

Steps Urged For Medical School In City

Hospital Consultant Regards Toledo As 'Natural Site'

Toledo is a "natural" site for a medical school and steps should be taken to locate such a school here, a Chicago hospital consultant said yesterday.

Dr. Charles Letourneau, Chicago consultant and director of Northwestern University's hospital administration department, met with Mayor Damas yesterday to discuss the matter.

Such a medical school here, Dr. Letourneau said, would raise the quality of medical care in the area and at the same time provide full utilization of existing county medical facilities.

Not Fully Utilized

The school, he explained, could utilize facilities at Maumee Valley Hospital, Roche Hospital and the Lucas County Home. He said studies have shown that these facilities are not fully utilized because of some general public resistance to them.

A medical school could bring about full utilization of the expensive facilities, as has been demonstrated by similar moves in other communities in the country, he said.

Dr. Letourneau said excellent classroom facilities for a medical school could be established at the University of Toledo, where a premedical course is offered.

"The university," he said, "has a fine national reputation and is well administered. It could provide a good nucleus for a medical school."

Mayor Asked Meeting

Dr. Letourneau, who is conducting a study of facilities at St. Vincent's Hospital, said the mayor requested the meeting yesterday to discuss the need for a medical school and possible steps in obtaining one.

The Chicago consultant said he has talked to many Toledo physicians and other persons and has concluded that the school is needed here.

He said studies have shown that the country immediately needs at least 10 medical schools and he believes two of these are needed in Ohio.

'Natural Site'

The first step, he told the mayor, would be to name a committee to compile facts and figures concerning the proposal. Federal money might be available to help finance the project, he said.

"A town this size certainly should have a medical school," Dr. Letourneau said. "There is a large center of population here and the area is a natural site."

But someone, he added, has got to take the lead in working for such a facility.