

BRIDGING 3RD STREET



For more than five decades there has been a close collaboration among the staff members of the House Ear Institute, the House Ear Clinic and St. Vincent Medical Center (SVMC). As physicians, scientists and engineers at the House Ear Institute (HEI) were developing the cochlear implant, the pioneering implant surgeries were taking place across the street at St. Vincent Medical Center. At the request of the Institute's founder, Howard P. House, M.D., operating rooms in SVMC became the first to employ specialized surgical staff, experienced in the use of otological instruments and procedures.

House Calls asked Elizabeth Osborne, registered nurse in charge of the otological surgical floor at SVMC, about the advantages patients receive from a specialized otology staff.

"Having the entire Doheny Wing of St. Vincent Medical Center dedicated to otology means that patients get highly specialized care," Osborne said. "Nurses here have a working knowledge of the delicate anatomy of the ear and can recognize signs of any problems. We can anticipate what the Clinic otologists will want, and we work in great synergy with them."

The association between the House Ear Clinic staff and SVMC began in 1944 when Dr. House

established his medical practice. Although he had gained professional access to several local hospitals, he made it a point to locate his first office near St. Vincent. Eventually, Dr. House acquired land on the corner of Third Street and Alvarado, directly across the street from SVMC, and built his research and clinical practice facility there.

Today, most House Ear Clinic hearing health treatments that involve surgery are performed by the Clinic physicians in the Doheny Wing of the St. Vincent Medical Center. Through the use of special microscope viewing tubes and surgical cameras, many of these surgeries are transmitted via microwave to the House Ear Institute facility across the street. Visiting physicians attending courses at the Institute can sit in the John and Dale Melbourne Herklotz Auditorium at HEI and observe special surgical procedures of the hearing system and related structures. ♦

The main office of the House Ear Clinic, a private medical practice, is located within the House Ear Institute facility at 2100 West Third Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057. The Clinic has a satellite office in Orange County located at the Chapman Medical Center Campus at 2617 East Chapman Avenue, Suite 202, Orange, CA 92869. Please call (213) 483-9930 for the Clinic's main office, and (714) 516-9570 for the Orange County office.

