more things change, the more they remain the same." The events which took place in the next half-decade strike a note of similarity to those of the immediate time of the 75th anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital.

THE STRUGGLE FOR A NEW ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

A New Addition Approved

As early as 1950, because of the inadequacies of space and equipment in the existing hospital, the Medical Council of St. Paul's Hospital had made representations to the Grey Nuns and the Government of Saskatchewan on the necessity of building an entirely new hospital.

In 1954, upon the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Board of the hospital, the combined boards agreed that an extension of facilities was the necessary first step in reconstruction. The increased health demands engendered by the growing medical community of Saskatoon dictated that the bed capacity of St. Paul's Hospital should reach the minimum of 376 units in the near future. There was also need for departmentalization among the various wards of the hospital. As outlined by Dr. D. M. Baltzan, Chief of Staff at St. Paul's, the bed capacity for each division would be as follows: Medicine, 130; Obstetrics, 40; Pediatrics, 56; Surgery, 60; Gynecology, 15; Orthopedics, 20; Urology, 35; Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, 20. If hospital beds were in use up to 80% of available space as recommended for efficient operation, only about 300 patients could be accommodated in the projected 376-bed hospital.

In the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix of April 10, 1956, Dr. Baltzan stated that: "The expansion of services in the departments outlined is a forced issue, because of the progress in medicine generally, the advent of the school of medicine at the university, and the development of the Saskatoon area as a teaching centre. Adequate facilities are obligatory to acquire recognition from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons to offer resident physicians posts."

In the same newspaper report, Alderman Sid Buckwold, member of the hospital's Lay Board, pointed out that "St. Paul's Hospital has the most efficient operation of any hospital in the city, and under the hospital services plan it is paid a lower per-diem rate for patients than other institutions in the

city." Such reports served to alert the public to the plight of St. Paul's Hospital.

At an urgent meeting of the combined Medical and Lay Boards of the hospital, a committee was appointed to meet with Honourable T. J. Bentley, Minister of Health in Regina to persuade him to approve funding for an extension to St. Paul's Hospital, which he had previously refused.

The persuasive committee, armed with the proposed plans for the extension formulated by the Winnipeg firm of Green, Blankenstein, Russell and Associates which includes new operating facilities, additional treatment rooms and 126 patient beds, met with Mr. Bentley in Regina. As a result of their well-presented and well-researched arguments, the committee members were gratified to learn that the administration of St. Paul's Hospital received permission in May, 1956 to proceed with the expansion, with slight modifications. The number of patient beds was to be decreased to 320 instead of 376 as projected, with additional beds added when the requirements of the city warranted them.

Mr. L. Russell, representative from the Winnipeg architectural firm and chief architect for the proposed addition, arrived at St. Paul's Hospital in October, 1956 to study the existing buildings, and in November the consultant J. G. Watts of Vancouver, an expert on hospital construction, toured the hospital to prepare a report on the condition of all facilities.

On May 29, 1957, representatives of the administration, the combined medical and lay boards of the hospital, the finance committee, the Mothers Mann and Dorais met to consider the architectural plans presented by consultant, L. Russell. General approval resulted from this presentation. "We hope that all the points raised this evening will give the desired impetus to the new construction," wrote the sister chronicler of this event.

Report of the Architects

The report of the architects, dated June 4, 1957, was entitled: "Report on Various Proposals for the Provision of Necessary Extension to Services and Bed Capacity — St. Paul's Hospital."

The task of the architectural firm, as assigned by the Grey Nuns' Order, had been "to design plans for a new wing to provide for the extension of the various departments of St. Paul's Hospital which were inadequate, and to exercise extreme economy, as large sums of money were simply not available."

The first priority of the architects was to locate the new addition to the hospital. As stated in the report: "Because of the age and condition of the present main building we were firmly of the opinion that any new addition must be planned as to be the nucleus of the entirely new building to be built as soon as funds are available. The addition must therefore function not only in conjunction with the present building, but must be planned to be an integral part of the new hospital."

After much study, the architects decided to investigate the west of the existing building as the proposed location, even though that choice meant the demolition of the existing laundry and boiler room, causing an extra expenditure of \$85,000. "Here there is ample room and there are no obstacles in the achievement of a good plan," wrote the architect in his report. "We have now come to the opinion that we should build to the west of the existing building." Two alternate plans were outlined to complete such an addition, with a "first-class, air-conditioned addition."

The conclusion of Mr. Russell's report warned of the pitfalls in these plans, and reached an irrevocable decision:

"Both these proposals envisage the use of the existing building for some years to come. We have therefore estimated what it would cost to rehabilitate this building. We have learned that the Saskatchewan Power Corporation wishes to condemn the whole of the electric wiring system, and would do so should alterations be undertaken. A conservative estimate of the cost of re-wiring this building is \$100,000. The plumbing system is old and worn out, and the number of fixtures is entirely inadequate for either hospital use or residential use. The heating system, while still functioning, is now at an age where maintenance would be an increasing problem. Allowing for a certain amount of change in partitions, painting, etc., it is conservative to say that it would cost at least \$300,000 to put this building in an acceptable condition.

"The existing building is not fire resistant, the floors and partitions for the most part being framed in wood. There is only one acceptable stair in the building, with exterior fire escapes providing a second means of egress at the ends of the wings. Such a building would not now be allowed to be built for residential purposes, let alone for hospital use.

"The question then arises: Is such a building worth having an expenditure of \$300,000 made upon it? In our opinion, it is not."

With such an unequivocal negative assessment of the original hospital building, the architects stated their final alternative:

"We therefore come to the third alternative, which is to build all the necessary accommodations in a new building properly located on the site, and to demolish all the existing buildings with the exception of the School of Nursing. This last is a well planned, fire resisting structure which should serve well for the foreseeable future."

Leslie Russell, architect in charge of the proposed addition, signed the report on behalf of the Winnipeg firm, with the strong statement that, after three years of detailed consideration, "We are now fully convinced that this last proposal is the one that should be proceeded with, including new Boiler Plant, Laundry, Internes' Quarters and Sisters' Quarters, all services and 320 beds, we estimate that it would cost \$5,850,000 for a first-class, fully air-conditioned building."

The Grey Nuns and administration and advisors at St. Paul's Hospital expressed consternation and concern at the strongly-worded conclusions of the architect. They realized that further meetings with the Minister of Public Health and his officials were of the utmost urgency since the earlier decision to build a new West Wing was deemed uneconomical in the face of the condition of the original hospital building.

With the detailed report of the architect forming the appendix, a brief was prepared immediately, "To place before the Government of Saskatchewan facts relating to the need for rebuilding St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, and to request adequate financial assistance that this might be carried out." This brief, the combined work of the lay and medical committees along with the Grey Nuns and the administration of St. Paul's Hospital, stated first of all that:

"Today, in 1957, the future of the St. Paul's Hospital is more precarious than it was in 1907. It will be demonstrated that if this hospital is to continue to function it must be rebuilt, but that the resources of the Sisters are not sufficient to do this. Words of

encouragement alone are not enough. Adequate financial assistance must be forthcoming or the fact faced that the story of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, has come to an end and that the doors have been forced to close."

The main concern of the Grey Nuns and administration of St. Paul's Hospital, as expressed in this brief to the Department of Public Health and other government officials, in addition to the urgent requirements of a new hospital, was the extent of the financial assistance available from the government and other sources.

Because of their lack of a tax-supported base, voluntary hospitals have always found it difficult to obtain funds for capital financing. At first, these hospitals were small and sufficient to meet the needs of local communities, but as the population of the province grew, lay and religious hospitals experienced severe problems for extensive capital funding for expansion and improvements. In the early days, most of these needs were met by local contributions, municipal grants, and funds advanced by the respective Orders of religious hospitals. By 1956 most of the lay voluntary hospitals had disappeared because of interest and debt repayment problems. As stated in the brief to the government, other voluntary hospitals used other means of financing such debts: "Religious voluntary hospitals meet problems by donating the salaries for the Sisters' services to cover the interest and debt repayment."

The Government of Canada in 1948 instituted the National Health Grants which provided additional funding, "the basis of which being \$1,000 for each acceptable additional bed, plus amounts for certain

diagnostic areas, subject to the total grant being at least matched for the provincial grant."

The report concluded by emphasizing the paucity of funds available to St. Paul's Hospital to finance such a major project of construction: \$30,338 in the Plant Fund, \$8,000 a year in depreciation payments from the province for the nurses' residence, and approximately \$45,000 a year pledged by the Grey Nuns from a two-thirds' share of the salary due them for their services at St. Paul's Hospital.

"With the revenue of \$53,000 per annum, it will obviously not be possible to borrow very much towards the six million dollars required. It is to bridge this gap to enable the rebuilding of St. Paul's Hospital that government financial assistance is required," concluded the brief.

The Minister of Health, J. Walter Erb, and his deputies agreed to meet early in the New Year, 1958, with the committee of lay and medical advisors representing St. Paul's Hospital. Honourable Emmett Hall, Q.C., at the time Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, acted as Chairman of the hospital committee, which consisted of Drs. D. M. Baltzan, J. M. Campbell, and J. E. Leddy, along with Alderman Sid Buckwold and A. A. Murphy representing the Lay Advisory Board.

The assembly, held on January 10 in Regina, agreed that an architect appointed by the Federal Government, and funded by the Provincial Government, should visit St. Paul's Hospital to assess the report of the hospital's architects. The federal inspector, H. G. Hughes, F.R.A.S.C., A.R.I.B.A., arrived at the hospital a month later to make a detailed examination of the existing facilities, and to prepare a subsequent report on his findings.

Report of the Federal Expert

The detailed report of H. G. Hughes, Chief of the Hospital Design Division of the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, entitled "Report on the Physical Plant of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon", was released on February 14, 1958. This report, "on the feasibility of alterations, additions, and renovations to the present hospital buildings, or the alternative of building an entirely new hospital and demolishing the old" overlooked no part or corner of the St. Paul's complex in its thoroughness. The conclusions reached by Mr. Hughes' report were the final devastating blow to any thoughts of adding a new wing or renovating the old wings of St. Paul's Hospital.

Not only did the Federal Government expert's report concur with the findings of the architectural firm of Green, Blankenstein and Russell retained by the Grey Nuns, it emphasized even more the in-

adequacies of the 1912 hospital, and the many frame annexes serving various purposes. The conclusion reached by Mr. Hughes was similar to that of Mr. Russell: "It is agreed that the wisest course to follow would be to build an entirely new hospital and when completed, that the existing building be demolished. Not only would this be the wisest course from the patient and staff viewpoint, but from the financial aspect as well."

"The problem is not just one of adding some 50 patient beds to the present hospital," Mr. Hughes stated in his concluding paragraphs, "It is a problem of present wards being obsolete and requiring renewing, and the fact that nearly all facilities are overcrowded and obsolete. After fifty years of excellent service to the community, St. Paul's Hospital equipment and buildings are worn out, and the time has come when

alterations and additions can no longer maintain the hospital at a standard of efficiency required with the advances in medicine."

The culmination of such negative findings, and the subsequent recommendations of both the Federal Government expert and the architectural firm retained by the hospital, formed the ammunition for an immense struggle between the Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital and their advisors and supporters, on the one

side, and the Ministers of Health of the Federal and Provincial Governments on the other. Much of the time and energies of Sister Superior Prevost and the Grey Nuns, and the Lay and Medical Advisory Boards were expended on solving this dilemma over the following five years, and this struggle required all their combined efforts, their faith and their convictions to resolve.

Five Arduous Years

For more than five arduous and trying years, from late 1957 until 1962, the possibility of a new St. Paul's Hospital seemed very remote. The necessity for a completely new structure was never questioned by the provincial government health department after the expert reports received on the condition of the St. Paul's Hospital complex.

