

STAFF URGES ACTION BY THE BOARD

Standardization Discussed at Meeting of Hospital Commissioners—Heating and Lighting Matters—Senator Daniel Asked to Remain President.

At a two session meeting of the board of hospital commissioners held yesterday afternoon and evening, the matter of standardization of the hospital was discussed and a letter from the staff urging this action to be taken by the board, claiming that no real reason had been given by Dr. H. Heddon why the board should not proceed with it.

The minutes of the last meeting told of the decision to ask the municipality for funds to increase the nurses' salaries and provide \$50,000 insurance for the nurses' home. The monthly report of the superintendent was to the effect that the general hospital and twenty-five in the epidemic and during the month 189 patients were admitted and sixty-two operations performed.

The finance report showed total receipts of \$18,196.59 of which \$18,750 was for X-ray work with expenses amounting to \$8,068.78 and an overdraft of \$13,868.83. The expenditure would probably exceed its city and county assessment by \$6,000 if the city grant was paid in full but it is believed that the city grant would be \$9,000 short.

The report of the visiting physicians—surgeons stated that the patients in epidemic hospital suffering with measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria were not properly isolated, that the epidemic hospital was unclean, out of date and unfit for use and that a new building should be erected. The report also recommended that the anesthetist should be trained.

A resolution was passed asking that Dr. Daniel further consider his resignation from the presidency. He expressed his gratitude and promised to give the matter further attention although he thought the president should always be available in St. John and as his duties as senator required him to be away from the city he thought the office should be filled by another. The advisability of providing an emergency lighting system for the hospital was discussed. The heating system was discussed and it was explained that to turn the heat off the radiators it required the services of the engineer as there were two valves to be turned.



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turned. A Burnside, the engineer, explained that to give satisfaction the whole building should be re-piped with the valve and tap system as many of the valves were leaky at present. The superintendent was authorized to have the leaky valves replaced.

Hospital Standardization.

A letter from the staff regarding the standardization of the hospital was read. In it the staff said that, while Dr. Heddon denied that the original report of the former meeting of the Board as published was an accurate report, the original statement differed very little in effect from his published statement. The doctors added that Dr. Heddon's published statement gave no real reasons as to why the hospital could not be standardized. In referring to Dr. Heddon's remark that it "was not a matter of increasing the bed accommodation in the hospital but of more intensive study of cases," the doctors said that although the accommodation was greatly needed there were two other outstanding reasons why the hospital could not be standardized and they called on the board to remedy these matters.

The first reason given was the impossibility of keeping complete case records under the present conditions. In the words of the letter, the doctors said that "this rather onerous duty, whilst it was supervised by the attending staff, is universally the duty of the intern staff and not only was it not part of the duty of the attending staff but it was impossible for the attending staff to carry out." Four additional internes were required. The second reason given by the medical staff was that, while the quality of the laboratory service was unexcelled, there was lack of laboratory staff and space.

Internes vs. Stenographers.

In discussing the communication, the board said that one stenographer was employed to take down the statements of each case as given by the physician and that only the attending physician could give the case records. At the present time all the actual records the hospital had were those made by the intern staff. Dr. Heddon said that it required an expert to make a complete physical examination of a patient such as would be required.

It was also said that some doctors objected to a woman stenographer going the round of the cases to take the records but the meeting felt that the stenographer was fully qualified and should not feel the position a distasteful one. They suggested adding to the staff of stenographers for recording cases, if necessary, but believed that this work would be better done by the stenographer than by the internes. It was finally decided that the doctors' communication should be referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Roberts, Mr. Kelley, Dr. Daniel and the superintendent, in conference with a committee of the staff.

The superintendent of nurses having asked for some changes in the plumbing of the epidemic hospital for kitchen and

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Peppermint chews, 80c; mixed taffies, 80c; Phillips' (full flavored) hard mixture, 80c; good dates, 10c; fresh coconuts, 10c; shelled walnuts (very best), 60c; pop corn balls (secure them now), 25c a dozen—429 Main street, Phone 4598.

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met tonight at Trades and Labor hall, Horsfield street, December 6, 7, 8, 9. Election of officers and other important business.

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