

TB Hospital Declared Inadequate, Dangerous

Quitting Director Says Staff Periled

Dr. Matthew J. Noon said Wednesday that Woodlawn Hospital for tuberculosis patients, from which he resigned as medical director, is totally inadequate and dangerous to the health of its staff.

The medical director, whose resignation becomes effective Jan. 1, added that in many instances patients were refused admittance because there was not enough hospital linen to give the patients a clean sheet once a week.

He said there were not enough facilities at the hospital to protect its nurses and other employees from tuberculosis.

Sterilizing Gear Lacking.

The hospital, he charged, did not even have the equipment for sterilizing bed pans, although it had been repeatedly requisitioned.

His charges were answered Wednesday night at a meeting of members of the City-County Hospital Board, the City Council and Commissioners Court.

Dr. Noon said his own resignation was not the only one at the hospital.

He said that Miss Lola Fay Stewart, acting head nurse at Woodlawn, resigned effective last Monday, and that Miss Millie Dunn, a head ward nurse, will leave Jan. 1.

Other resignations from the City-County Hospital System in recent months include Miss Marion Fox, Parkland nursing superintendent; Dr. C. A. Shaw, city-county psychiatrist, and Mrs. Mildred G. Raible, director of social service at Parkland.

"These resignations, all coming more or less at the same time, are purely coincidental," Thomas L.

See HOSPITAL, Page 3, Col. 1.

Hospital

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

Norton, administrator of the city-county hospital system, said.

Members of the hospital board, City Councilmen, and representatives of the County Commissioners Court met Wednesday night to discuss plans for the new Memorial Hospital which, when built, will settle the Woodlawn controversy once and for all.

At present, Norton said, the

plans call for from 600 to 700 beds. Architect Roscoe P. DeWitt, in whose office the meeting was held, said plans for the projected 7-million-dollar hospital would be ready very soon.

Norton Answers Charges.

In answer to these charges, Norton pointed out that the budget for Woodlawn Hospital had been raised from \$51,000 in 1938 to \$135,000 for the present year.

"We all recognize that there are deficiencies at Woodlawn," Norton said, "but we have only a certain amount of money at our disposal, and we must do the best we can with it. The budget has been increased, and improvements will be made this year.

"We have not completely renovated Woodlawn because our present plans are to move all the tuberculosis patients into Parkland, as soon as the new City-County Memorial Hospital is built. There is no sense in spending a fortune, which we haven't got, on renovat-

ing an old hospital when we are planning a new one."

Dr. Noon, whose resignation takes effect Jan. 1, said he had not resigned because of the lack of permanent improvements at Woodlawn—said he took office with full knowledge that in view of prospects for a new hospital, not much would be done about improving Woodlawn.

Dr. Everett C. Fox, City Councilman, hotly contested Dr. Noon's statement that he had not facilities for protecting his employees against the disease.

"Any man who, after one full year of operating a hospital has not protected his employees against catching a communicable disease, has been negligent in his duties," Fox said.

"In Italy, we did that much in a tent camp with meningitis—a more communicable disease than tuberculosis. If it can be done there, it can be done here."

Dr. Noon said that figures proved good work had been done at Woodlawn last year, and gave, as his actual reason for resigning, a cut in maintenance.

Davis agreed that good work had been done at the hospital, but said: "I know of no cut in his maintenance."

There the Debate Rested.

There, the debate rested Wednesday night. Meanwhile, Norton said

a new administrator for Woodlawn would be appointed by Jan. 1.

"But his duties will be the routine day-to-day work connected with keeping a staff of forty-five in good running order," he said. "We're going to work Woodlawn under a new policy from now on."

"Where formerly Woodlawn and Parkland have worked as separate entities, we're going to integrate them very closely. All decisions concerning professional care of patients will be made by the Medical Advisory Council at Parkland, all operations will take place there, and patients will be placed in isolation wards there."