

PAPERS FROM THE HISTORY SEMINAR OF
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

NO. 17. THE HISTORY OF BORGESS HOSPITAL

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITION IN KALAMAZOO IN 1889

1884--village became a city	1
Economic conditions	1
Education	2

STATUS OF MEDICINE IN 1889

Kalamazoo Valley Medical Society	2
Kalamazoo Distric and Surgical Association	2
Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine	2
Medical Conditions	3

THE NEED FOR A HOSPITAL IN KALAMAZOO

Francis A. O'Brien	4
Father O'Brien in Kalamazoo	5
Work done by Catholic Church	5
Homes which cared for the needy	6
State Fair Meetings	6
Idea for Hospital born in a Jail	6
Bishop Borgess	7, 8
Donation to the cause	8
Bishop Foley	9
Home for hospital purchases	10
Corner stone laid	10
Opposition to the cause	11

SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH IN KALAMAZOO

Origin of the order	12
Sisters in Kalamazoo	12, 13
First reception held	14, 15

COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE HOSPITAL

Progress made	15
Appeal to the mayor	16

HOSPITAL FAIR

Purpose of the Fair	17
Fair held	17
Results of Fair	18
Insurance Cards	19
Means of Income	20

GROWTH OF HOSPITAL

First few years	21
Work done by Sister Agnes	21
Annual reports	22
Addition to hospital	25

Description of hospital	25
New Borgess	25
Amalgamation of the hospitals	26



OLD RESIDENCE WAS CITY'S FIRST HOSPITAL
Visit to Dying Man in Jail Cell Gave Priest Inspiration

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITION IN KALAMAZOO IN 1889

By 1889 the village of Kalamazoo had progressed a great deal. In 1884 "the largest village in the United States" became incorporated into a city. At this time there were approxiamately 12,000 inhabitants.¹ This was a big step into the future for the village.

The people of the city were extremely civic-minded. In fact, since there was little "great" wealth in these years, the only way by which a person's social status could be determined was by his interest in community af-²fairs, his character, and industrious manner. The people had a desire to see their city advance. Much credit should be given to the various social, political, and religious systems.

Economically the city showed much vision and foresight. By 1889 the city had a fire department, police department, electrical power company, a well organized bank, two rail-³road centers, local telephone exchange, and the paper industries.

Education was very adequately taken care of. The

¹ Kalamazoo Gazette, Centennial Issue, 1937, Section 2, p. 1.

² Ibid, sect. 3, p. 10.

³ Ibid, sect. 2, p. 3.

proportion of schools to that of students was pretty equal. The city could boast of having a fine college, Kalamazoo College, which was founded in 1833⁴ ; four distric elementary schools⁵ ; one public high school, the Union High School⁶ ; and one parochial school, Lafevre Institute (St. Augustine) which had existed since 1853, a year after the first Catholic Church had been established in the village.⁷

THE STATUS OF MEDICINE IN 1889

Kalamazoo had been fortunate at this time in having in its midst a group of industrious doctors who saw the need of establishing a medical association. As early as 1853 there was the Kalamazoo Valley Medical Society. Before 1883 ther was organized the Kalamazoo District and Surgical Association. This association had replaced the Kalamazoo Valley Medical Society. In the year 1883, a new association was formed. This was called the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine. Thus Kalamazoo had two medical societies which tended to overlap each other; consequently, in 1884, the Kalamazoo District and Surgical Association merged with the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine to form one association,

⁴ Ibid, sect. 2, p. 7.

⁵ Ibid, sect. 2, p. 14.

⁶ Ibid, sect. 2, p. 14.

⁷ Ibid.

assuming the latter's title.

There was a sufficient number of doctors in Kalamazoo for the number of people, but the doctors could attend to only home and office calls. There was no hospital in the city to which patients could be sent. Operations were done in offices or in homes, and thus not adequate means of sanitary equipment could be hoped for. The nearest hospital was miles away from the city; therefore, few, if any, people were taken to hospitals. Aside from the fact that a person would have to travel a great distance to reach a hospital, there was the prevailing opinion that hospitals were for only those people who were absolutely at "death's threshold".⁹ Although the doctors in the city were trying to keep abreast of medical advance, the people had set up this mental barrier against a hospital. This barrier had to be broken down before any hope of success could be made.

