

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Seventy-first Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 348

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE, In favor of the Hospital of the Society of the Sisters of Charity of Lewiston, Maine.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the sum
2 of five thousand dollars be paid to the Society of the Sisters
3 of Charity of Lewiston, Maine, for the use of said Society
4 for the year nineteen hundred and three, and five thousand
5 dollars for the year nineteen hundred and four. And that
6 the further sum of four thousand dollars be and is hereby ap-
7 propriated for the year nineteen hundred and three, and four
8 thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred and four, to
9 be used to furnish and equip the new building recently erect-
10 ed.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The hospital of the Sisters of Charity was founded in 1888, in the city of Lewiston, and is located at the junction of Pine and Sabattus streets, one of the most central points in the city, and an ideal location for such an institution. Pine street leads in an air line from the hospital to the canals upon which are located all our great cotton manufacturing industries, while Sabattus street merges into Main street leading to the sister city of Auburn. Its commanding elevation overlooks the twin cities and the surrounding country; while the quietness of the place and purity of its atmosphere are unsurpassed.

The hospital accommodates two hundred and fifty patients. Of these, those admitted to the general wards are expected to pay five dollars per week, and those occupying private rooms, from ten to twelve dollars. But a large proportion of those admitted to the general wards are unable to pay the same, and as will be seen by the report, about one-third of the entire number are treated, lodged and boarded gratis. All patients receive the same treatment and attention without regard to creed or nationality, and are cared for by the sisters who have devoted their lives to the work.

The institution is supported by the paying patients, voluntary contributions and an annual appropriation from the State.

The medical and surgical departments are in charge of an able staff, whose services are at the disposal of the institution at all hours, day and night.

In addition to the usual medical and surgical departments, a department for the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat has been maintained under the supervision of one of the ablest specialists in the State.

During the year just completed, the beautiful new hospital, which was under process of construction at the meeting of the last legislature, was completed, and it is one of the very finest hospitals in the State of Maine. Two hundred and fifty are easily accommodated, and the operating rooms, under a dome of glass, are considered the finest in New England.

There is a large debt of some eighty thousand dollars resting upon the institution, and with the increased size of the building

comes the great increase of good that is able to be done for the central section of Maine, but the cost of maintenance has also increased, and that with the interest account renders it possible to get along by the most rigid economy on the part of the hospital.

Last year from December 1, 1901, to December 1, 1902, there were 781 patients in the hospital. Those paying full board were 315; those paying part board were 262; and the patients treated gratis were 204. As is well known, the work of the Sisters is largely of a charitable nature and the good offices of the liberally disposed public will be relied upon in the future as in the past to sustain their hands in this great undertaking.

Since 1893, the hospital has been favored with an annual appropriation from the State. Considering the work of this institution, it is the hope and the prayer of the Sisters that the State will see fit to grant to said society an annual appropriation of \$5,000.00. They also ask for the additional sum of \$15,000.00, which is needed to properly construct and make suitable additions to the laundry of the new hospital, and to enable them to purchase suitable surgical appliances and instruments.

The old hospital is used for the care of little girls, most of whom have no parents, and some of whom are placed in this institution by their parents. The good that this work is doing among the little girls can scarcely be overestimated.

While the society has built this hospital at an expense of over \$100,000.00, the only amount received by them ever from the State for the building of either this or the old hospital, is the sum of \$10,000.00 which was appropriated at the last legislature. The hospital asks, therefore, that you will make this appropriation of \$15,000.00, besides granting them the usual appropriation of \$5,000.00.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, March 12, 1903.

Reported by Mr. DUDLEY of Augusta, from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*