

Clarkson Memorial Hospital and Its Mission to Suffering Humanity

ONE of the cleverest plans ever devised for collecting money from the people in the cause of charity and for the extirpation and conquest of the stingy man is the "tag day" which has been used all over the country in support of philanthropic enterprises. The public conscience on questions of charity must be heavily jarred usually before it can be awakened and "tag day" is an efficacious method. Next Wednesday Omaha will be the hunting ground for 400 women and girls who will invade offices, throng the streets, and accost every man, woman and child who can be found to contribute to the good cause of a great charity. The Clarkson Memorial hospital for Children has been one of the best known and active agencies for good in Omaha for more than twenty-five years and the campaign of Wednesday will be to further its prosperity.

The Clarkson hospital may be rightly called an institution of philanthropy, for during the last year, out of 9,158 days of treatment no remuneration at all was received for 1,089 days and no one who has been unable to pay for treatment has ever been denied the facilities of the hospital. Mrs. William Adams, superintendent of the Visiting Nurses association, is quoted as saying that without the aid of the Clarkson nurses her work would be immeasurably more difficult. "They will always make room for me if they possibly can," says Mrs. Adams. "If they have the space I get it for my patients. When there are no regular beds they put up cots and they never refuse." This is almost entirely work of a charitable nature.

As a corporate institution the Clarkson may claim to be the oldest hospital in the city of Omaha. In 1889 when funds for such purposes were very hard to gather, an association was formed to erect a building for the care of the sick, and the efforts of the association resulted in the Good Samaritan hospital which was opened for patients in March 1879 after a year's agitation. It was not a denominational affair and all classes contributed to its maintenance, but even then there was scarcely enough to keep it going. In 1877 the building was burned to the ground and the association was disheartened and for several years Omaha was without a hospital. In 1881 the Episcopal church began to plan for a Clarkson Memorial hospital. It was incorporated as the Clarkson Memorial hospital for Children, although from the first it was intended to be at the disposal of adults when not filled with children's cases. Two years passed before their plans materialized, but in 1883 the building at 1715 Dodge street, which will soon be vacated after twenty-five years of service, was erected with a capacity of about twenty-five beds. Easterners were appealed to, in order that the building might be completed and furnished.

Its work as an asylum for ailing children, open and free, whether their parents were able or not to provide for them and anxious to help the weaklings who had no parents, has been surpassing and of immense good to the city. All over Omaha and in surrounding towns and states are people who in less prosperous days have enjoyed the benefit of its charity and are thankful for it. In the west there is one young man who was once treated at the Clarkson, has ever since sent once a year at Christmas time a contribution to the hospital fund. Another boy who was so kindly and skillfully treated he became greatly interested in the hospital and church work and for years he sat in the choir of Trinity cathedral refusing to accept pay of any kind for his services. Through his interest and devotion thirteen members of his family were led to join the Episcopal faith.

One patient who has been remembered for the interest which was taken in his recovery from pitiful weakness was called Little Benjie. He was the son of the washwoman of a well-known Omaha woman and was born so terribly deformed that he was unable to walk upright. He could only crawl about on all fours when he had long passed the age at which children start to walk. He was taken to the Clarkson hospital and although his mother was entirely unable to help keep him he was taken in. All of his joints were found



SOME OF THE WOMEN WHO WILL TAKE PART IN THE "TAG DAY" EXERCISES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEW CLARKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FUND.

much as possible of the sun. The second floor will be all wards and private rooms, and the third floor all private rooms. There will be in all thirty-three rooms and twenty bath rooms.

For the nurses there will be a home in a building apart, twelve-room residence on same property. Here a three-year course and graduate work will be given.

When these buildings are complete and furnished the hospital will be almost self-supporting. This is a fund of \$2,500 established to provide for free beds and other permanent and provisional resources can be depended upon to keep the institution going. The building, grounds and furnishings will cost the trustees, however, a sum near \$150,000. This is in spite of the fact that a great many applications have been received for the privilege of furnishing rooms and the furniture of the laboratory has all been promised. Most of the money has been raised.

Two years ago it was decided that a new and larger building was needed. The board of trustees started a campaign to raise the requisite funds and a plot of land one and one-half acres in extent was bought at Twenty-first and Howard streets. The site is on the crown of a hill overlooking the business section of the city and although close enough in for emergency cases is far enough from the street cars to be quiet. The building of light colored brick is now about half finished and the cornerstone was laid St. Mark's day, April 25, 1906, by the Right Reverend John Albert Williams, bishop of Nebraska.

In the new quarters the thirty-five beds of the old building will have become seventy. Every convenience for the sick will be provided. Particular care has been taken to insure quiet. The floors of the halls, operating rooms and bath rooms will be monolithic and the stairways will be enclosed in glass. Instead of a bell-sal system there will be an electric light arrangement whereby the nurse may be summoned without any noise. For convalescents there will be a sun parlor on every floor, looking toward the east.

