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54/07/12 Dr. Sheppard Returns to Bay View Hospital to Treat Patients

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Sheppard returned to his duties at Bay View Hospital today with the observation, "I have a job to do—if anyone ever wanted me to do this job and do it well, it was my wife.”

Sheppard seemed to slip quickly back into the routine at the osteopathic hospital. He first sat at a desk alongside his father, Dr. Richard Sheppard, and read his patients’ progress reports.

The young neurological surgeon said he would perform an operation to drain the brain cyst of a 29-year-old Rocky River woman, for whom he has performed surgery twice before.

As he examined Miss Olive M. Bright, 751 Bates Rd., Sheppard took her hand in his and said: "This left arm of mine is pretty weak and shaky, too." Miss Bright has had little use of her left arm and leg since birth due to a brain injury, Sheppard explained.

Sheppard said the injuries he suffered at the hands of his wife’s murderer would prevent him from resuming full duties immediately. He still wore the leather neck brace.

 Asked how long Miss Bright had been hospitalized for this last treatment, Sheppard turned to a nurse and asked: "How long has it been?" Three weeks, she said.

"I'm still fuzzy about things," Sheppard said.

Sheppard said he returned to Bay View where he himself was hospitalized following the July 4 slaying "because these people need me."

He referred to his dead wife several times. "The best present my wife ever could have was for one of my patients to do well," he said.

He recalled her interest in a case in which he operated on a six-year-old Warren boy who had been hit by a truck. "He was in a coma," Sheppard said. "When he recovered and I told my wife about it, she was very happy." The 30-year-old osteopath wore dark glasses as he returned for the first time to his rounds of the hospital. "The light hurts my eyes," he said.

"The other day when I didn't wear the glasses, my eyes started to water and I got an awful headache." "Coming back to work is the only thing for him to do," Dr. Sheppard's father said. "It will help him forget." "I got a job to do," the young surgeon repeated.