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Medical Researchers and Patients Battle Disease in Giant New Washington Center

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By Ken Turner

WASHINGTON, July 18 — High above Washington's skyline in nearby Maryland's rolling hills something new has been added to the ageless battle against killing and crippling disease.

It's the Public Health Service's \$64,000,000 clinical research center which has been adequately described as "a set of laboratories wrapped around a 500-bed hospital."

The huge 14-story structure in the form of a giant Lorraine cross was dedicated recently to the service of human health and life — "a symbol of our national concern for the health of our people, for their right to pursue their happiness unhampered by crippling pain and illness."

Highly Specialized Center

Envisioned more than 40 years ago by the Public Health Service, the new institution is a highly specialized medical research center.

Within this unique red brick structure, scientists and doctors — and for the first time the sick — will be working together to ease society's heavy and costly burden of such killers and crippers as cancer, heart disease, mental illness, arthritis, epilepsy, rheumatic fever and dental diseases.

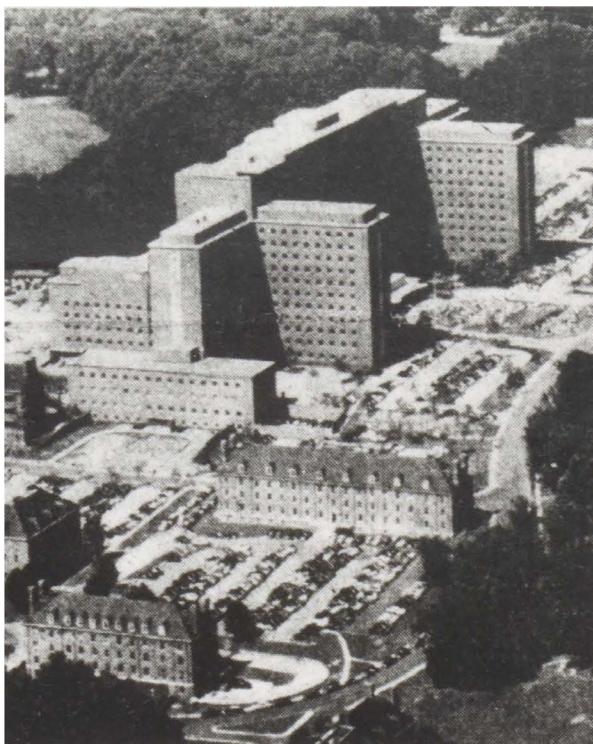
The clinical center is part of the National Institutes of Health which is the research arm of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Patients Admitted

Dedicated July 2, the center was formally opened July 7 when the first patients were admitted. Included were a small group of patients suffering from cancer, heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis and dangerously high blood pressure.

Patients admitted to the institution are carefully selected, not just anybody will be admitted, officials explain.

None will be admitted on his own application — they must be chosen. Each must have been referred by his own physician and each must undergo a careful investigation or diagnosis to determine if the subject has those characteristics of a disease or disorder about which the National Institutes of



VIEW OF NEW 14-STORY RESEARCH CENTER
Unique Structure Envisioned More Than 40 Years Ago.



PATIENTS' ROOMS ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED
Sick Admitted to Institution Carefully Selected

Health scientists are asking questions and hope to find the answers.

Establish the Normal

On occasions, a limited number of "healthy" persons will be admitted in order to establish the normal against which the pathological can be measured.

Patients admitted, according to Dr. W. Henry Sebrell of Petersburg, Va., director of the NIH, will be "the best studied patients in the world."

He said patients admitted will be "volunteers in the strictest sense of the word." He added that each step in their treatment will be explained and they may leave any time they wish. And a PHS official pointed out that the patients will not be guinea pigs but people who are adding their bit to the fight against disease.

While the hospital will have a capacity of 500, officials admit they are starting slow and do not expect to meet more than about half of the patient load until next June.

One-Third for Patients

To fulfill its function as a clinical center rather than just a hospital, only about one-third of the main structure — which cost some \$42,000,000 to build — is used for the patients themselves.

The remaining two-thirds comprise the research and service facilities. The emphasis is on laboratories and the huge building can accommodate as many as



SOLARIUM FOR PATIENTS EMPHASIZES CENTER'S NEATNESS
Private Physicians to Be Informed of Sick's Progress

1,100. The building is so built that by switching removable walls the ordinary-size laboratory can be doubled or trebled in size.

By combining laboratory findings with bedside evaluations, the doctors and scientists who will work in the great center hope to close a great gap in research. This is the primary purpose of the clinical center.

Important Addition

A spokesman said: "The clinical center represents an important addition to the nation's medical resources. It must be remembered, however, that

advances in medical science are gradual and represent the cumulative efforts of thousands of laboratories throughout the world. The clinical center is a highly diversified laboratory. Its special and diversified staff should help bridge the gap between laboratory and clinical research and between the various special branches of medical science."

In a move to broaden its field, the PHS will provide opportunities for a limited number of established scientists and other research institutions to work in the clinical center, usually for a year or less, on problems of their own choosing.