THE HISTORY OF BRONSON METHODIST HOSPITAL
1896 to 1921

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THE NEED FOR A NON-SECTARIAN HOSPITAL IN KALAMAZOO

In the fall of 1896, the hospital situation in Kalamazoo had become a serious problem. The population of Kalamazoo being nearly 24,000, the hospital facilities were very inadequate for a city of this size. Before this time Borgess Hospital, founded in 1889 and located on Portage Street between Lovell and South Streets, had enjoyed progressive success, but now it was in difficulties.

Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding at Borgess Hospital, the staff had been discharged in 1896. Members of the discharged staff were Dr. Edward Ames, Dr. John W. Bosman, Dr. Adolf Hockstein, Dr. Oliver A. LaCrone, Dr. Steven D. O'Brien, Dr. H. B. Osborn, Dr. Orlo B. Ranny, Dr. Herman H. Schaberg, and Dr. Irwin Simpson. Doctor H. B. Osborn had been chief of staff.

Those interested in the medical profession were very ill at ease and undecided as to what action should be sought in regard to the problem. It was also realized that the general public could not be looked upon for help as they were of the opinion that "it is simply a doctors quarrel" and were entirely unaware of the seriousness of the conflict which had occurred.

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1 Rush McNair, M. D., The Founding of the Kalamazoo Hospital, 1936 (hereafter referred to as Rush McNair).
3 Rush McNair.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
FORMATION OF THE KALAMAZOO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Rush McNair, realizing the seriousness, took it upon himself to seek an answer to the problem. "At this time he was attending a man by the name of Henry Brees, a prosperous man of the community and president of the Kalamazoo Savings Bank, who owned real estate throughout Kalamazoo. "Gaining the confidence of this kindly gentleman, Dr. McNair asked him if he would care to make a gift of his lot, located at John and Cedar Streets, for the purpose of a hospital. "Without hesitation Mr. Brees replied that he would be glad to do so, and that there two institutions he liked to contributed to, his church and a hospital."

The greater portion of this tract of land, at Lovell, John and Cedar Streets, was owned by Mr. Herbert Everard, and the remaining 37 1/2 feet of the tract, which included a house, was owned by Mrs. Mary C. Miller. Mr. Everard, a brother-in-law of Dr. McNair; after hearing the story of Mr. Brees promised gift, making the proposition that if the doctors concerned would buy the Mary C. Miller lot, he would present them with the tract of land he owned.
Mrs. Miller offered her lot plus the house for $2,395.59 and this was bought outright. Mr. Everard also deeded to them 3 1/2 x 100 feet of land, north of the Mary C. Miller lot and this then completed the entire tract. The five doctors each contributed $530, with the understanding that the project was not one of gain or dividend and bought the lot, with a balance which was later used for furnishings in the hospital. They then possessed, by purchase, option and gift, a frontage on John Street of 193 feet and 100 feet in depth. The five doctors were Dr. E. W. Van Deusen, Dr. John W. Bosman, Dr. H. B. Osborn, Dr. Oliver A. LaCrone, Dr. Rush McNair and Dr. Cornelius Van Zwaluwenberg. They were later joined by Dr. Edward Ames and Dr. Casper LaHuis, who also contributed.

The association was incorporated under Act 108 of the Public Acts of Michigan on December 4, 1900. The first officers were elected with Dr. Edwin H. Van Deusen, president; Dr. John W. Bosman, secretary; and Dr. O. A. LaCrone, treasurer.
Dr. Edwin H. Van Deusen had been the first superintendent of the State Hospital for the insane in Kalamazoo. He came to this city in 1858, to assume the position of superintendent, and was the moving force in the growth of the institution until he resigned in 1883. Dr. Van Deusen offered, in 1890, a gift of $50,000 toward a new city library. His work on all projects was for the love of mankind and not one these organizations may have succeeded with out the help of this great man.

The Mary C. Miller house was made to do as a hospital until a new one could be built. The house would accommodate twelve patients and, by crowding, twenty could be cared for. This was the first Kalamazoo Hospital. Miss Jessie Yancey, a graduate of Mercy Hospital in Chicago, was the first superintendent of nurses. The rest of the nursing staff was made up by Mary Legg, Minnie Johnson, Renz Koster and Elizabeth M. Pyle.

