

stitutional disturbance, pulse small and rapid, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and there will likely be a frequency of thin stools. Temperature varies. It may be only slightly elevated or may be as high as 103 to 104, with early signs of anemia, emaciation and typhoid condition. We are likely to have the symptoms of effusion with a suppurative type of fever. In some instances the acute symptoms are absent giving only slight local and general symptoms: low fever, anemia, slight abdominal pains, as in the history of a case that I will present further on. When we come to diagnosis, unless we can determine as to tuberculosis in other organs, it presents some difficulty. A tubercular family history would aid us some: fever with a tumor, especially if it be a transverse one and elongated would be a diagnostic point of great value; and in case all of the organs from which you might expect infection could be excluded the mucus from the rectum and the urine should be examined for the tubercular germs. We would have to differentiate from internal hernia in which we have the sudden attack, pain local and in paroxysms, absolute constipation in a few hours, nature of the vomited matter, tympanites, but no ascites. From cancerous peritonitis in which we have the tumor growing slowly, a gradual obstruction of the bowels, and the age of patient, this being in older subjects. From enteritis by the frequent mucous discharges, the absence of tumor or ascites, no tubercular lesions in other organs. The treatment would, of course, suggest itself to you. There are some cases, those of a purulent nature, that would be purely surgical. The claim is made by some that all cases should undergo a laparotomy with possibly the exception of the acute cases of milliary tuberculosis.

I will now present the history of a case which was rendered more interesting because of a difference of opinion among the doctors who saw it, which, as you all know, occasionally happens. I was called to see D. P. White, male, age about four years. Found him pale, anemic, small pulse, temperature 100 8/10, abdomen

tympanitic with an elongated tumor extending from the umbilicus upward and outward to a point under the ribs on left side. His parents gave a history of an intestinal derangement of some six or eight weeks, which they attributed to worms and had given anthelmintics quite freely. I diagnosed the trouble as a peritoneal one. Some days later he was brought to my office. I called in a brother physician and he confirmed my diagnosis of tubercular peritonitis. The father wanted a diagnosis of appendicitis. I assured him that it was not, and put the child on an anti-tubercular treatment with rather an unfavorable prognosis. Learned next day that he had taken him to a neighboring town to a physician who diagnosed a purulent appendicitis and appointing the following day to open up the abdomen and evacuate the pus with, of course, the probability of a prompt cure. The physician who saw the child with me attended the operation. Upon opening the abdomen, they were greeted with the peritoneum rolling up into the incision studded with the tubercle—drainage was put in and the incision closed. Instead of the irritation to the peritoneum acting as a cure as it is said frequently to do, the tubercular process seemed lighted up to fresh activity and a perforation of the intestines in a few days was the result, with the fecal contents of the bowel pouring out through the wound. I saw the child afterward in visiting another member of the family. It lived some three weeks, finally dying from exhaustion. This in my opinion, was a case in which tympany was mistaken for purulent exudation.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

HISTORY OF THE ROPER FUND.

W. PEYRE PORCHER, M. D.

(Read before the Medical Society of S. C. of Charleston Co. at the opening ceremonies of the new Roper Hospital, Feb. 19, '06.)

On a tablet over the board room of the old Roper Hospital occur these words:

This institution was commenced in 1850, and

completed in 1852. Thomas Roper bequeathed real estate to the value of \$30,000 in trust to the Medical Society of South Carolina to receive the interest and to invest the same, until a sufficient sum had accumulated, or aid received from public and private benefaction to erect and sustain a public hospital. The donation was received in 1845.

In 1849 the City Council of Charleston, with the Hon. T. Leger Hutchinson, Mayor, in order to sustain and perpetuate the noble and beneficent views of Mr. Roper, gave \$20,000 and land for the erection of a hospital.

In 1851 the City Council of Charleston, with the Hon. John Schnierly, Mayor, in behalf of the upper wards recently attached to the city, gave \$6,000 to complete the building. In December, 1851, the Legislature of the State of South Carolina gave \$10,000 for the use of the institution.

