

Aid the hospital: A plan by which all could contribute their share

The Morning Call

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AID THE HOSPITAL

A Plan by Which All Could Contribute Their Share.

A YEARLY APPROPRIATION

From Councils Would Relieve the Few of the Burden of Supporting the Institution.

The opinion which Chief Justice Sterrett has lately handed down with reference to cities appropriating money to the police pension fund allows cities to appropriate money for charitable purposes, and it is only just and proper that councils should take a hand in supporting the Allentown Hospital by annually appropriating a certain amount of money. By doing this all the taxpayers of Allentown would contribute their mite and everybody would feel that he is doing at least something toward maintaining the hospital, and thus it would really become a people's hospital.

There are possibly two or three hundred businessmen in this city who are expected to provide the main support. There are a hundred different things that they are expected to support, and altogether, they are not a little burdensome. Let councils take a hand and annually appropriate a certain amount, and then it cannot be said that the few must support it. There will be plenty opportunity for the rich to contribute anything above their taxes they desire, anyhow.

There is hardly an owner of a \$1500 home who would not cheerfully contribute seventy-five cents a year additional tax if he knew that it would go towards making a \$10,000 contribution. Yet that is all an increase of half a mill of tax on his property would amount to. For these seventy-five cents a year he could always feel that if a misfortune befell him he could go to the hospital and not feel as if he were a charge on the county or city.

Another plan for councils would be to appropriate say one-fourth the money received from liquor licenses for this purpose. This would be \$6000, and the owner of a small home would probably need not to pay more than fifty cents extra. Then, again, there are about 8000 voters in this city. About 3000 of them pay no tax on real estate and would not be reached by either of the above plans. Let the poll tax of these 3000 voters be increased from fifty cents to seventy-five cents or \$1, and there would be quite a nice addition from this source.

Let the small taxpayer take a hand. If he must devote the proceeds of one-half day's labor to this object he can always feel that he has a place to go to when an accident or sickness befalls him, or any of his, and he will not be compelled to pay hundreds of dollars for the service. He will leave the hospital a cured and free man; not one loaded down with debts.

Just the other day the writer listened to a story of a fairly well-to-do man who has a sick member in his family needing hospital service. The money asked at two hospitals were such large sums that the man is hesitating to-day whether he can afford it.

Let councils act. Let a resolution be introduced to the effect that a certain sum be set aside in the next appropriation ordinance for hospital purposes and not one constituent of the councilmen will oppose it.