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MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AT RASHID HOSPITAL

The Rashid Hospital, which was opened on 29th March 1973, will have major extensions under a plan drawn up between the Department of Health and Medical Services and the architect and planning consultant to the Department, Mr. John Harris, A.R.I.B.A., who designed the Rashid Hospital. These major new extensions are required because rapid development in medical services is foreseen over the next few years and it is anticipated that by 1976 more hospital accommodation will be required in Dubai to serve the people of Dubai and of the United Arab Emirates. It is also the aim of the Government of Dubai to provide a high standard of medical care and to provide good facilities for doctors and other medical workers in a wide range of specialities.

The major extensions will be as follows :

1. A large extension of the main building to house the following units: (1) A 60 bedded Paediatric Unit designed both for the needs of small infants under the age of two years and for older children who have slightly different needs when they are in hospital. The unit will include some accommodation for mothers to stay with their babies and it will also have, in addition to the bed and cot areas, play areas, day rooms, and a place for older children to watch television in the evening.

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(2) There will be a 32 bed male Geriatric Unit designed to meet the needs of older male patients. The emphasis will be on rehabilitation and the aim will be to help older patients recover their mobility and ability to look after themselves in the hope that eventually they will be able to return to their families.

(3) There will be a 38 bed short stay Psychiatric Ward. This will be divided into male and female sections. The aim of this unit will be to provide a short term facility for the assessment and treatment of acute psychiatric illnesses. At the present time many patients from the United Arab Emirates have to leave the country and go elsewhere for psychiatric treatment. It is hoped that the majority of these patients will be catered for in this short stay unit. It is expected that a unit for patients requiring long term treatment will be developed in the near future by the Ministry of Health with whom the Department of Health is co-operating closely on this matter.

(4) There will be a large Physiotherapy Department with separate facilities for male and female patients receiving all kinds of physiotherapy treatment. The facilities will include a treatment area for heat, short wave diathermy, ultra-violet, wax bath, etc.. There will be a large gymnasium and an individual training area. There will be a space outside for outdoor games and the possibility of including a hydrotherapy pool is being considered. There will also be a separate area for the treatment of children particularly children with cerebral palsy.

2. Separate from the main building, there will be an isolation block containing twenty seven individual rooms. This ward is designed to house patients with infectious conditions: for example measles, chickenpox, dysentery, etc.. Special facilities in the unit will include an "air-lock" at the entry to each individual room. This is designed to prevent the spread of air born infections from one patient to another.

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Dubai Health

2.(cont.) Each single room will have its own toilet facilities. Because of the infectious nature of these illnesses, it is not desirable to allow visitors access into the ward itself. There will therefore be a visitors' veranda round the whole building. Though the patients will be in individual rooms, the use of large amounts of glass in the interior construction will allow the nursing staff to observe the patients continuously. *Starts Dec 74 Finish mid 76*

3. Major modifications within the hospital itself will include the following:

(1) An enlarged Accident/Emergency Department with improved reception and waiting areas. There will also be improved facilities for the Casualty Doctor to examine the patients. The Casualty Department will be linked to the Outpatient Surgical Department so that the surgeons will be able to work in close co-operation with the casualty doctors in the treatment of severely injured patients.

(2) The X-ray Department is to be enlarged to include a new X-ray examination room with new equipment in it. When this is completed the X-ray Department will be capable of carrying out all but a few X-ray examinations and it should greatly reduce the need for patients to be sent overseas for investigation purposes.

(3) A new Staff Canteen will be built to allow expansion of the kitchen to cope with the increased numbers of patients which are expected over the next two years.

4. A new Office Block for the Department of Health and Medical Services is to be constructed to house the central administration including an office for the head of the Department of Health and Medical Services, H.H. Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid, the Director of Health and Medical Services, and the Finance and Personnel Departments. This additional accommodation is required in order that the administrative work may proceed smoothly. In particular, close co-ordination of effort is required in order that patient care may be maintained at a high level during this major construction phase.

5. New housing on the Rashid Hospital site to accommodate additional medical and other staff will include fourteen bungalows, twelve flats for single people and a new block to house fifty additional staff nurses.

Commenting on these new developments the Director of Health and Medical Services pointed out that these were hospital developments on the Rashid Hospital site. In considering the implication of these developments, it should not be forgotten that the Department is already constructing five Outpatient Clinics throughout Dubai in Umm Usqeim, Satwa, Rashidiya, Bu-Hail and Al Ghassais. The first of these clinics should be opened before the end of 1974 and they should produce a great improvement in medical services by taking the medical treatment to the localities where people live and patients will be able to avoid long journeys by public transport to see doctors. Those cases which require specialist attention or investigation will then be referred to the hospital.

It is a measure of the high priority being given to health affairs in Dubai that the Government has instructed that construction of the new buildings at the Rashid Hospital site should start if possible before the end of 1974 so that the new facilities will be ready in good time to meet the expanding needs of Dubai which is clearly going to grow rapidly in the near future and also in order that a high standard of medical care should be available particularly in those specialties which are not available at the present time.