

The Allentown hospital [plea for funds]

The Morning Call

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THE ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL.

In our local columns to-day appears a statement of the work done by the Allentown Hospital since its opening on May 22, 1899, to October 31, 1902. We want every reader of the "Morning Call" to study this statement carefully. There is much food for reflection in the figures. They tell more eloquently than words can of the noble work which this institution has done in behalf of humanity. From January 1 to October 21, 440 patients were admitted. Of this number only 80 were pay patients and 21 part pay patients, while 339 were free patients. The average cost per day of a patient was \$1.12½. The amount expended for maintenance of patients was \$11,218.13. The receipts from patients were \$3,094 and the state appropriation was \$3,750.

During the year the wing erected by James K. Mosser was opened. The people of Allentown owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Mosser. His aid came at a time when it was urgently needed, and the wing will stand as a monument to his memory. Others also contributed toward repairs and to them the hospital authorities are also grateful.

The "Morning Call" has always taken a great pride in the Allentown Hospital. It was this paper that revived the project, after it was considered dead, eight years ago. A fund was started and against great odds and discouragements we battled day after day. It was truly a Herculean task to arouse interest, but we were never discouraged. Each time a person met with an accident and had to lie in pain and agony at the railway station waiting until a train came along so that the sufferer could be taken to St. Luke's, six miles away, we called attention to the inhumanity of letting people suffer when relief could be had sooner. Perhaps some less determined would have given up the task. But that is not the "Morning Call's" way. We kept rapping and pounding and gradually the selfish purses were opened and the dollars began to flow into the "Morning Call" fund. We will be pardoned for the apparent immodesty, but we say in all candor that the night the Allentown Hospital Association was organized in the court house was the proudest moment in the life of the "Morning Call." Our work had been done and we stepped aside to let stronger hands take the helm. Perhaps the Allentown Hospital would have been built by this time even if the "Morning Call" had not sown the seed; perhaps it would not be a reality to-day. Be that as it may, this paper takes a justifiable pride in the small part which it took.

In this connection we desire to say that the hospital is in need of money. The number of pay patients is comparatively small, and the average cost per day of maintaining a patient is \$1.12½. Ponder over these figures and if you have never given anything to the hospital do so now. Do not permit a few people to bear the burden alone. You know not how soon you may need its services.