1 Albert Grady, *The Life of Dr. Edwin H. Van Deusen*, Papers from the History Seminar, Kalamazoo College, 2-5.
2 Ibid.
3 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 10, 1910.
4 Ibid, April 18, 1937.
5 Ibid, October 1, 1925.
6 Ibid, April 16, 1937.
THE WOMANS' AUXILIARY

The need and demand for a non-sectarian hospital became more and more apparent and the physicians called upon the women of the city for assistance. They banded together and began their aggressive work under the name of "the Womans' Auxiliary of the Kalamazoo Hospital". The organization was formed with the object being "to assist in building, assist in equipping and assist in maintaining a modern non-sectarian hospital".

Dr. Blanche Epler, who came to Kalamazoo in November 1901, assumed charge of organizing the women workers in behalf of the hospital. The project was first presented at an informal meeting at the home of Mrs. Demmen DenBlyker, March, 1901. The plan at this time looked tremendous, but the need for a high grade hospital was so apparent that it was thought to be feasible.

At the third meeting, which took place March 5, 1901, a committee was appointed to draw up the articles of the association. The constitution drawn up by this committee was later lost and Dr. Epler and Mrs. Ames were appointed to draw up another one, which they did. The first officers of the

1 Ibid, May 25, 1901.
2 Ibid, February 24, 1910.
3 Ibid, October 16, 1925.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid, February 24, 1910.
6 Ibid.
Womans' Auxiliary were Mrs. O. A. LaCrone, president; Mrs. George I. Goodenow, Mrs. Ranny, Mrs. Mary C. Miller, vice presidents; Mrs. Demmen Den Blyker, secretary and Miss Katherine Weimer, treasurer.

During the regular meeting of March 20, 1901, E. J. Phelps presented the auxiliary with an offer of $12,000 by an "unknown donor" (thought to be Dr. and Mrs. Van Deusen) if the women could raise $18,000 by June 1, 1901. A special meeting was held on April 4, 1901, to which were invited physicians and businessmen of the city. The object of this meeting was to devise a means whereby the Womans' Auxiliary, then numbering 400 members, could raise the $18,000. A plan was suggested of launching subscriptions of stock in the Kalamazoo Hospital Association. This plan was carried out and the amounts received formed the greater part of the building fund.

By September, 1901, the membership of the Auxiliary had increased to 632 paying members. They succeeded in having the time set for raising the $18,000 extended to October 1, 1901. Hard work and small gain resulted in increasing the fund but $18,000 was not raised and the offer of $12,000 was lost.
The subscription papers were held by the secretary of the auxiliary and while promises were obtained by the physicians and other individuals, the greater part of the collections was made by the women.

The women worked until March 11, 1902, and had $3,700 which they voted to turn over as stock in the Association. This gave them 3,700 votes and Mrs. Miller, Mrs. B. F. Desenberg, Mrs. Demmen Den Blyker, Mrs. A. S. Cowing and Mrs. C. H. Williams were chosen to represent the auxiliary in the stockholders meetings.

On August 13, 1902, a special meeting of the auxiliary was held to consider the early erection of a hospital building. A planning committee of the Hospital Association was formed on October 8, 1902. Dr. Van Deusen made an offer of $5,000 on the condition that the Woman's Auxiliary raise $9,000. It was thought that $14,000 was sufficient for a small hospital, to be used later for surgical purposes. With $14,000 in the bank, plans for the building were considered by the Kalamazoo Hospital Association.

The women worked for two years to raise the necessary funds for the building and equipping of the hospital. When the

\[1\] Ibid.
\[2\] Ibid, May 10, 1912.
\[3\] Ibid.
\[4\] Ibid.
\[5\] Ibid, February 24, 1910.
dedication ceremonies opened the hospital, they had obtained
$10,000 for furnishings. This they received from individuals
desiring to furnish rooms as namesakes, memorials or as gifts.
The women worked day after day, bought, sewed, planned and
arranged the furnishings. They later obtained the maintainance
of four free beds separate from the association.

This group of women through continuous efforts in the
midst of disheartening obstacles made possible the building
of a high grade hospital. Through their various schemes for
raising money by food sales, trolley days, handkerchief bazaars,
barbershop days, entertainments and individual efforts, they
achieved the object for which their organization was formed.
It was all done for the sake of others in the establishment
of this hospital for the people of Kalamazoo.

With the completion of the hospital building, the
Womans' Auxiliary continued to give its attention to maintaining
and keeping the hospital properly equipped.

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1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.

Ibid, March 10, 1912.
THE KALAMAZOO HOSPITAL

In 1900 the house was converted into a small hospital and soon became too small for the increasing number of patients. After its formal opening, patients were received and treated there for several years.

