

## Recollections of Internship

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J Richard Gaskill, MD

July 1st, '59, Dallas  
Parkland Memorial Hospital  
Before copiers and pagers  
Concerns about smoking  
ICUs and Medicare  
Lee Harvey Oswald and JFK.

Segregated wards oppressive  
With no air conditioning  
All-white medical staff  
Nurses' starched uniforms and caps  
Page operator's seductive voice  
Often disappointing in person.

Dozens of multip deliveries  
Work-ups, IVs, and scut  
On call every other or 3rd  
Sleep deprivation the norm  
Call rooms a-whirr with fans  
Staff lounge a welcome refuge.

Alphabetic array of disease  
On crowded Medicine floors  
Ascites, Bacteremia, Cirrhosis  
Diabetes, Emphysema, FUOs ...  
Sickle cell children on Peds  
Anemia, jaundice, and crises.

Variety of problems in the ER  
From trauma to rare and weird  
Fatal tetanus after abortion  
Women with "fallin'-out spells"  
Dehydrated infants, barely alive  
Sunken fontanelles restored with clay.

Endless flow of surgical admits  
Outpatient surgery unknown  
Long cases as second assistant  
Abdominal retractor in hand  
Sunrise sometimes from the OR  
Never again after the 30th of June.

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