The newly-elected Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, with J. Waldo Monteith as Minister of Health and Welfare, outlined early in 1958 an Act to aid hospitals and health care facilities in Canada. This Act, the "Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act," marked the entrance of the federal government into the field of hospital care. According to news reports, the provincial government welcomed this decision, but added:

"The increase in federal grants will only partly help in financing a proposed new hospital in Saskatoon. Mr. Erb notes that a 330-bed structure at a cost of six million dollars has been proposed. Under the new Federal grants, and providing the province matches the increases, St. Paul's Hospital would receive about \$1.32 million in grants towards building a new structure. This would still leave the hospital authorities the task of borrowing as much as three million dollars. Mr. Erb said it would be difficult for the hospital to borrow that amount of money unless the Federal Government agrees to pay either depreciation costs or the interest charges on capital costs."

Prime Minister Diefenbaker paid a welcome visit to St. Paul's Hospital, accompanied by his charming wife Olive and his brother Elmer. As reported in the *Annals of St. Paul's Hospital*, the visit was a happy one:

"Sunday, February 16, 1959: We are honoured by an intimate visit on the part of Mr. John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada. The kind remembrances he has retained of St. Paul's Hospital when he formerly visited his sick mother are seconded today by the courteous invitation of Dr. D. M. Baltzan." Dr.

Baltzan and Sister Superior Prevost escorted the Prime Minister's party on a tour of the hospital, and made Mr. Diefenbaker aware of the plight of the hospital.

Sister Yvonne Prevost, Superior of St. Paul's Hospital, initiated an important correspondence campaign in February to persuade the two levels of government to make concessions regarding the interest on the debt the Grey Nuns order would incur for construction of a new hospital.

Such letters were just the beginning of a flurry of correspondence that grew to be a veritable blizzard between Sister Superior Prevost and the federal and provincial governments, between Dr. D. M. Baltzan and the same governments, Bishop Francis J. Klein and the government, and many others. In February, 1959, Their Excellencies Mgr. O'Neill of Regina and Mgr. Francis J. Klein of Saskatoon accompanied by Chief Justice Emmett Hall, chairman of the St. Paul's Lay Advisory Board, made a special representation to the provincial government, asking that "private hospitals receive support that they need for capital expenditures."

The architects' plan for the proposed new St. Paul's Hospital has received the approval of the Mother House in Montreal and the Provincial House in Edmonton. Now the task was to get the approval of the Department of Public Health in Regina. To this end, representatives of St. Paul's Hospital and others travelled to Regina to meet with the Minister.

As a result of the committee's representations, the Minister of Public Health and other provincial officials approved the proposed architectural plans for the new St. Paul's Hospital complex. The problem of the financing for such a new hospital would be left in abeyance for many more months, however, and be subject of much more correspondence and commentary between supporters of the hospital and the two senior governments.

Correspondence in the following months of 1959 made interesting comment on the situation between the two senior governments, but did little to alleviate



The Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker with Mrs. Diefenbaker, and brother Elmer visit the hospital. Seated are Sister Superior Y. Prevost, Rt. Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker, and Dr. D. M. Baltzan. The sisters of the hospital appear in back rows.

the threat of the ominous crisis looming ahead for St. Paul's Hospital. In spite of Sister Superior Prevost's strong opinion to Health Minister Erb, "that we regard the whole question as extremely urgent and important," Mr. Erb replied that the Cabinet would discuss this proposal at a succeeding meeting. Premier Douglas addressed a letter to Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, Q.C., Prime Minister of Canada proposing changes in the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act, recently put into effect. In part, he said:

"It is our belief that by sharing depreciation on physical plant, at least, as well as interest on borrowed money for capital purposes, the Government of Canada would ease the burden on the provinces, and especially the hospitals to meet the tremendous financial problems of keeping our hospital plants modern and up-to-date. I would therefore ask that your government give serious consideration to amending the terms of the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act to meet this real need."

In his reply Prime Minister Diefenbaker informed Premier Douglas:

"I can assure you that representations as put forth in your letter will receive the consideration of the Government of Canada, and I expect that if any change were to be announced, my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, would get in touch with all the Provincial Governments sharing in the program."

Bishop Francis J. Klein addressed some strongly-worded letters to Premier Douglas and Hon. J. Walter Erb, when affairs remained at a stalemate during the

summer months of 1959:

"July 2: We have hoped for over four years that changes in the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Plan would be made to enable St. Paul's to be reconstructed. Now we have come to the point where there seems to be no hope left, and we feel that it our responsibility to inform the Sisters that risks of a fire and a catastrophe are too great to continue operating the hospital as it is now." Bishop Klein closed his remarks by regretting that "the only alternative seems to be the closing of the hospital."

Sister Yvonne Prevost echoed these regrets in her letter of August 31 to the Minister of Health, concluding:

"Therefore, we expect that both our Reverend Bishop and the Major Superiors of our Congregation will advise us to proceed immediately with plans to close the hospital, which is the only alternative left."

The next two months brought little or no progress in the stalemated situation, with the provincial and federal governments claiming the other government was the cause of the delay in a solution. In mid-October, at a convention of the Saskatchewan Catholic Hospitals Association, Bishop F. J. Klein announced that "St. Paul's Hospital will be forced to close its doors". This announcement "fell like a bombshell on medical circles and on the convention", according to one radio station news report.

Media reports of the proposed imminent closing of St. Paul's Hospital sparked immediate disbelief and concern from the city administration, the Board of Trade and business men, and from private citizens of every religious belief.

The Mounting Crisis

Bishop F. J. Klein, in an address to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the St. Paul's School of Nursing in November, 1959, emphasized that "1960 will go down in history as the fateful year unless there is some change in government policy. If financial difficulties force St. Paul's Hospital to close its doors, then St. Paul's School of Nursing will be forced to close also."

Finally, on January 28 and 29, meetings took place in Ottawa between the Federal Cabinet and the provincial Health Ministers to discuss financing of private hospitals.

With the opening of the legislature in Saskatchewan February 12, 1960, the Throne Speech made no mention of legislation to assist private hospitals such as St. Paul's in funding capital costs. However, on February 15, with the provincial election a few weeks away, Premier Douglas made an offer: "The provincial government is prepared to pay 60% of the interest rate on money borrowed for hospital construction in Saskatchewan if the federal government will pay the rest." At that time, and in the month that followed, no forthcoming proposal echoed in the hallowed halls of parliament in Ottawa.

As the months of 1960 sped by and the crisis at St. Paul's Hospital mounted, the Grey Nuns and their advisors became increasingly aware that more direct action would have to be taken. An extraordinary meeting of the two Advisory Boards of the hospital was held with representatives of the sisters and the administration to formulate such a plan of action.

As a result of a proposal by Mr. C. F. Grady, J. B. Wedge made a motion: "That a committee composed of Drs. Baltzan and J. M. Campbell of the Medical Advisory Board, and Messrs. C. F. Grady, J. B. Wedge and Ross Pinder of the Lay Advisory Board be set up to organize a delegation to meet with the provincial government immediately and to prepare a release to the news media with regard to the closing date of the medical ward, and other dates and information pointing up the present emergency, and the commencement of the gradual closing of St. Paul's Hospital." The motion, seconded by Dr. J. E. Leddy, passed unanimously.

The two main thrusts of the proposed campaign to realize the construction of a new St. Paul's Hospital were acted upon immediately. All media outlets were informed of the decision to close beds in the medical ward.

"St. Paul's Begins Closing Hospital" — this was the headline that greeted readers of the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix of March 1, 1960. Dr. Baltzan reported in

the newspaper that: "A twenty-two bed unit of St. Paul's will be closed, beginning at once, and another unit of thirty beds will be closed gradually if the hospital's financial crisis is not resolved."

Premier T. C. Douglas and the provincial Cabinet agreed to meet with the Saskatoon delegation speaking on behalf of St. Paul's Hospital on March 13, 1960. In addition to the representatives of the two St. Paul's boards, this imposing delegation included Mayor Sid Buckwold of the City of Saskatoon, members of the Board of Trade executive, representatives of the City Hospital Board, Saskatoon Labour Council, and of the three unions of St. Paul's Hospital employees. Members of the Legislature (C.C.F.) for Saskatoon and district joined the delegates as well: J. F. Sturdy, Arthur Stone, and Honourable R. A. Walker, Q.C.

The delegation presenting St. Paul's case told the Cabinet and the Premier that all concerned, including the population of Saskatoon at large, "will be relieved when you introduce enabling legislation in the present session to proceed with the building program this Spring."

Following the meeting of March 13, a joint press release authorized by Premier T. C. Douglas and the Delegation from St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, echoed the optimistic note:

"At the conclusion of an amicable meeting of the Premier and members of the Cabinet with a Special Delegation on behalf of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, Premier Douglas stated:

"We will find some way to keep St. Paul's Hospital open and to begin construction of a new hospital building as quickly as we can.

"Health Minister J. Walter Erb has made arrangements for members of his staff to meet with representatives of St. Paul's Hospital to consider and finalize building plans. Improvisations of accommodation as are necessary shall be made in order to carry on until the new hospital building is ready.

"Negotiations will carry on to effect the necessary financial arrangements. The Provincial Government will continue representations to the Federal Government to accept interest charges as part of hospital expenses. However, final arrangements for starting the rebuilding of St. Paul's Hospital will not await the results of discussions with the Federal Government."

Because of terms set down in the government's formula for allotting funds for hospital construction, Sister Superior Prevost warned:

"The government has estimated that construction cost should be in the neighborhood of \$15,000 per bed, of which \$11,100 per bed would be forthcoming from the Federal and Provincial Governments. However, St.

Paul's officials feel that the cost would be closer to \$20,000 or at least \$8,000 more than the provincial estimate, which amount would have to be raised by the hospital."

This concern necessitated a reconsideration of architects' plans for the new St. Paul's Hospital. The project architect, G. Leslie Russell, advised St. Paul's administrative bodies that: "We must reduce the overall area approximately 25%. This may seem like a drastic cut, but from figures quoted for the Brandon General and St. Boniface Hospitals, it is essential."

The first stage of construction on the new hospital project was to begin on July 1 with a new powerplant and laundry. However, Sister Yvonne Prevost was not optimistic. "Approval of the financing by the provincial government may take some time," she said.

Meanwhile, the 800-bed Regina General Hospital asked the provincial government for approval and \$8 million towards the cost of a 600-bed addition to this overcrowded facility. "The only alternative," the Regina-owned hospital said in a brief to the Health Minister, "is a new 1,000 bed hospital costing over \$21

million."

The urgency of the situation at St. Paul's was emphasized in July when two large chunks of plaster fell from the ceiling in the first floor of the old part of the hospital, narrowly missing three patients and blowing out a window. Once again, news reports, letters and telegrams addressed to the provincial Department of Health and to the Premier stressed that the situation was intolerable, and urged the immediate approval of the financing formula to make the new construction possible.

This dramatic event and the resultant public outcry stirred the smouldering coals of indecision in the minds of the Cabinet to ignite a flame of immediate action.

On August 1, 1960, Dr. F. Burns Roth, deputy minister of public health, informed St. Paul's Hospital authorities that "a formula for financing a new St. Paul's Hospital has been arrived at by the Cabinet, and it will be presented to the hospital administration for its approval." At long last, the new St. Paul's Hospital in the near future seemed an actuality, not a dream.

New Grants Formula

By the end of August, the Honourable J. Walter Erb announced new grants to the province's hospitals under a formula which had been under consideration for some months between the provincial and federal governments.

In his announcement, the minister stated:

"The provincial government will make substantial outright cash grants to new hospitals. Grants will be calculated on the costs of construction of three different types of hospitals: base, regional and community."

Under the new grant formula, the relationship between contributions made by federal and provincial governments and the local community was listed:

Per-bed costs for base hospital:	
Approved cost.....	\$15,000
Federal grants.....	2,000
Balance.....	13,000
Max. prov. grant.....	9,100
Community responsibility	\$ 3,900

Mr. Erb said that, "The new formula will make adequate funds available to hospitals operated by private and religious groups, and permit them to proceed with needed construction." The provincial government would make principal payments on debts for construction which were then owing by the hospitals, in lieu of which the government would

"discontinue recognizing depreciation costs on buildings as part of the operating costs of hospitals under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan." However, depreciation payments on equipment would continue.

