

ANTAL Elizabeth, M.D.

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UGF KEEPS DOCTOR ON JOB

Next: A Handier Bus Stop

By CORDELIA RUFFIN

The United Givers Fund is keeping an "urgently needed" doctor on the job at D. C. General Hospital.

She is Hungarian-born Elizabeth Antal, who came to D. C. General three years ago. During her residency she became interested in the Arthritis Clinic there, and her services have become indispensable to its director, Dr. William Reeve.

Last September he applied to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Association, a United Givers Fund Agency, for an additional \$2600 to pay her salary. Without the funds, he said, "this wonderful doctor will have to be dropped."

This week the association approved the extra grant.

ESCAPE

Dr. Antal's medical training began in Hungary at the University of Szeged 13 years ago. She escaped to Austria during the Hungarian Revolution and worked as a doctor there in a refugee camp.

In 1957 she came to the United States and found a position in a laboratory at the Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, N. H. Her husband had friends in Washington and they came here in 1958. She began her internship at Alexandria Hospital and then moved to D. C. General.

The arthritis clinic is her specialty. Last year the clinic had 899 visits from 243 patients, all of them unable to pay for private care. When Dr. Reeve established the clinic his first move was to set it up on an appointment-only basis.

"It's one reason for the success of the clinic," he said.



— News Staff Photo

Elizabeth Antal.

"The patients here are not known for keeping their appointments. But we've found that ours have kept their appointments. One reason is that people like Dr. Antal have developed a rapport with them."

ON HER OWN

Dr. Antal hopes one day to set up her own practice in internal medicine, while still specializing in arthritis.

"But even tho I specialize," she said, "I want to remain a doctor. I can't scream all the time for an ear, nose and throat man to come, or say 'Get the cardiologist.'"

Besides Dr. Antal's salary, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Association is also providing \$3400 for transportation for the clinic patients. The District Health Department provides a few ambulances and station wagons for this purpose "but not nearly enough to handle all the patients," Dr. Reeve said.

His next campaign will be to try to persuade the D. C. Transit System to put a bus stop nearer the hospital. The closest is at 19th-st.

"It's hard enough for someone who is perfectly well to walk that distance," he said. "For someone with arthritis it's almost impossible."