SURGEON IS DAFFODIL AUTHORITY see page 12
NEW SERVICES CONSIGNED
CANCER TREATMENT
PROGRAM EXPLAINED
AT BOARD MEETING

Consecration services for the
Jeanne Hoff Goodwin Chapel, Joseph
B. Priestley Operating Room Suite
and Charles Iles Memorial were held
in conjunction with the semi-annual
meeting of the Board of Directors
May 24.

Bishop Lance Webb of the United
Methodist Church; Donald W. Cordes,
Executive Vice-President; Tom D.
Throckmorton, M.D., surgeon; Dr.
Kenneth Metcalf, Superintendent of
the Des Moines District United Meth-
odist Church; Dr. R. Paul Walters,
Director, Clinical Chaplaincy Depart-
ment; and Ralph L. Jester, Board
member, participated in the cere-
monies held in the chapel. Organ
music was provided by Palmer D.
Lowry, chapel organist.

The chapel is named for the wife
of William Goodwin, Jr., who retired
from the board a year ago. Mr. and
Mrs. Goodwin were present. The
Priestley Suite is named for the late
Dr. Joseph B. Priestley, long-time
IMMC surgeon and former Chief of
the Surgical Staff. The Iles Memorial
honors the late Charles F. Iles, former
Medical Center President.

Tours of the Priestley Surgical Suite
and the Iles Memorial (Medical Cen-
ter Lobby) followed the consecration
service. More than 160 members of
the Medical Center Board, Guild
Board, physicians, Partners in Heal-
ing and their spouses attended.

Presiding at the program in the
Medical Center Cafeteria was Robert
Sandblom, Vico-President and Chair-
man, Executive Committee. The
Reverend M.D. Summerbell, who is
retired from the Board of Directors,
was recognized for service rendered.

Dr. Metcalf, Chairman of the Gifts
and Bequests Committee, presented
citations to the new Partners In Heal-
ing—persons who have given to the
Medical Center. Guests included:
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Black, Mr. and
Mrs. Myron N. Blank (Blank is Med-
ical Center Treasurer), Mr. and Mrs.
Harold Hite, Miss Lois Hoskins, Mr.
and Mrs. Arnold Sieg, Dr. Virginia
Thompson and Dr. and Mrs. George
Zaharis.

A panel of staff physicians pre-
sented the program, “Cancer Dia-
nosis and Treatment at IMMC”.
Norman K. Rinderknecht, M.D.,
Medical Staff President was the
moderator. Other panelists were
Richard Hankerson, M.D., Oncol-
ologist; Louis Maher, M.D., Radio-
therapist; and Jack Spevak, M.D.,
SURGEON GAINS WORLD WIDE FAME FOR DAFFODIL RESEARCH

A well known Iowa Methodist Medical Center surgeon has become the "Alex Haley" of the daffodil world. Dr. Tom D. Throckmorton has gained international attention for his work in computer classification of all daffodils, their parentage, what they look like and just about everything else there is to know about this plant with its amazingly human-like characteristics.

He began his work in 1960 on the Medical Center computer and has since compiled detailed information on more than 10,000 varieties of the delicate flowers, superb examples of which graced the spring woods behind his home.

"We have run out programs on family trees down to seven generations," Dr. Throckmorton explained. Currently he is preparing a book, "Daffodils to Show and Grow" which will list 5000 strains of daffodils currently available "somewhere". Appropriately, the book is being printed by computer and will be distributed to daffodil connoisseurs all over the world.

Dr. Throckmorton credits two members of the IMMC computer team—J. Simpson, Director, who did the complicated programming and Mrs. Beverly Buckley who did the punch card work—with making it possible for him to do his research. He is also grateful to the Medical Center for the computer time granted him when the machine was not being used for Medical Center Purposes.

"I found daffodil classification to be rather cumbersome. It just didn't make much sense. Then I developed a simplified language to put into the computer and we were able to make rewarding progress."

Through the aid of the computer he has successfully bred strains of daffodils, six of which are going on the market. He is attempting to breed a "toned" plant. Traditionally, the blossoms are entirely white or yellow and he seeks to develop a flower with softer, more pastel colors.

From the "Stud Book and Almanac"—the complete computer printout—he quickly can produce facts about any given strain. From this information he is preparing his book which is expected to become the "Roots" of the daffodil world.

Dr. Throckmorton has received many accolades. This spring he was presented the Silver Medal of the American Daffodil Society, an award given to the person considered to have made the greatest contribution to the Society, and the Peter Barr Cup for worthwhile work in daffodils.

The Peter Barr Cup ceremony was held in London and the cup subsequently shipped to Dr. Throckmorton. The Silver Medal was presented in San Francisco. Dr. Throckmorton is only the third American to win the Peter Barr Cup.

The cup, understandably, is named for Peter Barr—a British plantsman who, in 1885, searched the countryside of northern Spain and Portugal for strains of wild daffodils. Those which he found interesting he dug up and had shipped back to Britain for transplanting. He was founder of Barr and Sons, a London establishment now operated by H.R. Barr, a third generation member of the family.

The award is made annually and the cup is passed from one recipient to the next. This is the first time, however, it has come across the Atlantic. Previous American winners apparently have elected to let it remain in England.