



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1977

1976 REVIEW OF MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

1976 SAW THE COMPLETION OF MANY MEDICAL PROJECTS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND MEASURES WHICH REPRESENT A GIANT STEP FORWARD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HONG KONG'S 10-YEAR MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE WERE THE OPENING OF 16 METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES FOR TREATING DRUG ADDICTS, THE SETTING UP OF A LICENTIATE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATION OF UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS AND THE OPENING OF THE TANG CHI NGONG SPECIALIST CLINIC TO SERVE THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE NEW 1,300-BED PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL ALSO ENTERED INTO ITS FINAL PHASE WITH MOST OF ITS FACILITIES BECOMING FULLY OPERATIONAL.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, OVERCROWDING AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY EASED. ALSO WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A REGIONALISATION SCHEME IN APRIL, 1977, THE SITUATION AT THE MAJOR HOSPITALS IS EXPECTED TO BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

CONDITIONS AT THE EXTREMELY BUSY CASUALTY DEPARTMENT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED FOLLOWING ITS EXPANSION IN MARCH. THE WAITING AREA CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE TWICE AS MANY WAITING PATIENTS, AND THE NUMBER OF TREATMENT CUBICLES HAS ALSO BEEN INCREASED FROM EIGHT TO 12.

IN JANUARY 1976, THE HOSPITAL REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WHEN IT ADMITTED THE MILLIONTH PATIENT. IT WAS A REMARKABLE RECORD BY ANY STANDARD, CONSIDERING THAT THE HOSPITAL HAS ONLY BEEN IN SERVICE FOR 12 YEARS.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED STAGE ONE OF THE EAST KOWLOON POLYCLINIC AT NGAU CHI WAN, A MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND AN ADDITIONAL FLOOR AT ARRAN STREET EYE CLINIC, WHICH WILL BE USED FOR A SPECIAL CLINIC FOR ASSESSING THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, CONSTRUCTION HAD BEGUN ON TWO IMPORTANT PROJECTS -- THE 1,300-BED SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK, AND THE MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DENTAL NURSES AND A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC.

ON THE HEALTH SIDE, THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO ENJOY A GOOD STATE OF HEALTH AS EVIDENCED BY THE LOW MORTALITY RATE AND THE CONTINUAL DECLINE IN THE INCIDENCE OF MANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

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WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONTROLLED MEASURES AND IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES, HONG KONG REMAINED FREE FROM POLIO, CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES, WHILE THE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS, ONCE THE NUMBER ONE KILLER DISEASE IN HONG KONG, HAD SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPED.

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, 1977 WILL BE ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. TWO MAJOR SCHEMES THAT WILL HAVE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG ARE TO BE INTRODUCED -- ONE TO REGIONALISE HOSPITAL AND CLINIC SERVICES AND THE OTHER TO SUBVENT THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

BOTH SCHEMES ARE AIMED AT MAXIMISING THE USE OF HOSPITAL BEDS AND RELIEVING OVERCROWDING AT THE MAJOR HOSPITALS. TO ENSURE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME, DAILY MAINTENANCE CHARGES IN THE GENERAL WARD FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-AIDED HOSPITALS WILL BE STANDARDISED AT \$5 PER DAY AS FROM APRIL 1, 1977.

STAGE II OF THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG POLYCLINIC, DESIGNED TO GIVE SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, AND STAGE I OF THE EAST KOWLOON POLYCLINIC ARE EXPECTED TO BE OPENED IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR (1977).

WORK WILL ALSO BEGIN, DURING THIS YEAR, ON OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE NEW CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, PHASE II EXTENSION OF THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, EXTENSION OF THE SERVICE AND QUARTERS BLOCK AT NAM LONG HOSPITAL, AND ONE CLINIC EACH AT NGAU TAU KOK AND LEI MUK SHUE.

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PRISONS STAFF - GET NEW KEY
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RECENTLY, STAFF OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WERE ISSUED WITH A NEW +KEY+. BUT THE +KEY+ DID NOT OPEN ANY OF THE LARGE STEEL DOORS IN ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 17 INSTITUTIONS.

|| +THE KEY+ IS THE DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED EVERY TWO MONTHS AND CIRCULATED TO STAFF AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES.

STARTED AS A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SPORTS ASSOCIATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE PUBLICATION WAS RECENTLY EXPANDED TO INCORPORATE THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT.

THE EIGHT PAGE NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND IS OFF-SET PRINTED BY INMATES AT STANLEY PRISON'S PRINTING WORKSHOP. A TOTAL OF 1,800 COPIES ARE PRINTED FOR EACH ISSUE.

+THE KEY+ CONTAINS SEVERAL PAGES OF DEPARTMENT INFORMATION, INTERESTING ARTICLES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS, AND IS PRODUCED BY A SMALL TEAM OF PRISON OFFICERS SUPERVISED BY THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, STANLEY PRISON, MR. MAK PAK-LAM.

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GOOD RESPONSE TO MOBILE EXHIBITION
ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION
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RESPONSE TO THE MOBILE EXHIBITION ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, HELD LAST MONTH IN TSUEN WAN, WAS ENCOURAGING AND PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP TO EXTEND IT TO MORE AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT SOME 3,000 PEOPLE VISITED THE EXHIBITION BETWEEN DECEMBER 15 AND 18.

+BECAUSE OF THIS GOOD RESPONSE, WE HAVE DRAWN UP A PROGRAMME FOR THE EXHIBITION TO BE MOUNTED FOR 14 DAYS IN FIVE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THIS MONTH,+ HE SAID.

+IT WILL BE HELD IN FANLING BETWEEN JANUARY 6 AND 8, IN SHEK LEI BETWEEN JANUARY 11 AND 13, IN LEI MUK SHUE ON JANUARY 15 AND 16, IN SHEUNG SHUI ON JANUARY 17 AND 18, AND IN YUEN LONG BETWEEN JANUARY 26 AND 29,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT OTHER AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING SHA TIN, TAI PO AND TUEN MUN, WILL BE COVERED BY THE EXHIBITION LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE AIM OF THESE EXHIBITIONS IS TO DRIVE HOME TO RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THE CONCEPT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION. ITEMS ON DISPLAY WILL TOUCH ON, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE GENERATION GAP, FAMILY PLANNING, THE CHOICE OF CAREERS, WAYS TO HANDLE PROBLEM CHILDREN, AND HOW WORKING MOTHERS SHOULD LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN.

DURING THESE EXHIBITIONS, A SOCIAL WORKER WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUERIES IN CONNECTION WITH FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AND PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUALS OR THEIR FAMILIES.

THE PROJECT IS A JOINT EFFORT OF 13 SCHOOLS AND WELFARE AGENCIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IS CO-ORDINATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE.

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