



THE NEW PROVIDENT HOSPITAL TRAINING SCHOOL IN CHICAGO

THE NEW PROVIDENT HOSPITAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL

Chicago, Ill.

By J. THOMAS HELSOM, Executive Secretary

A survey of health conditions in Chicago disclosed that the sickness and death rates of Negroes, were more than double that recorded for the white portion of the population. This condition is duplicated in all large cities having considerable Negro populations. There has been no insuperable reason for this, just as there was no insuperable reason for the higher death and disease rates of the white race recorded a generation ago. Therefore Mr. Julius Rosenwald suggested the creation of a great medical center and hospital to correct this inequality from which the Negro population of the city has suffered.

Lack of Opportunity for Negro Physicians

Comparatively few Negro medical graduates can obtain opportunities for internship training to qualify them to practice. While there are, for instance, about 140 colored graduates annually from the medical schools of both the North and the South, there are only about 40 internships available to them throughout the country—and these only in the Negro hospitals.

A campaign to raise funds sufficient to carry out the project was conducted during the month of January, 1930, with the result that \$3,250,000 was pledged. This campaign was a notable one, in that gifts were received from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, The General Education Board, The Conrad Hubert Estate, Mr. Julius Rosenwald personally, and Mr. Samuel Insull and the Public

Utility Group in Chicago, to a total of over \$2,000,000." Of the balance raised, 3,236 Negroes of Chicago subscribed a total of \$220,029.55, which stands as a record subscription from Negroes in the United States for any purpose whatever, both in number and total amount.

In addition to providing for the purchase of a modern hospital building (pictured above) already located in the center of the Negro population, but previously devoted entirely to maternity cases of the white race, the program includes the following definite major projects:

1. The creation of a teaching fund at the University of Chicago (for which the General Education Board pledged \$1,000,000), which provides for the training of Negro medical students, Negro internes, the post-graduate work for Negro physicians and the education and training of Negro nurses.
2. Making the necessary changes in the hospital structure to adapt it to general hospital work.
3. Providing an operating fund that will cover the annual deficit made necessary by enlarged clinic and dispensary service.
4. Providing for the establishment of a Community Health Center, where by means of lectures, motion pictures, and other ways, the community may be taught personal hygiene and general sanitation, as well as providing visiting nurses and social workers.

Co-operating With the University of Chicago

The program of co-operation between the Provident Hospital and the University of Chicago provides the following:

1. Medical and surgical care of the sick, in a modern hospital and out-patient department, with a staff of highly trained physicians and with modern equipment and laboratory facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.
2. Clinical instruction for Negro undergraduate medical students. Such opportunities for the Negro students in Northern universities are rare.
3. An increased number of internships for colored medical graduates.
4. Post-graduate education and training. Such opportunities have been almost non-existent except to those who have been able to go to Europe.
5. Professional advancement of highly qualified physicians on a par with opportunities now available only to whites. Colored physicians have rarely had positions comparable to those which will be created in this hospital.
6. Opportunities for teaching and research, as well as clinical medicine, surgery and the specialties. Through the generosity of the Julius Rosenwald Fund a number of medical research fellowships will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to Negro physicians. This will result in a higher qualification than ever before of Negro physicians for teaching positions and will greatly improve the teaching standards in the Negro medical schools.
7. Opportunities for studying the peculiar susceptibilities of the Negro to certain diseases.
8. The study of Negro public-health problems and the training of Negro public-health workers.
9. Training under improved conditions of a greater number of Negro nurses.
10. Training of Negro technicians for laboratory, X-ray and electro-cardiograph work, and for the development of administrators for Negro hospitals.
11. The study of Negro social problems and training of Negro social workers.

The Plan Already in Operation

The present Provident Hospital was started on the initiative of Philip D. Armour of packing-house fame, nearly forty years ago. At that time the Negro population of Chicago was about 20,000, while at the present time it is nearly 200,000. Hospital facilities for this racial group have not kept pace with this tremendous population increase, but have remained practically the same as they were forty years ago.

One of the first steps in carrying out the enlargement program was the appointment of Rear Admiral N. J. Blackwood (Medical Corps, U.S.N., Retired) as medical director of the new Provi-

dent Hospital. Admiral Blackwood brings to the project a wealth of experience in administering hospitals, covering a period of practically twenty years, and a familiarity with the needs of hospitals of the highest type for over thirty years. Added to that knowledge and experience he brings with him an enthusiasm for the work, a sympathetic understanding of the problem, and a vision of the glorious opportunity for improved conditions of the Negroes of the United States, that should be an enormous asset and an assurance of success of that part of the program which falls in his lot.