Due to misconstrued city gossip, that the hospital was a physicians' affair, it was decided to place the entire control and management in the hands of a board of directors. The board was to be composed of five men and ten women, no one of whom could be a physician in active practice. This removed all controlling interest from the physicians who had drawn up the Articles of the Association. The new hospital association directors were Dr. E.H. Van Deusen, president; G. Vandekreek, secretary; and E.J. Phelps, treasurer. The remainder of the board members were Frank H. Milham, H.H. Everard, Meyer Dessenberg, Mrs. O.A. LaCrone, Mrs. A.S. Cowing, Mrs. Mary C. Miller, Mrs. C.H. Williams, Mrs. E.J. Blekkink, Mrs. John Den Blyker and Mrs. Helen Cobb.

A new constitution and by-laws were adopted on August 13, 1903. A special meeting was called to consider early erection.

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1 Charles E. Boys, M.D., Later Development of The Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 24, 1910.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
of a hospital building and value of the stock subscriptions papers. A building committee was appointed on October 8, 1903, and Dr. Van Deusen offered $5,000 on the condition that the Womans' Auxiliary raise $9,000. The auxiliary collected all but $16,000, by April, 1903 and secured sixteen signatures for $100 each from staunch businessmen without difficulty. With $14,000 in the bank, plans were drawn up for the hospital.

On May 11, 1903, Dr. Van Deusen resigned as president of the Association and Dr. William E. Upjohn became president. It was necessary to add a debt of $10,000 for the addition of another story and $4,000 for an elevator in the building. Plans for the building were accepted on December 3, 1903.

Ground was broken for construction, with Mrs. E. H. Van Deusen turning the first earth. When the cornerstone was laid it contained a list of the board of directors of the Hospital Association, a copy of the daily papers, a printed handkerchief with the advertisement of the handkerchief Bazaar; sponsored by the Womans' Auxiliary, and a handkerchief called the "Widow's Mite".

1 Ibid, op. cit., part III.
2 Ibid, part III
3 Ibid, part III
4 Charles E. Boys, M.D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
5 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 24, 1910.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
Notable among the many donors were Dr. Edwin H. Van Deusen and Dr. William Upjohn, who made possible the erection of the new building which was first opened for patients in the later part of September, 1905, it was only half a building; the front entrance was placed at the north end of the three story structure, on John Street, the north half of the building was to be added later. The night before the formal opening, Dr. Charles E. Boys treated the first patient, a case of an injured finger from a paper mill. 2 Dr. Walter Den Blyker treated the first patient after the opening.

The hospital was dedicated on December 4, 1905 and opened to the public on that date. The Rev. Roger Hanson of St. Luke's Church gave the invocation at the dedication program. 3 A brief review of the history was given by Dr. William Upjohn, at which time he lauded Mr. C. Little, the supervisor and the builder of the Hospital. Mayor Walter B. Taylor spoke and the dedicatory address was given by Rev. H. W. Gelston, pastor of the first Presbyterian Church.

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1 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 2, 1937.
5 Ibid.
In 1907 the association re-organized and re-incorporated under the Charity Act of the State of Michigan. This required the name to be changed to Bronson Hospital. Dr. Blanch Epler was appointed to write a new constitution and this was placed in the hands of the Board of Directors, who should not number more than twenty, in whom all responsibility was concentrated.

Officers and members of the official board at the time of the opening were Dr. William E. Upjohn, president; Mrs. C. H. Williams, vice-president; Eréd. Phelps, secretary; Dr. E. H. Van Deusen, Mrs. John Den Blyker, Mrs. Julia Snook, Mrs. A. S. Cowing, and Mrs. A. B. Connable. Control of the hospital remained with this board of directors.

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 1, 1925.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
THE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES

The high grade of nurses receiving their training at the Kalamazoo Hospital, later Bronson Hospital, was one of the most distinctive efforts made by the hospital. The nurses were continuously in demand in the city and small towns because of their high grade and efficiency.

In the house converted into the first hospital there were ten beds, with extra beds set up in the dining room when it became crowded. As stated already they secured four young women as nurses as well as Miss Jessie Yancey, a graduate of Mercy Hospital in Chicago, the first superintendent of nurses. The training period was for two years, the first three months being probationary period. The only admission requirement was a statement from a physician that the applicant was strong and healthy.

The uniform consisted of a blue and white striped dress with long sleeves and white cuffs, an apron with an eight inch hem which hung six inches from the floor, white hose and black shoes. Each nurse wore a white organdy cap, after the probation period, and a black band was received after graduation.