The basement of the hospital will be occupied by the kitchens and store rooms and will contain besides two dining rooms and an emergency operating room. On the first floor, on one side, will be the general hall and offices, consultation rooms and the chapel. This chapel will be furnished by Mrs. George Worthington of New York, widow of the late Bishop Worthington, who was one of the founders of the hospital.

The other side of the building, on the first floor, will be given over entirely to the children. Their wards will all be on the southwest side of the building, to catch as



TEAM CAPTAINS WHO WILL LEAD THE "TAG DAY" WORK.



FRONT ELEVATION OF THE NEW CLARKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Gleanings from the Story Teller's Pack

Waking Up the Congregation.

BODKER T. WASHINGTON, at a dinner in Cleveland during the National Educational association's convention, was complimented by a clergyman on his eloquence.

Mr. Washington reply told a story shortly after the wedged a literary friend gave him a speech in honor of the story writer and his wife. Late in the evening a woman stepped up to Mrs. Porter (Porter is O. Henry's real name) and said:

"May I ask you a question that I have been dying to ask your husband for a long time?"

"Parson, the church is on fire."

"Very well, brother Spriggin," the minister answered, "I will retire. Perhaps you'd better wake up the congregation."

—Washington Star.

Power of the Word.

Lillian B. Hill, the well known writer of humorous advertisements, said at one of the convention dinners in Denver:

"Advertising lends itself to almost any imaginable purpose. For instance, at Sea Beach, the other week, a confectioner found himself with a great number of stale tarts on hand. He rid himself of these tarts, and of all his fresh ones besides, by inserting the following advertisement in the local press:

"Personal—A young man of agreeable exterior and ample means desires to form the acquaintance of a woman; object, matrimony. Beauty and wealth are not as much requisition as a good character and an amiable disposition. Young women who may feel inclined to look with favor upon this young man are hereby invited to call at Dough's confectionery, on Atlantic avenue, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and

as a means of identification, to purchase and eat a tart."

"A few minutes after 3 that day Dough's tart shelves were quite bare."

Only Dress Goods He Knows.

O. Henry got married not long ago, and shortly after the wedding a literary friend gave him a speech in honor of the story writer and his wife. Late in the evening a woman stepped up to Mrs. Porter (Porter is O. Henry's real name) and said:

"May I ask you a question that I have been dying to ask your husband for a long time?"

"Why, certainly," said Mrs. Porter.

"Well," continued the woman, "why does your husband always have the women in his stories wear crepe de chine?"

"I give it up," was the reply. "Let's ask Mr. Porter." Whereupon he was called over. On being asked he volunteered the following explanation:

"To tell the truth," he said, "I only know two kinds of goods—crepe and crepe de chine. When the girls can't wear calico I make them wear crepe de chine. That's all there is to it." —The Independent.

Mrs. Taft Tells This One.

Mrs. Taft, in a New Haven interview, said that she thought divorce worse than war.

"Yet marriage itself is war sometimes, isn't it?" added Mrs. Taft. "Some people campaign daily."

"There is a couple of this sort in Cincinnati. It was a marriage de conveyance, theirs. That is to say, the lady had money."

"The lady had a temper, too. She insisted always that her wealth be recog-

nized. One afternoon the husband brought a friend home in the new automobile."

"While his wife stood on the doorstep, the husband showed the automobile's points to his friend, circling about it, putting its shining paint and brass-work lovingly."

"What a grand automobile!" he cried. But his rich wife sharply interrupted him.

"My automobile, if you please," she snapped from the doorstep. "My money bought it."

"Yes, madam," said the husband, glancing at his friend, "and your money bought me!" —New Haven Register.

The King Captain.

At Portsmouth, N. H., where they were to unveil a statue to the memory of T. B. Aldrich, the painstaking writer, during an authors' argument on international copyright, Thomas Nelson Page broke up a rather acrimonious discussion by deftly interposing a story.

"After all," he said, "there is not much real help in that idea. It is such an idea as emanated from the mind of a hard, cruel sea captain."

"Innocent the cook approached the captain timidly," he said, "the men are growing about the boat. They say they can't chew it now."

"They say it's only fit to mend their seaboots with."

"How much beef are you giving 'em, cook?" the captain asked.

"A pound apiece a day, sir," said the cook.

"Well," said the captain, gently, "give them half a pound apiece from now on. I should be sorry to force 'em to eat what isn't to their taste." —Rochester Herald.

Late Experiments in the Development of Electricity

Electricity and Growing Crops.

