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## Hospital Association

The Morning Call

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# HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting Was Held in  
this City Last Evening.

## REPORTS ARE ENCOURAGING

Rev. Dr. Singmaster, Who Had Intended Retiring From the Presidency, Was Unanimously Re-elected—Other Officers.

The annual meeting of the Allentown Hospital Association was held last evening and interesting reports were received. The hospital has a balance of \$1062.30 and enjoys the distinction of never having borrowed a dollar.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The president, Rev. Dr. J. A. Singmaster, presented his report as follows:

To the Allentown Hospital Association:

Ladies and gentlemen:—In behalf of the board of trustees the following fifth annual report is respectfully submitted:

In presenting this my final report as president, I may be pardoned for saying a personal word. Having assisted in founding the hospital and having been honored with the presidency from the beginning, it is with deep regret that, on account of my removal from the city, I this day give up my active co-operation in a work that has given me lasting satisfaction. My regret, however, is diminished by my confidence in the integrity and capability of your board of trustees, whose uniform courtesy and fidelity have made my labor as presiding officer both pleasant and light. My interest in the hospital, as well as my membership in the association, shall not cease.

The past year has been one of quiet progress in the work of the hospital. Your board has solved every problem as it has come up. Having proceeded in a conservative way from the start, there have been but few things to change or to unlearn. We beg to report, therefore, in a general way, that the affairs of the hospital are in an excellent condition. Golden opinions are expressed by visitors and patients concerning the beauty and comfort of the building, the courtesy of the servants, the kindness of the nurses and the skill of the doctors. In no way does our hospital suffer by comparison with the best of similar institutions.

### ORGANIZATION.

Immediately upon the adjournment of the annual meeting of the association, the board met and organized by electing as its officers, J. A. Singmaster, president; John R. Gossler, vice president; W. H. Hartzell, M. D., secretary, and John E. Lentz, treasurer. Subsequently Mr. Lentz resigned his office on account of the state of his health, and Edward H. Reninger was elected in his stead. The board has met regularly every month.

### THE PROPERTY.

The hospital building, after a trial of a year and a half, has been found well adapted to the measure of the work attempted. We have accommodations for about thirty patients. On several occasions our capacity was put to the test, admonishing us that an epidemic or disaster would find our present room quite inadequate.

Various minor improvements and repairs were made during the year. An apparatus for heating water for laundry, kitchen and toilet purposes was successfully installed. A concrete walk was laid under the portecochere and thence in two lines to Chew street. Fifty shade trees were planted, at the expense of a liberal friend. While something was done toward the further grading and beautifying of the grounds, the work is far from complete, chiefly through lack of funds. It is hoped that during the present year a good deal more may be accomplished in this line, particularly the laying of a concrete walk on the Chew street front.

### ADMINISTRATION.

The general scheme for the conduct of the internal affairs of the hospital, as outlined in our constitution and in our last report, has been followed and found to work admirably. The executive committee has exercised constant supervision. The head nurse, Miss Clara V. Haring, as executive officer, has shown great aptitude for her exacting situation. The medical and surgical staffs have continued to render skillful and faithful service free of charge.

### NURSES AND EMPLOYEES.

The working force of the hospital consists of the head nurse and eight pupil nurses, nine in all. The help consists of a janitor and five women, six in all. The total number of employes is fifteen. The pupil nurses are being trained in theoretical and practical nursing in a course covering two years. Our first class, numbering three, will graduate in June.

### PATIENTS.

During the year 396 cases were treated, making a total of 548 since the opening of the hospital, a year and a half ago. The largest number at any one time was 27, and the average per day was about 18. For fuller information concerning patients we refer you to the complete tabulated statements to be published in the annual report.

### FINANCES.

Up to the close of last year (1899) about \$35,000 had been expended on the plant and maintenance. During the past year, as the treasurer's report will show, over \$8000 were received, making a total outlay for all purposes, since organization of \$43,000, not counting many donations in kind.

This hospital enjoys the unique and proud distinction of never having borrowed a dollar, either for building or maintenance. This is said not in the spirit of idle boasting, but in recognition of the providence and blessing of Almighty God, who gave His Son to be our great Physician, and who, we humbly believe, looks with approval upon the beneficent enterprise in which we are engaged.

We are glad to report that we have received a legacy of a little over \$500 from the estate of the late Barbara Schaad. It is a reasonable hope that the future will bring us a considerable revenue from the bequests of the benevolent.

Our resources are largely the generosity of the public, whose liberality we have always sought to deserve. The chief sources of income are the annual dues of the members, collections in schools and churches, fees from patients who are able to pay, contributions from corporations, firms, societies, individuals and the Ladies' auxiliary, and appropriations by the state.

These resources will be ample if properly developed. The day preceding Thanksgiving has been designated as Donation Day in the public schools. We are gratified to be able to report

that the proceeds this year amounted to over \$400 in cash, together with a fair supply of provisions.