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1 Ibid, February 10, 1910.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid, April 16, 1937.
4 Mary B. Anderson, A Brief History of Nursing in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Kalamazoo December, 1947 (hereafter referred to as Mary B. Anderson).
5 Ibid.
The nurses worked no regular hours and were on twenty-four hour call. No vacation was given, but two weeks were promised at the end of the two years. Many of the lectures were given by doctors, and classes were given when ever convenient; the nurses often had to leave class to answer calls. Classes met in the dining room around the dining room table.

Classes were given in surgical nursing, obstetrics, bandaging, bacteriology, nursing the sick, anatomy and physiology, materia medica, medical nursing and eye and ear nursing.

Housing was provided in private homes and the hospital paid the rent.

Plans for an accredited school of nursing were made with the planning for the new building. With the opening of the hospital the former high standard was continued. The basis of this standard was training to obtain almost the knowledge of a physician and the efficiency required of a good nurse. The aim was to secure instructors with the best talent and offer opportunity for regular and practical work. Students were sent on private duty during the building of the new hospital and returned when it was finished to continue their training.

The entrance requirements were raised to include two years of high school and the training period was lengthened to

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1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
three years in 1904. A six months affiliation with Women’s Hospital and Infants’ Infirmary in New York was arranged to broaden the education of the student.

The first graduation was held in 1907, and the first four young women who had begun their training in the first hospital received their diplomas along with the others. In that same year the affiliation was changed to Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and students received experience in the care of children.

The State Board of Registration of Nurses in Michigan, gave recognition for the first time to the school in 1910. At this time the first pin was given to Bronson Hospital graduates. The number of students had increased and in 1911, there were twenty students in training. The school was well organized, with well defined educational policies. Requirements for admission were raised to include young women between the ages of 19 and 32 in good health, character references from three responsible persons, and graduation from high school if possible.

Courses were divided into three one year periods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First year</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing the sick</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacteriology</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietetics</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Nursing</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Nursing</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Massage</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinalysis</td>
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Third Year

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<td>Gynecology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing of Children</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Disease Nursing</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye and Ear Nursing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating room technique</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was decided to continue the school of nursing after

the Methodist Church assumed the control of the hospital.

Mrs. Edna Wildermuth continued as director of nurses, and

Miss Hazel Atwood was instructor of nurses.

In 1921, Dr. H. B. Osborn's home was acquired for a

nurse's residence, along with the Dewing property.

By 1921, the increased number of applications permitted
careful selection of students and pre-entrance physical

examinations were a requirement.

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1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
The following is a comparative report concerning activities at Bronson Hospital, covering the work completed in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1916.

One-thousand one-hundred and ninety-three patients were cared for and received treatment, for a total of 13,653 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total no. patients (male 1100 and female 793)</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1,063</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Obstetrical cases</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>115</td>
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</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Surgical cases</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>676</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>779</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total service earnings</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>$37,243.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>$30,066.52</td>
<td>7,177.26</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total expenditures</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>$40,672.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>$35,814.67</td>
<td>4,858.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual deficit for the year, amounting to $3,182.92, was largely due to wartime increases in the cost of foodstuffs, drugs, surgical supplies etc.

During this year the hospital rendered charitable service to the extent of $8,873.70 to the poor and needy of Kalamazoo and vicinity, for which it received no payment.

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 23, 1916.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
REPORT OF WORK COVERED IN 1917

The only complete annual report of the work done at Bronson Hospital was published for the year ending October 1, 1917. The capacity of the hospital at this time was 46 beds. During that year 1646 operations were performed on 1049 patients and 659 were operated on for eye, ear, nose and throat conditions without a death. There were 390 cases of general surgery and gynecology with seventeen deaths. The mortality rate, all cases considered, was 1.6%.

Surgical deaths included:

- Moribund (disease in a dying state) 3
- Hopeless cancer 4
- Late intestinal obstruction 2
- Puerperal sepsis contracted outside of the Hospital 2
- Total 11

The Obstetrics record was 170 confinements, two of these died, and 119 were normal deliveries. The Medical record stood at a total of 185 medical patients; of these 26 died.

Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.

1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

The hospital was constantly in financial difficulties during the first fifteen to twenty years. It was like a waif —— no endowments and no other organizations to help; the only income was from earnings, many of which could never be collected.

The early rates for service were $1.50 per day for ward and $3.00 to $3.50 for private rooms. The supplies of dishes and linens were very poor and all equipment was very simple. Dr. Charles E. Boys in his report stated, "he could remember when linen had to be taken from nurse's beds and brought to the hospital to make up beds before patients could be admitted. Towels were so scarce that nurses carried one under their aprons for use while on duty. The sterilization of catgut for surgical operations was done by an uncertain and tedious method.

