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Lincoln as a Medical Center

Lincoln has long been conceded to be the railroad, political and educational center of the state. In the near future it will become what may be called the medical center also, an honor long held by Omaha.

This fact is peculiarly accentuated by the fact, doubtless unknown to a great many people, that out at Eleventh and South streets, a great, mammoth hospital, three-quarters of a block in length, is nearing completion.

A dozen years ago there were but two hospitals, St. Elizabeth, a Catholic institution, and Tabitha, backed by several local physicians. These places were small; so were their staffs. Delicate and complicated cases were infrequent because the country doctors, from whom most of the hospital practice is obtained, preferred to send their patients to Omaha, where bigger hospitals and staffs were available.

Tabitha, in a few years, was abandoned, and another appeared on South Eleventh street. In course of time there came the sanitarium at College View, the sanitarium in Lincoln, a hospital on South Fourteenth, run first as an adjunct of Cotner medical school. Lately a sanitarium at Normal has been added to the list of institutions where treatment is given. Besides these there are several smaller ones conducted by specialists.

St. Elizabeth was at first located in what had been a commodious private residence. This has grown too small and now comes the big new building.

In the towns and in the country districts there are a number of excellent doctors, but limited facilities at hand for performing difficult and delicate operations, and the lack of skillful specialists when required for consultation makes these practitioners feel timid about handling serious cases. So the patient is sent to the city where he or she may have the benefit of the knowledge of a corps of skillful doctors or the advice of a specialist.

Physicians as a rule when consulted about a severe ailment requiring an operation do not like to assume the responsibility alone; and besides, the advantage to be gained by conferring with other members of the profession is helpful in coming to a closer decision as to the merits of the case under consideration. The city hospitals and sanitariums have also every facility for the treatment of serious diseases and delicate surgical operations. These institutions have a corps of experienced and skillful physicians and specialists on its staff who may be consulted at any time by those who need their services. Aside from this there are a number of trained nurses and sanitary rooms and appliances available here.

Apropos of the subject a good story now and then comes to light on some of the members of the Lincoln medical profession. A certain surgeon performed on a young man for the removal of a kidney and charged his father a big fee. The boy afterwards died and an autopsy was held and the discovery made by the operating surgeons that both kidneys were intact.

Sometimes people who have relatives that are in need of a surgical operation attempt to drive a sharp bargain. An old man not long ago made the rounds among the surgeons asking each one what was his lowest figure that he would take to perform an operation on his son.

The number of doctors in Lincoln is increasing each year, and best of all the standard is steadily being raised and a greater esprit de corps established.

The Church as a Business Institution

There is a great difference in the church of today and the church of the long ago. In the days when the Puritan fathers walked to service through the snow, with their guns on their shoulders, with eyes ever on the alert for the face of a red man, and up until recent years the minister was engaged by the people, at no fixed salary, each individual member of the congregation doing what he could toward his support. If one member could not give him money, he would bring him a sack of flour, or something equally as useful. No member was pledged to give a certain amount. It was often embarrassing for a minister to have to stand in his own particular pulpit and throw broad hints at some brother who was tardy in his donations. Yet that was very often the case. The affairs of the church were run in a slipshod way.

Perhaps though the ministers then were just as earnest in their exhortations as the ministers of today and

the Christians equally as devout as the ones of the present time.

But the church of today as a general proposition is run as a business institution. Of course there are a great many small churches running in the old-fashioned way still.

The pastor of a large church in a city like Lincoln usually receives from \$1,800 to \$3,000 a year, and the salaries of local ministers run all the way from \$300 to that figure.

The soloist usually is paid two or three dollars a Sunday; if exceptionally good, she receives five. Each year each of the members makes a pledge to give so much toward the church that year. In this way the treasurer can form a fair idea of how much money the church will have in her treasury for disbursement.

Some of this money goes to the different benevolent organizations and missionary societies. Then they have a budget, or about \$7,000 for local expenses. It costs about \$500 to heat a large church, and about \$250 for lights. Sometimes an organist is engaged who agrees to supply a choir—in that case he is paid a salary, out of which he pays the members of the choir. On the other hand, in some churches, he

supplies no choir, thus receiving a salary for himself alone. A janitor is a church accessory, and in a large one he costs \$600 a year. In many smaller churches the salary is but nominal. In the large church of today there are ushers to show you to a seat, and assist you in other ways, but their services are gratuitous.

St. Paul's church is the largest in the city, and the yearly expense is about \$8,000. This is not only the largest church building in the city, but there are more varied branches of church work conducted by it, than any other church in the city. Church expenses run from \$8,000 a year down as low as \$500, for the smaller churches, where pastors have two or more charges.

There is a tendency at the present time to run the churches on a more business-like basis, doing away with the sentimentality of the past.

* * *
"If I gave you a nickel you'd spend it for beer."

"Well, sir, 't wouldn't cost you much to have de satisfaction of sayin' 'I told you so!'"—Puck.

* * *
THE WONDERS OF SLANG.
"Brown is a little off."
"Yes, and his friends are all on."



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150 Different Styles—The largest stock of Lamps shown west of Chicago is on exhibition at our store this week. Over 85 numbers, every one different, can be seen in our elegant west show window, ranging in price from \$1 00 to \$17.50. Every decoration is fired, and is guaranteed to be absolutely fast colors. Our decorations won't rub off or wash off, which same cannot be said of the lamps as advertised at other stores in the city. We call particular attention to our line of celebrated "Cerise" colors, made by the originator, Kopp, of Pittsburg. Founts and bases are gold plated. A deep, rich Cerise of perfect color, and ranging in price from \$3.00, \$3.45, \$4.25, \$5.50, \$5.95, to \$17.50.

The display is well worth a visit, and should be seen by all intending lamp purchasers.