THE NEED FOR A HOSPITAL IN KALAMAZOO

It has already been pointed out that the doctors had to operate on their patients under very unsanitary conditions. The offices and homes were not the proper places to perform

⁸

Rush Mc Nair, M.D., Medical Memoirs of Fifty Years in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, 1938, p. 69.

⁹

Ibid.

such serious tasks. Many people realized this fact, but all that was needed was an aggressive, determined, and untiring person who would have as his aim the humanitarian goal of establishing a hospital in Kalamazoo. This person was found in Father Francis A. O'Brien.

Francis Alphonsus O'Brien was born in 1851 at Monroe, Michigan. He came from a Catholic family which was very careful to see that the boy's spiritual life would be taken care of. The pastor of Francis O'Brien's parish was Monsignor Edward Joos. Monsignor Joss took a special interest in the boy, and it was he who helped Francis O'Brien recognize his religious vocation.

At Assumption College, across the Detroit River on the Canadian side, Francis O'Brien took a classical and philosophical course. After completing his work here he then went to St. Mary's Seminary, at Cincinnati, where he took the necessary theology courses.¹⁰

In 1877 Francis O'Brien was ordained a priest by Bishop Caspar H. Borgess. His first assignment was that of being the Bishop's secretary. It was this that began the inseparable friendship of the two men.¹¹ After a few years he became a faculty member at Assumption College. The young priest stayed here for a while and then asked to be removed

¹⁰

Sister Mary Barbara, Sister of Saint Joseph, A Covenant With Stones, S.S.J., Lansing, Michigan, 1939, p. 70.

¹¹

Ibid, p. 79.

because it was his desire to do parish work. His request was granted and he was sent to his home town as assistant pastor of St. John's in Monroe. Later he was given the parish of St. Vincent's Church in Detroit.¹²

On December 4, 1883, Father Francis O'Brien came to Kalamazoo as the new pastor of St. Augustine's Church. In 1886 he was made the irremovable pastor of that parish.¹³

Before Father O'Brien's time there had been somewhat of an attempt made to establish a hospital in the city, but the plans never materialized because the funds for such an enterprise were not forthcoming.¹⁴

While the cultural, social, and intellectual life of Kalamazoo was progressing, the Catholic Church continued her never ending task of ministering to the religious and physical needs of her children. The physical needs were cared for by the Church society to help the poor, and also by the numerous charitable parish women who would do practical nursing for those in the parish who needed care.¹⁵

When the parishioners came to know their new pastor they realized that he was a man with an endless amount of

12

Ibid, p. 70.

13

Gazette, loc. cit., sect. 4, p. 14.

14

Our Tombola, vol. I, no.1, Kalamazoo Armory, Sept. 24, 1889, p. 2. (Published daily in the interest of the Borgess Hospital Fair), In the Nazareth College Library.

15

Statement by Sister Mary de Chantelle, personal interview with the writer in 1948.

energy and charity. His humanitarian and civic-minded spirit was recognized by the people of his parish and city. ¹⁶

When Father O'Brien came to Kalamazoo he saw that the County Poor House was what was used for the hospital; the County Alms House was where strangers with no friends or relatives were cared for; ¹⁷ and the City Jail was for emergency and accident cases. ¹⁸ Drunks were also cared for at the City Jail: these cases were numerous because in 1888 there were several saloons in the city and it was not unusual to see young men stumble from such places.

In the 1880's Kalamazoo was the scene of the annual State Fair meetings, and on State Fair Day in 1888 a young man was found in a stupor. The lad was taken to the jail, and declared to be in a state of drunkenness. The man was put in one of the cells, but a few hours later the "turnkey told the sheriff that something greater than drunkenness affected the last comer". Immediately a physician was called. No identification could be found on the man; however, a rosary was found in his pocket. Father O'Brien was summoned to the jail to administer the Last Sacrament. The dying man was moved from the cell to the corridor, where he soon ¹⁹ died.

¹⁶

Mc Nair, op. cit., p. 69.

¹⁷

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Francis A. O'Brien, LL.D., "Borgess Hospital at Kalamazoo", Michigan History Magazine, vol. III, no. 1, January, 1919, p. 231.

¹⁸

Mc Nair, Op. cit., p. 69

It was this call that motivated Father O'Brien to establish a Catholic hospital in Kalamazoo. The Augustinian 20 gives a vivid account of the situation:

On the evening in the spring of 1888, Father O'Brien was summoned to the county jail to administer spiritually to a dying lad, a stranger in the city, who was taken ill on the street and taken to the jail for care. He was confined with criminals, drunkards, and tramps. He was guiltless of crime. His fault was poverty.

