



Dr. James Hood . . . He keeps open house for thousands of visitors in the not-so-well category.

## SICK CALL

The University Infirmary is one of the busiest and most visited spots on the campus. It remains open day and night for students who need the immediate attention of a doctor or for those who want assistance in getting rid of a head cold.

A Cross Center freshman awakes with a lung-choking cough; at the same time a girl slips on the icy curb in the Quadrangle and feels the cold concrete open a small gash. A few minutes later they meet in the waiting room of Ellison Infirmary, are treated and sent back to the campus to resume the business of learning. The process has been speedy, economical, and completely lacking in the usual hours spent in a doctor's waiting room.

The agent responsible for the above service is the Student Health Service, located within the three-storied Ellison Infirmary, which may well be the busiest of all University departments.

Since September of 1956, the six doctors have entertained a staggering total of 19,720 office

calls during a 5½-day week. This is a graphic answer to whether the health service provides "full general, clinical, and preventive medical services," which is how Dr. James O. Hood, director, describes its purpose.

Latest innovations are the addition of a part-time psychiatrist, an expert dietitian, and the Salk polio vaccine program. The polio shots are available free to all students under 20, courtesy of the state health department. Students over 20 pay only \$1.50.

The psychiatrist is actually employed at Central State Hospital in Norman but is available for consultation with the doctors and other University officials. Students may make appoint-

Continued Page 31



An infirmiry nurse checks the temperature and pulse of a coed patient. Health Service counted 19,720 office visits in a four-month period; most of the patients did not require hospitalization.

Continued from Page 16

## Students Have Complete Health Service Available in University's Infirmiry

ments if they wish.

The dietitian conducts a special diet table for students who have been placed on a diet by physicians, and serves as a dietary consultant to the Greek houses, along with other interested housing units.

The health service is actually composed of an infirmiry, clinic, hospital section, pharmacy, assorted business offices and the X-ray department. Most of the doctors' offices are on the second floor, along with the operating room, and the third level is the 35-bed hospital section. All University health services are housed in the one building, named after Dr. Gayfree Ellison, the first health director.

All services are free with the exception of the pharmacy and the hospital, which require payment. The hospital rates are

low, \$3 for a private room and \$2 for a bed in a ward. This is hardly enough to pay for the food, and health service officials believe their program economical enough to be within reach of any student's purse.

The remainder of the health service's expense is taken care of by allocation from student fees. The proximity, economy and lack of red tape have combined to make Ellison Infirmiry a much-visited building.

Dr. Hood explained that most of the 200 to 300 students who visit the infirmiry during the day are victims of colds or minor accidents. "We can see everyone, but quite often we're rushed," he said, and estimated that the clinic should have one doctor for every 1,200 students, which leaves O. U. two under operating par.

There is a rapid turnover among the

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clinic's doctors, with 30 having practiced since 1946. Four, including Dr. Hood, have been on the staff six years or more. The key to the rapid change in personnel is the fact that many young doctors fresh from internship have served a few months before entering military service.

Two woman doctors left the staff this year, one with her husband who was on the faculty, and the other to take a job as a radiologist in Oklahoma City.

The University's doctors provide diagnosis for all cases, but in the instance of major surgery leave the choice of the surgeon to the patient. Some prefer hometown doctors, some ask for treatment in the well-equipped operating room on the second floor. Since the start of the school year, the six doctors have performed 82 minor operations and five major surgical operations.

The preference of some students for surgery in hometown hospitals is a welcome condition to the doctors, who must continue seeing their individual quota of 20 to 30 patients per day.

The health service must check the health of each new student, whether by physical examination or transfer of same by the student's personal physician. A record is maintained of each student's medical history during his stay at the University.

This is an outline of the methods which are designed to maintain the health of 10,000 students living in a variety of conditions within the University community. It's a complex but rewarding job, according to Dr. Hood. Students evidently feel that their health and visits to the health service go hand in hand, because 65 per cent have made calls since the first semester began.



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