

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 53

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 1909 and 1910.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary, during its twenty-three years of existence, has accumulated and either now holds or has disbursed \$695,585.05.

For land and building, \$144,234.87.

Furnishings and equipments, \$33,278.16.

Current expenses, \$401,922.02.

For invested funds, \$116,050.00.

Included in the current expenses is interest paid on loans and for taxes, \$57,292.20.

For the purpose for which the Infirmary was organized, the following has been accomplished: Over 30,000 persons have been treated at the Infirmary. The attendance in the out-patient department has been over 180,000 and over 8,000 operations have been performed upon the eye and ear for the preservation or restoration of sight and hearing.

This includes over 800 cataract operations and over 400 operations for the removal of the eye.

There has been given 59,549 days of free board and nursing to the poor of our State, which, reckoned at the lowest actual cost for board in an institution of this kind, amounts to more than \$100,000.00.

Those patients who were able, and did pay the rates charged for board, paid only about two-thirds its cost, therefore from this source alone the Infirmary has given the poor of our State in value at least as much more.

The value of the services of the medical and surgical staff, to those who received this board and nursing, reckoned at the lowest charge for such services, amounts, in value, to as much more, so that there has been given directly over a quarter of a million dollars to the poor of our State by the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary during the past twenty-three years.

Out-patient Department opens every day, except Sundays and legal holidays, at 8 A. M., and closes promptly at 9 P. M.

Patients are treated in this department for diseases that do not require them to remain in the Infirmary as in-patients. They are allowed to depart as soon as treated and directed to return as often as may be necessary.

Since, however, persons can know little or nothing about the treatment necessary for their case, they should, when coming from a distance, be prepared with a change of underclothing, to remain in the Infirmary as in-patients.

The only requirement necessary to obtain free treatment at the Infirmary is proof from the person applying or his friend that he is poor and without means to pay for the treatment.

When the Infirmary accepts \$5,000.00 for a free bed, and agrees to supply board, nursing and treatment, for one person for one year, as it is always glad to do, it must contribute as much as the income from this \$5,000 in order to carry out the contract.

Directly and indirectly, in numerous ways, the Infirmary, in accomplishing this work has contributed much towards a better knowledge of diseases of the eye and ear through physicians and nurses who have taken part or observed this work.

This alone is of much benefit to all the people of the State, for the importance of early treatment of diseases of the eye and ear, especially the eye of the new-born, is more generally recognized by physicians, nurses and laymen than they were before the Infirmary began its work.

The buildings of the Infirmary have been completed and furnished, but the changes and equipments now being made are actually demanded to enable its work to be carried on to the fullest capacity.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

January 22, 1909.

Reported by Mr. OSGOOD, from Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.