

How Demands Upon the Hospital Have Increased in Past Few Years

Comparative statistical data as to the number of patients during the past three years and a statement of the operation conditions of the Rockingham Memorial Hospital, as made to the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, are as follows:

	1933	1934	1935
Patient Jan. 1	78	57	87
Patients admitted	3375	4029	4198
Patients treated	3453	4086	4285
Surgical cases	2186	2521	2499
Maj. sur. cases	1035	1205	1253
Min. Sur. cases	1151	1316	1246
Adult sur. cases	1747	1944	1973
Child sur. cases	439	577	527
Medical cases	877	1170	1328
Adult med. cases	753	1003	1150
Child med. cases	124	167	178
Obstetrical cases	158	176	191
Births	156	162	180
Gyn. cases	234	200	190
Infectious-con. cases	74	159	168
Eye, ear, nose, thr't	476	822	763
Bone, and fracture	177	235	313
Deaths	113	139	140
Death rate	3.2	3.4	3.3
Daily av. patients	79.9	95.4	99.5

The following statement of the hospital's operations and needs was issued by the trustees:

"While the hospital has no charity department, and does not profess to do charity work, being dependent upon its earnings for support, yet it does give free hospitalization in the pediatric or childrens department, and does give free service to the indigent or destitute poor of the city of Harrisonburg, when they are properly certified as such persons under the authority of the City Council. The free service to these two classes aggregated \$10,224.12 for the year 1935. In addition, the hospital loses from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.000 a year in uncollectable accounts of patients admitted without security as emergency cases.

"Notwithstanding this free service, and notwithstanding the fact that its rate are much the lowest in the state, or in the country for that matter, this hospital has been able not only to pay expenses, but to put by a little money for betterment purposes.

"In the year 1935, it bought and paid for an acre and a half more of land at a cost of \$738.50; and built and equipped a new boiler house at a cost of \$16,000, which has also been paid for, and is now

making an addition to its X-ray department, which will entail an expense of about \$9000.00.

"A crying need of the hospital at the present time is for a contagious disease department for another operating room, and for an enlargement of the kitchen and dining room.

"With surgical operations running over 2500 a year, the major operations being 1200, as shown by the statistical report for the year, it is apparent that the hospital must have another operating room in order to obviate the necessity of keeping patients waiting, oftentimes for hours, while the operating room is in the use of other patients. Likewise, it is of the highest importance to have an isolated department for contagious cases so as to be able to exclude such cases from the general hospital.

"The hospital, has some money accumulated and held for the purposes mentioned, but it does not have enough. A citizen who would like to use his money or part of it for a noble and beneficent object, could do not better than to give anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to the Rockingham Memorial Hospital at this time.

"With respect to the service and the certified city poor, above referred to, it should be said that while this service is free to patients it is balanced, or more than balanced by the electricity and water services furnished free to the hospital by the city. In addition to the free services mentioned, the hospital furnishes charity service to the amount of \$376.56 a year from the Reuben M. Grubb Fund established by the will of Mr. Grubb.

"One hundred persons, including 30 student nurses, are employed at the hospital, and the daily average of patients during 1935 was 99 1-2.

"The expenditures of the hospital aggregated \$104,303.33 in 1935 made up as follows:

Payrolls	\$45,375.31
Provisions	\$27,826.76
Supplies (dressings, medicines, etc.)	\$14,263.84
Other expenses (fuel, laundry, X-ray supplies, kitchen, laboratory, insurance, printing and stationary, postal, repairs and renewals, etc.)	\$16,837.62
Total	\$104,303.33