

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL, HELD AT  
CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE,  
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1856**

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February 9th, 1856 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

**WOMAN'S HOSPITAL,**

HELD AT

*Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York,*

FEBRUARY 9th, 1856.

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# FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

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We have met to-day to celebrate the First Anniversary of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION;" to review what has been done during the past year to further the objects we had in view in its formation; and, with grateful hearts for the encouragement and support we have received and the sufferings we have been blessed in relieving, to start upon the duties of another year, refreshed and strengthened by this review.

This day a year ago, a few ladies met together, to discuss the possibility of organizing an association for establishing a Hospital which should be devoted to the reception and cure of women who were suffering from any disease peculiar to their sex.

They knew that such a Hospital was needed, for they knew that many women were passing weary days and nights of agony, debarred by poverty from seeking medical aid, and for whom no shelter was provided; for the crowded wards of our established Hospital, even if numerous enough to receive them, were no fit places for the class of cases they wished to succor.

A physician was at hand whose life had been devoted to the study of such diseases, whose labors had been blessed by success, and whose inventions and discoveries had brought relief where cure had before been deemed hopeless.

The efforts made to collect funds, by those who had associated themselves together for this purpose, were so far successful, that they felt authorized, by the middle of April, to rent a house and prepare and furnish it for the reception of patients who were daily imploring admittance to the blessings it promised.

On the 4th of May the Hospital was opened, having Dr. J. Marion Sims as its Resident Surgeon, and four of the most distinguished medical names in our country associated with him as Consulting Physicians and Surgeons. Two Matrons, one to attend to the domestic concerns, the other to administer, under the Physician's orders, to the sick, and a good Nurse, completed the officers of the Hospital.

The Hospital contains forty beds, is comfortably furnished throughout, and everything necessary or advisable in the way of diet is liberally provided. To the poor, its wards, and all that it can offer are free, but it is expected that those who can afford it, will pay their board, varying in amount according to



the room occupied. Since the opening of the Hospital sixty-one patients have been received, twenty-one of whom have been discharged perfectly cured, and all who now remain, with one exception, are curable, and in her case the suffering has been greatly alleviated. Nor is this all that the Hospital has effected, for its out-door patients exceed its inmates in numbers, and have shared as largely in its healing mercies. From the far West, and from the extreme South, patients have journeyed painfully on to this promised haven of relief; nor have their hopes in any one case been disappointed. Released from suffering, restored again to vigor and health, they have returned to their distant homes, to tell to other despairing sufferers the mercies and blessings of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

The majority of the patients have been those too poor to pay; and they generally come to the Hospital so enfeebled by disease, neglect, and meagre fare, that a long time is necessary to prepare them to receive its full benefits.

Of course, in such an establishment the expenses are very great, and the liberal support of the public needed to sustain it. Without the aid received from the city authorities in a donation of \$2,500 we could not have sustained ourselves thus far; for the entire amount collected from subscriptions and donations is only \$2,561.25, and from board of patients \$288.18, while our expenses average \$500 per month.

Were our object a sectional or a contracted one, this statement might appal us; but our appeal for aid is addressed to every woman and man in the land. To every woman: for if she have suffered, she knows the depth of woe for which we offer relief, and will surely offer her mite to aid in healing her suffering sisters. If she be strong, let her make a thank-offering to God, by endeavoring to rescue those less blessed than herself. And surely no man who remembers a mother's or a sister's love, whose hearth is brightened by a wife's devotion, or whose future is cheered by the hopes which cluster round a daughter's head, will refuse to listen or respond to an appeal for aid from suffering woman. Let each and all, then, whom our appeal shall reach, give as God has blessed them, and help us to sustain and extend the healing blessings of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

Where all have exerted themselves, credit is due to all; but we would be unjust to ourselves were we to omit to render our public approbation and thanks to Mrs. T. C. Doremus, the Assistant Treasurer, who has, from the hour of the first meeting, been instant in her exertions, and to whom, more than to any other, or all others, is to be attributed the comfortable and successful organization of the Hospital.

Would that we dare speak as we feel of the devotion of our Resident Surgeon; but, shrinking as he does from all public eulogy, we must leave him for his reward to the oft-repeated blessings invoked upon him by those he has relieved from torture, and to the happy consciousness that, like his Master, he is going about doing good.

## First Anniversary of the Woman's Hospital.

THE First Anniversary of the WOMAN'S HOSPITAL was celebrated at Clinton Hall, Astor Place, on Saturday evening, February 9, 1856.

