

Advertiser photo montage by Edwin Chassey

Service to Patients Her Goal

Miss McLaren Quick To Share Her Honors

"A hospital—its physical plant and personnel—is a vehicle for doctor and patient. Its merit is dependent upon how well it provides for each to do the job he came to the hospital to do."

That, very simply, is the philosophy of Miss Margaret E. McLaren, superintendent of Women's hospital for 27 years, for whom the new Women's hospital has been named the McLaren General hospital by vote of the hospital trustees.

"The emphasis in the past," said Miss McLaren, "has been misplaced. It has stressed the importance of the large, modern building above all else. The important thing is aiding the patient to recover."

"In such a light, complete facilities, though vital, receive less emphasis. The goal then becomes a spirit or morale which will bolster the patient and make the doctor's task easier," she explained.

As always, Miss McLaren was quick to point out that such an accomplishment is the result of combined effort.

"Proud as I am to receive this recognition," she said, "our progress has been made possible not by myself, but by the nurses and doctors and the entire community."

She said that this progress is symbolized by the construction of the new \$2,750,000 building on Ballenger highway at Beecher road. "This is what we have looked forward to for so long," she explained. "Now we must grow in spirit to fill our new hospital."

Miss McLaren said that she

has no fear that the personal care which she has always stressed will be lost in the larger hospital. "We have grown in size," she said, "and now we must grow in stature, just as a child must grow spiritually to keep up with his body."

And the new hospital will have a unique contribution to make to Flint, according to Miss McLaren. "We are, and will continue to be," she pointed out, "a true community project, unhampered by political or religious ties."

"We hope to give truly general service, as our new name implies, rather than serving women primarily," she said.

Miss McLaren explained that the hospital must gain from the patient if it is to grow. "We contribute what we can to the patient," she said, "and he in turn leaves us a part of his victory over illness which adds to our stature."

Inside Miss McLaren's philosophical framework of service to the patient and the community, Women's hospital has taken great strides since its founding in 1917. Through the intervention of interested citizens and civic groups, it has successfully overcome all financial obstacles.

Now, when the doors open Oct. 15 on the McLaren General hospital, it will have added countless improvements to its medical facilities. The new plant, which will house 243 patients, will operate under 14 departments with a greatly enlarged nursing and supervisory staff.

"The new building is a great step forward for us," Miss McLaren explained. "But it is a challenge too; a challenge to continue our same high standards of patient care. We intend to meet that challenge successfully."



THE EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE—The spirit behind women's hospital has, in the past, been service, and the power behind that spirit has been Miss Margaret McLaren, who has served the hospital as superintendent for 27 years. That relationship is symbolized in this photograph, with a portrait of Miss McLaren superimposed upon the new Women's hospital, renamed McLaren General in her honor, which will open Oct. 15. (News-Advertiser photomontage by Baldwin-Chase.)