

Hospitals of Delaware

By E. D. Prince



VERY Delawarean is or ought to be, concerned with the problem of caring for the sick and indigent residents of this State.

Regardless of sentiment, it is a simple matter of economics or cold dollars and cents, that in the final analysis convinces the thoughtful man or woman that it is a community duty to salvage the disabled, save the babies and restore the sick to health and usefulness.

Delaware has not been backward in this regard to the extent that some other states may have been. Our hospitals represent an investment in buildings and ground of over \$2,600,000 with annual expenditures of \$1,240,390, a capacity of 1,220 patients and require the service of 405 salaried persons.

There has been a great deal accomplished in the last thirty-five years, but there remains a great deal yet to be done before Delaware will be able to find her rightful place at the head of the list of States as measured by the facilities provided to care for her sick and unfortunate.

Delawareans may be rightfully proud of the splendid institutions devoted to such purposes and in order to acquaint the general public with the vast amount of work that has been done, this article is presented as fully as the limited space will permit.

HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF DELAWARE, WILMINGTON

The Homoeopathic Hospital was opened for patients in 1887 and since that date has made continuous progress in its development by faithful service to the public at large.

The hospital is situated at the corner of Van Buren and Shallcross avenue overlooking the historic Brandywine, which makes an ideal location for the purpose.

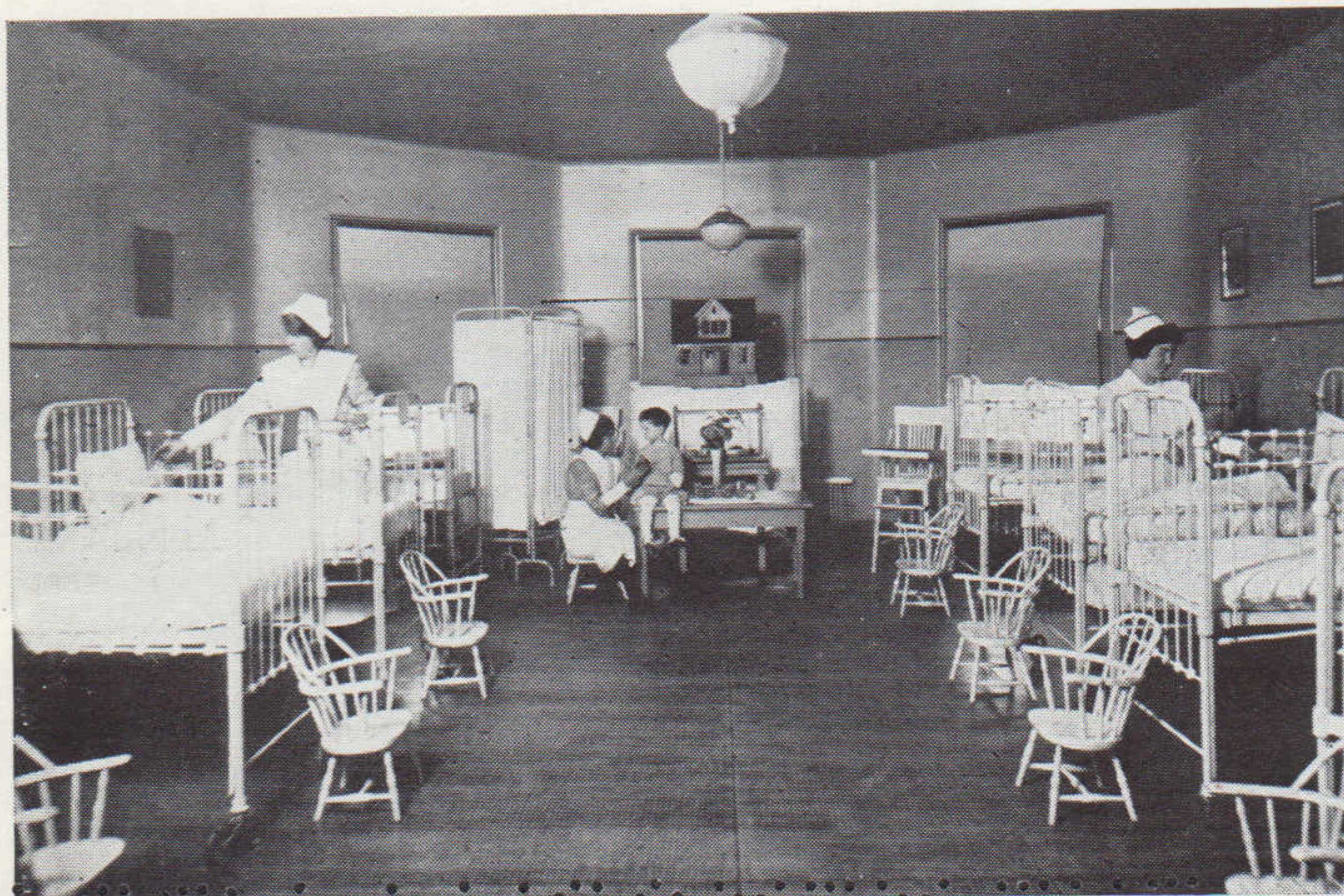
The hospital has a capacity of 86 beds. There are 22 student nurses, 6 supervising nurses and a total of 50 persons on the hospital staff.

