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THE HOSPITAL DEBT.

The treasurer's report for 1901 shows that the deficit on running expenses for the year was \$110.00 as against \$227.00 for 1900. In other words the hospital came within that amount of living within its income. The income was greater than that of former years, but owing to expansion of usefulness in opening the maternity annex, fitting up laundry and prosecution of necessary repairs and alterations in the main building, the expenditure was larger than was anticipated, though the promises and hopes of the advocates of extension and alteration eventually showed the wisdom of such measures in the hospital's increased earning ability.

The new year of the hospital, which begins in November has opened with very bright prospects in so far as its earning capacity is concerned, the improved facilities being fully taxed.

The management have determined to keep expenses down even more closely than last year, and not having in view any

extensive changes hopes, with the assistance of the friends of the hospital, to be able to show that the small deficit of the past year has changed sides on the ledger.

During the past two years the revenue from subscriptions and collections has been far below the average of former years, owing in a great measure to the lack of systematic organization and canvassing. This has been remedied, and a determined effort will be made to re-awaken substantial recognition of the hospital's needs among its many friends and the public generally.

Coming to the subject of the debt proper, which is one incurred for maintenance only; as the floating debt on buildings has been wiped out through the generosity of a few of the hospital governors; it might be well to remark that a goodly portion of it is a legacy of times when the hospital had not the earning capacity it now enjoys. The floating debt at present amounts approximately to \$2,000.00, slightly more, and consists of accounts due for provisions, fuel, medical and surgical supplies, etc.

It is well known that one can deal more advantageously with cash in hand or a reputation for prompt payment, and in order to enjoy such advantages to the full, this load of debt should be removed.

Many suggestions are offered as to ways and means to accomplish the end sought. With the exception of one proposed at the last Governor's meeting, they all lack the great essential—cash.

The treasurer's report shows that the hospital and its management, as it now stands, is not responsible for the incurring of this debt, and should not be compelled to carry the burden of it. The management, in addition to trying to make the revenue meet the expenses for