

this program the time honored name was changed to "the Charlotte Community Hospital."

As to the future, little can be said. In this day of transition, when racial attitudes are changing, when the Christian spirit is being put to tests in the hearts of men as it has never been before in America, we face the future with hope and prayer. In its founding, the "Hospital of the Good Samaritan" as it was originally called, was dedicated to the physical and spiritual welfare of a group of human beings from whom the bonds of slavery had just been lifted. Now, with the passing of its control from the sacred to the secular, we hope

that the spirit of the Good Samaritan will not be forgotten and pray that the spirit of the New South, which fundamentally stands for the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, will prevail to perpetuate and enhance the good works that the Good Samaritan Hospital has effected since that far-off day when Mrs. Wilkes said, "Let's build a hospital for our Negro citizens".

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer wishes to express appreciation for access to materials, personal information and critical appraisal of this account to Mrs. M. A. Zackery, Mr. E. D. Frye, Dr. Rudolph M. Wyche and Mrs. Julia Washington.

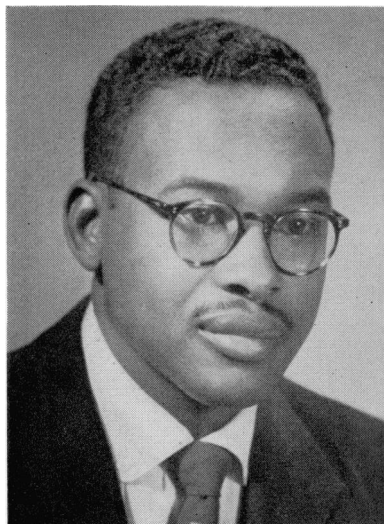
### The Hospital Integration Story in Charlotte, North Carolina\*

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**M**EDICAL integration developments in the State of North Carolina, and the Charlotte area in particular, have been regularly reported in this *Journal*.<sup>1-9</sup> In 1954 the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, representing the Charlotte area, dropped its racial bars and Dr. Emery L. Rann was the first Negro physician to be accepted into its membership.<sup>6</sup>

This Society has maintained its open policy. Problems in the hospital area, for our present interest, date from the year 1940 when the city of Charlotte made a bond issue to build the Charlotte Memorial Hospital with 290 beds.<sup>3</sup> This was projected as a "white only" facility, but it was stated that part of the bond money would be used for the improvement of hospital facilities for Negroes. This was not done, however, and dissatisfaction arose and persisted among the Negro professional men and community. In 1955 the semi-private corporation established by the State Legislature to administer the funds for the Charlotte Memorial Hospital was changed to make the institution eligible for Hill-Burton grants-in-aid. In May 1957 a four million dollar bond issue was made for new construction at the Charlotte Memorial Hospital



REGINALD A. HAWKINS, D.D.S.

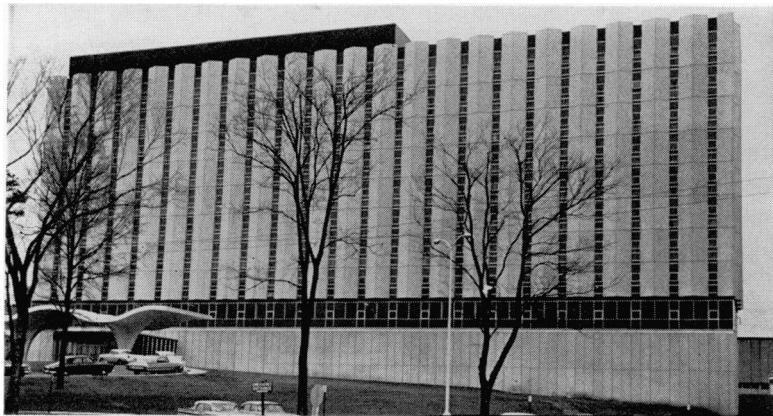
with the hope of receiving an additional two million dollars of Hill-Burton funds. This step was viewed with optimism by the Charlotte Medical Society, representing Negro physicians, because many surveys and conferences on the problem of medical integration had been made and held since 1940 and verbal assurance had been received that the new facilities would be integrated with respect to both physicians and patients. These "great expectations" were not realized and a long and

\* For the photographs in this and the preceding article by Dr. Rann, the *Journal* is indebted to the kindness and courtesy of the *Charlotte Observer*, which also provided documentation for many of the specific developments described.

**CHARLOTTE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**



New Building erected in 1941.



Modernistic Addition of 1962.



Aerial view of entire Charlotte Memorial plant.

tedious struggle ensued which was not resolved until August, 1963.

On March 30, 1960, Dr. Reginald A. Hawkins, a practicing dentist and an ordained Presbyterian minister, had sued the North Carolina Dental Society in protest of its racial exclusion policies. This suit went to trial on September 9-10, 1963, but still awaits final disposition by the District Court.† Meanwhile, the statute which gave the Dental Society the right to elect the State Board of Dental Examiners was repealed.

In 1962 a new modern wing at the Charlotte Memorial Hospital was completed (see cut). This hospital had by this time received more than five million dollars in Hill-Burton money for construction. The Hospital, however, did not become integrated and the dissatisfaction in the Negro community grew proportionately.