Provincial Liberal Leader Ross Thatcher suggested that, because of the increased grants to hospitals, the provincial government would have to increase hospitalization tax rates from \$17.50 to \$24.00 for a single person, and from \$35.00 to \$48.00 for a family each year.

When the hospital plan was inaugurated in 1947, SHSP charges were \$5.00 per person, and \$10.00 per family, and costs to operate the Plan in the first year were \$7.5 million. SHSP rates were boosted periodically, and the hospital and education tax increased from two to three percent by 1960 to take care of the increased costs of operating hospitals. In 1959, the Province of Saskatchewan received a health grant of about \$13.5 million from the federal government.

In that year of 1959, the province collected nearly \$9 million from the SHSP, and over \$7 million as its share of the sales tax. In addition, it received some \$4 million from the federal government and the provincial welfare department for hospitalization of welfare cases, Indians and war veterans.

"These amounts," city editor Phil Wade commented in the August 29, 1960 edition of the

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, "plus the federal health grants more than met costs of operating the hospital plan, but provincial officials claim other health charges have to be included, and that the province is actually delving into general revenues to pay the entire health bill."

Misgivings were expressed from many sources regarding the government's assuming responsibility for capital debt and not paying depreciation on hospital buildings. Officials of the Saskatchewan Hospital Association and the Catholic Hospital Conference of Saskatchewan, in a joint press release of September 1 stated that their associations were "strongly critical of the hospital grants announcement with regard to depreciation. The proposals were formulated by the government without consultation with either the SHA or the CHSCS, and when the formula was presented to the associations for comment, their proposals were rejected."

St. Paul's Hospital announced, as a result of the granting formula, that tenders for the entire hospital building, including boiler and laundry facilities which would be included within the main area, "are expected to be called in February, 1961, so that work can begin as soon as the frost is out of the ground."

As the winter months passed by and spring approached, the crisis situation at St. Paul's Hospital did not ease. In February the Saskatoon Board of Trade wrote to Premier Douglas deploring the "stalemate between the government and the hospital."

On March 9, a news release from Regina covering the Health Department's appropriations in the government's 1961-62 budget estimated "an amount of \$2.5 million to cover all grants and loans to health centres in the province during the fiscal year."

"St. Paul's Hospital can get 25% of a total \$3 million this year, in construction grants," Mr. Erb announced. "The remainder of the grant, based on 70% of construction costs, will be spread over three years." Mr. Erb said the government would release funds to St. Paul's Hospital as construction of the new hospital progressed.

With this announcement of specific amounts of provincial government funding, the Grey Nuns and governing body of St. Paul's Hospital felt that finally the first practical steps had been taken towards the reality of a new hospital, and that the call for tenders for the construction of the facility could be published in newspapers throughout Canada.

THE DRAMA AND THE CLIMAX, 1960s

Start of Construction For The New Hospital

On a memorable day in St. Paul's Hospital history, the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix reported, April 18, 1961: "The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) announced today that tenders have been called for a modern building to replace the present main building of St. Paul's Hospital.

"Construction is expected to start early this summer, and the 332-bed structure is expected to be completed late in 1962. Architects and engineers for the project are Green, Blankenstein, Russell and Associates of Winnipeg, affiliated with E. J. McDuccen of Regina.

"The new hospital, of simple design and using Saskatchewan material, including brick from Estevan, will meet the need for more space and better facilities and still allow for future expansion. The hospital will be of reinforced concrete with brick exterior facing. It will consist of two sections connected by a link which houses the elevator and the main stairs. The front section will be seven storeys high, with entrance lobby and administration on the main floor and with six floors of patient beds above. The diagnostic and treatment facilities, including the laboratories, X-ray, operating and delivery suites, will be housed in the rear section.

"Tenders for the future St. Paul's Hospital have been called and will be opened on June 1st. I wish to ask you all to join us in prayer asking Almighty God that these tenders will be low enough to permit us to accept a contract," requested Sister Superior.

Soon after, a press release issued by Chief Justice E. M. Hall, Q.C., Chairman of the Lay Advisory Board of St. Paul's Hospital, gave details of tenders received by the hospital, and the amounts tendered in each for construction of the new hospital. These amounts ranged from a low of \$4,365 million to a high bid of \$4,489 million by a Vancouver firm. One firm from Winnipeg, two firms from Calgary, three from Saskatoon, one from Three Rivers, Quebec, and one from

Vancouver submitted bids. In his press release, Chief Justice Hall reported:

"To each of the foregoing amounts must be added the cost of a horizontal conveyor, landscaping and yard paving, architects' fees, furnishings and demolition, which will bring the total cost of the new structure in excess of \$5 million. The hospital is pleased to announce that, on the basis of the bids received today, construction of the hospital will be proceeded forthwith, with a projected completion date late in 1963."

Surprisingly, after all the concerns about projected costs per unit bed, the tendered bids were in line with cost estimates discussed earlier by Honourable J. Walter Erb, provincial Minister of Health. Harry Jones, M.P. for Saskatoon, announced May 15 that "The federal grants towards the erection of a new St. Paul's Hospital will be \$924,586. This will be \$270,000 more than the \$2,000 per bed promised." From this news, it was assumed locally that the federal government was paying for the extra recovery beds, labor beds and beds in the nursery to be included in the new hospital.

At \$9,100 per bed, the provincial government would contribute \$3,021 million towards the cost of the new hospital, and the federal government \$924,486, making a total of government grants \$3,945,786. This would leave slightly more than \$1 million to be provided by St. Paul's, or around \$3,300 per bed. This report was contained in the Star-Phoenix of June 2, 1961.

At last, on June 14, 1961, the months and even years of fortitude and optimistic resolve of the Grey Nuns and their advisors culminated in the announcement that the contract for the construction of the new 332-bed St. Paul's Hospital had been awarded. The Winnipeg firm of Peter Leitch Construction Company, which had submitted the second lowest tender of

\$4,392,000 for the construction, was the successful bidder.

"Sister Superior Yvonne Prevost, administrator of the Grey Nuns' Hospital, said the project will be started immediately, and that the new hospital will be ready for occupancy in July, 1963," stated the news release.

July 7, 1961 was designated as "D-Day-Dig Day" to signify the start on construction of the new St. Paul's Hospital.

Men with their huge machines continued excavating, pile-driving and hauling away earth during the sunny months of July and August on the north portion of the Grey Nuns' property. The hospital governing council decided to ask the City of Saskatoon for financial assistance with the demolition of the old

hospital building and landscaping, estimated to cost in excess of \$95,000. In a news release of August 21, Sister Superior Prevost said, "A letter outlining the request will go to the City Council tonight. Demolition of the old hospital would cost \$25,000, landscaping, paving sidewalks, parking areas and entrances about \$97,000."

After a great deal of discussion in committee and in the council as a whole, the announcement that the City of Saskatoon would donate to St. Paul's Hospital a grant of \$50,000, to help with the costs outlined by Sister Superior Prevost in her letter, came forth in January, 1962. City Commissioner McAskill suggested to the City Council that the hospital be granted \$25,000 in 1962 from the 1961 surplus in the city's finances, and another \$25,000 in 1963. All councillors agreed to favor the grant.

Question of Tax Exemption

Another vexing problem arose for the Grey Nuns when the decision was made to extend facilities of St. Paul's Hospital to the northern and western portions of the original property between Avenue P and Avenue R, from 20th Street to 21st Street. For over a year, the question of whether St. Paul's Hospital was entitled to tax exemption on this extended use of the property had been the subject of much discussion between Alderman J. B. Wedge, Q.C., member of the hospital board, and the City Commissioner. Because of a ruling by an expert Eastern firm of assessors brought in to complete a reassessment on all property within the city, the Commissioner's office and the City Solicitor believed "that there was no legal justification for Saint Paul's being totally exempt from taxation. Originally, the city had allowed to exempt up to 8 acres of property, whereas the hospital now occupies 9 acres," according to the report in the press of Sept. 29, 1961. R. D. Phillips, City Solicitor, suggested that the question of complete tax exemption for St. Paul's be put to a vote of the burgesses.

By dint of hard digging and excellent detective work, Alderman Wedge was able to unearth, before this eventuality took place, a signed provincial government document that solved the problem in favor of St. Paul's Hospital and the Grey Nuns. In a letter dated Sept. 28, 1961 addressed to C. L. McLeod, City Commissioner, "Re St. Paul's Hospital Site Exemption from Taxation", Mr. Wedge stated:

"I am very happy to report that I have traced down an ancient proclamation of the Crown to the right of the Province of Saskatchewan, which was issued by command of Lieutenant-Governor G. W.

Brown on May 2, 1911. I have obtained two photostatic copies of the original document from the Provincial Secretary, and enclose herewith one copy for the City Hall records and the attention of the Tax Assessor.

"In 1911, City Council had made application to extend the City boundaries farther out into the R.M. of Cory, in which St. Paul's Hospital was then located. Said application was granted by the proclamation, and certain land taken into the City, but only on the proviso that from the moment St. Paul's Hospital came into the City's boundaries it would never be taxed so long as the land remained the property of St. Paul's Hospital and was used for hospital purposes. Included in said exemption was Block 2 and 7, in Plan F.F., the same land now occupied by the hospital.

"Said land is more correctly described heretofore as 'Pleasant Hill addition to Saskatoon, being Plan of part of the N.E. 1/2 of Section 30, Township 36, Range 5, West of the 3rd Meridian, being Plan F.F. (03978) in the Saskatoon Land Titles Office.' This Section 30 is also specially mentioned in the proclamation."

The proclamation of the Province of Saskatchewan, signed by His Honour Edmund L. Wetmore as Administrator, stated in part:

"Whereas, upon consideration of a report from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated April 29, 1911, in connection with the application of the Council of the City of Saskatoon to extend the boundaries of the said City, it is provided that, under the provisions of the City Act of 1908, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may by proclamation extend the boundaries of the said City of Saskatoon.

"Now Know ye, that by and with the advice of

our Executive Council of the Province of Saskatchewan, we do proclaim that on, from and after the twentieth day of April, 1911, there shall be added to the City of Saskatoon the following described lands ..."

At this point, the proclamation described lands surrounding the City of Saskatoon on all sides, both east and west of the river, formerly part of the R.M. of Cory. The document went on to state:

"Except as hereinafter provided, all lands hereby brought into the City of Saskatoon shall during the year 1911 bear all assessments for the said year.

"1. It is stipulated that the Sisters of Charity in whom is vested the ownership of the property of St. Paul's Hospital adjacent to the City of Saskatoon be granted exemption from taxation for such time as the said property of St. Paul's Hospital shall be included within the limits of the City of Saskatoon, for so long a time as the said land shall remain the property of the said St. Paul's Hospital and be used by it for hospital

purposes only. The property to be included in the said exemption will include Blocks 2 and 7 on Plan F.F."

The document stipulated further particulars about arrears in taxes on all the described properties (exempting St. Paul's Hospital) owed to the R.M. of Cory, and also that the City of Saskatoon carry out improvements on roads in and leading to the properties added to the City.

The Star-Phoenix report of September 29, 1961, stated:

"A 50-year old document uncovered by Alderman Jim Wedge will likely mean that St. Paul's Hospital will be exempt from taxation for all time."

As a result of Alderman Wedge's investigative work, St. Paul's Hospital was granted tax exemption on the additional property, and the tax rolls were corrected accordingly. A copy of the important government proclamation is lodged in the hospital's archives.

"The Heart Beat of St. Paul's"

During the course of construction of the completely new St. Paul's Hospital, Sister Superior Yvonne Prevost issued detailed accounts of the progress of the project. The Special Construction Bulletins, entitled "The Heart Beat of St. Paul's", were issued on a quarterly basis during the construction years of 1961 and 1962.

