

the procedures for getting the patients admitted for treatment, making for more rapid attention to the children's needs. This has led to fewer screening clinics, of the type we held in the past. We can expect changes with our hospitals dealing with efficiency and how they can best provide for the needs of the children. We need to be opened minded as our leaders work and do their best in making the necessary recommendations for the future operations of our hospitals. At the next Imperial Session there will likely be proposals to make some changes. Some we may agree with, some we may not, but we must keep in mind that our leaders have the future of the Shrine and the children as their top priority when making these recommendations. We need to look at what is happening on our local scene. The new hospital in Marquette will have fewer beds than the old hospital. Our patient is becoming the "big thing". New treatments, new medical breakthroughs, etc. These are changes for the better and are also happening at our Shriners Hospitals for Children. The hospitals desire is for us to provide more education to those that might become aware of patients in need who we may be able to help. This would be

nurses, teachers, Doctors, etc. People who come in contact with the children. If we can make them aware of what we offer, they will be in a better position to recommend the Shriners Hospitals for treatment.

Congratulations to Gerald Girard, who has been appointed as our new Hospital Chairman. Any questions, thoughts, ideas for hospital programs, etc. should now be directed to him. I expect his journey in this endeavor will be as rewarding as mine have been. To be able to help a child, to receive the appreciation expressed by the parents or grandparents are as heartwarming an experience as one can ever receive. I am sure many of you have experienced this with your activities in the past. It makes it all worthwhile.

Again, thank you all, and continue your dedicated support for the Hospitals, and our patients.

*Ron Hill*, Past Hospital Chairman

