

## Allentown's shame

The Morning Call

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ALLENTOWN, PA., AUGUST 8, 1895.

**Allentown's Shame.**

That a city of the age, population and wealth of Allentown should be without a public hospital is a sad reflection upon the liberality and enterprise of her citizens. Last week a workingman of that city fell from the roof of a new school house and, having no home of his own, was taken to the depot where he died after waiting an hour for a train to take him to the Bethlehem hospital. Immediate care and attention might not have saved his life, but it certainly would have relieved his suffering.

Nearly every city of importance in the state has its public hospital and all are doing a noble work in saving lives and alleviating suffering. Pittston and Hazleton, each less than half the size of Allentown, have large and well equipped hospitals erected largely by popular subscriptions, yet the enterprising MORNING CALL of Allentown, after working for nearly a year to raise a public fund for this purpose, has only succeeded in securing a trifle over fifteen hundred dollars.

Surely a city with so many railroads and such varied industries, with their large number of employes engaged in more or less hazardous occupations, has great and constant need for a hospital and, with her known resources and the reputed wealth and business enterprise of her citizens, ought to be able for such a purpose to raise \$50,000 in a single season.—Wilkes-Barre Times.

How do the people of Allentown like comments of such a nature? And every word what our esteemed contemporary says is true. There is not a city of the size of Allentown in Pennsylvania, and we doubt whether there is one in the United States, that is without a hospital. There are many towns of less population and importance that are well equipped with such institutions.

That the finger of scorn is pointed at Allentown; that our neighbors cry "shame! shame!" is the fault of the people of Allentown. They know full well that above all things a hospital is a necessity. They are aware of the fact that hardly a week passes by that some serious accident does not occur. They also know that if such an accident does occur there is no place in the city where the victim can be taken. They know that less than a year ago a man was kept lying at the Lehigh Valley station with both feet mashed for one hour and a half waiting for a train to take him to St. Luke's Hospital in South Bethlehem, five miles away. Knowing all these things it is hard to understand why the people of Allentown do not respond to the appeal for funds for the erection of a hospital. Can it be possible that they are so devoid of feeling for their fellow-creatures that the many object lessons of suffering they have had made no impression on them? We hope not. Yet what other conclusion can be reached?

Allentown's shame! How extremely pleasant those words must sound to the good people of Allentown. Home pride, to say nothing of their duty to fellow-man, should prompt the residents of this city to do all in their power for the erection of a hospital, and when they do that the newspapers of other cities can no longer point the finger of scorn at us.