"It is the hospital's intention through the media of the bulletin," Sister Prevost wrote, "to keep the staff, patients and visitors well informed on the progress of the various stages of construction. We know that you will share with the Sisters the well-earned sense of accomplishment and pride as the new building begins to rise from its foundation."

In the bulletin issued July, 1961, Sister Superior Prevost described the location and size of the proposed new hospital, and the excavation procedures including a detailed description of the process of pile driving, and underpinning to strengthen the north wall of the Nurses' Residence. The high water table on top of Pleasant Hill, "necessitated driving the piles through 40 feet of glacial silt."

By November, 1961, workmen were proceeding with their tasks in spite of the winds and snows of approaching winter. The contractors enclosed the partly-finished structure with heavy sheets of plastic and tarpaulins, set up temporary sources of heat, and took other measures so work could proceed without too much delay during the winter. Sister Prevost explained how important a strong concrete foundation was to the final building, and how special cement had

to be used. "The type of cement used in those portions of the building which are in direct contact with the ground is a special sulphate cement to resist the effects of salts or alkalines in the soil."

"St. Paul's Hospital Taking Shape" reported the Star-Phoenix of December 9, 1961, showing a photograph of the almost completed foundation. "Extreme cold this week slowed down construction of the new 332-bed St. Paul's Hospital, but contractors expected to be able to work during the winter."

In December the firm of Green, Blankenstein and Russell of Winnipeg announced the appointment of William D. Webster, a native of Saskatoon and a graduate in architecture from the University of Manitoba, as supervising architect in charge of construction at St. Paul's Hospital. Financial problems loomed again as the year drew to a close. The announcement that the provincial government was raising the hospitalization and education tax in the new year meant that \$20,000 would be added to construction costs. The concerns of the hospital were expressed to the Department of Health and to the Provincial Treasurer.

A carpenter's strike disrupted construction work on the new building for a week in April, 1962. Throughout the city, 300 carpenters walked out on April 2 to protest lack of contract settlements, and in addition to the St. Paul's project many other large buildings were affected: a new Co-op Creamery, Investors' Syndicate Building, additions to several schools, and work at the South Saskatchewan River

Dam site. Millions of dollars in contracts were tied up by this delay, but plumbers went back to work on April 5, and carpenters returned the next week with a "six cent increase per hour effective immediately and a further five cents next April."

The construction progress bulletin of May, 1962, concluded with this paragraph:

"The work is proceeding at an accelerated pace. Providing the weather and other uncontrollable factors co-operate, any previous loss in time will not be significant. There are approximately 130 men employed at present, and the trend is towards a steady increase." This number of workmen was increased to 160 by September, 1962. Names of companies engaged in various areas of construction on the hospital included: Arstad Lathing Company, Comstock Electrical, Consolidated Plate Glass, Jones and Company (Bricklayers), Otis Elevator Co., Otto Roofing, Water-

man and Waterbury (Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning), Western Steel Reinforcing.

"Supplies of all types roll into the construction site almost continuously — one day this week 120,000 lbs. of freight was delivered to the job site. Crated machinery stands in odd corners. More than a dozen trades and skills are presently required on the job."

The report mentions that distribution of beds in the new hospital had not been finalized, according to Medical Superintendent, Dr. M. H. Smith-Windsor. Extensions were planned for the department of obstetrics, the surgical wing, and another treatment service recently initiated at St. Paul's Hospital. The newspaper report describes this:

"A treatment service in which the hospital takes great pride is an artificial kidney unit, the only one of its kind in the province. The new St. Paul's Hospital will provide extended facilities for this service as part of a projected intensive care unit."

Medicare Crisis

As construction of the new St. Paul's Hospital continued during the summer months of 1962, a problem arose affecting health care in the whole province. The Annals of St. Paul's Hospital gives details:

"July 1, 1962. A sombre day for Saskatchewan. The government initiates a medical plan against the opposition of the doctors." The Medicare crisis was to embroil the doctors of St. Paul's Hospital and the province's physicians in a bitter struggle for many weeks to come.

"The doctors in the province have formed committees," continued the Annals' report, "and they have organized to provide emergency services in the

hospitals. The numbers of physicians is very restricted; a great number of doctors have taken their vacations and have definitely left the province. Today we said goodbye to Dr. T. H. Herman who has gone to Calgary."

"July 23. At last, there is an 'entente' between the government and the doctors. Lord Taylor of England has acted as intermediary for the sessions, during which each of the parties made concessions. The doctors are very happy." This agreement between the doctors and the provincial government temporarily laid to rest the controversy of Medicare, which had made headlines in news reports in all the media during the summer months.

Administrative Changes

An important step was effected by the hospital during August, 1962. On August 1, to facilitate the operation of the new and enlarged hospital, the following appointment was made, according to the Annals:

"We have at last a lay Assistant Administrator, in the person of Dr. Morley H. Smith-Windsor. He begins this morning on a part-time basis until he can close his medical office and find someone to take over this position."

A significant event establishing the autonomy of St. Paul's Hospital occurred in early 1959. By an Act of the Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan,

directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and assented to on April 14, 1959 under the title of "An Act to Incorporate St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Saskatoon", the hospital achieved the goal of autonomy, and assumed its new title. This Act states in part:

"Whereas there has existed for some time in the Province of Saskatchewan a charitable Order known as the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, or more commonly known as 'The Grey Nuns of Montreal' and said Order has for many years owned and operated a general hospital and nurses' training school at Saskatoon in the said Province under the corporate



St. Paul's Hospital Administrative Council in 1967. Sister Ann Ell, Administrator and Dr. M. H. Smith-Windsor, Assistant Administrator.

name of 'The Sisters of Charity of the North-West Territories', and

"Whereas a petition has been presented praying for the incorporation of the members of the said Order at Saskatoon aforesaid as a body corporate and politic under the name of St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon and it is expedient that the prayer of the said petition be granted:

"Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

"Sister Yvonne Prevost (in religion), Sister Germaine Beliveau (in religion), Sister Paulette Fortier (in religion), and Sister Cecile Deshaies (in religion), all of the city of Saskatoon in the Province of Saskatchewan, and such other persons as are now or may hereafter become members of the said Order . . . shall be and hereby are constituted and declared to be a body corporate and politic under the name of St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon for the establishment, management and maintenance of hospitals, orphanages, homes for infants, the aged and infirm or persons who wish to entrust themselves to the said Order, the teaching and training of nurses and teachers and other works of charity and mercy and to take over and continue the work presently carried on at Saskatoon in the said Province of Saskatchewan by The Sisters of Charity of the North-West Territories, commonly known as 'The Grey Nuns of Montreal'."

The Act describes in detail the powers and authorities of the newly formed corporation regarding acquisition of property, disposal of property, investments, borrowing, fees, affiliation and the adoption of a corporate seal. The Act also states, "Until otherwise directed by bylaws, the incorporators named herein shall be the officers of the said corporation."

Upon the rules of stipulation Number 12 of this Act, tabled as Chapter 115, 1959, the transfer of land is outlined:

"Upon presentation to the Registrar of the Saskatoon Land Registration District of any transfer or other instrument whereby any land or interest in land situated in the said Land Registration District is being transferred from the Sisters of Charity of the North-West Territories being a corporation incorporated by the Parliament of Canada, 45 Victoria (1882) Chapter 127 to the corporation hereby created, the said Registrar shall without fee or charge therefore do all things necessary to vest such land or interest therein in the name of the corporation, subject to all such encumbrances or charges as may be registered against the title thereof."

On August 10, 1961 James B. Wedge, Q.C., legal advisor to the hospital, advised that, "Titles to various portions of land of the present site of St. Paul's Hospital have now been consolidated in Regina."

With the establishment of St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') Saskatoon as a corporate body and the consolidation of the portions of land comprising the site of the hospital complex, as well as the assurance that St. Paul's Hospital would be granted exemption from taxation so long as the property was used as a hospital, the administrative processes necessary to operate a modern hospital were initiated.

As the new year of 1963 dawned, and the reality of this modern hospital became more and more evident every day, an Administrative Council was organized to include Reverend Sister Yvonne Prevost and senior administrators of the hospital. This council held its first meeting in January, 1963 and decided that the Department Heads of the hospital should meet

monthly, starting January 9, to consider recommendations on matters affecting hospital activities.

Items under consideration at the meeting of St. Paul's Department Heads included centralization of certain departments under a designated member of the Administrative Council; the employment of a qualified person to be responsible for maintenance, engineering, housekeeping, laundry and security; seeking the services of a chartered accountant to serve as Business Manager; advertising for nurses with special qualifications in administration and teaching; discussion of a pension plan advanced by the Saskatchewan Hospital Association; and the rescheduling of vacations so as not to coincide with the move into the new hospital,

tentatively set for August 1963. Sister Superior Prevost requested of the Department Heads that: "All will be willing and ready to achieve our goal — the opening of the new hospital."

Another important decision made by the Administrative Council was to establish an Archives Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Yvonne Saucier, medical records librarian. "The purpose of the Committee is to compile historical data of the hospital". The comprehensive newspaper clippings, media accounts, administrative reports, important letters, photographs, programs of special events and other data have proved of immense value since the Archives Committee began its work.

Fund Raising Drive

At the time when the amounts of government grants available for the construction of the new hospital were made known, a considerable amount of money was still required. To cover the balance of funding, the administration of St. Paul's Hospital decided to set up a Fund Raising Committee to conduct a drive among the general and corporate citizenry of Saskatoon and surrounding areas.

Announcements of the St. Paul's Hospital fund raising campaign reached the media of the province in early January, 1963, and received good publicity from newspaper, radio and television. As reported in *The Prairie Messenger*: "Justice Emmett Hall of Canada's Supreme Court is Honourary Chairman of St. Paul's Hospital fund, set up to solicit \$410,000, to furnish and equip the new hospital building, now nearing completion.

"The sponsoring patrons of the fund are some 40 prominent Saskatoon business, professional, educational and civic leaders. The Management Committee is headed by J. J. Charlebois and Ross Pinder and is composed of Chairmen of the four main divisions and their respective sections in the Fund organizations. Mr. Justice Hall has set up a committee in Eastern Canada

to solicit 'key gifts' from national corporations, headed by Senator Wallace McCutcheon."

Public solicitation was scheduled to start on March 1 and to end June 1, 1963. An office was set up in the Medical Services Incorporated building to handle the organization and collection of the funds raised by the campaign. A professionally prepared brochure presented a brief history of "the more than a half century of service given by the Grey Nuns and their hospital in Saskatoon."

"From the day St. Paul's Hospital opened to the end of 1962," the brochure stated, "more than a quarter million patients were received, over 26,000 babies delivered, and some 122,700 operations performed. The School of Nursing graduated more than 1,700 nurses from 1909 to the end of 1962."

The informative brochure pointed out that St. Paul's Hospital problem in finishing and furnishing the new hospital "is a community problem, because St. Paul's is a community hospital. While it is operated privately St. Paul's serves all the public, regardless of geography, race, or belief." Although the fund raising campaign was extended a few extra months, the public generously contributed the additional funds required by St. Paul's.

The Dream Becomes A Reality

The words of Sister Cecile Deshaies, chronicler of St. Paul's Hospital, describe the happy scene and deep emotions evident when the new hospital reached completion:

"On the morning of September 21, 1963, the temperature, harmonious feelings and songs announce a great day in the history of the Grey Nuns in Saskatoon: the realization of a great dream, nothing less than the work of Divine Providence."

At 2:00 p.m. on this memorable afternoon, official dedication ceremonies for the new St. Paul's Hospital took place. Seated on the platform at the entrance to the new hospital were dignitaries representing the government, the City of Saskatoon, the religious community, and the hospital. Honourable Emmett M. Hall, president of the Lay Advisory Board for six years, presided at the ceremony, and His Excellency Mgr. Francis J. Klein intoned the benediction of the new St. Paul's Hospital. Honourable Allan E. Blakeney, Minister of Public Health, laid the symbolic corner stone, containing relics of religious significance, coinage of the day, lists of Provincial Cabinet, City Council, and the Grey Nuns Council dignitaries, names of the Grey Nuns, the Medical and Lay Advisors, the Medical Staff, the Architects and Contractors, the Fund Raising Committee and all the Sisters Superior of the hospital since it opened its doors.