Buying was poorly done and payment for purchases was even worse, and it became hard to obtain credit.

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1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
The hospital would have been forced to close if, on occasion, money though hardly sufficient in amount for more than emergencies, had not been raised from citizens of the community.

In 1918, a campaign was begun to raise $50,000 to remove the institution's high debt and to make some badly needed improvements. It was believed by those in charge that upon completion of the war, the hospitals of the nation would be called upon to care for crippled soldiers returning from overseas. It was their intention to be prepared for this emergency. As a result of the war and inflation, the cost of food and medical supplies had increased a great deal.

The fund raising committee was composed of ten men; they were George Wigginton as chairman, C. A. Hubbard, Fred Bond, Edward Sargeant, George Harrington, Fred Appledoorn, Ray O. Brundage, Harry Allyn, Jacob Kindleberger, George Putt, C. A. Weidenfeller, L. Johnson, R. E. Fair, Guy Wilson, W. E. Keller and W. S. Clark. After this campaign was completed and if $50,000 was raised, it was hoped that the hospital would never again have to appeal to the public for funds.

1 Ibid.
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 27, 1918
3 Ibid.
5 Ibid, October 27, 1918.
6 Ibid.
The campaign ran short of its goal, but reports were quite hopeful for a reduction of the huge debt. It was reported at the annual meeting held October 10, 1919, that during the past twelve months the financial obligations were reduced and hope for continuation of the hospital was not lost.

Ibid, October 16, 1919.
THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASSUMES CONTROL

Financial difficulties increased until the Board of Trustees decided that a guarantee of financial security and progress could best be obtained by turning the management of the hospital over to some church. An inventory of the hospital was given and it was valued at $116,873.21, this included buildings, fittings, furniture and cash assets. By "unpopular" subscription about $45,000 was raised to pay off all indebtedness.

On Wednesday, May 1, 1920, at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Bronson Hospital ceased to exist. The Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church took over the institution, with the understanding that the church would insure its further development. The name of the hospital was again changed to Bronson Methodist Hospital and transfer and acceptance was made at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, in the chapel of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Developments of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
3 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
5 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
The principal officers of the hospital in 1920, at the time the Methodist Church took over legal control of the hospital, were:

- W. M. Puffer ---------- general superintendent
- G. E. Putt ----------- business manager
- E. J. Phelps --------- treasurer
- Mrs. Edna Wildermuth --- superintendent of nurses
- Miss Elsie Plumb ----- head maternity nurse
- Miss Jane Carr ------- night supervisor
- Miss J. J. Van Vranken - assistant clerk
- Miss Doris Francis --- dietician

Thus a new era began for the institution. New equipment and furnishings replaced the old, from steam boilers to operating room furniture. A new wing was added to the north, this added about sixty beds to the original forty-six. This was a much needed and important improvement. The cost of these additions and improvements was about $85,000.

In the report given by Rev. William Puffer, chairman of the executive committee, concerning the first year of management by the Methodist Conference, from May 1, 1920 to May 1, 1921, the following data were given:

- Total number of patients ..................... 1,794
- Total number of surgical operations .......... 1,246
- Total number of births ....................... 311
- Total number of medical patients ............ 237
- Total number of deaths ...................... 43

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1 Ibid, June 28, 1920.
2 Ibid.
3 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
4 Ibid.
5 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 9, 1921.
A total number of seventy-one doctors did work in the hospital and ninety doctors referred cases there.

The debt of $36,000 had been paid and the hospital had no debt except for running expenses of the month of April. The cost of running the hospital during the year amounted to $85,332.56; a total of $74,521.53 was from patients treated in the hospital. The deficit of $10,811.53 was paid by the church.

Many gifts were received by the hospital during the first year of management by the church. Among the many gifts were rugs, a piano, three gas ranges, $975 worth of blankets, an operating room table, costing $572, three-thousand seven hundred dozens of eggs and over four-hundred quarts of fruit, which were given by 350 churches all over the state which gave either supplies or money. About $20,000 in cash and $4,414.53 in supplies were received, totaling $24,414.53.

The Hospital continued to serve an ever increasing number of patients and through the management of the Methodist Church further development was completed.

1 Charles E. Boys, M. D., Later Development of the Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, 1939.
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 9, 1921.
3 Ibid., May 29, 1921.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
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