

# Lecture Outline: Western Medical Institutions

## Introduction:

- Thinking about health institutions

## 1. The history of the hospital

- Early Christian Hospitals
- The Civic Hospital
- The Modern Scientific Hospital

## 2. The Modern Scientific Hospital:

- professional evolution
- concepts of disease & treatment
- patients
- efficiency model

## 3. Conceptualizing health institutions

- Erving Goffman & the Total Institution
- Michel Foucault & the Social Control Institution

## Conclusion: The future of health institutions?

- The hospice
- Homebirth & community midwifery
- The 21<sup>st</sup> century hospital

Essondale Psychiatric Hospital

Old Men's Home, Victoria n.d.

Residents, Old Men's Home 1930s

# Poorhouse “ideal inmate” vs nursing home “ideal patient”

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## *“Ideal inmate”*

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- hard-working
  - obedient
  - does not make trouble with other inmates
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## *“Ideal patient”*

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- participates in occupational therapy
- well-behaved
- social/part of the institutional “family”

Queen Alexandra Solarium for Crippled Children

# The Early Christian Hospital

# The Early Christian Hospital

- Rudimentary medical care
- Attached to religious organizations
- Huge variety of patient situations
- Illness as medical & spiritual event



# The Modern Scientific Hospital

# Montreal General Hospital

# The Modern Scientific Hospital

- professional evolution
- concepts of disease & treatment
- shift in patient-base
- efficiency model

# Michel Foucault & Institutions

## “The Gaze”

- way in which the patient is regarded
- reductionist
- analytical
- progressively more intense
- linked to surveillance & institutional hierarchies

# Michel Foucault & Institutions

## “Social Control”

- policing ‘deviant’ behaviour
- sphere of biomedical power
- places to hide away people that make us uncomfortable

# Erving Goffman & Institutions

## The “Total Institution”

- medical institutions as separate worlds
- disempowerment - symbolic & real rituals
- punishment & reward
- institutional efficiency

# New Institutional Models

*‘Architecture, of all the arts, is the one which acts the most slowly, but the most surely, on the soul.’*

Ernest Dimnet, French priest & writer, 1932

# New Institutional Models



# New Institutional Models

- hospice movement, 1960s
- patient choice & dignity
- family & the institution
- 'homelike' institutional decor

# New Institutional Models

“Starship” – Auckland, New Zealand

A hospital should not be an isolated entity, it should be an integral part of the city. Not only attractive to those who have to be there, it should also become a place to visit. The atrium of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is such a place. Its cafeteria invites passersby to rest for awhile. The activities of the hospital are viewed through playrooms in the atrium to create a healing community.

Eberhard Zieldler

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