As appears above, the bequest from Mr. Roper, the City Council and the Legislature amounted in all to \$66,000. It now remains to be shown how the fund increased so greatly under the care of the Medical Society that they were enabled to build the Hospital at cost of \$26,400, pay the expenses of repairs, and running, and the cost of rebuilding it after the earthquake, and still have remaining at the inception of the new Hospital a sum nearly equal to \$200,000 outside of the real estate.

It will be seen that the original bequest of Mr. Roper was only a nucleus to which many large bequests were added, both by the State and city, and also by private individuals. We must now show in detail what part the medical profession played in husbanding and increasing this fund so that to-day we are enabled to build this magnificent institution and to take charge within its walls of the entire sick poor of the city without asking in return anything except the actual cost of running it.

It is almost impossible to give an idea of the continuous work and unselfish devotion which the medical profession gave to this Hospital, the innumerable meetings of the whole board of trustees, the long and minute memorials sent to the City Council, and to the Legislature, the daily visits of the visiting committees, all without a cent of reward. The minutes of the board give us only the barest intimation of the enormous amount of work done. Very often the meetings of the board were held daily and generally weekly, but all during the erection of the building and the period of the war, the meetings were called just as often as any question arose which might be brought before them, even if it was only the purchase of a set of splints. At times the good nature and self-abnegation of the physicians and surgeons would rebel when they were allowed only a portion of the small fees which were paid by students for their hospital instruction, but they had determined to build the Hospital and to carry out Mr. Roper's benevolent intentions, and no amount of effort or self-sacrifice was to be spared to accomplish that object, and to give the paupers of the city every benefit which could be derived from the advanced medical science of the day. Of course, during the war the blessings of this institution were enhanced a thousand fold, because the sick and wounded soldiers had then a refuge, and the aid of their

home physicians and surgeons, and the people appreciated this fact, as it is shown in the minutes that wines and liquors and luxuries and necessities of all kinds flowed into the institution in an almost uninterrupted stream. The house surgeons then as now gladly served their terms for the amount which they could learn out of it, and the modest honorarium of \$50 per annum. Subsequently the visiting surgeons and physicians received from \$300 to \$400 per annum, except when the building was leased to the city, when they received as much as \$600, but all the other visiting committees, etc., did their work without fee or reward except the knowledge that they were working for sweet charity alone, and had contributed their share towards the advancement of the medical profession and maintenance of the Roper fund.

It must be stated that previous to the Roper bequest in 1845 the Alms House or Poor House, as it was then called, constituted the only refuge for the sick poor of the city. This was a large building near the corner of Mazyck and Queen streets, which was afterwards converted into the colored wards of the Roper Hospital. The earliest minute book recording the bequest of Mr. Roper and the receipt of it by the Medical Society was lost and has never been found; so that we have nothing more than the will of Mr. Roper to record that incident. In this will it was stated that the Hospital was not to be built for fourteen years after the bequest, unless earlier they may be sufficiently enabled from their adequate means to erect, maintain and regulate a hospital for sick and poor without regard to complexion, religion or nation. It will be seen that Col. Roper designed his Hospital for the reception of all. The sick poor from all parts of the State are equally entitled to its benefits and hence, the Legislature was asked to contribute to the erection of the building.

A memorial was sent to his Excellency, Governor Seabrook, setting forth the conditions and objects of the fund and asking for a yearly appropriation to assist in building the Hospital. One memorial was sent by the trustees and one by the commissioners of the Poor House to the City Council in order that the two charities might be amalgamated. The City Council recommended that the sum of \$6,000 or \$7,000 asked for by the board of commissioners of the Poor House be granted them, which, together with the application of the fund known as the Coffin fund, and the estimated value of the materials that compose the present building will enable them to erect an edifice more worthy the city and better adapted to the purpose designated. They also recommended that \$20,000 and \$1,000 annually thereafter be appropriated in order to enable them without further delay actively to carry out the benevolent objects of the donor. The committee also advised that the fund and real estate of the Roper bequest be hereafter released from all taxation.

