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The Morning Call

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THE HOSPITAL MEETING

It Will be Held in the Court House
To-morrow Evening.

And Should be Well Attended—The
Committee of Arrangements Will
Report—A Reading Institu-
tion Visited.

The next public meeting in behalf of the projected Allentown hospital will be held in the Court House to-morrow evening. The committee of arrangements will be ready to report, and it is expected that the good work will go right ahead. The projectors are very much in earnest and are enthusiastic in the work and it is their expectation and intention not to cease their efforts until a hospital is assured and secured.

Dr. W. H. Hartzell and Rev. Dr. J. A. Singmaster, the sub-committee on visiting the Reading and Pottstown Hospitals, reported at the last meeting of the Executive Committee that they had discharged their duty and had made a thorough investigation of their organization and working. They reported that the Reading Hospital is located on high ground in the northern part of that city, that it occupies three acres of ground, the building measuring 36 by 60 feet, and the whole costing \$68,000. It has twelve beds, with a capacity for 64 beds, the others being devoted to charity and pay patients. The hospital has also accommodations for nurses and help, and heating, culinary, toilet and laundry conveniences. A house for nurses is now being built. A dispensary is also maintained in the heart of the city.

The hospital has six physicians and six surgeons, each serving two months; also a pathologist, a resident physician, a head nurse, who combines the positions of stewardess and matron; a dozen nurses, eight or nine servants and a man help to tend the boilers, etc.

In 1894 449 patients were treated, a daily average of 34. The largest number of beds occupied at one time was 51 and the smallest, 16. The number of treatments at the dispensary was 1785.

The total expenses in 1894 were \$14,000, of which \$11,000 represented actual running expenses, the balance being for new improvements. This expense is an average of \$172 per bed, \$215 per bed in use and \$323 per bed in average use. The physicians give their services free. The head nurse receives \$480 a year and the resident physician \$100 and board. The nurses receive \$50. The wages for the servants aggregated \$2130, at the rate of four dollars a week, including board.

The State appropriated \$25,000 to the erection of the hospital and \$10,000 was available in 1894 for maintenance. At present \$7000 to \$8000 per annum is available. Two-thirds of the support of the hospital is contributed by the State. Donations amounted to \$1000 in cash and \$1200 in supplies. Patients paid \$1600. For private work in families nurses were paid \$467. The Ladies' Auxiliary secured \$1800 for the hospital. Various church societies and institutions contributed to the support of the hospital. Mr. Wootten built a wing at his own expense. The nurses cost \$1380 and earned \$467, making an average expense of \$70 for each of the thirteen nurses.

The hospital is managed by the Reading Hospital Association, consisting of 140 members, each of whom pays \$25 for the first year and \$5 annually thereafter. The Board of Managers of fifteen members is elected by the association and a member is added by the Reading Medical Association. The Ladies' Auxiliary consists of 275 members, each contributing a dollar. The auxiliary raised funds by means of suppers, etc., and donations to the household department.

Drs. Hartzell and Singmaster conclude their report thus: "Our investigations have strengthened the conviction that it is entirely feasible to found, equip and maintain a hospital in the city of Allentown."

A resolution will be reported at the public meeting that at its close organization of an association be effected of persons contributing \$10 within ten days and promising to contribute five dollars annually thereafter. They are to adopt a constitution and take steps for the founding and maintenance of the hospital.

John E. Lentz has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee in place of S. A. Butz, Esq., declined.