

# Medical Record Field Has Challenges

Space-age technology may be the glamour gateway to jobs for the World of Tomorrow, but don't overlook exciting—and lucrative—career opportunities that are going begging in the Right-Now World.

That's the advice of Mrs.

Barbara C. Schell, coordinator of medical record technology at Schoolcraft College.

A registered record librarian, Mrs. Schell joined the Schoolcraft staff in the fall of 1968 when the community college initiated a two-year as-

sociated degree program for medical record technicians.

WHAT makes a career choice as an MRT so attractive?

For one thing, says Mrs. Schell, there is a great demand for trained people in this field.

"We hadn't even held the first

day of classes last fall when I had three calls from hospitals in the Detroit area who wanted to hire MRT's," she recalled.

And, she added, the need is a continuing one. Within the past few months seven major hospitals in the area have advertis-

ed available positions for medical record technicians.

A second reason, according to Mrs. Schell, is that the field has particular advantages to mature women whose children have reached school age and who are seeking some outside ac-

tivity for themselves, or for young mothers who enjoy part-time work.

"The great demand for MRT's makes it possible for a qualified person to work on an independent basis as a coding or medical record procedure consultant," said Mrs. Schell. "An accredited MRT can virtually set his own fee and his own hours as a consultant. The opportunities are unlimited."

Michigan Association of Medical Record Librarians," Mrs. Schell explained. Since its inception last fall, the program has been observed with great interest by the University of Michigan School of Public Health and the Michigan Department of Public Health, particularly as the Schoolcraft program moves toward possible accreditation later this year.

The college will be visited, probably in mid-fall, by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, and Mrs. Schell and other college officials are hopeful of accreditation of the program as a result of the visit.

A graduate of Marcy College in medical records science, Mrs. Schell has established records departments in two hospitals in the Detroit area and has served as a records librarian consultant to several psychiatric hospitals in the area.

Evidence of the interest of hospitals and the medical profession generally to the Schoolcraft program is seen in the contributions and kinds of participation offered by more than two dozen hospitals, professional associations and allied and related organizations.

The contributions include gifts of laboratory equipment, books and other instructional materials and devices, and range to active recruiting for students, and opening of hospital facilities and departments for field trip instruction, observation and work assignments related to the program.

The congressman we got now dont care if we have half-day schools.. He voted against federal aid for education. If you want better schools vote for Fred L Harris for congress democrat

ALTHOUGH the field appears to appeal most to women - the initial class last fall was exclusively female - it is a good one for men as well, Mrs. Schell says. There are comparatively fewer men now working as accredited record technicians, but those in the field have made some outstanding contributions.

What does a medical record technician do?

"The MRT holds a supervisory position in the records department of a hospital," Mrs. Schell explained. "Normally the department is headed by a registered record librarian who has earned a four-year degree and who is registered by the American Association of Medical Record Librarians."

"In practice, the MRT assists in the design of the department and performs key management and supervisory duties. Records department of many hospitals are quite large, some of them employing upwards of 50 people.

"The work consists of maintaining statistical reports of various kinds, medical and surgical records and histories of patients, insurance matters and a host of other records and schedules required for the orderly and successful operation of a hospital."

"The MRT assists members of the hospital medical staff in research of many kinds," Mrs. Schell continued.

"MANY hospital records have legal implications, and the MRT must have training in this aspect of the work. Frequently the MRT is called as a witness in civil suits in which one of the litigants has been hospitalized," said Mrs. Schell.

"Proper maintenance of all records is an important factor in the hospital's ability to hold to standards set by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals."

Schoolcraft College is the only institution presently offering a degree program in this subject, according to Mrs. Schell. In fact, there are only 14 institutions in the entire nation - either two-year or four-year - offering an MRT program.

"Our entry into the field began at the request of the

DURING the two-year program students attend classes on campus but spend an increasing number of hours off-campus working in actual job situations at several affiliated hospitals in the area.

The practical phase of the program involves assignment in the records departments of hospitals and includes observation of surgery, attending hospital medical staff meetings, and observing procedures in x-ray, emergency, and medicine departments of the hospitals.

Physicians on the medical staff of the hospitals frequently serve as guest lecturers during the classroom periods.

## Disease Down

Michigan's Macomb and Monroe Counties had the lowest reported incidence of gonorrhea in the nation during 1969, according to the American Social Health Association, a Torch Drive service. Both counties reported 31 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000.

## Bridge Hand

### Logical Approach

By J.J. SCHNEVER, MD

Many and many years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the land, carboniferous jungles steamed in the mist, and I was learning the ins and outs of this multi-faceted game of ours, I saw one of the most beautiful pieces of logical thinking perpetrated by a really fine player.

NORTH			
S K 3 2			
H 6 4			
D A K Q 10 8 3 2			
C 5			
WEST		EAST	
S J 10 8 7		S 9 6	
H K 8 3		H J 10 9 5	
D 9 4		D 7 6 5	
C A J 9 3		C 8 4 2	
SOUTH			
S A Q 4			
H A Q 7 2			
N E S W			
duplicate bridge		3NT pass 6D pass	
E-W vulnerable		D C K Q 10 7 6 pass pass	
North deals			

The scene was the Masters Pairs of the Michigan Regional Tournament and your fumbling author sat North; we were playing a "gambling" no trump opening at favorable vulnerability, so I took a shot at opening 3NT.

My partner was Howard Weisblat, of Cleveland, then, as now, one of the outstanding midwestern players; while Howard's game had many things to commend it, his ability to thoroughly assay every situation at the table was, by far, his greatest asset. Holding the strong South hand, he realized at once that there must be a good chance for a slam, but he feared the opening lead coming through his

Howard's brilliant bid, the lesson to be learned is that every bidding situation must be judged on its own merits; he knew that I must have long, solid diamonds for don't be afraid to be audacious when the situation calls for it.

Besides the comment on Howard's brilliant bid, the lesson to be learned is that every bidding situation must be judged on its own merits; he knew that I must have long, solid diamonds for don't be afraid to be audacious when the situation calls for it.

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