Another memorial was sent to the Legislature and each member of the board was asked to solicit subscriptions from private individuals.

The lot on the corner of Queen and Mazyck was given by the city and also a portion of the lot belonging to the Medical College. This latter with the proviso that the College should have the use of one ward in the Hospital.

On January 19, 1850, Mr. Jones was elected

architect for the building and the Legislature was again memorialized. On July 10th, of the same year, a contract was entered into with Mr. J. M. Curtis to build the hospital for \$26,400, and piling was at once begun on the lot. In November 29th the trustees called attention to the flattering prospects from the results of their year's labor. The total sum received was \$17,302.33, of which \$13,500 was a part of the \$20,000 which had been donated by the city. Another memorial was sent to the Legislature and it was proposed at that meeting to elect a secretary and treasurer and to pay him for his services. Dr. W. T. Wragg was elected for this office in December, 1851, with a salary of \$300 per annum. The year 1851 was a dark year for the fund, for we find that by the end of that time the appropriation by the city was nearly all gone and private subscriptions were few and far between.

As has been said above, the poor of the city, previous to 1845, had always been cared for in the Poor House, on Maryck street, and this was under the care of a board of commissioners, who no doubt gave their services free, and were exceedingly jealous of their dignity, and great care and consideration had to be used in approaching such a delicate subject as a change of any kind. In fact it is recorded in the memorial of the Roper Hospital board to the City Council as follows:

"Your petitioners now approach the most delicate part of the application, for they think that they have shown that the granting of the prayer shall be a saving of expense to the city, since it will obviate the necessity of erecting appropriate buildings and wholly endowing them. This is the giving up of the appointment of commissioners and officers to an institution to which they will have so largely contributed." In reviewing the minutes it is amazing to see the amount of arduous labor, the endless number of meetings, the time and trouble, which was freely devoted to this subject by the board of trustees of the Roper fund. The secretary must at least have devoted the best part of his life to it, as he served as secretary for thirty-five years, and he had the proud satisfaction of knowing that at the end of his labor, besides building the hospital by great circumspection and good judgment, the fund had more than doubled the original amount. The building committee had so much difficulty in raising funds to carry on the work that they were obliged to suspend all work for a time; the contractor guaranteed to protect the work so far done from injury by rain, etc., and also to resume the work in one week after the trustees were in possession of sufficient funds to warrant them in doing so. What was known at that time as the upper wards of the city had not been a part of the city proper, and was, therefore, incorporated, and they, having equal privileges for enjoying the use of the new building, were asked to contribute their quota to it. The City Council on that account appropriated \$6,000 for the completion of the building, and work was resumed as agreed upon by the contractor in one week thereafter. By the addition of this amount the fund now amounted to \$25,906.61.

This \$6,000 was advanced as a loan, and, in addition the City Council appropriated \$1,000 annually to assist in running the Hospital when it

should be completed. It must not be supposed that the City Council made these appropriations without due regard for its own interest, they were only paying a comparatively moderate amount for the care of their entire sick poor, and at the same time deriving the benefit of the Roper bequests and all subsequent bequests of which, as we shall see, there were not a few as proved by the phenomenal growth of the fund. It is here recorded that \$1,500 were contributed from private sources, but the names of the individuals who made the contributions are not given. It is mentioned at this time that \$7,000 was left to the institution by a private individual, but his name is also not given.

Dr. Dickson offered to give a series of lectures for the benefit of the fund, and Dr. Simons arranged to give a concert. In another memorial to the Legislature it is stated that "a proper plan having been adopted, and contracts entered into, a noble building of imposing appearance and spacious room, with all the aids that modern skill has brought to bear upon the comfort and sick and suffering creatures, has risen into existence, and stands in readiness to dispense its healing blessings as soon as public generosity has been aroused to such an understanding of its wants as will stimulate it to acts of Heavenly charity. The amount already expended, together with the small sum still requisite for completing the furnishing of the building, amounts to about \$40,000."

