

Affairs of the hospital

The Morning Call

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AFFAIRS OF THE HOSPITAL

**Its Needs Generously Relieved by
Friends During the Year.**

OFFICERS' PLEASING REPORTS

Made at the Eighth Annual Meeting of
the Association—Edwin G. Trex-
ler Elected a Member of the
Board of Trustees.

The eighth annual meeting of the Allentown Hospital Association was held last evening in council chambers when the reports of the officers were heard. Edwin G. Trexler was elected a member of the board of trustees in place of William P. Moyer, who asked to be relieved. Mr. Trexler's term will expire in 1907. The other members of the board whose terms expired with the meeting were re-elected. The response to the call for special donations, through the aid of the newspapers, made several weeks ago, was met liberally. The sum donated amounted to \$4981.46.

The report of the president, Hon. Edward Harvey, is as follows:

Members of the Allentown Hospital Association: It is my official duty, and I assure you it is a pleasant one, to present this the eighth annual report of the board of trustees for your consideration.

The year just closed has been singularly good to our institution. The many friends have not forgotten its needs but have continued and in many instances increased their contributions to the charity it exemplifies. Throughout the United States during the year there was set aside in bequests and actual gifts for charity the astounding total of \$21,726,318, and it is gratifying to know that our community has not been neglectful in its benefactions.

No change has occurred during the year in the personnel of the board of trustees. The medical and surgical staff have continued under the able and efficient direction of Dr. C. D. Schaeffer. A faithful corps of nurses have assisted, and under the superintendency of Miss Haring the nursing at the hospital has been brought to a high standard.

At the commencement in May last we graduated four young ladies as professional nurses. Dr. N. Solis Cohen was present and delivered a learned and interesting address.

Since the opening of the hospital on May 22, 1899, the number of patients admitted was 2119. On January 1, 1903, there were in the hospital 37 patients, and since that date 616 were admitted. The total number treated during the year was 653. There was a gain of 110 cases over the total number in the preceding year, and the percentage of gain was 41.5. In our last report the gain in admission in 1902 over the admission in 1901 was twenty-six per cent.; this percentage has more than doubled during the last year. The average number of patients per day was 45.69, which shows a gain on the preceding year of 11.69 patients per day. The total number of beds for the accommodation of patients is 75, of which sixty per cent. were in daily use. The average stay of patients was 25.6 days.

Of the total number of patients treated 288 were male surgical, 178 female surgical, 96 male medical, 52 female medical, and 2 obstetrical, making the total 616. Fifty-one deaths occurred during the year, but it must be known that of these 25 were hopeless cases when admitted. If the hopeless cases are included in the percentage of mortality, it was 7.8, and if excluded, as they should be in making a correct and fair average, it is 3.98.

In the surgical department the statistics are interesting and show that the highest care and most scientific treatment have been used. There were 318 operations and 21 deaths. This shows a mortality of 6.6 per cent. But 16 of the 21 cases were operations as a last resort. The patients were brought to the hospital in an extreme condition, and only heroic measures could be resorted to and when there was scarcely a possibility of success. Excluding such cases the mortality was but 1.56.

We said in our last report and repeat here to give emphasis to it:

"Hospitals without large endowments can not be maintained without receiving some pay patients, unless the people voluntarily give enough for maintenance. It must not be understood that the assigning of rooms and the acceptance of per diem pay in any way interferes with those patients who are unable to pay anything. Our first thought is for those who are unfortunate and have no means with which to pay for treatment. They are never excluded in preference to the more fortunate; the latter will always be refused if, by accepting them, the poor and needy could not be treated."

There were treated free of charge during the year 429 patients or 67.7 per cent. of the whole number. There were 187 pay or part-pay patients.

There were two vacant lots of ground opposite the hospital that are peculiarly adapted for a nurses' home. The owners were offering them for sale, and the trustees, after mature deliberation, thought it advisable to acquire title. Negotiations were opened and resulted in the purchase of 220 feet front on Chew street by 120 feet in depth. Each year the necessity for a nurses' home, separate and apart from the hospital proper, has become more apparent. The crowded condition of the hospital restricted the necessary comforts of the nurses and deprived them of required rest free from annoyances that are incident to a residence within the hospital. The number of nurses is increasing and will continue to increase with the growth of the institution. If these vacant lots had not been acquired they would have found other purchasers, and the association could not have acquired in the

future other lots as near and as well adapted to hospital uses. We consider it wise economy to purchase these lots, and we did so for the sum of \$5500. Mr. George O. Albright, who was one of the grantors, gave us, out of the purchase money, the very liberal and acceptable donation of \$1250. The entire purchase money except \$900 has been paid without, in any way, impairing the financial condition of the association. It is very gratifying to make this public announcement.

