

October, 1968.

No. 14

Dear Reader,

Freedom of speech - Home Rule. Why should we. Oh what a good idea. No! why should we? No, it wasn't Prague after the invasion - but it was a week after the publication of the Birthday Edition of PULSE.

Who were those voices woken from sleep? None other than our staff at St. Mary's and the reason for this eruption - the two letters in the editorial. The topic - A WIDER PUBLICATION OF PULSE. But what happened? Words were spoken but no letter for or against. The idea - your newspaper, and nobody bothered to raise the flag. As an experiment, the PULSE that month, was increased in circulation hoping for a response, articles etc. But a poor result, just one article, but things brighten as you will read. Remember PULSE is YOURS, views and comments.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Why should we at Kettering General be reading 'the Pulse'? What need is there at Kettering General for a magazine? Why has a magazine been running effectively and efficiently at St. Mary's for over a year?

St. Mary's has been asked to circulate its magazine 'the Pulse' throughout the Group as an experiment to see whether its success at St. Mary's can be repeated. Even in a relatively small unit like St. Mary's the problem of communication is evident. Pulse endeavours to overcome some of these communication difficulties by offering a foil for everyone to express an opinion.

In a large unit as Kettering General is, the difficulties of communication are far greater. The introduction of 'the Pulse' will give everyone a chance to contribute, to broaden the scope of diversified literary talent. 'The Pulse' is informative. It actually attempts to tell you what events are scheduled - before they happen. People should not be able to say "nobody tells us anything", and "nobody bothers about us". 'The Pulse', it is anticipated, will inform everyone - even you - what is going on. It is an attempt to surmount the inter-departmental barriers, an attempt to make people realize that they are part of the Kettering General Hospital, part of the Kettering and District group of hospitals, not just members of a small exclusive department, alone in the wilderness.

St. Mary's are enthusiastic and produce an eagerly awaited free product each month. This enthusiasm has achieved success, a success which could make 'the Pulse' flow through the veins of the whole hospital group with the guidance of the pioneers of St. Mary's.

This magazine 'the Pulse' can achieve its aim of communicating with you, acting as an enjoyable literary article and an informative guide, but it needs support. So why not make sure your contribution, literary that is, (no financial strings attached) appears in the next edition, and make sure you get a copy.

Interested

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GUY FAWKES DANCE

The Social Club will be holding a special Guy Fawkes Dance on Tuesday, 5th November, in the Recreation Hall, K.G.H., commencing 7.45 p.m. till 11.45 p.m. Dancing to the Don Leece Quartet. Refreshments will be served and there will be a Bar. Admission 5/- . Tickets obtainable from General Office and X-Ray Department, K.G.H., and General Office, Mrs. Marshall, Occupational Therapist, and Mrs. Brannan, Maternity Unit, St. Mary's Hospital.

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BADMINTON

The Badminton section of the Social Club started very well with 15 members attending the first session. We have two courts at the Drill Hall each Tuesday evening from 7.00 p.m. and anybody who would like to play will be very welcome. Coaching can be arranged if you have never played before. N.B. There will be no badminton on the 5th November because the hall is not available on that night.

Dear Pulsebeats,

This looks like being my first and last contribution to this excellent publication. The Editor (pause for reverence) has been "at me" to contribute for ages and now that I am to depart for a seaside post, I seem to have got round to it. There is some doubt in my mind as to the basis of the title of the magazine we know of one pulse or the lack of it only too well, but could the title, I suggest, refer to "the edible seeds of leguminous plants, peas, beans and lentils" to quote the Oxford Dictionary? Seeing the frequency of appearance of these at mealtimes one wonders! In two years of assistant chaplaining, I have come to know most of you quite well, although this does not apply to the "hatchery" where my visits have been infrequent. It has been a great experience being part of what is becoming an efficient machine, but a machine with a soul. The image of St. Mary's as the workhouse is still alive, but it's pulse is hardly felt and I have found that the hard work you all put in is frequently commented on with gratitude by patients and their relatives. I had hoped this would be an article but it seems to have become a letter of farewell and appreciation - so be it - carry on beating "Pulse", there is plenty of life and soul in the hospitals in Kettering - Best wishes.

Louis Baycock.

CHRISTMAS REVUE

Rehearsals are now in full swing for the 1968 Epic and we are all busy learning the words to songs and sketches under the general direction of Rowena Jones who, I am sure, could make even the most hopeless of us into a star. Everyone is thoroughly enjoying taking part and if anyone still feels that they would like to come along and help, please do, we can find you something to interest you. Rehearsals are held every Monday at St. Edward's Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. or thereabouts, so please come and join in the fun.

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE (Continuing our Serial)

As luck would have it, the helicopter disposed of the evil looking bald headed gunman in one almighty squelch, since the unfortunate man happened to be standing on the very spot the helicopter chose to crash. After all I am the hero and if luck isn't on my side sometimes, there's something drastically wrong with the imaginations of the authors of this Nobel Prize worthy masterpiece!!! The pilot escaped with only minor injuries - one twisted ankle, three broken ribs and a fractured jaw. My own unendurable sufferings I completely ignored. The woman was suffering from severe shock and although badly cut (after all she had to suffer something to bring out my mainly protective instincts), she reacted very bravely to the nightmarish situation in which she found herself. Dennis Wheatley had nothing on this. Beneath her dishevelled appearance, her unruly hair and blood stained face, I could see she was a most beautiful woman. I sent the pilot off for help and as though she knew of my plans, she sobbed and pleaded with me not to send her to the Accident Department. She knew what went on in those places, after all her husband was a doctor. I relented although it was far too late to call back the pilot. Having bathed her wounds with warm water from the helicopter, I dressed the cuts as best I could. Leaving her to rest and recover, I began a thorough search of the wreckage. With the spy camera I concealed in my false eye, I took hundreds of photos of the wreckage inside and out, although it was hard to determine now which had been the original interior and which the out. Only by the grace of the lack of imagination of the author had we escaped with our lives, although let's face it, if we're cut off in our prime, there isn't going to be much of a serial is there? From my false leg I took my printing and developing equipment - miniature of course - and following the instructions of the local amateur photography club, I processed the film I had just shot off. The prints were perfect (which says something for the L.A.P.E. but there was an odd spot on one of them which appeared to be a most staggering capsule-like object. It was too impossible to be true and far too early in the story to be what the reader thinks it is!!!

Please continue this exciting serial - what will happen next?

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