In addition to a general reorganization of the staff of the hospital, which will be undertaken from within under the guidance of the teaching staff of the University of Chicago, and a whole-hearted, co-operative and enthusiastic spirit in all those interested in the welfare and improved health conditions of the race, steps have already been taken to improve the clinical facilities of the hospital. A Pediatric Clinic was opened on March 24, 1930, under the very competent direction of Miss Catherine Allen of the University Staff of Medical Social Service Department, the professional side being handled by Dr. W. H. Maddux, a graduate of Rush Medical College and but recently moved to Chicago from Kansas City, where he was practicing in the Wheatley Provident Hospital. This clinic began with two little children as patients and in less than two months has grown to a daily census of from forty to fifty patients and a limit has had to be placed on the number of new patients that can be received daily owing to the present lack of facilities in the temporary quarters assigned. Medical, surgical and obstetrical clinics are functioning daily and new special clinics are in contemplation, being held back only on account of lack of space in the present building. The heartiest support has been given by the leading health and medical authorities of the city, and when the hospital is moved into its new quarters, in about a year, further expansion and development will be effected. At that time it is proposed to convert the present hospital building into a combined clinical and health center for the whole district, where clinics will be held daily, and lectures and instructions given daily to the inhabitants, in all matters of public health, hygiene and sanitation. Happily, new funds are continually being received, which will insure the success of this whole great project.

This new proposal is in keeping with the spirit of the times and is unquestionably one of the greatest civic needs of Chicago and one of the greatest forward looking projects that has been undertaken in the matter of public health and

medical education in our long history of the contact of the white and colored races. When it is established and in operation, it will stand before the world as the greatest development of its kind. Mr. Rosenwald has termed it "one of the most epoch-making steps in behalf of the Negro since

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation," and he is entitled to express such an opinion, because backed by his great generosity and discriminating philanthropy, the whole plan has been made practical.

122 So. Mich. Boulevard

FLINT-GOODRICH HOSPITAL

New Orleans, La.

By Capt. H. W. KNIGHT, M.D.
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In the historic past New Orleans, Louisiana, was the leading city of the South. With its marvelous harbor at the mouth of America's greatest river, it has become the second port of these United States. It is advantageously located for transportation of produce to both South American ports and Eastern countries. Here ships are seen from all parts of the commercial world. Railways and the Mississippi River afforded transportation advantages through New Orleans to that vast rich productive region, traversed by the "Father of Waters" and its tributaries. This advantage is augmented by the productivity of the state of Louisiana. As a result we find a very large labor population in the various industrial enterprises and along the wharves on which capital relies. The colored population of the Southland tends to gravitate towards this city of possibilities. We find that the census returns show a ratio of one colored to three white at the present time. It is one of the great centers of colored population in this country.

The dependence of the city of New Orleans on this group of her citizens for industrial prosperity, both as laborers and consumers, is well illustrated in the recent campaign for a new Flint-Goodridge Hospital as a part of the proposed great colored educational center, the Dillard University. There were reasons why the campaign for \$250,000 reached the sum of \$328,000: (1) The health of the colored people is essential to the future growth and prosperity of both city and state. (2) The health of the white population is dependent on the health of the colored. (3) The recognition of the principle, "Labor is worthy of its hire" or it is due to the colored people. (4) The white men of the city have expressed themselves as understanding the colored man and liking him. (5) I am convinced that civic pride and sense of justice had much to do in this epoch-making accomplishment. New Orleans' white citizenry has expressed itself in no uncertain terms as to their enthusiasm and interest in the colored populace.

The campaign has not only been epoch making on the part of the white populace, but also on the part of the colored people. Truly "God helps those who help themselves," and the New Orleans colored people have set a standard in giving which shows them to be leaders of their race to better days. That they have set a pace for the rest of the race in large centers in this country is borne out by their pledging \$117,000 when the goal was \$50,000. The \$328,000 pledged and \$500,000 each from the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the American Missionary Society, the \$250,000 from the Rosenwald Fund, and \$500,000 from Rockefeller Foundation should make possible the construction of a university second to none in the country.

Dillard University will have for its purpose training for leadership and service for the health and well-being of the colored people. The new Flint-Goodridge will not only afford better and larger facilities for the care of the sick, but will form the center from which all health and social activity will reach forth to prevent ill health and promote better living conditions.

Statement of Conditions

The need for this university and health center can be better appreciated by the following statement of conditions. While the population is one colored to three white, the death rate for every thousand colored is twice that of the white population. Infant mortality shows that if it were not for migration to this city from other areas, the colored population would decrease and industry would therefore suffer. The study of vital statistics and the census returns of the cities of the United States will illustrate that irrespective of race, the death rate bears a direct ratio to the illiteracy of the population, especially is this true with respect to immigrants and colored population.

Another striking study can be found in the four main diseases causing deaths among colored people. Heading the list is tuberculosis. The statement is frequently made that the Negro is