

Hospital Practices for a Real Disaster



THE HALLS were turned into treatment hospital. This scene was in surgery as the centers as more casualties arrived at the staff doctors treated the injured.

A planned disaster came to Farmington last week. Actually it wasn't really a disaster since that could never be planned in advance.

What it was was a simulated disaster alert at Botsford General Hospital. The event was planned in advance to test the plans the hospital had worked out to service the community in the event of a man-



DR. PAUL MANDEL, Orthopedic Resident at the hospital, prescribes treatment for the chest wound suffered by Leonard Lundquist.

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CHECKING THE casualties in at the emergency ward. Here Bill Ackroyd gives his name to the nurse.

made or natural disaster. A total of 56 teenagers—members of the F.A.T.A.C. group at the Farmington Y.M.C.A.—were pressed into service. They were supposedly passengers involved in a gasoline truck-passenger bus collision on the expressway.

They had a variety of wounds ranging from hysterics to chest wounds and a few tagged as D.O.A. (dead on arrival). One girl was even instructed to scream hysterically during the entire alert.

Seymour Cantor, administrator of the hospital, told The Observer that the F.A.T.A.C. members "acted with great dignity and decorum during the exercise and added a great deal to

it. We at the hospital couldn't be more pleased with the teen's part," he added.

Dr. Edwin Bloomberg, chairman of the Staff Disaster Committee at the hospital, explained that the staff had been working for more than eight months on plans to cope with a disaster. He added that they had actually studied other hospital facilities and learned how they had handled disasters.

"The exercise was simply to test the soundness of our plan and find out how fast the hospital facilities could be put in motion," he said.

Botsford is the only general hospital in Farmington and has been designated a center in the case of an



WHEELCHAIRS and stretchers were utilized to transport the injured to surgery. Ann D'Arcy rides in the wheelchair, while Johnny Hughes is carried by the litter bearers.



STAFF SURGEON Dr. Harris Mainster (left) checks the symptoms of one of the injured upon arrival while J. Eastman, operating room supervisor at the end of the bed, gives some final instructions to the nurse.

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emergency. This exercise was to test the in-hospital facilities and did not involve the rest of the community's police, fire, civil defense, telephone facilities, etc. of the real thing.

All in all it came as close to being the real thing as it could.

Observers from both the staff and the Red Cross were on hand to watch the proceedings. A critique of the session to discuss what had been learned.

Dr. Bloomberg said that the hospital will evaluate the material and information gained from this exercise and re-work and re-write its plan as needed. Possibly in a few months he added the community-wide facilities would be tested in the case of a disaster and then, some time after that an unannounced community-wide alert would be staged.

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