

## MEMORIAL TO DR. THRASH

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The Medical Center, Columbus' name for its City-County General Hospital, is about to begin operating as an institution of 530 beds. In 1915 the 100-bed City Hospital was built in its present location; in 1928, with the addition of a south wing, 70 more beds were added; in 1943, addition of a west wing and south annex brought the capacity to 226 beds. Ten years ago, in 1955, coincident with new construction and an increase in bed capacity to 285, the institution dropped its designation as Columbus City Hospital and became the Medical Center. The present construction and expansion over a greatly increased area now almost doubles the bed capacity.

The chief architect of the Medical Center was the late J.A. Thrash, former hospital administrator and Director of the U.S. Public Health Service for this area. It was this remarkable, and at times difficult man, pushing, prodding, pulling strings, maneuvering and dictating, whose foresight and planning resulted in the transformation of a shabby, semi-slum area into today's beautifully landscaped and rearranged medical complex. It has been a tremendous undertaking, and Columbus now has a large and modern institution, adequately housed and equipped expansively with all the new and advanced medical refinements of diagnosis and therapy. Its emergence with the potential of becoming a true medical center is a memorial to the determination of Dr. Thrash. It is unfortunate that he is not around to see the impressive realization of his vision.