

Confidential

June 20, 1955

INTERVIEW - Telephone conversation between  
I.H.A. AND Dr.

P. & S. Dept. of Gyn & Obst., W. 168th St., N.Y.

A mother wished her 17 year old daughter sterilized before the girl went to a mixed camp. A neurologist at the Neurological Institute recommended that the girl be sterilized. The Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics did not know how to handle the case as the girl was a minor - the case was sent to the head of the hospital to find out the position of the hospital in such a case. After long deliberation with administrative heads and legal advisors, the hospital decided against sterilization.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ said that the hospital has a very strict committee headed by Dr. Howard Taylor that passes on abortion. It acts like a board and makes final decisions.

Psychiatric indications are clearer than the medical - result practically no abortions are done. One woman is going to Japan to have an abortion.

Pressure from hospital creditation is such that some form of consultation is required before a doctor can do a Caesarian. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ asks "Shall we have to do the same thing for sterilization"?

At the medical center they do only post-partum sterilization. He knows that tubes are often tied when other abdominal operations are performed. But sterilization is not recorded.