

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 79

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated annually, the sum of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000), to be paid to the treasurer of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary for the use of said institution for the years 1905 and 1906.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary in its corporate capacity has established and maintained an institution in Portland for nineteen years, where free treatment has been given daily throughout the year, except Sundays and legal holidays. During these years, 25,000 patients have availed themselves of this free treatment in the out-patient departments, with an attendance of over 150,000. More than 7,500 operations have been performed upon the eye and ear including 700 for the removal of cataract, and over 300 for the removal of diseased eyes. Many blind persons have been made to see, and many of the afflicted ones have had their sight or hearing preserved or restored by this treatment.

More than 5,000 persons have been treated as in-patients and 45,556 days of board have been given free to enable these poor people to regain, or to preserve, their sight or hearing. The free bed service has been constantly increasing as the following will show: In 1900, the free bed service was 2,340 days; in 1901, the free bed service was 2,538 days; in 1902, the free bed service was 2,980 days; in 1903, the free bed service was 4,101 days; in 1904, the free bed service was 5,343 days.

The total number of days of free board given to the poor of the State, 45,556, equals to 6,508+ weeks, which at the lowest average cost of board per week in our largest hospitals equals to more than \$70,000, whereas the total amount of the appropriations from the State to the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary is \$60,000, or \$10,000 less than has actually been given to the poor people of the State in free board. It is a fact, then, that the trustees of the Infirmary have not been able to apply one dollar of the appropriation from the State to the lands, buildings and furnishings which have now cost \$200,000, but that they have actually given through the Infirmary to the poor people of the State \$10,000 more than they have received in appropriations from the State, therefore, the lands, buildings and furnishings of the Infirmary have been placed at the service of the poor people of the State at a cost of \$200,000 without the State appropriating one dollars for this purpose.

The current expenses connected with this charity have now amounted to about \$300,000 more, making in round numbers a

half million of dollars that has been expended in founding and maintaining this charity for the past nineteen years for the benefit of the poor people of this State. Moreover the Infirmary has acquired by gifts a permanent fund, of which only the interest can be used, now amounting to over a hundred and thirty thousand dollars. These results stand without a parallel in charitable hospital work in this or any other country in the world.

The Infirmary has not only been the means of curing a large number of diseases of the eye and ear but in so doing it has taught physicians and the people the necessity of caring for these affections, especially in their early stages when disastrous results can be avoided. In the adjunct clinic in the out-patient department the Infirmary affords the best opportunity for the treatment of affections of the nose and throat, and other diseases of the body. The records show that over 4,000 persons have been treated free in these different departments. The Infirmary has afforded all modern conveniences for physicians or surgeons to treat patients in rooms not actually needed for eye and ear patients. Over 4,000 persons have thus been treated, and the money these patients have paid the Infirmary has been an important source of revenue from which the institution has been able to carry on the work and show such magnificent results.

The Infirmary established, and has maintained a school for nurses in its nursing department for eleven years. It now consists of 18 female nurses and one male nurse. There have graduated 45 female and two male nurses, who have gone out into the State as guardian angels of the sick room.

The Infirmary has a staff of twenty attending physicians and surgeons who give of their time and skill continually to the worthy poor without charge.

It also has a staff of twenty consulting physicians and surgeons who are always ready to give of their time and skill in consultation with the attending physicians and surgeons without charge.

It also has a large ladies' visiting committee who are constant in their devotion to the interests of the Infirmary and the welfare of its patients.

For further particulars reference should be made to the nineteenth annual report for the year ending November 1, 1904.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Augusta, February 8, 1905.

Reported by Mr. SWEET from Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*