The approximate value of the buildings and ground is placed at \$250,000.

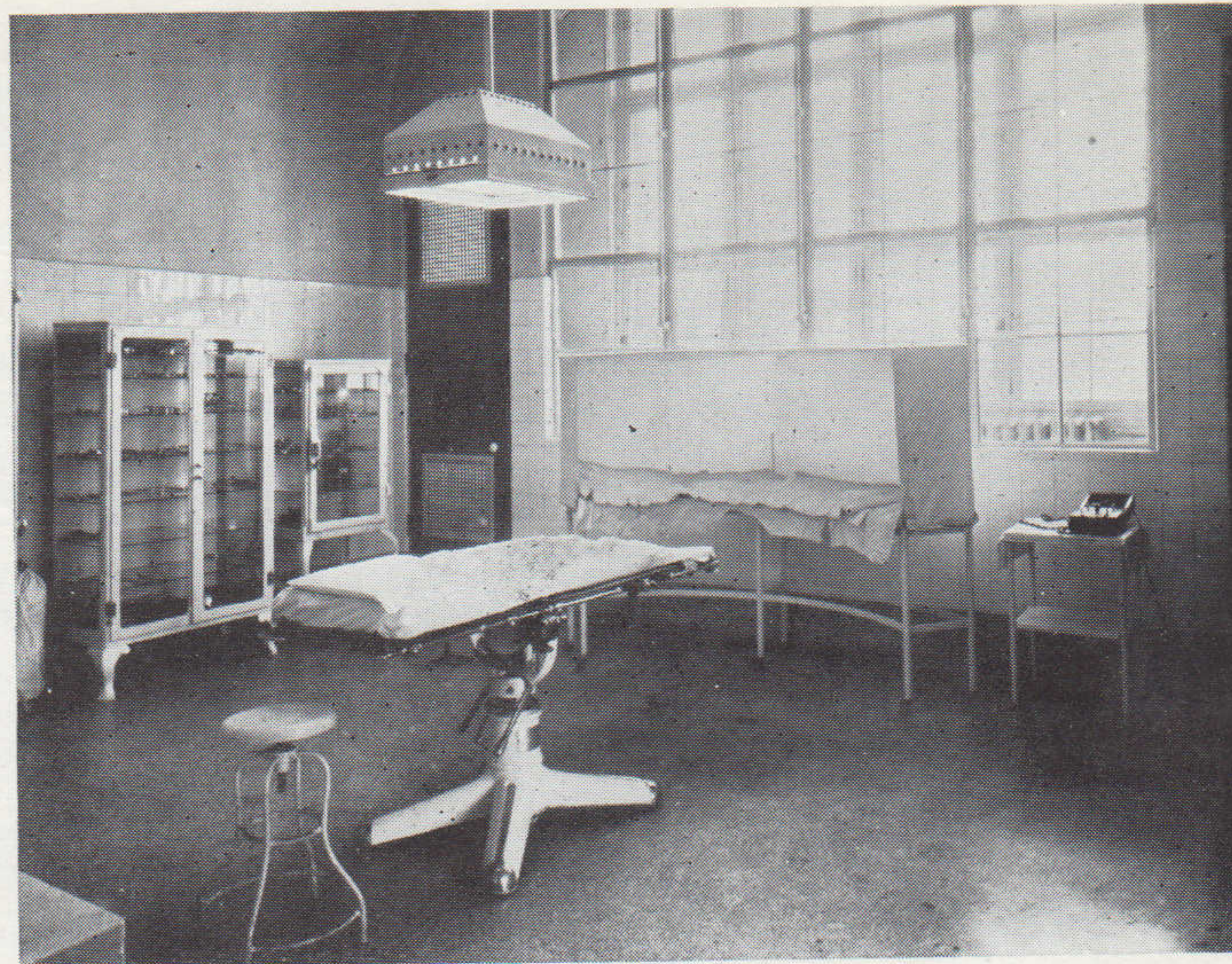
The institution has acquired two properties on Harrison street in the rear of the hospital proper and after extensive repairs and refinishing has connected the two houses into one, to be used for a nurses' home. Accommodations have been provided for 24 nurses and a matron.

