

The hospital fund

The Morning Call

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ALLENTOWN, PA., MARCH 26, 1895

The Hospital Fund.

Within the past few weeks there has been a revival of interest in the project to build a hospital in Allentown, and from such a quarter which can not fail to give the MORNING CALL Hospital Fund such an impetus that will result in the desired amount being raised. It is but a few weeks ago that Miss Gabriel stepped into the office of the MORNING CALL and surprised its publishers by handing them \$25 for the fund. This money was a portion of the profits of an entertainment held by the Royal Helpers of the King's Daughters, an organization composed of twelve young girls ranging in age from 13 to 16 years. The next was a donation of \$5 from Lehigh Lodge, No. 83, I. O. O. F., which was followed last week by a contribution of \$5 from Red Hawk Tribe, I. O. R. M. The next was from the committee which had in charge the recent Purim ball and the amount given was \$20. Among the early contributors was the Good Will Fire Company which gave \$25, and during the holidays the Allen Athletic Association held a Christmas putz for the benefit of the fund and \$126.01 was the sum realized.

When societies and organizations take an interest in a matter of such a nature it is a healthy indication.

The organizations above named form a very small per centage of the total number in Allentown. There probably is not a city in the state of Pennsylvania or in the Union which has, proportionately, more secret beneficial societies than Allentown. If each of those that have not as yet contributed would give a sum in accordance to their means the fund would be swelled to such an amount as to make the hospital an assured fact.

One of the objects of all secret beneficial societies is to care for the sick. There is not a lodge in Allentown which has not on its roll of membership some who do not enjoy the advantages of a home; that is, having no families, they live with strangers. In case of sickness or accident they will be thrown upon the mercy of these strangers. Perhaps they may be tenderly cared for and perhaps they will not. If the city had a hospital there would be no question as to their comfort. Besides getting the benefit of the best medical skill in the city they would be in charge of trained nurses who have made the care of invalids their study. Many a life has been saved by careful and tender nursing, and that is what an inmate of a hospital receives.

In view of these facts would the various lodges not be greatly benefitted by a hospital?

But this is not the only argument. There are hundreds of poor people, who, when affliction falls upon them in the form of illness or accident, can not afford to pay for the proper medical attention. That would be assured them if the city had a hospital.

There are hundreds of visitors within our gates each day. They know not what moment sickness or accident may overtake them. Where would they go if such should be the case? St. Luke's is five miles away and much valuable time might be lost in waiting for a train. Besides it isn't the best thing in the world for a sick or injured man to be taken on a railroad train.

It is to be hoped that the example set by the various organizations that contributed to the fund will be emulated by others. Do not wait to see what some one else is going to do about it, but push the matter along; it is a good thing.