

How S'craft Pioneered In Electromedical Tech

By KATHY MORAN

Heart disease can be detected and treatment prescribed on the basis of tests involving electrical equipment.

But what happens when the electrodes are attached to a person for an electrocardiogram if there is a leak of electricity?

If the patient is electrocuted, he won't be the first - or the last.

And what becomes of the patient whose life depends on a kidney machine if the machine malfunctions and has to be sent out to the manufacturer for repair?

The dangers in use of electrical equipment are obvious - as are the life-saving advantages.

BUT WHILE Ralph Nader and hospital officials campaign for high safety

regulations, Schoolcraft College has taken the bull by its horns.

Recognizing a growing need for persons trained in both electronics and medical terminology, the college instituted an electromedical program in August, 1970.

"Nowhere else in the state can a student go for training in the field, despite the fact that 14 hospitals have trained technicians among their staffs to combat the dangers.

Besides being the first in the state, Schoolcraft's program is one of six in public colleges in the country. Yet the need is demonstrated by the 37 colleges now planning such curriculums.

"WE COULD SEE the need and then it was just a matter of adapting the curriculum for a program," said Del Sipes, associate professor of electronics.

Together with his friend Donald La Pla, who now works on hospital equipment through an independent business, Sipes determined what type of training was necessary to work in the hospitals and started the 2½ year program.

Though it is still in an embryonic stage, the program has graduated two students and has jumped from 10 students a year ago to a current enrollment of 37.

Sipes said the program was initiated because of a demand that even independent companies can not accommodate in repairing equipment.

"THE MEDICAL profession was not quick to adopt electrical equipment," Sipes said. "But after World War II it slowly mushroomed.

"Most of the repair work on hospital equipment was handled by the manufacturers

and suppliers, and now several companies have gone into business just for repairs. But the demand is even getting beyond them."

Graduates from the program are in high demand, both as full time hospital employees as well as for the companies that service hospital equipment.

A large part of their work is "preventive medicine" where technicians check equipment regularly to make sure it is functioning properly before a patient is endangered.

In addition to maintaining the equipment, the technician must have a knowledge of medical language in order to communicate with hospital personnel on safety hazards.

THUS, SCHOOLCRAFT students must study medical terminology and anatomy as well as electronics. They are also required to spend two semesters (32 weeks) in cooperative training where they actually get on-the-job experience.

Sipes includes a film on hospital safety in his classes where an expert is quoted as saying that 12,000 deaths have occurred in 14 years in just New York City Hospitals due to electrocution.

Two students who recently completed the first semester of their cooperative training described it as the most educational part of their program.

"It was a new experience," Gary Hoss said. "It is like a different world in a hospital to a person coming into it for the first time."

Tom Ortnier said his cooperative training in a Detroit Osteopathic Hospital taught him about different types of equipment and how it works.

"If you get out (of college) with no experience on the equipment you end up spending all your time learning how it operates and has to be maintained," he said.

Hoss, who also worked at

Detroit Osteopathic, said that the medical technology class he had before the cooperative training was necessary because "you find you can't communicate with them without it."

"You need it to express to them the safety and hazard features of the equipment," he added.

Both students spent the first term of training learning how the kidney machine operates as well as electrocardiographs, laboratory equipment, pacemakers, and respirators. During their second semester, they will learn to repair the equipment.

SINCE DOH has three branches including Riverside Osteopathic Hospital and Bi-County Hospital, Hoss said they had the opportunity to work various brands of equipment.

"We worked on a variety of equipment that is designed to do the same thing, but is made by a different manufacturer," he said.

And they worked under one of Schoolcraft's first graduates, Bryanne Patall, "who understood what we needed to accomplish."