This home will be completely equipped in every way to contribute to the health and comfort of the nursing staff and its proximity to the hospital will be a great convenience both to the nurses and to the management of the institution.

Effective August 10 of this year, a change of organization was completed, whereby a board of managers composed of 27 women and a board of trustees composed of 9 men were changed to a board of directors of 21 men and women. It is believed that this change will greatly facilitate the work of the officers in charge of the institution and permit of more efficient administration than has heretofore been possible.



SECTION OF CHILDREN'S WARD, DELAWARE HOSPITAL



OPERATING ROOM HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL

Among the many improvements being made this year, is the fire-proofing of the main stairway by enclosing it in wire-glass mounted in steel frames. The hospital is also being repainted throughout its interior and changes made in many directions, including a new elevator, that will result in better service and easier operation by those in charge.

Chief among the many agencies that contribute to the support and operation of the hospital, is the junior board of 254 members under the chairmanship of Mrs. E. T. Negendank. The ladies composing the junior board are tireless in their efforts to assist the institution in every way and by means of social affairs, entertainments, etc., are able to contribute a very substantial sum toward the maintenance of the hospital.

The following statistics for 1922 show the amount of work done by the hospital. Patients cared for 1,660; Treatments given in dispensary 3,555; Operations performed 492; Babies born in hospital 209; X-ray examinations 525; Laboratory examinations 1,810.

The officers of the institution are: Joseph Bancroft, President; John Richardson, Jr., First Vice-President; Mrs. Charles F. Wollaston, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Charles B. Holladay, Recording Secretary; Mrs. W. H. Beacom, Corresponding Secretary; Walter D. Mode, Treasurer; Mrs. Helen T. Wiseheart, R. N. Superintendent.

THE DELAWARE HOSPITAL

Incorporated April 16, 1889, The Delaware Hospital was opened for patients February 29, 1890.

"The Delaware Hospital," according to a recent statement issued by the institution, "is in every sense a hospital for the community, by which is understood not only Wilmington, but all nearby towns.

"It is open to all, irrespective of race, religion or ability to pay. Likewise it depends on the people of the community for its support, as it is not a municipal institution, or a private one operated for personal profit.

"The services of the board are entirely gratuitous and the only salaried persons are the superintendent, nurses and regular employes. The cost of maintenance for last year was \$138,500 and the less than cost service given, amounted to sixty thousand dollars. The property is valued at three hundred thousand dollars."

The present capacity of the hospital is 155 beds and with an average of 120 patients at all times. There are 45 student nurses, 12 supervising nurses and a total staff of about 90 persons in all required to carry on the work of the institution.

Expenditures average above \$150,000 annually and so far as possible, this money is spent in this city for labor, food, fuel and other supplies that can be obtained locally.

The Delaware Hospital engages in extensive dispensary work, consisting of the following named clinics: Surgical, Medical, Nose, Throat, Ear, Eye, Orthopaedic, Neurological and Children's.

The general public is given free treatment where necessary, as well as diagnosis and surgical dressings. The Social Service Department in charge of Miss Mary Cook looks after the patients after leaving the hospital. She investigates home conditions and when required, finds suitable homes wherein the person may have