After ministering to the patient, Father O'Brien stood with bared head looking about the cell. He remained with the dying stranger. He listened to the groans of the lad mingled with the curses, coarse jokes, and laughter of the prisoners.

He was so moved by the inadequateness of the place and the unfulfilled need of the occasion, that he made a vow to establish a hospital where similar cases would be attended. Borgess hospital was the result of that vow.

Returning to the rectory, Father O'Brien thought of the young man, and how unfortunate a situation it was. The jail was "squalid and dirty".²¹ It was no place for dying, innocent people. An interesting thing about this

19

O'Brien, op. cit., p. 231.

20

The Augustinian, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1889, p. 2.

21

Gazette, loc. cit., sect. 4, p. 14.

Conflicts with O'Brien's account. Foot note 22.

incident is that the next morning Father O'Brien found out²² that the young man was from a very respectable family.

In that same year, 1888, Bishop Borgess came to²³ Kalamazoo to visit his friend Father O'Brien. Prior to this Bishop Borgess had retired from the bishopric of the diocese of Detroit, his place being filled by the Right²⁴ Reverend John S. Foley. On this visit by Bishop Borgess, the priest told the Bishop of the case in the jail, the conditions under which the man had died, and what he knew of his parents. Father O'Brien expressed his desire to build a Catholic hospital in this city. A vivid account of the entire situation must have been given, because in that same year the Bishop honored the priest and his parish²⁵ by a very generous donation to the cause.

On December 25, 1888, Father O'Brien received a note²⁶ and check from Bishop Borgess. The text of the note read:

I am sending you five thousand dollars which is the last payment on my mother's property which was disposed of at Cincinnati. I think you can use it to your advantage. However, I leave it to your pleasure, do what ever you desire with it. I was touched with your description of the death of the

22

O'Brien, op. cit., p. 232.

23

Sister Barbara, op. cit., p. 78.

24

Our Tombola, Sept. 28, 1889, p. 2.

25

Sister Barbara, op. cit., p. 78

26

O'Brien, op. cit., pp. 232-233.

young man in the jail, who on account of the lack of a place where he might be taken, dealt such a crushing blow to his parents. If you feel that you want to use this sum for that purpose, do so, but do as you like. If you make your mind up to build a hospital, let me advise that you will be sorely tired with opposition. It will be worth the effort, but do not get discouraged with the many obstacles which will be placed in your way. Wishing you continued success in whatever you undertake, I cheerfully give you this gift as a memorial of my mother to be used as you see fit.

Thus with such encouragement from the Bishop, Father O'Brien began definitely to formulate plans for a hospital. Father O'Brien, on the morning that the note was received, announced from the altar at Mass that the generous donation by Bishop Borgess was to be used for a hospital in this city.²⁷ The parishioners were spontaneously enthusiastic about the plans and immediately work began. In less than a year the blot upon the city's reputation was removed and the first hospital in Kalamazoo was opened.

Bishop John S. Foley became intensely interested in the cause. On Sunday, March 3, (1889) the bishop came to Kalamazoo to bless and encourage the people of the parish.

27

Our Tombola, Sept. 28, 1889, p. 2.

That evening he gave a sermon, having as its theme²⁸
"CHARITY". The results were amazing.

Two days after Bishop Foley's sermon, very definite
advance was made. On March 5, one of Kalamazoo's beautiful²⁹
homes, the original James A. Walter's residence, was
bought by the parish from the Reverend Doctor Moses Hill³⁰
for the sum of \$10,500. The money that was needed to³¹
buy it was borrowed. In May of that same year the parish³²
was given possession. This home was located on Portage³³
Street between Lovell and South Streets. It extended a³⁴
block into Lovell Street. A new addition was built on
to it, and new furnishing, equipment, and appliances³⁵
supplied. Naturally, the new hospital was named in
honor of Bishop Caspar H. Borgess, since he was the first
to give financial and spiritual aid to the cause.

On the first Sunday in July the cornerstone of the
new addition was laid. Elaborate ceremonies were held.

28
29 Ibid, p. 2.
30 Ibid, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 2.
31 Silver Jubilee Book, Saint Augustine Church, Kalamazoo,
Michigan, July 1894, vol. IV, p. 13.
32 O'Brien, Op. cit., p. 232.
33 Our Tombola, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 2.
34 Kalamazoo Gazette, November 17, 1948, p. 19.
35 Kalamazoo Gazette, Centennial Issue, Sect. 4, p. 14.
Silver Jubilee Book, p. 13.