"The Hospital, so erected at a cost so much below what it could now be contracted for, is capable of accommodating about one hundred patients. The greater portion of these will be accommodated for in the large wards, where, as in all hospitals, many sick will be gathered together. But there are also provided a certain number of smaller wards, into which those laboring under loathsome or contagious diseases can be kept entirely aloof from the others, and altogether, the arrangements are such as to ensure for the patients seeking its charitable aid, the greatest amount of comfort with the least amount of annoyance possible in such institutions." In December, 1851, the Legislature appropriated \$10,000 for the benefit of the Hospital.

In January, 1864, the securities, not including real estate, amounted to \$28,302.06, and total donations to date, to \$37,400, but still they were not able to open the hospital, although it was completed and almost entirely furnished, but the total income from rents, interest, etc., amounted to only \$3,116.14 per annum. The city was at that time paying \$4,000 a year for the care of their pauper patients, therefore the City Council was again memorialized, because, by a small increase to the annual income of the trustees the magnificent new hospital could be opened, and all the poor of the city cared for in keeping with the will of Mr. Roper.

"In March, 1834, the trustees, with honest pride invited the attention of the public to the statement that a property which, in 1846, was represented by four houses and lots bringing in a yearly income of \$2,100, in 1854 represented by these same houses, and, in addition, a magnificent hospital, built upon a lot of land worth at the lowest estimate, \$7,000, and the invested sum of \$17,300. In other words, by judicious and laudable exertions they have, in the course of less than eight years, increased Col. Roper's

bequest by the handsome amount of \$17,300 in bonds and stocks, and by one of the finest Hospital buildings in the country."

Finally, in April following, furnishings were ordered for the hospital, and it is interesting to note that no mention or allusion is made to any sterilizers or preparation for antiseptics. In fact, the list reads more like the requirements of a hotel than a hospital.

In July, 1854, memorials were sent, both to the City Council and to the Governor of the State, setting forth the condition of the hospital, the state of the funds and the need of further assistance to open the building. As said above, these appeals were made to the Legislature because, by the terms of the will, the hospital was open to every class of persons from any portion of the State or from any quarter of the globe.

It was not until September 7th, 1854, or four years and two months after the work was commenced, that the building was opened, and then only for a short period, because yellow fever had become epidemic in the city, and its doors were again closed November 18th following, because of want of funds to keep it open. In December, 1854, there was only \$2,518 left in the treasury, except real estate and securities. It is recorded, however, that throughout the entire epidemic many contributions of money and supplies were made to the hospital, and that the physicians all gave their services free of charge, although the labor was arduous and dangerous. One of them was stricken with the disease while on duty and narrowly escaped with his life.

In 1855 it is recorded that the Poor House was turned over to the city and became a part of the Roper Hospital. Legacies to the amount of \$9,200 had been left to the fund and also donations to the amount of \$37,000—total securities amounting to \$45,052.16—and a contract was made with the city for \$5,000 per annum and \$3,000 by the Legislature. January 18th, 1856, the hospital was finally opened, and the attending physicians and surgeons were elected. This was just five years and six months after the construction of the building was commenced. It is needless for us to point out the extraordinary contrast between that and the rapidity with which this new hospital has been built and put into operation. This is all the more striking when we compare the relative size and nature of the former and the present building.

It is of interest here to mention that house physicians must have either been scarce or shy of their services in those days, since it is stated in a special report that advanced medical students rather than graduates would be selected. "The committee have been induced to make these suggestions from the difficulty at present exhibited—not having at present a single candidate qualified according to the present rules, and believing young men, not graduates, by their talents and attainments may prove more available and really useful than graduates, and it can scarcely be supposed that the trustees would elect any one without being fully persuaded of his fitness for the duties required." In the light of the present requirements these words read like a page from very ancient history.