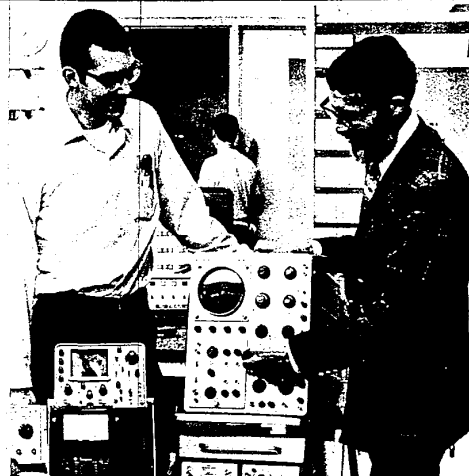
Once the number of electromedical graduates in Schoolcraft's and other nationwide schools increase, a federal regulation requiring hospitals to perform safety checks on a regular basis will be enforced, and the number of casualties due to malfunctioning equipment will decrease.

SC Meetings Rescheduled

The regular November and December meetings of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees will be held one week early this year because of Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The board voted Wednesday to change the meetings, which normally meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, to Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Regional Affairs



THE INTRICACIES of electronic equipment are discussed by Electromedical Instructor Del Sipes (right) and student Bill Parsons. Sipes started the electromedical program at Schoolcraft to fill the need for technicians with a knowledge of medical terminology. (Observer photo)

Bussing Con-Con Gets 7-1 Support

LANSGIR State representatives from Oshtemo County split 7-1 in favor of writing an anti-bussing amendment into the U.S. Constitution.

Using an obscure method of initiating an amendment, the House voted 67-31 to adopt an anti-bussing resolution.

If 33 other legislatures adopt similar resolutions, Congress would be required to submit such an amendment to a constitutional convention. The

method has never before been successful.

Only Rep. Marvin Stempley (D-Livonia) voted against the plan.

Favoring it were Reps. Richard Young (D-Deerborn Heights), John Bennett (D-Redford), James Tierney (D-Garden City), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) and James Desebaugh (R-Birmingham).

EARLIER LAST week, seven local lawmakers voted against a pro-bussing resolution to achieve racial balance in the schools and for another resolution asking the State Board of Education to appeal Federal Judge Stephen Roth's opinion in the Detroit desegregation case.

Only Oshtemo representative absent was Bennett who worked for their passage but was ill at the time of the vote.

Oshtemo's senators voting both in favor of encouraging the State Board to appeal and for a proposed U.S. constitutional convention to consider an anti-bussing amendment, were Sens. William Faust (D-Westland), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), David Flawell (D-Deerborn Heights), and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park). The convention vote was 25-10.

The local representatives did split on a vote that would have established a House committee with a \$3,500 budget to investigate bussing. Voting for the committee were Young, Stempley, and Forbes. Opposed to it were Tierney, Brown, Baker and Desebaugh. Bennett was absent for the vote which failed with 39 yes and 49 no votes.

Wheelchair Basketball Game Set

The Detroit Sparks, national wheelchair basketball champions, will meet the Chicago Sidewinders in a conference game on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. in the new West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard Lake.

Sponsors of the game are the Oakland County Council for Exceptional Children and the West Bloomfield Student Club for Exceptional Children. The Sparks are members of the Mid-American Conference of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA).

Tickets at \$1.25 each, will be available at the door or may be purchased from members of the Student Club or by contacting the special education directors of individual Oakland County schools.

The Sparks were incorporated in 1962, the same year in which they were admitted into the NWBA.

The Sparks are constantly looking for new people to participate in either basketball or track and field sporting events. Anyone interested is invited to contact William Montgomery, 16115 Meyers Road, Office No. 2, Detroit, 48235.



THREE SCHOOLCRAFT students team up for work on the electronics end of their electromedical training. Gary Hoss (left) and Tom Ortnier (center) have completed one semester in cooperative training. Bill Parsons (right) will begin his cooperative training in the near future. (Observer photo)

By the way, whatever happened to your idea about saving for a rainy day?

Well, we can help you make it happen. Just think. For a minimum deposit of only \$100, you can open a pass-book savings account with us that pays a cool 5% interest—**compounded continuously.** All you have to do is bring your current passbook, or \$100 to any one of our 7 branch offices. We'll take care of the rest. And when you do, we'll give you an opportunity to buy the latest ladies' bubble-top umbrella for only \$3.95—or, an automatic, windproof, men's umbrella for only \$2.95.

So open your rainy-day savings account today, and throw away your old umbrella. After all, the idea of saving money isn't all wet.

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