Honourable R. L. Hanbidge, Q.C., Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, proceeded to cut the traditional ribbon symbolizing the opening of the hospital to a tour by the distinguished guests. Felicitations were received from the various dignitaries present. Mother Gertrude Jarbeau, assistant general, thanked "all those who collaborated in the work of this magnificent accomplishment."

At an evening banquet held at the Bessborough Hotel, Mother Berthe Dorais from the Mother House in Montreal presented an address in praise and

gratitude to the Honourable Emmett Hall for his zealous efforts on behalf of St. Paul's Hospital, and unveiled a handsome portrait of Justice Hall in the scarlet robe of the Supreme Court Justice, to be hung in the Board Room of the new St. Paul's Hospital.

Sister Yvonne Prevost, Superior, presented gavelts fashioned from one of the first trees planted by the old hospital to Honourable W. S. Lloyd, Premier of Saskatchewan, Doctor G. W. D. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health, and to Ross Pinder and Jeff Charlebois, co-chairmen of the Fund Raising Committee. In later ceremonies, these "rustic jewels" were presented to Mayor Sid Buckwold, the Knights of Columbus, and to Sister Yvonne Prevost as symbols of their contributions to the reality of the new St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon.

Finally, after years of dedication and concentrated effort by all concerned, the handsome, modern St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon was declared open to the public in November, 1963.

The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix published a Special Edition on November 15, with a comprehensive coverage of the struggle to build the new hospital, physical plant and surroundings, and the modern, up-to-date equipment and furnishings supplied to all departments.

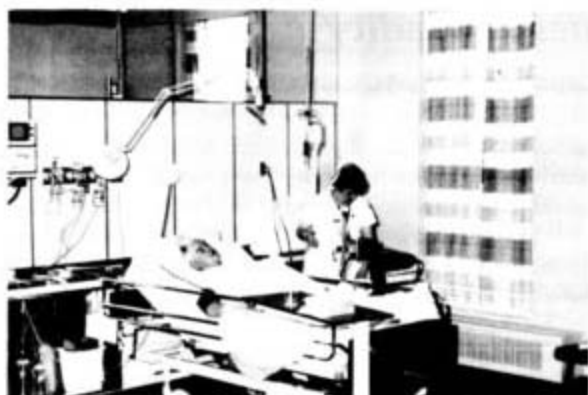
"Saskatoon's newest hospital has been built with one main purpose — to provide the utmost service, utilizing the most modern equipment and facilities available for the care of all patients who enter its doors. It stands at the site of its predecessor, thanks to the enlightened help of the Federal and Provincial Governments, the generosity of the citizens of Saskatoon and surrounding areas, former patients, friends of



The new St. Paul's Hospital completed in 1963.



Sister M. B. Dorais with Hon. Emmett Hall. Unveiling a portrait of Justice Hall by L. Torrament Alemson, 1963.



A patient station in the Intensive Care unit, new building.



The Physiotherapy Department of the new hospital.



Mrs. M. Larkin with baby, Sr. A. Ste-Croix and G. Hunks Reg. N.

the hospital across Canada, and as a demonstration of the zeal and dedication of the Grey Nuns."

The Sisters of St. Paul's Hospital felt pride in the accomplishments of Sister Superior Prevost, and sadness at the thought of her impending departure soon after the opening of the new hospital. Such thoughts pervaded the feelings of the Grey Nuns and all others working and serving in the hospital as the tremendous task of moving all departments, equipment and patients to the modern structure during the month before the official opening in November, 1963. Truckloads of files, records, office equipment, contents of the storerooms, kitchen and maintenance facilities had to be in place so the various essential hospital departments could begin operating in their new quarters. By the end of November, all patients and their belongings had been transported successfully to the new facilities. During the transition period, new admissions and emergency cases were cared for by the other hospitals in the city by special arrangements with the hospitals, the police and the ambulance service.

The general public of Saskatoon was enthusiastic about the opening of the new St. Paul's Hospital. The week of November 13 to 17 was set aside as Open House Week, with special groups touring the new hospital wards and departments early in the week, and Saturday and Sunday reserved for public tours. On the Sunday afternoon, 6,000 visitors passed through the hospital. At a special opening ceremony on Saturday, November 16, Mr. Blankenstein of the architectural firm made the official presentation of the key to the new St. Paul's Hospital to sister Superior Yvonne Prevost. The Annals of St. Paul's Hospital described the feelings of satisfaction of everyone when the move was completed:

"Saturday, November 30. After a peaceful night, the patients seem happy in their new quarters. The beautiful facilities make the work of the nurses easier."

Thus, the plans, the dreams and the devout prayers of the Grey Nuns and their advisors culminated in the opening of the doors of this splendid new edifice dedicated to the healing of the sick. Herein the sisters, the medical staff, the nursing staff, and all lay employees would offer the customary care and sympathetic treatment traditional in all establishments of this illustrious Canadian Order, the Sisters of Charity, commonly known as the Grey Nuns.

Sixty Years to Celebrate

Coincidentally with Canada's Centennial Year in 1967, St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon reached another important milestone by celebrating sixty years of kindly, compassionate service to the population of Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan.

Not only were the Grey Nuns proud and happy to greet well-wishers on the 60th Anniversary to a beautiful, modern hospital, one of the finest in Western Canada, they could also reflect on other significant events that gave them spiritual fulfillment and practical satisfaction.

The last physical vestiges of the original Dr. Willoughby residence that became the first St. Paul's Hospital in 1907, and the brick structure of 1913 disappeared in early 1964 under the contractor's hammers, but the spirit instilled therein by the Grey Nuns carried over to permeate the halls of the beautiful new hospital.

A few weeks after the observance of the 60th Anniversary, St. Paul's Hospital governing body announced that Sister Ann Ell, Superior and Administrator of the hospital since January, 1964, would be leaving to assume new duties at St. Boniface

General hospital in Winnipeg. Sister Ell was the 18th and last Sister-Administrator of the hospital. An important change in the post of Administrator of St. Paul's Hospital became public on June 23, 1967. As reported in the Star-Phoenix:

"Appointment of Dr. Morley H. Smith-Windsor as executive director of St. Paul's Hospital was announced today by Mother Yvonne Prevost, Provincial Superior of the Grey Nuns, Province of St. Albert. The appointment was made known at meetings of the medical and lay advisory boards held this week.

"Dr. Smith-Windsor has served St. Paul's as Assistant Administrator since 1962. In making the appointment, the board has initiated a new policy since this is the first time in Saskatchewan that the offices of superior and administrator have been separated. The new superior, Sister Florence Keegan, is expected to arrive at St. Paul's in mid-July.

"Mother Prevost said, 'It has become apparent that the former policy of combining the role of superior and administrator is not in keeping with the best interests of serving our patients.'

"Dr. Smith-Windsor, a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba



St. Paul's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. L. to R. — Sister Ann Ell, Administrator, Dr. M. H. Smith-Windsor, Father Frank Malone, Bishop F. J. Klein, and Mother Y. Prevost, Provincial Superior.



Sister F. Keegan, Superior, who became Chairman, Board of Directors from 1971 to 1977

Medical College, served with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps during World War Two. From 1946-62 he was in private practice in Saskatoon. Sister Florence Keegan, holder of a master's degree in nursing administration, was operating room supervisor at St. Paul's Hospital from 1934-41."

Two significant events enacted by two separate governments in this banner year of 1967 affected hospital and health care at St. Paul's Hospital and all other hospitals and health institutions in the province. On July 1, 1967, the Government of Canada brought into force the Medical Care Act which enabled the majority of Canada's citizens to receive basic health coverage for themselves and their families at no cost, or at very little cost. In September, 1967, the Government of Saskatchewan initiated in Saskatoon the first two-year diploma nursing program in the province, transferring the education of nursing students from the hospital schools to government institutions.

In this year of high drama and excitement, with so many celebrations and changes to contemplate, the Grey Nuns and their friends at St. Paul's Hospital took time to reflect on many other significant happenings, of secular and of spiritual nature, since the 50th anniversary.

The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal, established by Mother Marguerite d'Youville in 1737, felt great jubilation when Pope John XXIII announced in Rome the Beatification of the Venerable Mother d'Youville. Celebrations and masses to observe this remarkable announcement coincided with the graduation of student nurses on May 3, 1959, when ceremonies to commemorate Mother d'Youville's life were presented. The story of this honour bestowed on the Blessed Mother by the Pope was carried in daily and provincial newspapers throughout Canada and the World.

Later in 1959 celebrations commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's School of Nursing. Among the names of the five original students of this prestigious school was Sister Sephora Beauvais, one of whose nephews became Cardinal Paul Emile Leger and another Governor-General of Canada, Jules Leger. The date of the celebrations, November 21, had particular significance — not only was the School of Nursing established on that date, but the nurses' residence was officially opened on November 21, 1931. In May, 1961, St. Paul's Nursing Alumni celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the school of nursing.

Matters regarding the staffing of the hospital, and patient care, concerned the Grey Nuns during these important years. In May, 1960, the Grey Nuns took possession of the former provincial house of the Oblates, at 1623 20th Street West, for the purpose of providing a residence for the internes and resident doctors serving at the hospital. This spacious and comfortable home, completely furnished, provided five bedrooms and basement apartments. In 1981 this residence was sold as it had outlived its purpose.

Under the auspices of the St. Paul's Women's Auxiliary, 61 young girls from the Convent of Sion were enrolled in a "Candy Strippers" program to give service to the patients. The program has been expanded over the years to include students from four city high schools, who work on the wards after school hours during the term. The first group of orderlies who attended a six-month course directed by Sister Aline Bohemier, Director of Nursing, graduated on April 4, 1961, and received certificates attesting to their training.

A special occurrence brought much joy and satisfaction to the Grey Nuns who served St. Paul's Hospital:

"Monday, May 15, 1961. There is a general commotion at the house of the sisters when our employees transport valises, bureaus, chairs, and other articles to the nurses' residence. We are moving to the fourth floor of the school. We believe we will enjoy noiseless rooms and all the comforts offered by our new quarters." (Annals). With this move, the Grey

Nuns left the beloved old Willoughby house with its drafty halls and creaky stairs, and its half century or more of memories, for the comparative luxury of new surroundings in the nurses' residence.

A small notation in the Annals of St. Paul's Hospital presaged the first important step to another specialized service offered by the hospital:

"Tuesday, May 10, 1960. The members of the Medical Council of our hospital have mentioned to Sister Superior Prevost that it would be a good thing to buy an artificial kidney machine. Dr. D. M. Baltzan and Dr. J. M. Campbell have offered to donate the sum of \$500 each towards its purchase. It will be possible for us to complete the balance (one-third) with diverse donations."

By the end of May the first renal dialysis machine ordered by St. Paul's Hospital arrived, and many patients with renal trouble availed themselves of the dialysis treatments offered at St. Paul's. The first successful kidney transplant operation took place at University Hospital, Saskatoon, in March, 1964. The patient, Mrs. Stella Mossing had received kidney dialysis treatments at the St. Paul's facilities since November, 1963, enabling the physicians and surgeons to achieve this medical first.

St. Paul's Hospital's place as the "Family Hospital" was reinforced in April, 1962 with the birth of the 27,092nd baby at the hospital. This child, Miss Ida Sahli, was honored as the 100,000th resident of the growing City of Saskatoon.

In June, 1965, Governor-General Georges Vanier and Madame Vanier paid an official visit to Saskatoon. On this occasion Mme Vanier paid a welcome visit to the Grey Nuns and St. Paul's Hospital.