The spacious grounds were filled with spectators. Father Walsh, the ten present president of Notre Dame, gave the sermon for the occasion.³⁶

As this rapid progress continued, Father O'Brien wrote to Bishop Foley to ask him to write to Watertown, New York, requesting that the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Joseph send eleven sisters to Kalamazoo to take charge of Borgess Hospital.³⁷

While waiting for the arrival of the nuns, Father O'Brien kept before his mind the words of Bishop Borgess, "...you will be sorely tired with opposition. It will be worth the effort...do not get discouraged". How correct were the words of the bishop! There was great opposition to the cause. First, some of the people of Kalamazoo objected to the fact that the hospital was to be under the supervision of the Sisters of Saint Joseph; second, the medical profession was divided, claiming that the hospital might make a division in their ranks; third, some people felt that the hospital would become a burden to the church and city; fourth, the charitable people thought that they had been taxed too heavily as it was; whereas, the uncharitable³⁸ felt that the hospital would be another annoyance to them;

³⁶

Our Tombola, Sept. 28, 1889, p. 2.

³⁷

Silver Jubilee Book, p. 36.

³⁸

O'Brien, op. cit., pp. 233-234.

and lastly there was that old barrier that again came to the foreground--people had a fear of a hospital, they feared being taken care of by strangers. Some women could not bring themselves around to go to the hospital to have their children; however, those who were to go were to realize the "kindness and efficiency of the Sisters of Saint Joseph".³⁹

Regardless of all of the opposition, Father O'Brien kept on. His undaunted faith in the project did not let him become discouraged. He had made his vow to build a hospital in Kalamazoo, and nothing was going to break that vow.

THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH IN KALAMAZOO

On the morning of July 16, 1889, Father O'Brien met at the train depot the eleven nuns who were to be in charge of the hospital.⁴⁰ Before going on to enumerate the work done by these nuns, a brief history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph should be given. The Right Reverend Bishop Henry de Maupas, at the suggestion of Father J. P. Medaille, founded the congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph on October 15, 1650. This took place in the small town of Puy, in Valay, France. Bishop de Maupas was the person responsible for the rules and regulations by which the women of this order were to live. King Louis XIV of

³⁹

Mc Nair, op. cit., p. 69.

⁴⁰

Ibid.

France confirmed the establishment of the Motherhouse in Puy. The order grew rapidly, and in 1836 a group of nuns left France to establish an American branch. The Right Reverend Bishop Rosati of St. Louis, Missouri, introduced these nuns into the United States. The first American motherhouse was set up in St. Louis. From here they spread out to all parts of the country. A motherhouse was established in Watertown, New York. It was from here that the first Sisters of Saint Joseph in Kalamazoo came. On June 7, 1867,⁴¹ Pope Pius IX approved of the American branch of the order.

When the eleven young nuns arrived in Kalamazoo they came with the understanding that if they were not happy here in their new work they could at any time return to their motherhouse. Of the eleven who came, four of the nuns returned, and the remaining sisters stayed to fulfill the⁴² hopes and desires of their God, priest, and people. The seven sisters who remained were Mother Mary Scholastica, Sister Mary Angela, Sister Mary Gertrude, Sister Mary Catherine, Sister Mary Frances, Sister Mary Philomena,⁴³ and Sister Mary Elizabeth. There was also one postulate who came along with the sisters. The latter became Sister

⁴¹

Silver Jubilee Book, p. 36

⁴²

Sister Barbara, op. cit., p. 79.

⁴³

Ibid. (Sister Mary Elizabeth is the only surviving member of this group. On November, 17, 1948, Sister Elizabeth celebrated her diamond jubilee.)

Mary Euphrasia.⁴⁴ Mother Mary Margaret, who returned to Watertown, New York, was the first Mother Superior for the Kalamazoo group. After she left Sister Mary Scholastica⁴⁵ became Mother Superior. When the sisters arrived in Kalamazoo they lived in the house next to St. Augustine's Church,⁴⁶ but as soon as the hospital was opened they⁴⁷ moved to their quarters in the attic of the hospital.

