

Eleventh annual report of hospital

The Morning Call

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF HOSPITAL

Shows Exceedingly Good Year of
Work and Encouraging Finan-
cial Conditions---Need of
Nurses' Home.

The Allentown Hospital Association held its annual meeting in council chambers last evening, when the annual report of the trustees through its president, Hon. Edward Harvey, was read, showing 957 patients treated in the hospital last year and in many respects the most successful year in the history of the institution.

The figures showed a splendid increase in moneys received for treatment of patients, amounting to \$9,107.11, reflecting, with other statistics the great quantity of work performed by Chief Surgeon Dr. C. D. Schaeffer and his assistants, Drs. C. D. Otto, J. Treichler Butz and W. A. Hausman, Jr. The low mortality rate 5.64 speaks volumes for the care given patients in the institution that Allentown is proudest of.

Hon. Edward Harvey read the an-

ual report, which was as follows:

Members of the Allentown Hospital Association:—In submitting the eleventh annual report of the Allentown Hospital Association, the board of trustees thanks the members, patrons and friends of the institution for their generous contributions and donations during the year just closed. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the interest of the public in their multiplied kindnesses in behalf of the sick and afflicted.

We always make an appeal to our members and friends to make voluntary contributions and donations during the festivals of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. Each year these contributions have grown, and during the last year amounted to \$10,000.

I must again call your attention to the necessity of having a suitable Home for the Nurses. We own a lot suitable for the purpose and have paid for it. Without the assistance of friends we cannot expect to have a home in the near future. The hospital proper is overcrowded. Twenty-two nurses are in training within the hospital. They have no accommodations. They cannot enjoy the common comforts of home life when not on duty.

During the year the board of trustees lost two of their members by death. The Rev. Dr. Repass died after a short illness. He was a valuable member of the board. We miss his wise counsel and advice. Away from home, in a foreign land, on a trip of pleasure, Frank W. Koch, without warning, met his death in an accident on the railroad. His death was sorrowfully tragic.

The financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1906, is very gratifying. We received from the state the apportioned amount of the last appropriation under the act of 1905. The special donations aggregate \$10,456.62; this is in excess of those made during the previous year by \$1061.34.

We received for treatment of patients during the year \$9107.11 which is in excess of that of the previous year by \$1312.61.

Notwithstanding the liberal contributions we have received, we have not been able to liquidate the total debt of 1905. In my last report it approximated \$15,000, and we have been able to reduce it to \$7000. Before the present year closes we expect to pay off the entire debt.

I now ask your attention to the statistics of the hospital. You will recall that the hospital was opened for the treatment of patients on May 22, 1899. The total number of patients admitted and treated since then is 4,691. This is a very large showing in the few years we have been in operation. The figures are amazing. They equal in number more than one-tenth of the entire population of the city of Allentown. That the close of the last year there were patients remaining in the hospital 58, and were admitted during the year 899, making in the aggregate 957, as the total number treated during the year. The cases treated are classified as follows: Surgical, 628; medical, 252; obstetrical, 13; births, 4. The number of surgical operations performed was 539. During the year there were 69 deaths. In that number 14 were patients who died within 24 hours of their admission into the hospital. Eliminating these from the total, the mortality was 5.64. The low rate of mortality is an eloquent tribute to the physicians, surgeon and nurses in charge.

I said there were treated during the year 957 patients. It will be gratifying to you to know that 694 of these were treated without charge. I want to repeat what I have said on former occasions that the hospital is a charitable institution. It obtains, to a large degree, the means with which to maintain itself from the voluntary contributions of generous and philanthropic friends. It is the policy of the management to treat the poor and needy without charge, and they are the especial subjects of our care, and are treated in preference to those who can pay and are known as "pay-patients."

The number of patients averaged 62.03 per day, and the cost of maintenance of each patient per day was \$1.102. Remembering that the cost of provisions and supplies has increased largely during the year, the maintenance rate is not perceptibly larger than during the previous year, when the cost rate was \$1.093.

The number of available beds in the hospital is 87. The percentage of them occupied during the year was 71.3, and the highest number was 81.

Thus in a general way I have called your attention to the work done in the hospital, and the cost of doing it. The figures submitted are gratifying to the trustees, and cannot fail to interest the members. A noble

charity is doing its humane work in your midst.

The report of Hon. E. H. Reninger, the treasurer, shows receipts during the year of \$38,418.72. Expenditures included \$9,209.90 in repayment of loans, leaving outstanding in loans, \$7,000.

Following the association meeting, the trustees organized for the year by electing the following officers: President, Hon. Edward Harvey; vice president, James F. Hunsicker; secretary, Dr. C. S. Martin; treasurer, Edward H. Reninger.

The following directors were elected: For three years Dr. C. S. Martin, A. Samuels, Dr. C. D. Schaeffer, Hon. Edward H. Reninger and Edwin G. Trexler; to fill unexpired term of one year of Frank W. Koch, Thomas J. Koch; term of Rev. Dr. S. A. Repass, two years, George Ormrod.