We have good reasons to expect that our hospital will with others receive a grant for maintenance from the legislature. It is understood that the state board of charities will recommend an annual appropriation of \$5000 for the next two years, beginning June 1, 1901. As many similar institutions have received appropriations toward the erection of new buildings or additions to those existing, we would be justified in petitioning for a similar consideration in case we should determine to erect a wing.

Our income from patients, especially from those in private rooms, has been considerable. We are sorry to say that, in a few instances, patients who were amply able to pay, refused to give us anything even after restoration to perfect health. The same is true of several corporations whose employes have been cared for.

By the careful expenditure of our income we are able to show a balance on hand. This balance would not exist had we made various desirable improvements. The character of the financial management of the hospital ought to be an inducement to larger benevolence. Our efficiency is to some extent, at least, measured by the weans at our disposal.

#### LADIES' AUXILIARY.

We acknowledge with gratitude our indebtedness to the Ladies' Auxillary for its devotion. Its work will appear in its separate report. It contributed \$750 to our treasury during the year. This generous sum alone enabled us to keep out of debt and to have a balance on hand.

#### IN MEMORIUM.

We report with regret the loss of one of our trustees, Dr. Orlando Fegeley, who departed this life, March 10, 1900. The board attended his funeral and adouted a suitable minute, testifying to his high character and proficiency. Edward H. Reninger was elected to fill the unexpired term of his office.

#### ELECTION.

It will be incumbent on this meeting to elect five trustees to serve for three years. The term of the following trustees expires by limitation: Drs. C. D. Schaeffer and C. S. Martin, Messrs. Abraham Samuels and William P. Moyer and Edward H. Reninger.

#### THE OUTLOOK.

The hospital has successfully passed its experimental stage. Its right to live has been vindicated. It has converted doubters into friends. No well-informed, unprejudiced citizen would want the hospital to fail. The policy of conservative management, united with a view to the future, has given it not only present efficiency, but also provided for expansion as the need may arise. The continuance of this policy must insure stability and a high degree of usefulness to the community. Only recently a committee was appointed by the board to take into consideration the feasibility of erecting a wing in the early spring.

This institution ought ever to be the pride of this prosperous city. Standing upon the threshold of what promises to be the grandest century in the history of mankind—a century that will be distinguished for great progress in the science and the art of healing, as well as for the growth of humane feeling—we will not allow ourselves to fear that this community will be so unworthy of its blessings as to permit so noble an institution to languish. It would be sad, indeed, should the pursuit of gain or pleasure benumb the higher feelings of our men and women of means to such an extent as to cause them to ignore the just claims of the indigent sick and maimed.

The destiny of this hospital is largely in the hands of the board of trustees, whom this association elects. I would, therefore, pray this honorable body in this my last official word never to allow personal friendship, political partisanship, or sectarian zeal to influence the choice of trustees. Elect citizens who have no private ends to serve, but who, moved by humane impulses, will freely give of their time and money to foster the hospital.

I would also deprecate municipal or state control, for my observation leads me to the conclusion that an institution like ours fares best under private management.

With an earnest prayer for the perpetuity and success of the hospital, and with the best wishes for my successor, I now lay down the office with which I have been so often entrusted.

J. A. SINGMASTER, President.

The auditing committee on Treasurer E. H. Reninger's account reported as follows:

Balance on hand, January 1, 1900 .....	\$2,764.96
Received members' dues ...	720.00
Received Ladies' Auxiliary .	750.00
Subscriptions and donations.	2,847.40
Patients .....	2,812.38
Lodges, societies, collections, etc. ....	984.90
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$10,879.64</b>

**EXPENSES.**

Buildings and grounds .....	\$1,121.97
Furnishing and fixtures ....	1,209.11
Petty expenses .....	297.78
Heat and light .....	886.84
Nurses and labor .....	2,735.49
Provisions and supplies ....	3,566.15

Total .....

Cash balance on hand December 31, 1900, \$1062.30.

Dr. C. D. Schaeffer, Dr. C. S. Martin, A. Samuels, W. P. Moyer and E. H. Reninger were re-elected members of the board of trustees

**OFFICERS ELECTED.**

The board of trustees of the Allentown Hospital met last evening after the annual meeting of the association and re-elected the former officers: Rev. Dr. J. A. Singmaster, president; Dr. W. H. Hartzell, secretary, and E. H. Reninger, treasurer. All the employes of the hospital were re-elected. Although Dr. Singmaster had not intended to accept the office of president again at this time, he consented to serve for another year at the earnest and unanimous request of the board of trustees.

The surgical staff was reduced to one chief, Dr. C. D. Schaeffer and three assistants, Drs. Heistant, Albright and Otto, and the medical staff was reduced to one chief, Dr. W. H. Hartzell and two assistants, Drs. Cawley and Huebner.