

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 385

House of Representatives, March 2, 1911.

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

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in favor of the Augusta General Hospital.

Resolved, That there be and is hereby appropriated the
2 sum of four thousand dollars to be paid to the Augusta
3 General Hospital for the use of said institution for the year
4 nineteen hundred and eleven and four thousand dollars for
5 the use of said institution for the year nineteen hundred and
6 twelve, for maintenance.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Augusta General Hospital was incorporated by an act of the Legislature approved February 20, 1891, but it was not able to become established until April 9, 1898, when a building was rented and equipped for hospital purposes. In 1899 the corporation secured a permanent home through the purchase and remodeling of St. Catherine's Hall on the east side of the Kennebec River, which property had previously been used as a school for girls. It is a beautiful old colonial building containing forty-four rooms, overlooking the Kennebec River and carrying with it four and one-half acres of land. The property was put into thorough repair and remodeled to fit it for hospital uses. The expense of this work was met by public subscription with the exception of five thousand dollars, which was borrowed, one thousand dollars of which still remain as a part of the hospital indebtedness. In addition to this the hospital is indebted to the amount of four thousand dollars expended for building a steam heating plant.

Since the hospital opened its doors to the public it has treated patients from every county in Maine. There has been a steady increase in the number of patients treated from year to year. In 1898 there were one hundred three, in 1908 three hundred fifty, in 1909 five hundred nine. During the year 1910 there were six hundred twenty-three, and during the last year a larger number in proportion have come from places outside of Augusta, showing that the scope of the hospital is general and not local. In 1898 a training school for nurses was established and during the thirteen years forty-two nurses have been graduated. The record of the school has during this time been a source of pride and satisfaction to all connected with the institution. In 1908 a beautiful new nurses' home costing about twenty-four thousand dollars and known as the J. Manchester Haynes Home or Nurses was built and presented to the hospital as his gift by Mrs. Haynes.

During the year 1908 there was also constructed a central steam heating plant which heats both hospital and nurses' home. This was absolutely necessary by the wearing out of the system formerly in use, by a due care for the safety of the patients and by the requirements of the home for nurses. Upon this plant

there still remains as above stated a debt of four thousand dollars.

It was the first hospital in Maine to institute the system of district nursing, which has placed trained service within reach of the poor. During the last year the district nurse has made six hundred eighty-nine calls, or an average of nearly two a day, and visited sixty-four families.

The hospital has also done a large amount of charitable work. No one in need of its ministrations has ever been turned away. There are three free beds which have been in constant use throughout the year and a large general free service has been rendered amounting in all to seven hundred seventy-eight days.