The seven Sisters of Saint Joseph must have worked most industriously for the spiritual and physical success of the hospital. Their religious example of love of God and man was truly rewarded. Already Bishop Foley had recognized the success of these nuns, and he then designated Kalamazoo as a new motherhouse for the Sisters of Saint Joseph.⁴⁸ Soon their fine example of the sisters was fol-⁴⁹lowed by five young girls from the St. Augustine parish. These young ladies from the parish desired to devote their lives to God, and to help further the spiritual guidance of the people. On December 8, 1889, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the religious

44

Augustinian, April 11, 1925, p. 7.

45

Our Tombola, Sept. 28, 1889, p. 2.

46

Ibid.

47

Borgess Hospital Annals, 1889.

48

Silver Jubilee, p. 36.

49

Ibid, p. 13.

reception for these girls was held. The reception of the girls into the order was the first one held in Kalamazoo. It was an impressive ceremony at which the Right Reverend Bishop Foley officiated. The young ladies from this parish who took the habits of the Sisters of Saint Joseph were: 50

Miss Kate Lamb, who became Sister Mary Bernadette
Miss Emma Hastings, who became Sister Mary
Miss Mary Rooney, who became Sister Mary Winifred 51
Miss Anna Murphy, who became Sister Mary Agnes-----
Miss Maggie Nolan, who became Sister Mary Anthony.

This was the origin of the order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Kalamazoo. The growth of this congregation was amazing. From 1889 to 1893 the number of sisters increased from the small nucleus of the seven nuns to forty-seven. 52

COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE HOSPITAL

By 1889 the hospital had been secured, a new addition erected, the necessary improvements made, modern sanitary improvements acquired, the steam heat connected, and the necessary furniture furnished. 53 To the people of Kalamazoo came the realization that very shortly the hospital would be opened. Also the people realized the tremendous cost of such a project. When they saw how "real" the plan was, practically every citizen in Kalamazoo got behind the

50

Ibid.

51

Mother Agnes died in November, 1948.

52

Silver Jubilee Book, p. 36.

53

Our Tombola, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 4.

movement to push it on its way to success. They were anxious to relieve the city from the stigma of having no⁵⁴ hospital.

Father O'Brien needed a great deal of money for the project. He went to the Mayor of Kalamazoo, James Osborne, to ask if the city might give some financial aid, since the hospital was for the people of the city, regardless of race, color, or creed. "The city declined to give aid in a financial way on the grounds that such enterprises were foreign to municipal affairs." It may have been the Mayor's desire to help the cause, but he could not see where the city could justly give financial aid; however, he did compliment the priest on his work and encourage him to continue⁵⁵ his financial support.

THE HOSPITAL FAIR

The enthusiasm of the citizens of Kalamazoo was of great help to Father O'Brien. He needed the enthusiasm of the people to build up his morale, which undoubtedly was not to high at all times. The cost of the hospital must have been a great worry. The home had been purchased for \$10,500.00. Numerous improvements were made which brought⁵⁶ the cost of the hospital up to approximately \$15,000.00.

⁵⁴

Ibid, p. 2.

⁵⁵

Kalamazoo Gazette, Centennial Issue, sect. 7, p. 11.

⁵⁶

Silver Jubilee Book, p. 13.

The two donations which saved the entire project were Bishop Borgess' \$5,000.00, and that of the Citizens Committee, which had been able to raise \$5,500.00 in sub-⁵⁷scriptions.

The people of St. Augustine's parish were aware of the debt, and with great pride they began to formulate plans for a bazaar or fair which would be held in the interest of the hospital. The theme of the Fair was to be, "Love Thy Neighbor as Thy Self".⁵⁸

Mr. Fred Hotop was President of the Fair. He had several committees working under him. The affair was held in the Kalamazoo Armory. It opened on September 23, 1889, and was held for the entire week. The admission fee was set at ten cents. On entering the Armory one could see the vast array of decorated booths such as the novelty, doll, refreshment, candy grab bag, Gypsy tent, and flower booths. Music was played and door prizes were given. It was a gay⁵⁹ event in which all the people of Kalamazoo participated. The spirit of the occasion is shown by the quotation regarding the purpose of the Fair, "That we will soon have a model institution of its kind, with its doors thrown wide open to all who may need its protection, is a fact in which all good citizens can rejoice".⁶⁰

57

Our Tombola, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 2..

58

Ibid, p. 4.

59

Ibid.

60

Ibid, p. 2.