Later that year, all connected with the hospital and the city's medical scene were saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Alvin Buckwold, Chief of Pediatrics at St. Paul's Hospital, in Rochester, Minnesota, where he had gone for medical treatment. "Dr. Buckwold's departure is an immense loss for the hospital, the city of Saskatoon, and a great part of Canada, for he was always active in medical organizations". (Annals).

On September 3, eight Grey Nuns attended the funeral of this beloved pediatrician at the Beth Israel Synagogue. Bishop Klein assisted at the service which was conducted by the Rabbi of the Jewish community. Two years later St. Paul's Hospital erected a plaque commemorating the service of Dr. Buckwold to the hospital.

The chapel was graced with a beautiful new organ in December, 1965, the gift of Dr. H. D. Hart. At the dedication ceremonies, Mrs. Yvonne Saucier accompanied the mass sung by Reverend Father P. Rowland, C.Ss. R., thus inaugurating this fine instrument.

A traditional happy observance for St. Paul's



Memorial to Dr. Alvin E. Buckwold, Chief of Pediatrics 1956-65. Members of the Buckwold Family were present at the ceremony.

Hospital began in the spring of 1967. This report appeared in the Annals:

"Wednesday, April 19, 1967. For the first time, the hospital officially recognized several of the employees who have given ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty years of service.

"Two hundred invited guests sit down to a delicious banquet. Dr. Smith-Windsor, master of ceremonies, gives a brief address of praise to the long-term employees. One hundred and eleven employees who have served ten years or more receive commemorative pins, and eleven employees who have twenty-five and thirty years of service to St. Paul's receive gold watches."

Sadness leavened by pride and affection touched the hearts of the Grey Nuns, the Roman Catholic community, and Saskatonians who gathered on April 18, 1967, at the Arena Rink to say farewell and pay tribute to Mgr. Francis J. Klein, Bishop of Saskatoon, departing to become Bishop of the Calgary diocese. The Sister Superior and the Grey Nuns would always remember Bishop Klein as a staunch friend and valuable ally of St. Paul's Hospital.

Later in 1967, on December 13, the Grey Nuns attended ceremonies at St. Paul's Cathedral for the consecration of the new Bishop of Saskatoon, Msgr. James Patrick Mahoney. Bishop Mahoney, a native of the city, had been a frequent visitor and supporter of the hospital since his ordination in 1952.

Events to mark Canada's 100th Birthday evoked feelings of pride and achievement in the Grey Nuns.

The Centennial of Confederation, July 1, 1967, began in Saskatoon with the raising of the new Canadian maple leaf flag on the City Hall flagstaff by Mayor Sid Buckwold. The Personnel Association of St. Paul's won first prize in the non-commercial category with a float depicting nursing services at the hospital, in the PionEra Parade held to kick-off centennial celebrations in Saskatoon.

The Hall Commission Report

On June 19, 1964, the Honourable Judy Lamارش, Minister of Health and Welfare, tabled in the House of Commons the historic Report of the Royal Commission on Health Services. The Commission, appointed in 1961 by the Conservative government of John G. Diefenbaker, was chaired by Justice of the Supreme Court Emmett M. Hall and was comprised of seven members representing health care agencies and the general public. The members of the commission diligently studied health and medicare systems on this continent, in Europe and the Far East to prepare a 914-page first volume of the Report after three years' research and effort.

Recommendations of the Hall Commission Report were summarized in the Canadian Press coverage of that date:

"A prepaid, comprehensive universal health services program for Canadians was recommended today by the Royal Commission on Health Services. Unveiling a broad 'Health Charter for Canadians', the seven-member commission rejected the idea of 'state medicine' for Canada. It defined state medicine as a system in which all providers of health services are officials under state control. For Canada, it said, the health program must be 'based upon freedom of choice, and upon free and self-governing professions and institutions.' The dominant theme of the forceful report, tabled in the Commons by the Pearson government, is that the federal and provincial governments must co-operate to provide the highest possible health standards for all Canadians regardless of age, condition, place of residence, or ability to pay."

The Canadian Press listed the main recommendations of the Hall Commission Report as follows:

"—Comprehensive health service program financed by taxes, premiums — and if provinces wish — lotteries. No means tests, no extra charges;

"—System based on choice by patients of doctors and dentists, who are free to accept or reject patients, and choose place and nature of practice;

"—Provinces launch and administer program. Ottawa pays half.

"—Scheme includes all medical services — diagnosis and treatment of all physical and psychiatric conditions in home, office, hospital.

"—Nurses' training cut to two years from three; 10 new university nursing schools; grants and bursaries for post-graduate training."

Included as well in the complex Report were provisions for free dental services, eye care and spectacles for children under 18 years, fluoridation of all community water supplies, organized care of

crippled and retarded children, experimental drug programs for narcotic users. Ottawa would be required to pay half the costs of constructing new medical and dental schools, with the Report advising six new medical schools and four new dental schools, one of which was to be located in the province of Saskatchewan.

The Report asked that a federal-provincial conference be held within six months to begin the program without delay.

Responses to the Hall Commission Report, as it became known, were immediate and varied. Saskatchewan's Liberal Premier Ross Thatcher pointed out that, "The cost of the hospitalization program has risen from \$7.5 million in 1947 to more than \$44.5 million in 1963. The cost of the medical care plan, after only 1½ years of operation, is sharply above the original estimates."

The Canadian Medical Association endorsed abandonment of the total prepayment approach to medical insurance coverage, the partial payment of the doctor's bill by the patient in addition to insurance coverage. This idea of "deterrent fees" received approval from an editorial in the *Star-Phoenix*, "so that patients would realize that a doctor's time is precious."

Early in September, 1964, the provincial government doubled personal premiums for the compulsory provincial medical care insurance plan and increased the hospital plan premium, because of rising costs. Collections for 1965, to start in November, were set at \$12.00 for individuals and \$24.00 for families. The hospital tax for 1965 was set at \$20.00 for individuals and \$40.00 for families each year. Health Minister Steuart worried that, "The costs of the hospital plan will rise from \$48.7 million in 1964 to over \$53.6 million in 1965", and asked for co-operation from health care agencies and the general public to keep costs to a minimum.

With the introduction of the provincial medicare plan in 1962, many Canadian doctors had left Saskatchewan to set up practice in other provinces and in the United States. To fill the gaps, and to serve the increasing number of patients seeking medical care under the plan, Commonwealth and foreign doctors were recruited for the province.

The Saskatchewan Hospital Association and the Catholic Hospital Conference gave top priority to consideration of the Hall Commission plan at their annual conventions. The CHC expressed concern that "the autonomy of the local hospital boards undergo no encroachment by the provincial government." The Catholic hospitals were particularly wary of the 1961

Saskatchewan Hospital Survey and Master Plan which suggested that "private hospitals be incorporated into a regional network, whereby the provincial government would assume control of basic administrative duties of all hospitals."

The second volume of the Royal Commission Report was tabled in the House of Commons on February 8, 1955, and outlined the machinery under which a universal plan might operate. Dr. D. M. Baltzan, Saskatoon physician who served as a member of the Commission, contended that "patients should be able to consult the doctor of their choice, even if the doctor does not belong to the government-operated plan," in an addendum to the Report.

The new Medical Care Act of 1967 committed the federal government to contribute to each participating province a payment of half the per capita cost

(estimated at 17 cents for each government) of insured medical care for each person in the province, providing the province agree to four prescribed conditions outlined by the Minister of Health.

Thus, with the enactment of the "Health Charter for Canadians", the vast majority of Canada's citizens received basic health coverage for themselves and their families at no cost or at very little cost. In the ensuing years, the Saskatchewan Hospitalization and Medicare Plan has added coverage to Saskatchewan residents within the province for other health services, including physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments, optometry, dental coverage for children born between 1966 and 1976, aids to independent living, and home care programs. Pharmaceuticals prescribed by medical practitioners from an approved list are provided at minimal cost, as are personally fitted hearing aids.

Changes in Nursing Education

Long mooted and comprehensively planned, programs for sweeping changes in the education of nurses became effective in the autumn of 1967.

In the early years of the province's history, with the increasing number of hospitals being opened to serve the growing population, it was difficult to find adequately trained nurses to staff these institutions. As a result, many of the early hospitals set up their own nursing schools to train the nurses they required. St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing was one of the first such schools, opening in November, 1909 with five students.

By 1923 ten hospital schools of nursing existed in the province, located in the larger towns and cities. Half of these were affiliated with municipal or union hospitals, and the other five were owned and administered by religious orders.

These hospitals became service and teaching institutions, with the emphasis on service as the primary function. For several decades this emphasis became a source of contention for nursing schools affiliated with the hospitals. Although they did not pay tuition and received free board and room, the nursing students rendered valuable service to the hospitals in exchange for their education over a three-year period.

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, established by an Act of the Legislature in 1917 and celebrating 50 years of existence in 1967, had as its main goal that, "A certain standard of qualifications should be required of the nursing profession, and a certain measure of protection afforded to members possessing the necessary qualifications". By this same Act, "Anyone who wishes to become a registered

nurse in Saskatchewan must first pass examinations and be registered by the Association."

The University of Saskatchewan Senate in 1920 accepted a minimum curriculum for the education of nurses as recommended by the SRNA, which curriculum became standard for schools of nursing in Saskatchewan. Over the next three decades, significant reports on the upgrading of nursing education, and the financing, organization and standardization of schools of nursing were prepared and published.

The Saskatchewan Health Survey Report of 1951 recommended a re-evaluation of nursing education. This Report recommended revision of nursing courses to meet requirements of modern medical care, a complete cost analysis of nursing education, and "the establishment of central schools of nursing and the separation of nursing education from nursing service for students."

By the mid-fifties, due to new demands on nursing services, the traditional programs in hospital nursing schools were deemed inadequate. The Centralized Teaching Program, which offered partial centralization of schools of nursing, began on an experimental basis in 1953 and became law in 1956 by an Act of the Legislature. This program was considered "an interim step in implementing the concept of a two-year training program", according to a Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nursing Education, Saskatchewan, 1966.

The first two-year nursing education program in the province was initiated on an experimental basis in September, 1962 under the direction of Sister Therese Castonguay, S.G.M. at the Regina Grey Nuns' Hospital. Thus the first step was taken to place the education

of nurses on a same basis as the education of other students, as these students were charged for tuition, board and room.

Among the briefs presented to the Royal Commission on Health Services was that of the SRNA in 1962. The Association recommended two distinct programs for the preparation of professional nurses: a four-year Baccalaureate program at University level, and an independent two-year diploma nursing program, to prepare nurses for hospital staffing.

As a result of this and similar briefs, the Hall Commission in 1964 recommended improvements in nursing conditions and in nursing education in particular.

The detailed Report of this committee was published in 1966, and most of the recommendations contained therein were included in the Amendment to the Education Act and Nurses' Education Act which received assent in the Saskatchewan Legislature later that year. This legislation provided the transfer of diploma nursing education to the Department of Education from the Department of Public Health. Hospital schools of nursing were to be phased out over a period of three years to insure an orderly transition of nursing programs into educational institutions, the Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Institute of Regina. A two-year diploma nursing program began in Saskatoon in 1967, and in Regina in 1972. At Regina a course in psychiatric nursing was offered, as well as one-year nursing assistant's courses at both institutes.

Appointed first chairman of the Board of Nursing Education was Dr. J. E. Leddy of Saskatoon, who outlined plans and recommendations of the Board to the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Hospital Association in October, 1966. "The new course will permit nursing students to move from the classroom to the hospital more readily, and at a very early point," Dr. Leddy told the delegates, "and the new program will relate clinical experience more closely to classroom teaching and will provide a generally better qualified nurse."

Named as Superintendent of Nursing Education in the new Department of Nursing Education, under

the aegis of the Department of Education was Sister Therese Castonguay, S.G.M., who had supervised the successful two-year nursing project at the Grey Nuns' Hospital, which project gave impetus to the new programs. Not only was the revolutionary concept of moving nursing education out of hospitals and into schools of education first introduced in Saskatchewan, the appointment of a nun to a position outside her religious order was also a break with tradition.

