

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
WESTERN RESERVE STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

BUILDING A MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN RESERVE

October 12-13 2001

Allen Memorial Medical Library
Ford Auditorium

Medical Milestones in 20th Century Cleveland

Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA

Jim Edmonson in his article "Hospitals and health Planning" in the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* points out that in Cleveland, as well as elsewhere, hospitals achieved their "modern" institutional form by the very early 20th century. Three stages marked this movement. In the 19th century, the hospital began as an agency of social control and welfare, providing minimal medical care for the indigent and unfortunates of society. Then, hospitals became primarily medical institutions for those who could not afford home medical care. Finally, shortly after the Civil War, hospitals were transformed by a combination of scientific and technical advances such as drugs for anesthesia and an understanding of the spread of disease.

Our three speakers will focus on aspects of health care that changed the way health care was practiced and delivered in the 20th century yet which find their roots in the 19th century developments.

First, Jim Edmonson, from the Dittrick Museum, will discuss how the pavilion design of the new Lakeside Hospital (1895-1910), a building designed specifically for medical purposes, reflected new understandings of health and disease.

Patsy Gerstner, also from the Dittrick Museum, will show the intertwining relationships of an epidemic with civic and governmental institutions in the early 20th century.

Finally, with echoes of early responses to issues of care and access for the underserved, Martin Hiller, from the Free Clinic, will explain the evolution of the program from 1970 to now to provide free nonjudgmental medical care to youths with drug problems.