The Fair was very successful. At the end of the week they estimated the profit at between \$2,500.00 and \$3,000.00. Everyone was pleased with this amount, especially Father O'Brien, who continually thanked the people for all of their generous donations of money, time, and labor. ⁶¹

Of course all of this money would not be sufficient. It was Father O'Brien's intention to have the hospital self-sustaining, and in order to have this, definite rates for patients had to be set up. The revenues from the hospital were hoped to be sufficient for the needed yearly amount. With this in mind the rates were established at \$1.00 per day for wards, and from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per day for private rooms. These amounts included board, maintenance and a hospital physician. If a special physician were desired by a patient, the patient had to pay for his charge. ⁶²

One of the purposes of the hospital was to care for the poor, unfortunate people who could not otherwise afford medical attention. In such cases the hospital issued Insurance Cards which promised medical care to the holder. These cards could be purchased by any person in good health for the small sum of \$5.00 per year for ward accommodations, or for the sum of \$10.00 per year for private room accommodations. Such cards entitled the person to the

⁶¹

Ibid, Sept. 28, 1889, p. 1.

⁶²

Ibid, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 2.

necessary medical treatment given by the hospital staff
63 64
of physicians. The Insurance Card was worded:

No. _____
Kalamazoo, Michigan ___ 18 ___

This certificate entitles Mr. _____ to
treatment, medicine, board, and lodging
in

BORGESS HOSPITAL
at any time during One Year from the
date hereof in consequence of Wounds,
Injuries, or Sickness, incapacitating
him for labor. Subject to certain
conditions printed on the back of this
ticket, which are hereby made a part
of this Contract.

Received Five Dollars. This
ticket admits to Wards only.

THE BORGESS HOSPITAL
By _____

Valid only when stamped with the
Hospital seal.

The back of the ticket stated:

Conditions--Cronic, Contagious,
Infectious and Private Diseases are
excepted from this Contract, or any
disease or injury existing before
the purchase of this ticket; also
the diseases or injury arising from
the use of intoxicating drink. This
ticket admits to the Hospital until
discharged as cured by the attending
physician, or until the expiration of
the ticket by limitation. Any per-
son using the ticket of another
party, to enter the Hospital, will
be prosecuted to the fullest extent
of the law, and any person violating any
rules of this Institution, or
found intoxicated while under treat-
ment, will be immediately discharged,
and forfeits this certificate.

____ 63
Ibid.
64
Ibid

If the purchaser of this ticket does not wish to remain in the Hospital, he can, by calling there, procure treatment and medicine prescribed by its physician.

These certificates are sold only to those in health.

Every possible means to raise money were tried. The sale of the cards was a great success. They not only helped to further the purpose of the hospital, but they also helped to raise the necessary money. The city gave money to the hospital which was to be used to care for the poor who could not afford Insurance Certificates. ⁶⁵

Lawn festivals were held for the purpose of raising money. These have become annual events, and are now held on the lawn in front of New Borgess on Gull Road. ⁶⁶

Legacies, bequests, and donations were also accepted from generous people. ⁶⁷

The sisters were of great help in raising money. Often a group of them would go about the town begging. This was most difficult and embarrassing for them, but it was a matter of necessity. In a few cases the sisters from the hospital, when possible, would care for patients in private homes. Often the people would show their appreciation by giving a donation to the hospital. ⁶⁸

65

Ibid, p. 4.

66

Sister Zita, in a personal interview in Nov. 1948.

67

Our Tombola, Sept. 23, 1889, p. 4.

68

Borgess Hospital Annals, 1899, p. 2.

It had been the intention that the hospital was to be officially opened on December 8, 1889; however, the first patient was admitted in late November.⁶⁹

THE GROWTH OF THE HOSPITAL

The first two or three years after the hospital opened were trying ones. The hospital operated at a great loss during these years, and at one time Father O'Brien thought of even giving it up. On January 21, 1896, Sister Mary Agnes was made Mother Superior of the hospital. It was amazing how^well she performed her duties. Quickly she set about the task of putting the hospital "back on its feet". With her enthusiasm the "life of the hospital seemed assured". The growth of the hospital was rapid and soon another addition was built. Now the institution continued on a paying bases.⁷⁰

Sister Agnes was Mother Superior at Old Borgess from 1896 to 1917. In 1917 she and six other nuns were sent to help open New Borgess.⁷¹

It is interesting to note the actual growth of the hospital. Father O'Brien recalled the result of the first year when he summed it up as:

Cash on hand.....None

69

Ibid.