Under a contract with the City Council, dated February 12th, 1858, the sick poor and temporary and transient insane were cared for to the satisfaction of Council until the commencement of

the war, when the Hospital was thrown open for the reception of the wounded and sick soldiers, and this continued until August, 1863, when the building became unsafe on account of the enemy's shells and the soldiers and civilians were removed to the school building in Morris street until March, 1864, when that building was taken possession of by the Federal authorities. The trustees then removed their sick poor to the Alms House, on Hampstead Mall, one wing of which was loaned by the commissioners for that purpose.

From February 3rd to November 11th, 1865, no meetings were held on account of the evacuation of the city, all buildings being confiscated by the enemy. After this date a portion of the hospital was restored to the trustees and in November, 1866, it was turned over entirely and a rental of \$2,300 was paid for its occupancy. Stores, medicines, etc., were supplied from the Freedmen's Bureau, which enabled the trustees to keep the building open from March 5th, 1865, until the City Council were enabled to renew its contract with them, which they held previous to the war. The City Council persistently refused to renew this unless the hospital building should be leased to them entirely for a period of years. The legality of this was denied to them in long opinions by Messrs. Simons & Simons and the Hon. C. G. Memminger. In July, 1869, realizing the urgent necessity for more revenue from which to run the institution, the following circular was issued and published in the daily papers in Charleston and Columbia for three months:

"The trustees of the Roper Hospital, of Charleston, an institution under the direction of the Medical Society of South Carolina, have appropriated a part of their commodious buildings as a *Maison de Sante*, or private infirmary. There must exist a number of persons suffering under medical and surgical diseases in sparsely peopled sections of the State to which medical access is difficult and where the necessary conditions for cure at home cannot be obtained, to whom a regular hospital and modern appliances would be a great accommodation. To such persons the trustees offer their fine accommodations with board and lodging, nursing and the best medical and surgical attendance, at the moderate charge of \$12 per week, the profits derived from this source to be expended for the support of the destitute sick. Your recommendation is respectfully solicited in this charitable work. Application for further information, or for admittance, to be made to Dr. W. T. Wragg, secretary and treasurer of the board, No. 21 East Battery, Charleston."

The following advertisement was also published:

"The public are respectfully notified that a part of the Roper Hospital building has been organized as a private infirmary for the treatment of patients in the city and throughout the State who cannot be conveniently attended at their domiciles. The trustees are prepared to receive both medical and surgical cases at the Roper Hospital, where the best medical and surgical treatment, with board and nursing, will be provided for the sum of \$12 a week. Apply to Secretary and Treasurer Dr. W. T. Wragg, No. 21 East Battery.

It is here shown that a part of the Hospital

was used as a private infirmary and the funds derived therefrom were devoted to the sick paupers cared for in the other portion.

On December 2nd, on account of the insufficient interest received from the fund, a resolution was offered that the hospital should be closed for a limited period until the funds might accumulate sufficiently to place the hospital upon a permanent footing. This was very much opposed by many members of the board, but finally after prolonged legal discussion permission was obtained from the Court, and it was determined that the hospital should be closed on the 1st of August, 1871, and that a fee of \$202. be paid to the attorneys for their work, and the salaries of the physicians and surgeons, amounting to \$875. each, be paid as soon as the interest should accumulate sufficiently to do so. It was also decided that the salary of the secretary should be restored to \$400 per annum. On January 3rd, 1873, a resolution was offered to lease the building to the city for a period of ten years on condition that the property would be kept in good repair, and free of rent. This arrangement was agreed to by the City Council, and a lease was signed on March 4th, 1873.

At the expiration of this lease a new agreement was entered into, by which the city leased the Hospital for five years at a nominal rental of \$500 per annum, and agreed also to keep the property in repair. In the meantime, however, and all during the previous ten years, the Roper fund had paid taxes regularly on all its property outside of the hospital proper. This amounted to nearly \$600 per annum, therefore the city virtually had the use of the buildings for nothing except the cost of repair.

On May 30, 1885, the fund sustained its heaviest loss in the death of its faithful custodian, Dr. Wm. T. Wragg, who had been secretary and treasurer of the fund from its incipency to the time of his death and had preserved all the securities of fund after the evacuation of the city as though they were his private property.