The final commencement exercises for the illustrious St. Paul's School of Nursing took place at the Centennial Auditorium on October 16, 1968. At that time graduates from the 1968 and 1969 classes, 89 student nurses in all, proudly received their diplomas. These young women, the last of nearly 2,000 graduate nurses trained at St. Paul's, were urged to carry into their careers in the wider community the traditions of the school and the hospital, which had trained nurses for nearly six decades.

With the completion of their final year, the class of 1969 left the St. Paul's Nurses' Residence, opened in 1931. The Grey Nuns continued to occupy the fourth floor of the residence for some years, and facilities were made available to students of the new nursing programs at the Institute and the University of Saskatchewan.

In late 1969 a new departure for the former residence occurred with final planning of the leasing of the south wing to the Alcoholism Commission of Saskatchewan, which opened in the renovated premises as "The Calder Centre" in early 1970. The Grey Nuns, with the prospect of the Centre's expansion, decided to find more permanent residential quarters and purchased the former home of the Sisters of Sion on Avenue O South, a block or two from St. Paul's Hospital.

So ended another era in the history of St. Paul's Hospital. Two thousand young women had earned nursing diplomas at the St. Paul's School of Nursing and had entered their dedicated profession imbued with the legacy of loving care passed on to them by the Grey Nuns who founded their hospital in Saskatoon in the severe winter of 1907, and had followed the precepts of their founding Mother within its doorways ever since.

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL ENTERS THE 1970s

Rising Health Care Costs

As the eventful 1960s faded into the bright new decade of the 1970s, St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon looked forward to continued progress in medical and nursing care, tempered by the perennial problem of inadequate funding.

Because of escalating health care costs Health Minister Gordon Grant of the provincial Liberal government instituted in 1968 a system of "utilization fees" for hospital stay and visits to doctors. Opposition on these so-called "deterrent fees" (\$2.50 per hospital day, with 10 days' payment in advance, and \$1.50 each visit to the doctor, or \$2.00 for a home visit) increased as the seventies approached. Mr. Grant justified the extra fees because, as he said, "Our hospital costs are rising about ten percent per year. We are facing a crisis in our health care programs. If we do not act today, in 10 years the whole system could come tumbling down upon us."

Editorial comments entitled "Health Costs Zoom" supported these claims. The Star-Phoenix editorial stated, "Quality care and treatment in a province which has more hospital beds per capita than any other province or state on this continent comes high, and can be expected to rise." Average costs per patient day had risen from \$9.68 in 1947 to \$66.14 in the late 1960s. Staff salaries had risen 150% during that time, accounting for 70 to 75% of hospital operating costs. Costs of modern equipment, buildings, repairs and replacements rose accordingly.

With the costs of the Saskatchewan hospital program rising to over \$70 million in the 1968-69 fiscal year, the provincial Health Department found it necessary to close eleven small hospitals with 12 beds or less in the smaller communities. Rumors circulated that another 17 hospitals would be closed. Because of mounting deficits, estimated at \$95,000 for 1969, the City Hospital deemed it necessary to close 87 hospital beds by the year end, laying off 80 employees temporarily. In the same period St. Paul's Hospital incurred a deficit of \$57,000 but "is not planning on withdrawing beds," according to a Star-Phoenix re-

port. St. Paul's as well as the City Hospital had asked the SHSP for an upward revision of grants to cover budget revisions.

By the end of 1971, because of mounting deficits and escalating costs of needed renovations, the Regina Grey Nuns' Hospital found it necessary to sell the 421-bed institution, established in 1907, to the Government of Saskatchewan. Honourable Walter Smishek, Minister of Health in the new NDP government, accepted the offer of the Order of Grey Nuns of \$1 million for "all physical assets of the hospital, including the main hospital building, nurses' residence, land, equipment and supplies."

The Grey Nuns of St. Paul's Hospital joined in the sadness felt by the Roman Catholic community of Regina with the sale of this, their sister hospital. The Bishop of Regina, Most Reverend M. C. O'Neill felt that, "There will be disappointment to members of the Catholic community who felt security going to a Catholic hospital, but there must be a realistic acceptance of the situation."

As hospital operating costs increased, the necessity of additional salaries for those ministering to patient's care was evident. Medical practitioners in general practice in the early 1970s averaged between \$25,000 and \$20,000 yearly net earnings. This amounted to about \$5.00 per hour for the doctor's 60-hour working week. The SRNA and the SHA Joint Committee recommended that nurses in hospitals be paid a minimum of \$500 per month by September 1, 1970. Internes and residents received modest increases from the hospital services plan "to keep Saskatchewan salaries on a competitive basis with neighboring provinces." Under these increases, junior internes would receive \$4,620 annually, and \$4,920 if married with two children. Fifth year residents were to receive \$6,120, with \$7,020 if married with children. At the beginning of 1970, University Hospital (546 beds) had 80 internes and residents on staff, and St. Paul's Hospital (333 beds) had twelve in the junior category.

Happy Events

THE GREY NUNS and all associated with St. Paul's Hospital felt pride and pleasure at honours bestowed upon several of the staunchest friends of the hospital, as well as members of the Order. In February, 1970, Dr. Stephen Worobetz was invested with the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, and read the Speech from the Throne to open the legislature on February 12. From the Annals: "A beautiful silver letter-opener, engraved, was the Sisters' gift on this special occasion. We are honoured to have as Lieutenant-Governor one of St. Paul's busy and competent surgeons, who interned at our hospital."

The hospital joined with Saskatoon's citizens to congratulate another prominent supporter:

"Thursday, November 4, 1971: We are elated to learn that Mr. Sidney Buckwold, Mayor of Saskatoon for ten years, has been appointed to the Senate of Canada. Mr. Buckwold has been very effective as Mayor, and as an active member of the Lay Advisory Board of our hospital; he is credited also with the success of the '71 Canada Winter Games. Our congratulations will assure him of our gratitude and respect."

The previous spring, in May, 1969, another assiduous worker for the realization of the new St. Paul's Hospital and long-time Chief of Medical Staff received recognition. Dr. D. M. Baltzan, at this Diamond Jubilee Convocation of the University of

Saskatchewan, received one of six Honourary Doctor of Laws degrees. Dr. Baltzan was cited for his contributions to the medical profession, including being co-founder of the first artificial kidney unit in Saskatchewan, the introduction of electrocardiography in the province, co-founding the first voluntary prepaid medical services plan. Dr. Baltzan served on the Royal Commission on Health Services for which he made his second trip to mainland China.

A short history of the Grey Nuns and St. Paul's Hospital, prepared by Sister Superior Keegan, was presented to the Western Development Museum collection along with one of the traditional habits of the Order. The Local History Room at the Saskatoon Public Library received research material for its files.

A special ceremony held in the hospital chapel in February, 1970, unveiled a plaque for the door, inscribing the commitment of \$15,000 from the Saskatoon Knights of Columbus to help furnish the chapel, and the final instalment on this commitment.

The traditional spiritual care of patients at St. Paul's Hospital was not overlooked in these fast-moving years of medical progress. As explained in the Annals:

"Wednesday, November 26, 1969. The Spiritual Care Service to our patients becomes a formally organized department with Father Frank Malone, C.Ss.R. as its head. A committee with representatives from the various religious denominations, the sister-spiritual hostesses, and the Chaplain will be the responsible body to see that all patients in St. Paul's Hospital receive the spiritual care required."

In 1971, a newly renovated suite in the former nurses' residence was made available for the resident chaplain. Under Father A. Rekowski, C.Ss.R., the Spiritual Care Program flourished and expanded, with morning and evening prayers and sermons being broadcasted throughout the hospital, and the holding of Protestant services each Sunday in the chapel.

Employee Service Awards banquets and special retirement ceremonies commemorated long years of faithful service by hospital employees. Thirty-year service pins were awarded to Lena Fix and James Scott; Reginald Cranstone and Hally McKay received thirty-five year pins. Twenty-five year gold watches were presented to Elsie Hannon, Yvonne Saucier and John Sielsky. Several long-term employees of St. Paul's Hospital retired in the 1970s after three decades or more of service, among them Mrs. Hally McKay who retired after forty years of active nursing at the hospital, and Miss Mary O'Hara who gave four decades of competent and professional service as a nurse at St. Paul's.



First transmission of E.C.G. tracing by long distance telephone and from St. Margaret's Hospital, Biggar, Sask. for "write-out" and interpretation at S.P.H. — 1962. L. to R. — Dr. H. Sugarman, Dr. M. H. Smith-Windsor, Dr. D. M. Baltzan, Dr. M. A. Baltzan, Mrs. A. Boyko.

PROSPECTS AND PROGRESS IN THE 1980s

Future Directions

Another new and vibrant decade, the 1980s, traversed the horizon, and St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon welcomed the oncoming era with serenity. Once again, the splendid bronze Statue of the Sacred Heart, set on the solid cornerstone of the first large brick hospital, extended with open arms the solace and comfort offered by St. Paul's for three-quarters of a century. The statue, set at the main entrance of the modern hospital, reminds all of the pioneering Grey Nuns, Sister Phaneuf and Sister Guay, who were instrumental in having the first St. Paul's Hospital established, and who collected funds to have the bronze statue cast in France and transported to the prairie city of Saskatoon.

The administration of St. Paul's anticipated the years ahead with optimism and a sense of achievement, in spite of the continuing and increasing problems of inadequate funding for new programs and needed expansion.

Changes in the administration of the hospital are once again noted: Sister C. Gauthier assumed the position of Assistant Executive Director — Patient Services, in September, 1977, maintaining the philosophy of the Grey Nuns in the management of the hospital. She received a Master's Degree in Nursing Administration from Washington, D.C. Upon the retirement of Administrator Dr. Morley Smith-Windsor in 1977, David J. Hart assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer in March, 1978. Mr. Hart, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario in Hospital Administration, had served as Assistant Executive Director at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary for almost three years, with varied responsibilities, and Administrator in Medicine Hat.

New directions in management led to a reorganization of the administrative structure of the hospital in early 1980, with a definite purpose in view, as outlined in the hospital's Annual Report, 1980-81: It is our feeling that the new administrative and nursing structures have led to effective management of the hospital and will assist in continuing our goal of



Presentation made by Sister Germaine Hetu, Chairman, Board of Directors to Dr. Morley Smith-Windsor on his retirement as Administrator.

exemplary patient care.

In March, 1972, the general bylaws governing St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon were finalized and expressed the purpose of the hospital under Article II, in part as:

"—It is clearly understood that at all times and under all circumstances, first consideration will be given to the welfare of the patients.

"—The Moral Code of the St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon, as a member of the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, is the Catholic-Medico Moral Guide and all work in his Hospital must conform to it.

"—It is the aim of St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns') of Saskatoon to maintain a hospital to the best of its ability for the care of patients of every creed, color and nationality suffering from illness or disability requiring hospital care."

Under Article IV entitled Membership of Board, the bylaws state:

"Only those Grey Nuns who are members of the Corporation of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Alberta may become members of the Hospital Board.

"The Provincial Superior, her Provincial Assistant and Councillor, along with the Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Financial Administrator . . . shall be the members of the Hospital Board and the Officers and Directors thereof."

Under these bylaws of 1972, the Board of Directors of St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Saskatoon consisted until the end of 1981 of Sister Germaine Hetu, President, Sister Therese Castonguay, Vice-President, Sister Marguerite Laforce, Secretary, Sister Fernande Michaud, Treasurer, and Sister Therese Pelletier, Councillor; all resided in Edmonton, Alberta.

An amendment to the Saskatchewan Hospital Standards Act, Order-in-Council 2061-79, dated November 17, 1979, passed and incorporated under the section entitled Hospital Management and Administration #2-3, stated: "When a majority of members of the Board of a hospital reside outside the province and where the Board is of the opinion that it could more effectively exercise its duties and powers under these regulations by the appointment of a Board of Management to exercise such of the powers and duties and carry out such of the responsibilities as have been vested in the Board under these regulations, as the Board deems advisable."