70

Augustinian, April 11, 1925, p. 7.

71

Ibid.

Debit.....Large Deficit
 Number of Patients....15
 Number of poor
 cared for with-
 out cost to the 72
 city.....6

In comparison, the success of the hospital after ten and eleven years of operation should be pointed out. In 1899 practically all trials and problems had vanished and the hospital was able to care for numerous charity cases each year.

In this period of ten years a nurses' training school had been established. Henceforth only trained nurses could care for the patients. The course which the nurses had to take was spread over a three year period. In 1898 seven sisters graduated from the school. 73

In order to give a complete report of the hospital's progress in 1899 and 1900 the two years will be given together. 74 (The first figures given will be those shown by the 1899 annual and the second figures will be those shown by the 1900 annual.)

TRUSTEES:

Sr. Mary Agness.....Same
 Sr. Mary Zita.....Same

72
 O'Brien, op. cit., p. 234
 73
Borgess Hospital Annual, 1899.
 74
Ibid, 1899 and 1900.

Sr. Mary Philomena.....Sr. M. Veronica
Sr. Mary Constance.....Same
Sr. Mary Angela.....Sr. M. Margaret

OFFICERS:

President: Sister Agnes.....Same
Secretary: Sister Constance.....Same
Treasure: Sister Zita.....Same

PATIENTS:

Number of pay patients....72.....	164
Number of city patients...18.....	19
Number of charity patients.....35.....	40
Number of county patients.....	20
Total	125 233

NATIONALITY:

American.....77.....	126
Irish.....20.....	42
German.....12.....	25
French.....3.....	2
Isrealites.....3.....	8
Hollanders.....5.....	23
Belgiums.....3.....	2
Scotch.....1.....	2
English.....1.....	2
Italians.....	1

BELIEFS OF PATIENTS:

Catholic	57	92
Protestant	47	80
No religion	17	53
Israelites	3	8

Total number of deaths includes those arrived at hospital
in moribund condition 11 16

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Amount received from City and County patients	293.50	461.00
Amount received from private patients	1969.95	3312.73
Donation, in- cludes ba- zaar and fes- tival	3120.89	2691.89
Profit from Book Store	461.86	332.52
From sale of tickets	24.00	29.25
Sundries	44.00	
Service fee for home nursery		<u>504.00</u>
Total	5914.20	7331.39
Expenses for maintainance	3602.24	3711.83
Paid on debt and interest during same two years:		
	<u>2390.00</u>	<u>3616.00</u>
Total	5992.24	7327.83
Balance overdrawn	78.04	3.56
Owed a Bonded Debt of	11,000.00	8,000.00

The hospital continued its growth in such a fashion. Since its beginning it was enlarged twice. The first time it was enlarged to a one hundred capacity--eighty more beds than were had in 1889. The second enlargement (1901) made it possible to care for about 3,000 patients annually.⁷⁵

In the annuals of 1899 and 1900 there are pictures of the various rooms. The private rooms were very neat and attractive. There was a very low poster bed, dresser, mirror, wash stand, chair, rugs, and white curtains. The wards were quite the same, with the exception of having no dresser or mirrors. The wards were of two and three bed capacity. The operating room was very plain. There was one large glass case for instruments, a plain operating table, and a small operating stand. Also the hospital had a large dining room which was for the patients who were able to come to the dinner table. The chapel in the hospital was very small. Here the sisters and patients heard mass.⁷⁶

On June 8, 1901 the corner stone for New Borgess Hospital was laid at an impressive ceremony. Bishop Foley was in charge of the event. He gave a short talk on "Charity--The Charity of Christ". There were several

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Mc Nair, op. cit., p. 69

⁷⁶

Borgess Annuals, 1889, 1900.

dignitaries present for the occassion. The mayor of Kalamazoo was given the place of honor.⁷⁷

In 1917 New Borgess, which is located on Gull Road, was opened. There was no dedication ceremony because actually this was just an addition to Old Borgess. "In 1929 the New and Old Borgess hospitals were amalgamated and the doors of the old Portage street building were closed on the memories of the doctors and nurses, priests and sisters, and the patients who had passed through since its beginning years before."⁷⁸ In 1933 the Old Borgess⁷⁹ building was bought by the Upjohn Company to be razed.

⁷⁷

Kalamazoo Gazett, October 17, 1927

⁷⁸

Ibid, December 26, 1948, p. 9.

⁷⁹

Ibid.

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