

The hospital fund

The Morning Call

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ALLENTOWN, PA., MAY 4, 1895.

The Hospital Fund.

Have the good people of Allentown forgotten the MORNING CALL Hospital Fund? It is several weeks now since the last contribution was made, and one is almost forced to believe that it has been lost sight of. For a time, about four weeks ago, subscriptions came in at a rate which was as encouraging as they were commendable. Why did they not continue? Are the people of Allentown too busy to give the matter any thought, or do they not want a hospital in this city? That is an enigma the MORNING CALL can not solve.

Here is a city of over 30,000 inhabitants, famed all over the land for its spirit of enterprise, without a hospital. Last July a newspaper started a fund for the erection of such a building. To-day the pledges amount only to \$1526.61. Is that creditable? Does that speak well for the humane feeling of the inhabitants of the city? Does it not seem as though the motto of the greater portion of its residents is "Every one for himself?"

There is not a city of the size of Allentown in the state of Pennsylvania without a hospital, and some towns not half its size have completely-equipped institutions of that sort. Why, then, can not Allentown have one? Strangers coming here and viewing the many elegant structures invariably express surprise at the absence of a hospital.

For many years Allentown has been dependent upon St. Luke's, at South Bethlehem. The latter has done a noble work, and great credit is due it; but Allentown needs its own hospital. Each year witnesses the addition of new manufacturing concerns, and where there is machinery there accidents are bound to occur, and when they do occur the victims are frequently compelled to wait a long time before a train arrives to take them to St. Luke's. On one occasion a man was kept lying at the Lehigh Valley station for more than an hour rieve with two mashed feet. In such cases delays are dangerous, and many lives may be forfeited through them.

We hope the people of Allentown will be aroused to a sense of their duty to their fellow-creatures. The good a hospital can do is incalculable. Many an unfortunate who is sick and without a home could be brought back to health and strength. If every one would but give according to his or her means the amount would soon be raised, and other towns could no longer point the finger of scorn at us because we have no hospital.

What can you give to help the good cause along?