In virtue of this amendment to the legislation, the Grey Nuns of Edmonton developed bylaws for a local Board of Management at St. Paul's Hospital, which have been approved recently by the Minister of Health, Hon. Herman Rolfes. The members of the Board of Management, as of January 1, 1982, will include three Grey Nuns, a representative of the Bishop of Saskatoon, two members of the medical

staff, two representatives of rural municipalities, and other members from the community at large to a maximum of twelve members. Sister Germaine Hetu S.G.M. will serve as first Chairman of the Board of Management.

In early 1980, Hon. Herman Rolfes, Minister of Health, initiated a study to review the present and future role of the University Hospital in Saskatoon, including its relationship with other Saskatoon hospitals and health care agencies in the province. When the "Report of the University Hospital Role Study Committee" was released to the public in January, 1981, the future of St. Paul's as a private institution appeared in jeopardy.

The Report recommended the restructuring of the hospital system in Saskatoon, to amalgamate the three hospitals in Saskatoon under the ownership of the Government of Saskatchewan, and the control under a single Board of Directors. After careful study and deep reflection, the Board, Administration and Medical Staff of St. Paul's determined they could not support the major recommendations contained in this Report. The release of the Role Study Report would become a major cornerstone in the continuing history of St. Paul's Hospital. In a release to the news media, the Board of Directors confirmed the hospital's decision to disagree with the terms of the Report, and to remain an autonomous and corporate body owned and operated by the Grey Nuns. In part, the news release stated:

"It is not our intention now, nor is it in the future, to sell St. Paul's Hospital. The Grey Nuns have served Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan for seventy-five years through their works at St. Paul's. We feel that we are very much part of the community and that the community is very much a part of us. Many citizens have indicated to us that the philosophies embraced by the Grey Nuns are still needed and desired in the operation of a health care facility such as St. Paul's Hospital."

The concern of the Grey Nuns and St. Paul's Hospital was shared by the public at large, who offered vigorous support to the position taken by the hospital. Thousands of letters from members of the community to the Board of Directors and to the Minister of Health supported this independent status. As a result, the Minister of Health chose not to accept the recommendations concerning the transfer of ownership and a single board for the three Saskatoon hospitals. Many problems identified in the Role Study Report, however, will require much effort to resolve, which St. Paul's Hospital will continue to address with the two other hospitals of Saskatoon.

As a result of the comprehensive collection of reports and data from hospital and community groups, the Core Planning Committee of St. Paul's



Board of Directors: 1979-82. Back Row: Sister Marguerite Laforce, Sister Germaine Hetu, Sister Therese Pelletier. Front row: Sister Fernande Michaud, Sister Therese Castonguay.

Hospital was able to compile an important report on the future needs of the hospital to continue serving the community in the context of additional space and equipment. The initial planning document, entitled "Future Directions for St. Paul's Hospital: A Statement of Need" reached the Minister of Health in December, 1980. This Report embodied the strategic planning phase, and stressed the severe restraints placed upon the hospital by the congestion and shortage of space, staff and equipment, attempting to serve the growing patient load. Because of growth of population in Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan, and other demographic developments such as increasing age of the population at large and patterns of disease, a dramatic increase in the demand for Saskatoon hospital services was envisaged. The population growth in West Saskatoon in particular posed extra problems for the Emergency Department and St. Paul's Hospital's continuing role as a "Family Hospital." A preliminary survey of the hospital site indicated that opportunities for physical expansion or renovation of the building were plentiful, and that the hospital could be readily and quickly expanded to accommodate additional acute treatment beds.

The major recommendation of this Report was that, providing the Government grant approval, to proceed with the next stage of the planning program involving a detailed analysis of the existing plant. This approval was received in June, 1981, and the architectural firm of Booth/Kangas Architects of Ottawa was engaged as prime consultant, with local engineering and cost consultants actively engaged on the project.

St. Paul's Hospital appointed representatives to serve on the significant Joint Saskatoon Hospital Planning Committee, delegated to review the present and future service needs of the three Saskatoon hospitals, including a relocation of teaching and tertiary care functions. The Report of this task force is expected during the coming year.

A major construction project undertaken by St. Paul's Hospital with funding from the Department of Health involved a new facility, in the storey above the Emergency Department, to house the Provincial Home Care Dialysis Program. The construction of this facility and designation of St. Paul's Hospital as the Provincial Home Dialysis Training Centre represented a culmination of the activities of many physicians and hospital staff to meet the needs of patients suffering from severe renal disease. The new unit has been equipped with new self-proportioning kidney machines, and will no longer depend upon the I.C.U. for its supplies, as these will be provided in the new renal unit.



New Dialysis Unit opened Sept. 1981 to accommodate the Provincial Home Dialysis Program.

The future aims of patient care for St. Paul's contain the possibility of additional responsibilities in Medical Education, treatment of the terminally ill, and the provision of psychiatric services, as well as other services. The prospects for a major expansion of St. Paul's Hospital appear very bright, and it is anticipated that the hospital will soon embark upon a period of major construction and renovation to accommodate many of these new and expanded programs. This expansion will enable St. Paul's Hospital to continue its proud tradition of rendering high quality service to the people of Saskatoon and the wider community it serves.

Continuing in its commitment to embrace the advances of the 1980s, St. Paul's Hospital established a Computer Planning Committee which evaluated the use of in-house data processing equipment to improve administrative and clinical reporting. The hospital entered into a joint venture with National Cash Register to supply hardware and software for a major computer facility installed at St. Paul's Hospital in the summer of 1981. Financial and payroll systems will use the computer operations by May, 1982, and a five-year plan expects to include Admitting, Medical Records, Pharmacy, Radiology, Laboratory and Nursing Units among others. This innovation reflects the progressive and leadership role which St. Paul's Hospital occupies in the health system of Saskatchewan.

Education Programs

St. Paul's Hospital has a record of co-operation going back almost half a century for the education of students in various health care disciplines.

The hospital offers 17 internships for graduate doctors, approved by the National Joint Committee on Pre-registration Training Programs. Seventeen residents are approved by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons for Residency at St. Paul's Hospital in Medicine, Surgery, Orthopedics, Pathology, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition, 25 Externes serve the hospital on week-ends, on eight-hour shifts. As well, Junior Undergraduate Rotating Students are assigned to the hospital, and students from the College of Medicine, Years I-IV, rotate throughout the Medical, Surgical, Urological, and Obstetrics Departments with General Practitioners or Specialists.

Training is provided at St. Paul's Hospital for many of the other disciplines involved in health care. The Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board approves the hospital for one resident at a time, and the Canadian Physiotherapy Association approves two internes during one training period. The Canadian Medical Association, Laboratory Technology division, approves the training of up to 12 technicians at St.

Paul's. Social Service, with approval from the School of Social Work, University of Saskatchewan, allows for one interne, and Dietary for one interne as well, approved from the School of Home Economics. An Administrative resident will be on staff at the hospital in 1982.

Many nursing students receive clinical training on the St. Paul's Hospital wards. Students from the four-year degree program College of Nursing, at the University of Saskatchewan receive experience in the Emergency Department, the Renal Unit and the Personnel Health Office. From the Kelsey Institute 228 Diploma Nursing students come to the hospital during the year to receive training in patient care. Eighteen Certified Nursing Assistant students serve at the hospital as well during their training period at the Institute.

The Pastoral Care Department of St. Paul's Hospital offers clinical experience to as many as ten students of Theology from different religious denominations. These students, who serve from January until the end of the school term offering spiritual comfort to patients, are enrolled in the St. Andrew's College, the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, and the Lutheran Seminary.

Statistics and Staff

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981, the expenses incurred in operating St. Paul's Hospital with the usual high quality of patient care amounted to almost \$20 million. Of this amount, over \$14 million went for salaries and wages to staff, \$2 million for drugs and medical surgical supplies. The remaining \$3 million for general expenditures. Revenue to cover these expenses included \$17.5 million from the Provincial Government, nearly \$700,000 from patient days and slightly over \$1 million from other sources.

To provide the standard of health care traditional at St. Paul's Hospital, the number of employees has risen from 800 at the end of 1980 to over 900 today. The administrative staff, health care staffs, and lay employees served over 12,000 patients during 1980-81, with average length of patient stay 8.32 days and total number of patient days amounting to over 100,000 for the first time in the history of the hospital. There are 415 nursing staff of different categories attending patients at St. Paul's. Over 1,200 prospective admissions were on the waiting list.

The busy Emergency Department at St. Paul's Hospital offered consultation and treatment to nearly 68,000 people in 1980-81; surgical procedures involved

nearly 6,000 people and day surgery nearly 3,000 more. The number of newborn infants reached 1,800. Incentre Dialysis visits came to nearly 2,800, and Home Dialysis visits to 96. Physical Therapy took care of over 20,000 patient visits, and the Laboratory processed more than 4.6 million units. Almost 150,000 meal days were provided at the hospital, and 1.75 million pounds of laundry processed. Patient beds available at St. Paul's Hospital on a regular basis included 339 acute care, 54 newborn bassinets, 8 for the Intensive Care Unit, and 14 special care.

Each year St. Paul's Hospital honours employees with long years of service to the hospital. At the last such Employees' Awards Night, fifty-seven employees received recognition, representing collectively a total of 935 years of dedicated service to the institution.

Two outside organizations supply some of the needs of staff, patients and visitors in other ways. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind has operated a canteen at St. Paul's Hospital since 1951, and is a favorite stopping place on the ground floor level. The Corps of Commissionaires entered into a contract with the hospital about the same time, and the blue-clad former service men serve as hospital security and parking lot attendants.



Senior Management — John King, Robert Lea, Brent Skinner, David Hart, Scott Rowand, Ed Beitel and Sister C. Gauthier.

Department Heads

Mrs. E. Perrins	— Admitting	Mr. F. Antoine	— Pharmacy
Mr. J. Neudeck	— Maintenance	Mr. D. Little	— Physiotherapy
Mr. D. Loveridge	— Plant Operations	Mr. J. Coble	— Purchasing
Miss O. Bealey	— Chief Accountant	Mr. P. Benson	— Social Services
Mrs. D. Bremner	— Central Supply	Mrs. S. Sullivan	— Dir. of Nursing-Surgery
Father A. J. Rekowski	— Pastoral Care	Mrs. J. O'Shaughnessy	— Dir. of Nursing-Medicine
Mr. R. Bright	— Dietary	Mrs. M. Perry	— Adm. Tech. — Laboratory
Mrs. S. Laroque	— Health Service	Mr. J. Roberts	— Chief Tech. — Radiology
Mrs. H. Nelson	— Housekeeping	Mrs. T. Risling	— Switchboard and Information
Mrs. M. Lester	— Laundry	Mrs. I. Clezy	— Residence Facility
Miss L. Klomp	— Medical Records	Sister J. Chaillé, S.G.M.	— Volunteers



Medical Advisory Board - 1981

Doctor J. E. Leddy	Chief of Staff; Chairman	Dr. E. W. Smith	Dept. of Ophthalmology
Dr. H. W. Estey	Deputy Chief of Staff	Doctor S. Padmanabh	Dept. of Laboratories
Dr. D. McFadden	Dept. of Surgery	Dr. R. C. Begg	Serv. of Orthopedics
Dr. J. G. Monks	Dept. of Radiology	Dr. K. J. Stakiw	Dept. of General Practice
Dr. J. F. O'Keefe	Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology	Doctor L. M. Brand	Emergency Services
Dr. M. A. Baltzan	Dept. of Medicine	Dr. W. D. G. Wright	Pres., Medical Staff
Doctor J. W. A. Mackenzie	Dept. of Pediatrics	Dr. H. R. Baldwin	Vice-Pres., Medical Staff
Dr. Z. Zadovny	Dept. of Anaesthesia	Dr. J. Leakos	Serv. of Otolaryngology
		Sister C. Gauthier S.G.M.	Patient Services

Seventy-fifth
1907 **75** 1982
Anniversary