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Hospital Announces Plans for \$600,000 Home for Its Nurses

Erection of a \$600,000 home for the nurses of the Evanston hospital is in the planning and will be started within the next fiscal year if present plans carry through, it was disclosed at the annual meeting of the hospital association Monday evening at the Georgian hotel.

W. W. Buchanan, president, giving his annual report before 50 members of the association and friends of the hospital, told of the need for a new nurses' home and also for increasing the size of the kitchen, baking and refrigerating equipment.

Work on the latter project, which will cost approximately \$30,000, has been started and the necessary funds have been raised. Money for the nurses' home has already been partially provided through a gift of 265 shares of Union Trust company stock from James A. Patten, but while this represents a material part of the building cost, the balance will be asked from other friends of the hospital. Machinery for raising the balance will be created soon.

Living Quarters for Nurses

Plans for the new structure are already in the making at the hands of the building committee. It will provide living quarters on the hospital grounds for the nurses who now are housed in three houses on Ridge avenue and will be in addition to Patten hall, the present home.

The extent of the work at the hospital during the past year which is leading to the proposed enlargements was described by Mr. Buchanan. A total of 6,630 patients were cared for, and the average number of day's stay per patient was eleven.

"The period has been characterized by a continual increase in speed and

efficiency in discharge of duties by the personnel in each department, which with the average decrease in length of stay of two days per patient has enabled us to care for the greater number admitted," Mr. Buchanan stated. "The possibilities along this line have just about reached their limit now, and the demand for more rooms to house additional patients is daily becoming greater."

Largest Number of Patients

Of the number of patients cared for, the largest in the 37 years of the hospital's history, only 2,505 were full pay patients. For 646 care was given with no charge, and 3,479 were part-pay. There were 2,940 operations performed during the year, a considerable increase over the year before, and there were 896 births, a new high record, surpassing last year by 62.

Following Mr. Buchanan, Edwin Sherman, treasurer, gave the financial report for the year, showing that the actual operating income totaled \$510,790.30 and the operating cost amounted to \$615,911.20. This latter figure includes cost of depreciation and losses from uncollectable accounts and interest paid; actually the operating expense was \$565,978.87.

"Attention is called to the fact that while the operating income increased 5.61 percent, due to the caring for a larger number of patients during the year, the operating expenses increased only 2.86 percent, this result having been brought about through the good management of the superintendent," Mr. Sherman stated.

How Cost Was Divided

"While it is difficult to arrive at the exact cost in dollars of the part pay and free service rendered by this hospital, it is estimated at \$101,044.47." Of the operating cost 32.6 percent was spent for the full pay patients; 55.5 percent for the part pay and 11.9 percent for the free.

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