History of Schick Shadel Hospital

Charles A. Shadel was a pioneer in the field of treating alcoholism. In 1935, Shadel provided a colonial mansion in Seattle to offer warm and personal comforts of home to those who were considered society’s outcasts – the alcoholics.

Shadel believed that the only thing wrong with an alcoholic was alcohol. His philosophy was that the body – not the mind – was dysfunctioning. He felt that alcoholism was a drug addiction and that therapy should include every effective resource. Shadel and Dr. Walter Voegtlin, a Seattle gastroenterologist, developed and tested a safe and effective formula to effect a chemical aversion to alcohol.

The work of Shadel Hospital in Seattle continued quietly and effectively until 1964 when, then chairman of Schick Safety Razor Company, Patrick J. Frawley, Jr., checked in to face his addiction to alcohol.

After the first day of the program, Frawley felt immediate relief from the compulsion to drink. Months later, he was astonished to find that he still had no desire for any of his favorite drinks.

In 1965, Schick Safety Razor Company formed Schick Laboratories, Inc., with Mr. Frawley as chairman. The new company purchased the Shadel Hospital and $6 million was invested in researching habit formation. At that time the name of the hospital became Schick Shadel Hospital.

The research – under the direction of Schick Shadel Hospital’s chief of staff James W. Smith, M.D. – resulted in a program for nicotine addiction. Programs for cocaine, marijuana and other dependencies have been developed by Schick Shadel physicians – based on the aversion therapy pioneered by Mr. Shadel.

Schick Laboratories, Inc. separated from Schick Safety Razor Company and owned Schick Shadel Hospital until 2002, when a group of former patients – led by Dallas businessman, Jim Graham, formed Duffy I, L.P. to buy the hospital.

Schick Shadel Hospital was later acquired by Universal Health Services.