

### THE STAFF

The nursing team on Ward 5 now includes about 75 nurses led by the Senior Sister, Miss J Thomas, and 6 other Sisters and supported by Mrs Helen Vegoda, Counsellor to the families of children and Miss Helen Stratton who has a similar but wider counselling role supporting any families in need and also the staff. Both of these later appointments were made possible by the far-sighted leadership and generosity of the Bristol and South West Children's Heart Circle under the leadership of Mrs J Pratten. Ward 5 plays an important role in post-graduate training for nurses particularly in relation to the Intensive Care course and in the near future there will also be a course in adult and paediatric cardiac surgical nursing. Traditionally the nursing team has played a major role in promoting a liberal and happy atmosphere for patients, families and staff, and in so doing has created a corps d'esprit which is one of the strengths of the Unit and the envy of others!

In theatres too, there is the feeling of belonging to a team, where nurses, perfusionists, anaesthetists and surgeons work together. These are the nurses who work behind the scenes but in addition to their regular work, provide 24-hour cover for emergencies. Again the post-graduate training of nurses takes place in the cardiac theatres both formally through its participation in the theatre nursing course and less formally for all the staff members.

The perfusion team under the leadership of Mr D Caddy, maintains and operates the heart-lung machine, which is of course the sine qua non of open heart surgery. Their other duties include the operation of the intra-aortic balloon pump and supervising the monitoring equipment, both in the ward and the operating theatre.

In the Children's Hospital, similar arrangements exist, but of course without a perfusion team for open heart surgery.

The medical work of Ward 5 is mainly performed by anaesthetists and surgeons who co-operate closely to care for the patients both in theatre and in intensive care. Two of the surgeons and four of the anaesthetists take a special interest in paediatric work and undertake all the care of the children. Cardiac surgery, perhaps more than any other branch of surgery, requires team work and in addition to the anaesthetists and surgeons, cardiologists, radiologists and pathologists all play a vital role in our multiple disciplinary team. Cardiac surgery is part of the surgical specialty of cardiothoracic surgery and the non-cardiac thoracic work is done at Frenchay Hospital by our close colleagues Mr K Jeyasingham and Mr C Forrester-Wood. Our trainees rotate between these hospitals and regular meetings and seminars are held. As a matter of policy our more senior trainees spend part of their training elsewhere and in recent years Registrars or Senior Registrars have spent 1 year each in