

Acupuncture: Mrs. Nixon Watches As It's Done

PEKING — (AP) — Pat Nixon donned a white medical cloak today to watch two young girls receiving acupuncture treatment at the Peking's Children's Hospital.

Then she went shopping, selecting a pair of pajamas for her husband and a set of china for her daughter Julie.

At the hospital the First Lady and her escorts bowed to hygienic policy and changed to white medical cloaks.

An aide at the hospital explained as they viewed some photos on the wall that acupuncture has proved successful in many diseases hitherto difficult to cure, such as paralysis.

Mrs. Nixon said:

"I have read you are doing great work on deafness. Do you do that here?" Ku Shiu-po, vice chairman of the revolutionary committee of the hospital, said they had success in some cases of partial deafness.

"Of 12 cases of semideafness, eight were treated successfully and they can hear well again," the First Lady was told.

In another room, a girl of about 10 was being treated by acupuncture for paralysis. She had needles stuck in on her right leg from hip to foot.

Treatment for this type of polio is once a week, she was told.

The hospital she visited is a general hospital for children from infants to 14 year olds and has a staff of more than 820 doctors, nurses, office and other workers.

It has nine departments — internal medicine, surgery, infectious diseases, Chinese traditional medicine, new-style acupuncture treatment, physiotherapy, ears-nose-throat, ophthal-

mology and stomatology. Its 20 wards have 600 beds.

"The hospital has 2000 out-patients," Mrs. Nixon was told, "and between 500 to 600 in-patients."

Eighty-five percent of the staff are women doctors.

In the nursery Mrs. Nixon saw children in blue pajamas seated around two tables singing.

"How are you?" she asked a little girl and stuck out her hand. The child was shy and froze.

"Some children fear strangers," she was told.

"Look at that piano," she exclaimed when she saw a group of children playing.

Dr. F. T. Chu, head of the hospital, told Mrs. Nixon he had studied at Boston Children's Hospital 40 years ago.

She shook hands with several members of the staff and left for a "friendship store" where foreigners shop.

She looked at some pajamas and decided on a pair of off-white silk with deep green trimming for President Nixon. They were size 44 and cost 19.60 yuan, or about \$8.60.

But she first had an aide try a blue colored pair on for size.

Mrs. Nixon walked across the street to another store and bought a set of china—blue and white rice pattern — for 16 yuan, or \$6.88.

The set originally had six cups and saucers, milk jar and sugar bowl. Mrs. Nixon ordered an extra six cups and saucers to make it a dozen.

"It's for Julie," she said. "Navy wives come in and she does not have enough cups and saucers."



MRS. NIXON COMFORTS YOUNG PATIENT IN PEKING
Adhesive strips on her legs cover marks left by acupuncture needles
—UPI Photo