

### WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS

Hospital life, even for a few days, is like being in a little world within the world, suspended, almost, between the living and the dead.

The first day, a woman, why, you would see, "Miss" the patient, be there in mid-afternoon of the day before a slight operation? Hospital

By MARY TENLEY DALY

get undressed and into bed—at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

**THEN IN** comes an intern and the interrogation begins: name, age, weight (no kidding), operative history, parents' ages and health history, serious diseases on either side of the family? "M-m, you wonder, what was that thing that great uncle Bill had?"

"And what diseases have you had?" the young intern asks. "Mumps, measles, chicken pox..." Come to think of it, have you had 'em?

### A Solemn Verdict: "Visiting Hours Over"

The young man makes the notation, then brings out stethoscope, whacks you on the back and commands you to say "ninety-nine," whacks a bit further down, "ninety-nine," then "ah-h-h" as he pokes down your throat.

With a grave bow he picks up his papers, thanks you very much and you assure him that he is perfectly welcome. It was a pleasure!

Next visitor, a maid with a tray. Tealins in bed what a gracious gesture!

"READY for supper, Ma am?" she inquires. Supper—at 4:30! Well, if it's customary... No evening paper, but there's a little booklet of information for patients announcing in large letters that **THE HOSPITAL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS.** "Spectacles, dentures and radios," it goes on, "when not in use should be placed in protective containers and put in a safe place."

Nobody's fault but your own if you go home without your teeth.

By 8 o'clock supper is finished and the long evening stretches ahead.

Then, everybody's eyes begin to watch the clock—2 hours and a half till visiting time. The women pretty themselves. Finally the clock says 7:30 and excitement reaches its peak. Your own husband and children come to visit you. Then all too soon the loudspeaker announces the verdict: "Visiting hours are over!" Reluctant farewells and the hospital settles for another restless night.

**DAY BY DAY** the routine goes on: face washed while you're still groggy with sleep, temperature, breakfast. A morning of treatment, naps and boredom; watching Mable sweep the floor and Pete slowly manipulating the waxing machine around and around. Listening to the loudspeaker: "Dr. Murphy... Dr. George Murphy... Dr. Smith... Dr. Howard Smith... Dr. Drake... Dr. Will-yun Drake..." Eventually you know every doctor on the staff. Who's calling you, you wonder. Is it an emergency? Or is it Dr. Will-yun's wife trying to find out where he left the keys to the car so she can take the kids to school?

Finally, at 11:30 comes dinner—and still four hours till visiting hours, that climax of the day.

At last the doctor dismisses you, you joyfully collect all the get-well cards, the not-to-droop flowers, your "spectacles, dentures and radios" for which the hospital disclaims responsibility.

And then the wonderful visitor! The people like Miss Mildred Merrick and her peaches, Marg Groatkin and the cake, Marnie Lusk, Phyl Galtner, Jodie Sullivan and all the others with their good wishes and little luxury gifts.

And nobody at the loudspeaker to spoil it with "Visiting Hours are over!"

No wonder Our Lord, in His infinite wisdom, felt the compassion that such visits bring when He made one of the corporal works of mercy, "Visit the Sick."

### Orange Pecan Chicken Salad



In case you're entertaining friends for lunch one of these days, keep this luncheon plate in mind. It's an appetizing combination of flavors and will prove to be a favorite with everyone.

First of all, remember to be generous with your serving of salad. Remember it's the main dish for this meal and should be rather large. For each serving, peel and slice two California oranges.

Arrange them in a circle around a large salad plate, which has been lined with romaine, place a pecan half in the center of each orange slice. Then fill the center with approximately 1/2 cup of canned

### Among Women

#### Catholic Literature

By MARY LENNON SNYDER

President, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

In reading through publicity sent out by those sponsoring talks this winter by the Rev. Harold C. Gardner S. J. book reviewer for America, I have noted that he is said to "cautiously avoid a too plastic approach" to the question of Catholic reading.



Mrs. Snyder

Judged by unbiased literary standards, some of the most poorly written and boring books I have ever read have been published by Catholic houses, but on the other hand, some of the best have come from the same book firms.

Realizing this, one large publishing house in the midwest offers an annual fellowship amounting to \$1,800 to encourage writers to produce books of high literary content acceptable by Catholic standards.

**NATURALLY**, all of us can not write books to lift the tone of Catholic literature but most of us can take definite steps to better the ever improving standards of American Catholic literature.

Through parish library and literary committees we can bring to our people as a whole the fact that Catholic literature may be entertaining and informative as well as didactic.

Some simple and popular means of publicizing Catholic literature are by having Catholic book shelves in public libraries.

Daily Communion Gueydan, La. (N.C.) A plan for daily Holy Communion for the conversion of Communists has been adopted by the Knights of Columbus unit here. One member will receive Communion each day.

On Oct. 24th we will observe U. S. day. Church bells across the nation will ring at 11 A.M. Pray for the success of the United Nations.

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both city and rural, and by the donation of and requests for worthwhile books at public libraries.

**WE MAY** also increase community consciousness of available supply of wholesale reading matter by posting reading lists for adults and youth on church bulletin boards and at parish or organization meetings.

For those who wish to buy books for libraries, Christmas gifts or personal reading there will be available soon a list of Best Catholic Books, Fall, 1950, put out by the Religious Publishers Group of the American Book Publishers Council, Inc.

After November first this will be in the hands of your deanery and diocesan officers and you may obtain a copy from them. They will find it in the November issue of the Monthly Message.

Bacon Square Meal For a homey meat dish, dip slices of bacon square in milk, then in corn meal and bake. Make a milk gravy from the drippings and serve over mashed potatoes.

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