

TECHS TALK

No. 8

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MED TECH BANQUET APRIL 8

The annual Orbs banquet will be held this year on April 8 in the Union Main Ballroom at 6:15 P.M. New Orbs members will be introduced and the award will be given to the senior girl with the highest scholastic average.

Proceeds from the banquet go to the William O'Brien Scholarship Fund. At the present time there is not enough interest on the principal to award a scholarship but the fund continues to grow. In January Orbs sponsored a card party for this fund.

Deviating slightly from the usual medical theme, our speaker will be Dr. Werner Levi of the Political Science department. Dr. Levi will speak on the topic "As Others See Us." Gloria Welk and Nancy Melchior will dance several numbers and Marilyn O'Brien will play the piano.

A tour of the hospital laboratories is planned for students and their parents at 4:00 P.M. on April 8th. Those wishing to go should meet in Ellicott lobby at the appointed time.

Ticket sales are being handled by Gerry Olafson and Marilyn O'Brien. Each alum will be contacted by some member of her class in addition to this reminder in the Techs Talk. Tickets will also be sold by Orbs members, Med Tech Council, and the underclassmen. Enclosed with this paper you will find a card on which you are asked whether you wish a reservation or not. Please return the card, as we must know the number of reservations to make.

We urge you to return your postcard even if you can't attend so we may obtain your correct address for the permanent mailing list.

LABORATORY AIDES

A new course for laboratory aides has been set up in the General Extension Division under the direction of the College of Medical Sciences at the University. This course is an answer to the Minnesota Medical Association which has long felt the need for more trained lab workers in the smaller towns throughout the state. At the moment, the plan is merely an experiment - the first class having but six members.

It is not intended that lab aides, who have six months study and six months practical training, will replace registered medical technologists. They will be placed in doctors' offices, small hospitals, and in large laboratories under supervision. In other words, they will be an aid to doctors or medical technologists.

The curriculum includes the basic lab techniques of EKG, BMR, Chemistry, Hematology, Urinalysis and Blood Banking. Regular course work is taken in Bacteriology, Physiology, Anatomy and P. Chem. At the end of this six months of study, they go to one of the participating hospitals for their practical work. These hospitals include Bethesda, Childrens, River-view, Midway, St. Johns and St. Lukes in St. Paul. In Minneapolis, Asbury, Deaconess, Eitel, Fairview, Mount Sinai, Northwestern, St. Andrews and St. Marys are accepting students. Finally, a comprehensive examination at University Hospitals is held after the completion of the training period.

The course is conducted in conformity with the requirements for certification of the Laboratory Aide under the Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the recognized accrediting agency for this type of work. Students, after completing this course successfully and after a year of employment under a qualified physician, will be eligible to take the examination for certification of Laboratory Aide.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Each year it is customary to let you all know where last year's graduating class is now working. So here goes:

The University Hospital has kept a pretty fair percentage including Greta Lilleberg in Bacteriology and Kay Hammer, Margaret Ohlen and Peggy Hirt Smith in Chemistry. Mary Weimer is also still at the University working for Dr. Frick. Jim Ferderer and Lois Wagner are employed in Millard Hall by Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Barnum respectively.

Though many plan each year to leave Minnesota, when it gets right down to going, very few manage to take the big step. Carol Knobel and Beverly Hardy are in San Francisco and Jane Carr is at Lewis Weiss Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Wintrobe and Mitsue Yanagita work together in Salt Lake City, June Fitsimmons is in Iowa but that's home to her so she hasn't really made the big jump.

Only one other person has even left the Twin Cities area. That is Paul Noble who is now employed in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Joan Olson Odell, Joan Owen Novak, Carol Sandell and Audrey Bernstein all have jobs in Minneapolis Hospitals while Barbara Erickson works in the Doctor's Building. Rosemary Benster and Janet Vogt work in St. Paul at St. Lukes and St. Joes.

One of the 1953 class has already managed to retire. Mary Yokum is now a full time housewife.

Two Minnesota alumnae have attained high positions in the medical technology associations. Miss Hovde is president-elect of the American Society of Medical Technologists. Ruth Heinemann is likewise a president, in this case of the Minnesota Society of Medical Technologists. In addition Ruth is president of the advisory council of the American Society.

Alpha Delta Theta had a big year again, their activities being divided between business and pleasure.

As usual the highlight of the year was the trip to National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in November. Both alums and active members attended. Finishing their jobs as national officers were Lorraine Lopic, treasurer, Stella Sobtzak, recording secretary, and Ardelle Mead, Scope Editor. This year's elections brought Greta Lilleberg into office as treasurer while Donna Newstrand became Scope Editor.

Last July the Minneapolis alumnae held a picnic for the senior actives at Nokomis park. Halloween was celebrated with a square dance followed by a spaghetti dinner at the home of one of the members. The annual winter formal was held at the Leamington Hotel.

January found both actives and alums hard at work on the "Mad Med Tech Carnival." This year, for the first time, the alumnae were in charge of all the booths which included a baloon bust, ring toss, musical chairs, and dunk the diver. The actives presented a play entitled "The Dabblers" and a musical.

The candy sale in February was big success. February also found members attending the Founders Day banquet in Coffman Union. Dr. E. B. Brown, professor of physiology, was guest of honor.

In Spring quarter will be the installation of the new officers. The year's activities close with the annual senior banquet to be held in June.

TWIN CITY SOCIETY OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The year 1954 marks the 30th anniversary of the first organization of Twin City Medical Technologists. This year's president, Virginia Furriss tells here about the organization, its program, and urges all medical technologists to join their professional organizations because only through their cooperation can the field of medical technology expect to advance.

"In 1924 the Twin Cities Societies of Clinical Laboratory Technicians held its first meeting at Asbury Hospital in Minne-

apolis with fourteen charter members. This group has now increased to one hundred and seventy-five, and in 1937 when it became affiliated with the Minnesota Society, changed its name to the Twin Cities Society of Medical Technologists.

Each month the Society meets at a Twin Cities hospital alternating between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Technologists are fortunate to have as speakers outstanding medical men from the staffs of private hospitals and the University of Minnesota. A particularly interesting talk was given this year by Dr. Moses Barron, Mt. Sinai Hospital, who is known internationally for his work on diabetes.

Realizing the importance of civilian defense, technologists devoted two meetings this year for discussions by defense coordinators on the role of the technologist in both actual bombings and biological warfare.

The Christmas meeting is strictly not scientific. In 1953 following the dinner, Carol Linner Seagren read the current Broadway success Dial M for Murder.

In addition to scientific speakers, technologists transact "business" concerning their professional organization. This is done through committees such as finance recruitment, public relations, membership and education. These committees are doing an excellent job of helping to recruit people for the field of medical technology, making the public aware of the importance of well qualified technologists in the hospital laboratory, and urging each ASCP registrant to become a member of his professional organization.

Twin Cities technologists have the privilege of attending the seminar given for them by the University of Minnesota Center for Continuation Study each autumn. These three day sessions deal with a major field in medical technology, i.e. chemistry, serology, hematology and bacteriology. Also, other phases of technology are highlighted on occasion. Again in the spring there is a two day scientific program sponsored by the Minnesota Society of Medical Technologists in conjunction with the Upper Midwest Hospital Conference. These meetings are organized for technologists so that they may keep abreast of the ever changing, ever expanding field of medical technology."