

## Social care emphasized

When a patient reaches a nursing home or extended care hospital he has to adjust to many changes and the most traumatic are social changes, said Vera McIvor, director of hospital services at St. Mary's Priory Hospital, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. McIvor was speaking at a one-day workshop sponsored by the community special care services division of the department of welfare, held in Santa Maria Nursing Home Friday.

When social care is neglected, the patient becomes depressed and mental and emotional deterioration sets in.

"We should suffer the same sensitivity of guilt at mental deterioration as we do when we see a pressure sore. Because we did not understand mental stagnation due to neglect, we placed the misguided emphasis on the body."

Beneficial results cannot be gained by pampering the body and neglecting the mind, she said.

"Our ego demands to be nourished, it is our right . . . we have our identity to uphold. In our ignorance, we destroyed the patient's identity. We failed to embrace this human being with ego enhancing strategies. He needed assurance, love, understanding and praise. We gave him bread, routines and schedules."

Years ago doctors and nurses became aware that tender loving care for infants and children was necessary; without such care they were stunted mentally and physically, refused food and in some cases, death occurred. "We understood this in children, saw the same symptoms in the aged, yet, failed to connect the two," she said.

Mrs. McIvor said family in-

volvement and community volunteers are vital ingredients to any nursing home program and should never be neglected.

She said the environment of nursing centres should be homelike since visual surroundings play a great role in the lives of patients.

There are several things necessary to begin a restorative program in a home for the aged but the most important factor is education, Mrs. McIvor said.

"You must dispel the negative and erroneous notions that symptoms of regression are by-products of aging, and that these are inevitable. Let it be known that these symptoms are, in many cases, due to neglect by the persons concerned, by those who care for them and the environment under which they live," she said.

### Club notes

Members of Regina General Hospital Alumnae will hold a potluck supper meeting Tuesday at 7 in the reception room of the nurses' residence. Plans for a bonnetmaking tea and the fall bake sale and tea will be discussed.

Members of the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society will meet at 8 Wednesday in the Gold Room of Central Library. The purpose of this meeting is to organize smaller discussion and study groups to help beginners focus on more definite geographical areas in genealogical researching. Anyone interested in searching his family tree or family history is invited to attend.

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