On December 31, 1959 at the request of Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, then secretary of the Health, Education, and Welfare, had asked the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to investigate Charlotte Memorial Hospital's policies toward Negroes and report back to him. When the investigation was completed federal officials said that they were satisfied that Memorial intended to desegregate the new wing. No on the spot study was made by HEW. The Negro community began to feel that this approach could produce no results.

On March 3, 1962 a group of Johnson C. Smith University students organized by Dr. Reginald Hawkins, picketed four Charlotte hospitals, Presbyterian, Memorial, Mercy and Good Samaritan, for two hours in the afternoon, protesting segregated facilities. Typical of the signs carried in front of Memorial Hospital were, "This Hospital Built on a Rock of Segregation;" "Is this Christian tradition? Segregated Hospitals?"

An unidentified white man tore the hand-lettered signs carried by three of ten students in

front of Presbyterian Hospital and Mayor Stan R. Brookshire issued a statement expressing regret over the picketing. He said that, "such acts [of pressure] tend to destroy the goodwill, so necessary to any progress which this community has been working to establish."

On March 24, 1962, about 60 people, including half a dozen whites, held a 15 minute prayer service on the lawn in front of Memorial Hospital. This protest too was organized by Dr. Hawkins. A brief sermon was delivered by the Rev. Peter Crawford, pastor of Bethel AME Church and the group held silent prayers, sang hymns and heard brief addresses and scripture readings from several other ministers. The local press reported that the group was certainly not violent and that they offered prayers of love and not hate.

Having secured no result by June 1962, Dr. Hawkins, as leader of the groups protesting hospital segregation, wrote Atty. General Robert F. Kennedy requesting that the U.S. Department of Justice investigate charges of possible collusion in the administration of Hill-Burton funds in the Charlotte area. He asked specifically, "why then were these hospitals not required to live up to the non-discrimination provision of title six of the Hill-Burton act?" At that time, Charlotte Memorial Hospital had 475 beds of which 38 were assigned for Negroes; Mercy Hospital had opened 32 beds to Negroes; Presbyterian Hospital did not admit Negro patients. Each hospital had received Hill-Burton funds. On August 2, 1962, Dr. Hawkins addressed the Department of Health, Education and Welfare requesting a direct investigation of the non-discrimination provisions of the Hill-Burton Act. On August 15, 1962, three officials of the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to the investigation stated that they had found two specific areas in which Charlotte Memorial Hospital did not offer service to Negro patients. On that same day, for the first time hospital officials spelled out publicly and in detail their policy in respect to Negro patients. The hospital administrator, John W. Rankin, said, "the doors are open to any and all". The local press stated that there was "pretty solid statistical evidence that Memorial is moving ahead effectively to meet its total responsibility to the Charlotte community."

On September 10, 1962 Memorial Hospital's maternity and dental clinics were ordered desegregated. This action came from the hospital's board

† Hawkins v. North Carolina Dental Society, Civ. No. 1505 (W.D. N.C.)

Civil action against state dental society and component district society for injunction to prohibit exclusion of Negro dentists. Constitutional claims founded in part on statute which delegated to the society the right to elect certain state officers. District Court denied motion to dismiss in December 1961. An answer was filed. New parties substituted. Statute which gave Dental Society right to elect State Board of Dental Examiners was repealed. Defendant's motion to file supplemental pleadings granted. Plaintiff took a position in April and defendants were given 60 days in which to complete their discovery procedures. Defendants have filed a motion to dismiss. A supplemental complaint and answer were filed. Trial held September 9-10, 1963.

of managers in compliance with a directive from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare based on the report of its investigators.

Dr. Hawkins declared, however, that he still was not satisfied and would not be until "every vestige of segregation is removed from a hospital built with local, state and federal funds."

In 1963, the 20 member Medical Advisory Council of Memorial Hospital voted unanimously to remove all barriers to Negro doctors becoming members of the staff. This involved repeal of a hospital by-law which required that staff physicians be members of the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. The State Society had offered a "limited" scientific membership to Negro physicians. This had been refused by the Old North State Medical Society but one Negro doctor, a surgeon, who had accepted it had been appointed to the staff. On July 9 this recommendation was approved by the full staff of the hospital. In subsequent developments instances of patient discrimination were again cited by Dr. Hawkins and on August 23, 1963 a second visit by U.S. Public Health Service investigators found that Charlotte Memorial Hospital was discriminating against Negro patients in violation of federal law. Following this the Hospital announced a new

open door policy in which it declared, "it can be assumed that Memorial Hospital will begin immediately to apply the same admission policies to Negro patients as to white patients." Tactically, therefore, the long struggle had come to an end and the degree of compliance can only be determined by a reasonable period of observation of developments.

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#### FLASH

The amendment to the Hill-Burton extension bill, H.R. 10041, proposed by the A.M.A. and discussed on pages 275 and 287 of this issue of the *Journal*, was not offered in the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, for want of a sponsor, and hence was not in the bill when reported out by the Committee. The opposition to the proposed amendment was widespread. It included the Hon. John D. Dingell, a member of the Committee, and influential organizations.