At an early hour the capacious room was crowded with a brilliant audience, composed of ladies and gentlemen of the highest standing, who sympathize with the objects of the Institution.

Dr. John W. Francis, President of the Medical Board, took the chair. Seated on either side of him were the other members of the Medical Board, viz. :—Drs. Valentine Mott, Alex. H. Stevens, Ed. Delafield, Horace Green, and J. Marion Sims, with the Rev. Dr. Osgood, Rev. Wm. H. Milburn, Rev. A. D. Gillette, Peter Cooper, Joseph Curtis, Dr. Horace Webster, Hon. E. F. Butler, R. B. Minturn, T. C. Doremus, Dr. R. S. Kissam, Dr. A. K. Gardner, E. C. Benedict, Rev. S. D. Burchard, and others.

After an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gillette, the President addressed the meeting, as follows :—

### DR. FRANCIS' ADDRESS.

*Ladies and Gentlemen* :—With becoming deference I arise, to trespass for a few moments on your kindness. I have, on several occasions, during a life of some duration, given utterance to my feelings on topics of public and of individual interest; but at no previous time have I so felt the inadequacy of language worthily to convey to you the emotions which influence me at this present speaking. In this great city, already so signally characterized by enterprise, by monuments of vast public utility, by an unprecedented provision for universal education, by numerous charities, well known as hospitals, dispensaries, alms-houses, houses of refuge, retreats for the insane, infirmaries for the blind, ophthalmic institutions, and homes for the deaf and dumb—all designed for the alleviation of physical suffering, and for moral improvement—it would seem at first glance that no room was left for further demands on the liberality of the affluent, the humane, and the benevolent. Grateful to the philanthropist is the reflection that these numerous organizations have found a location among us; and thrice happy must be the patrons of those noble institutions, in the daily demonstrations they furnish of the mighty service they perform. With all justice they may indeed be denominated the brightest memorials of the liberality of our metropolis, of the wealth of its inhabitants, and of their enlightened and Christian zeal. But there is yet another and a new movement in the

progress of the times, which challenges our deepest sympathies on this occasion, and at this meeting, both on account of the *special* feature which it bears, and the singular blessings to humanity which must flow from its success. Nor will professional renown be laggard in awaiting upon its triumphs, by an effective organization.

It gives me, therefore, the highest pleasure to call your attention to what will be, to a majority present, a new and important undertaking, whether considered in its relations to science, or to a large class of infirmities of the gravest character. Since the Christian religion has awayed the movements of civilized man, provision for the afflicted and suffering has been recognized as a primary social duty; and no form of public beneficence has been more generously acknowledged as a religious obligation than the establishment, endowment, and wise conduct of hospitals; and the humanity of a people has not been inadequately estimated by the number and character of these charities. I need not remind you of the honor and utility derived by Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and other nations, from establishments of this nature. Nor is our own land to be overlooked when we contemplate the Pennsylvania Hospital, so largely indebted to our Franklin; the general hospital at Boston, with its Warren, Jackson, and its Bigelow; the New York Hospital, with the early services of the second Bard, and his noble band of successors, Bayley, Hosack, Post, Kissam, and others; as also the great Bellevue Hospital, with its enlightened medical and chirurgical staff, under the practical attendance of Clark, Wood, and others; the Blackwell's Island Hospital with its resident physician, Dr. Sanger; the State Emigrant Hospital, with its twenty thousand inmates, under the control of the Commissioners of Emigration and the medical and surgical treatment of Cox and Carnochan; the great Infirmary of Baltimore, associated with the skill of Davidge and Smith; the Roper Hospital at Charleston, founded on the bequest of the late Thomas Roper, and effective by the able co-operation of Simons, Campbell, Winthorp, and Horlbeck; the great Charity Hospital at New Orleans, receiving annually twenty-two thousand patients, at the head of which is Dr. Stone, and many other institutions of a similar nature benefiting the several sections of our wide-spread Republic.\*

\* I extract from the eloquent address, recently delivered before the Orphan Asylum Society, San Francisco, by Frederick Billings, Esq., the following paragraph, which is peculiarly striking, as affording the most gratifying demonstration of the benevolent views the Californian Government has taken in behalf of the policy, so long adopted by an enlightened people everywhere, of providing hospitals for the necessitous sick, and infirm, and the destitute orphan:—

"I record with pleasure the fact, that the first building erected by the Federal Government upon these Pacific shores was an imposing and commodious hospital for the sick and destitute and homeless sailor. Much as a custom-house was needed for the