GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
SEPTEMBER 21, 1966

Fifty-two years ago, October 1914, the University Homeopathic Hospital Training School for Nurses was born at the Homeopathic Hospital located only a few feet from our new building site. Two students appeared at first. Others arrived month by month, until there were 8. The Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University awarded certificates of graduation to four of this original group on November 7, 1917.

One of the graduates of this first class is here today - Mrs. Rena Daily Coppess. We are greatly indebted to her for her historical research and mementoes of the early days of the School. Mrs. Coppess as representative of the first class and Anne Hemmert as president of the next class will break ground together.

A variety of programs were established through the years. Graduates of all types are here today. In 1946 the B.S. in Nursing program was developed. It is a coincidence that in 1966 a total of 1966 have completed the requirements for the B.S. in Nursing, and since 1957, 112 the M.S. Field of Specialization of Nursing.

The effect of facilities on enrollment is well shown by the increase in the number of graduates since the State provided these Health Center facilities 15 years ago. Thirty-six students graduated with a B.S. in Nursing in 1950-51 when the Center opened. Last year 150 Bachelor's degrees and 23 Master's were awarded our students.

The cradle of the infant school was the office in the Homeopathic Hospital of Miss Jessie Harrod, first Director of the School and Administrator of the hospital. There were no classrooms. In the plans for the new Starling Loving Hospital—the A wing of this building opened in 1917—a
student's room, lecture room, and conference room appear on the plans. Undoubtedly these were used for both medical and nursing students and staff. At times, headquarters of the School have moved from the M wing of Starling Loving Hall, to some rooms on top of Campbell Hall, to University Hospital, and back to B wing of this building. Now, a home of its own, planned and designed to provide the best possible facilities for teaching and studying nursing, will arise from the ground we are breaking today.

Expansion of the School during these last few years has been impossible because of lack of space, clinical facilities, and faculty. Now the space, at least is assured. As these essentials are provided, we expect to increase our enrollment, eventually, to 800 students.

Our School serves Ohio by providing the only wholly State supported programs in nursing. We offer students from every corner of the State an opportunity to study nursing in a great University and rapidly growing medical center. This map shows that 65 counties were represented in our student body this summer. With the exception of one school which graduated two classes, we graduated a larger number of students last year than any other school of professional nursing in Ohio. Of the six schools offering Baccalaureate programs in Ohio, The Ohio State University produced 40 per cent of the graduates. From the latest available figures, it seemed that about the same per cent of the master's degree students were completing our program.

The alumnae from this School of Nursing are likewise found in every corner of the State, in hospitals of all types, in public health agencies and schools, in doctors' offices and on research teams; in graduate schools
preparing to serve more effectively as teachers or supervisors; and in our military nurse corps throughout the world. They are prepared to serve well. Our new building should help them to serve even better.

Planning for a building began in 1958, and at last is becoming a reality thanks to the United States Public Health Service grant ($1.16M), to the matching funds provided by the citizens of Ohio through the Bond Issue (1.24M), and to the efforts of the University Administrative personnel on our behalf. Our warm appreciation goes to the College of Medicine staff - Dean Doen first, and then Dean Meiling and Assistant Dean Westra who have worked with us so diligently over these many years, to our own faculty who have generated the ideas, and finally to the architects who have transformed these ideas into blueprints for our School of Nursing Building.

Mildred E. Newton