SIR OLIVER LODGE has prepared an account of experiments in the application of electricity to crop growing, carried out by Mr. J. M. Newman and Mr. G. L. Blomfield in Gloucester, Eng., in junction with Mr. R. Bonford of Salford Priors, and in which Sir Oliver and his son, Mr. Lionel Lodge, have been important advisers. The idea of applying electricity to agriculture was suggested by the observations of a Swedish professor named Lemström. The following is Sir Oliver Lodge's description of the method of application adopted in the experiments of Messrs. Newman and Bonford:

The method is to stretch over the field to be treated a number of wires on poles, something like low telegraph wires, but high enough for loaded wagons and all the usual farming operations to go underneath. The wires are quite thin, and are supported by a few posts by long parallel spans, about thirty feet apart. They are supported on the posts by elaborate high-tension insulators, and they extend over all the acreage under experiment, a control post of similar land under similar conditions being, of course, left without any wires. The system of conductors is then connected at one post with a generator supplying positive electricity at a potential of something like 100,000 volts, and with sufficient power to maintain a constant supply of electricity at this kind of potential. Leakage immediately begins, and the charge flies off from the wires with a sound which is sometimes audible, and with a glow which is visible in the dark. Anyone walking about below the wires can sometimes feel the effect on the hair of the head, as of a cobweb on the face. They are then feeling the stimulation action of the electrification. The electrification is maintained for some hours each day, but is shut off at night; it is probably only necessary to supply it during the early morning hours in summer time, and in spring time or in cold, cloudy weather for the whole day, or during the time of the plant's greatest activity. But at what stage of the growth of the plant the stimulus is most effective has still to be made out. However, in the case of wheat, both the ear and the straw is valuable, and the electrification is accordingly applied for a time each day during the whole period of growth until staling begins. The power required to generate the electricity is very small, for although the potential is high the quantity is insignificant, and the energy is accordingly comparatively trivial. It is known that even when natural atmospheric electricity has accumulated intensely, and has become a thunderstorm, the quantity even then is quite small though the potential or tension is so enormous that the flashes are of astonishing violence and power while they last. The electricity can be generated by the revolving glass plates of a static in-

regular passenger traffic. The Philadelphia & Willow Grove line is also extending this service out the York road and beyond.

At present the West Chester pike railway is bringing into Philadelphia 12,000 quarts of milk each day, reports the Philadelphia Ledger. It is also bringing into the city carloads of hay and of straw and vegetable products, which go to fill the farmers the advantage of a lower freight rate, while their goods and wares are delivered quite as promptly as they ever were.

When this railway freight is looked into it will be seen that it is express freight. The trains are run usually at night, after the passenger business of the day is over, and the shippers of the goods secure as good service from the trolley companies at lower freight rates as they would from the steam railways at higher rates.

However, the suburban trolley lines here are not doing so well for the outsiders as suburban lines in other cities are doing. The lines here will send or bring freight only in carload lots. It is understood by the officials, however, that this situation will soon be changed, so that the farmers and the keepers of small stores in the vicinity will be enabled to take advantage of the trolley freight for the transportation of small packages, to the mutual advantage of themselves and their customers.

The power is generated by a two-hour oil engine driving a small dynamo in an outhouse of the farm. Thence the current is taken by ordinary overhead wires to the field, where they enter a suitable weather-tight hut, which contains the transforming and rectifying apparatus. The only moving part here is the "break," and it is a simple device.

The transformer is a large induction coil, specially made to stand continuous use, and its current is then rectified by means of vacuum valves in accordance with a patented device of my own. The negative electricity is conveyed direct to earth, while high-tension electricity, all of positive sign, is led by a specially insulated conductor out of the shed to the nearest post of the overhead insulated wires, which are thereby maintained at continuous high-positive potential.

The following is a very brief summary of returns and information supplied to me by Mr. Newman and Mr. Bonford, showing the results from the electrical as compared with the results of unelectrified treatments, bushels of wheat per acre. (Estimated corresponding increase in straw not measured):

From the—

Electrified Unelectrified
Plots. Plot. Pct. Inc.
Canadian (Red Flax)... 56 29 49
Eng. (White Flax)... 56 29 49

On the electrified wheat sold at some 7½ per cent higher, several millers in baking tests finding that it produced a better baking flour. The increase appears to be mainly due to better steaming.

No marked difference was observed in the development of ears.

Summarized results of the 1907 experiments on wheat—Red Flax, spring sown, bushels per acre (head wheat): Electrified, 41; unelectrified, 33; increase, 30 per cent.

Electrified wheat brighter and a better sample. Increase again due to better steaming and filling out of ears.

Freighting on Trolley Lines.

No one who has not investigated the question of transportation of freight by suburban trolley lines can realize the extent to which that business has been extended during the last ten years. It is of interest, too, to note the fact that nine years ago, according to President A. M. Taylor of the Philadelphia & West Chester line, freight cars were put upon that road in addition to the cars used for the