During the year we have received from the executors of Lewis J. Helfrich, deceased, the proceeds of the legacy so generously given us by the testator. It amounted to \$2541.64. We have also received from the estate of Aravesta Schaeffer, deceased, a legacy of \$100 for the donation fund and a donation from Mrs. C. F. Wolfertz of \$100. Out of special donations we have restored the Barbara Schaadt and Tilghman K. Kline funds aggregating \$990.81. These sums had heretofore been used for hospital purposes with the understanding that they were to be restored and placed in the endowment fund. It is also gratifying to inform you that this restoration in no way impaired the funds available for general expenses.

In our last report the endowment fund held \$1967.68; it now holds \$3,158.49. In the future all legacies and donations given to the endowment fund will be included in that fund at once.

The total receipts from all sources during the year were \$24,731.13, to which must be added the balance on hand at the end of the preceding year of \$947.41, making a total of \$25,678.54. The expenditures during the year, including money paid for the Chew street lots and the restoration of the endowment fund, was \$25,540.30, leaving a cash balance in the hands of the treasurer of \$138.24. There were special donations during the year of \$10,521.34.

We regard it as a matter for congratulation that we have a small cash balance in hand and begin the new year with a debt of only \$900, being balance of purchase money due for the Chew street lots.

It is our hope that during the ensuing year kind friends may aid us in building the nurses' home. Many of our citizens have given little or nothing to the institution, and we trust that they will feel generous, especially when they know what their fellows have and are doing.

The statistics submitted demonstrate the necessity of increasing yearly our receipts. The institution can not support itself. The small endowment fund yields practically no income. We must depend on individual beneficence. The true philanthropist feels the pulse of human misery and gives where his gifts do most good. It is upon such that we must depend in extending the work auspiciously begun and gloriously carried out.

The association is under increased obligations to the Ladies' Auxiliary for the good work and assistance in maintaining the hospital. We are proud to acknowledge that it is an indispensable part of the working that is essential to the maintenance of the high standard of the hospital.

Edward H. Reninger, treasurer, made the following report:

Dr.	
Said accountant charges himself with moneys received from various sources:	
To balance, December 31,	
1903	\$ 947 41
To cash	
Special donations	10,316 75
Contributions	788 56
Annual dues	650 00
Treatment of patients	6,391 75
Account state appropriation	
for maintenance	6,055 42
Temporary loan at bank....	3,000 00
Interest	71 35
Miscellaneous sources	457 30
Total	\$28,678 54

Cr.	
Said accountant craves credit for the following disbursements made as per orders drawn on him:	
By cash	
Nurses and labor	\$ 5,115 98
Provisions, supplies, etc.	12,754 61
Disbursements in special account	7,554 77
Temporary loan repaid	3,000 00
General expenses	94 94
Balance in hand in gen. acct.	138 24

Total\$28,678 54
Endowment fund, not included above, \$3,158.49.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD H. RENINGER,

Treasurer.

Mrs. Henry D. Hersh, treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary, made the following report to the association:

Dr.	
Balance on hand, Jan 1, 1903 \$	405 24
Membership dues	318 00
Strawberry festival	249 35
Sewing Circle	14 50
Donations	10 50
Interest	2 18

Total\$1,919 77

Cr.	
To trustees	\$ 236 85
Hospital supplies	153 87
Rent of room	60 00
Expenses of festival	40 00
Flowers	5 00
Postals and printing	2 20
Transfer Co., etc.	1 20

Total\$ 519 12
Balance\$ 490 65

MRS. HENRY D. HERSH,

Treasurer.

The proposed amendment to the constitution, changing the time of the annual meeting from the first Monday of January of each year to the second Monday at such hour and place as the board of trustees may direct was favorably acted upon.

The board of trustees organized by the re-election of Hon. Edward Harvey, president; Dr. Charles S. Martin, secretary, and Edward H. Reninger, treasurer.

James F. Hunsicker was elected vice president. The members of the board in attendance at the meeting were Dr. Charles D. Schaeffer, Dr. Charles S. Martin, Abraham Samuels, Edward H.

Reninger, Edward M. Young, Nathan A. Haas, Reuben S. Leisenring, Hon. Edward Harvey, John R. Gossler, James F. Hunsicker. President Harvey re-appointed the following executive committee: Dr. Charles S. Martin, R. S. Leisenring, A. Samuels; auditing committee, James F. Hunsicker, N. A. Haas; commencement committee, Dr. C. D. Schaeffer, John R. Gossler, Dr. C. S. Martin; building and grounds committee, R. S. Leisenring, E. H. Reninger and Edwin G. Trexler.