

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS
OF THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CO., 1902**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649474189

Transactions of the Association of Surgeons of the Southern Railway Co., 1902 by Various

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Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS
OF THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CO., 1902**



THOMAS H. HANCOCK, MD.,
PRESIDENT 1902.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Association of Surgeons

OF THE

Southern Railway Co.

1902.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MEETING,



PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SURGERY CO.,
NEW YORK.

1903.

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OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SUR-
GEONS OF THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
JUNE 5, 1902.—FIRST DAY—MORNING
SESSION.

The Association met in the banquet hall of the New Willard Hotel, and was called to order at 10 A.M., by the President, Dr. Thos. H. Hancock, of Atlanta.

Prayer was offered by Rev. R. P. Williams, D.D., Rector of Trinity Church, Washington, D. C., after which the Hon. J. W. Ross, Commissioner for D. C., was introduced and delivered the following address of welcome:

“It is an unfeigned pleasure and a great honor to represent the municipality in extending to you a cordial greeting to the Capital City, which you have selected for your seventh annual meeting. We welcome you as the honored representatives of that noble profession which has done so much for the alleviation of suffering and for the prolongation of human life.

In this district the most of the improvements in sanitary conditions and the enactment of laws tending to prevent the spread of diseases are the result of the endeavors of members of your profession. In their ranks are found many of the most prominent, progressive and resourceful citizens of Washington, whose names are known and honored throughout this country and in foreign lands.

With us who reside here, you are joint proprietors of this district; and you will, I am sure, be interested in knowing what has been done or left undone in the way of providing modern facilities for the suffering, and of avoiding unsanitary conditions at your Capital.

There are several well conducted private hospitals,

controlled by boards of managers, and which receive aid from the government. There are two emergency hospitals with swift ambulance service. A beautiful site has been purchased just north of the city, and plans have been prepared for what is intended to be a modern municipal hospital. Thirty-three acres of land between 7th and 14th streets, n.w., extended, have been purchased, where the site is elevated and free from any unhealthful surroundings. It is hoped by those who have worked for this project that it will be one of the model hospitals of the world. It is the outcome of a careful study of the entire hospital situation made by a joint committee of the two houses of Congress, over which presided Senator McMillan, of Michigan, whose progressive views are shared by the other members of the committees having in charge the interests of your Capital.

Advancement in other lines tending to the preservation of the public health have been made which I will not now recount. I will speak briefly to you as representative citizens who help to mould public sentiment in your respective homes of the other side of this question—of what remains to be done.

The Anacostia river is a sluggish tide water stream on the eastern border of the city. There are thousands of acres of marsh land there whereon decaying vegetation menaces the public health. An initial appropriation will be made at this session of Congress for the treatment of this stream near its junction with the Potomac, having in view the deepening of the channel and the improvement of its navigable character. Its further improvement by dredging a narrow channel and by filling the flats is demanded by every consideration of the health of our residents and of your senators and representatives in Congress.

Our water supply is from the Great Falls of the Potomac, fourteen miles away. The quality of the water is good; but when a great rainfall occurs the water obtains a consistency which is not inviting. Its muddy condition is then especially trying to our