In 1886 the hospital was wrecked by the great earthquake, and although the City Council had contracted to keep the building in repair, which lease did not expire until 1888, they declined either to repair the building or to renew its occupancy on the ground that the wreckage was due to the visitation of God. The board were also advised by their solicitor that it would not be expedient to take any steps to compel the city to repair the hospital until the expiration of their lease in 1888. Meantime through the efforts of Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, and other persons, an earthquake fund had been raised for the benefit of the only hospital in this city at that time.

On February 25, 1889, it is recorded that a written communication was sent to the City Council demanding a settlement of the hospital claims for repairs, that the matter had been referred to the city attorney, and the latter had requested that if the board would make some proposition he would be glad to consider a compromise of the claim.

It was then agreed that the solicitor of the board should confer with the city attorney in relation to the proffered compromise of the claim of the board against the city upon a basis of one-half the cost of repairs.

Under the advice of Solicitor Simons the trus-

tees finally accepted the amount of \$125 offered by the city in lieu of all rent due for the Roper Hospital and the earthquake damages were repaired by the trustees at a cost of \$11,172.35.

These repairs became obligatory because the building would have gone to rack and ruin had the trustees waited until the expiration of the contract with City Council, in 1888. The chairman of the earthquake relief fund in Boston expressed his opinion that a portion of that fund was intended for the hospital in Charleston—the only hospital at that time was the Roper Hospital—and if it was not so expended it would constitute a diversion of the fund." In spite of this fact, however, and also of the fact that the Poor House and lot had been turned over to the Roper Hospital, the contract "to remain in force as long as the agreement shall be mutually carried into effect," the contract was broken, the Poor House torn down, the lot sold and the proceeds, with a considerable part of the earthquake fund, was invested in the City Hospital, which was built on this site. As a result of this the sick poor of this State and city were deprived of this great charity and the extensively repaired building was left unoccupied for eighteen years and nine months, until January, 1904, when the Medical Society determined to build a hospital which would be a credit to them and would give to the people of this city and State the benefits of this great charity once again.

The result of their efforts you have now before you, and I have the great honor and pleasure of congratulating you upon the possession of a magnificent plant, of which not only the people of this city and State, but the medical profession, may well be proud. I now leave the matter in the hands of the chairman of our building committee, Dr. R. S. Cathcart, who will explain to you the method by which this wonderful result has been accomplished.

THE NEW ROPER HOSPITAL*

R. S. CATHCART, M. D.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Medical Society of South Carolina: The movement to give the City of Charleston better hospital facilities, and to utilize the Roper fund for this purpose, began in December, 1903, when Dr. Porcher, in his inaugural address, as president of the Society, called attention to the Roper fund, how it had remained idle and the poor and sick of the city deprived of its benefits, since the abandonment of the old Hospital on Queen street in 1886.

This fund has been held and guarded as a most sacred trust by each member of the Society, and it has always been our most earnest wish and effort to carry out the terms as set forth in the will of Mr. Roper.

This address of the president and the urgent need of a modern hospital being appreciated by

*Read before the Med. Society of S. C. of Charleston Co. at the opening ceremonies of the new Roper Hospital, Feb. 19, 1906.

every member of the Society, stimulated them to make renewed and determined efforts to re-establish the Roper Hospital.

Acting on this incentive the Society appointed a committee of nine to formulate plans to accomplish this purpose. The committee, after organization, called on Mr. Rhett, the newly elected Mayor, and informed him of the lack of hospital facilities of the city, and also that the medical institutions of the city were being conducted without medical representation. He appreciated our motives and arranged for a joint meeting with a committee from City Council. After several conferences with this committee extending over a period from December, 1903, to June, 1904, a memorial was sent to City Council from the Medical Society of South Carolina, offering to build a Hospital on the site of the City Hospital with the Roper fund and to contract to take care of the sick poor of the city for a certain fixed sum per annum—also including the city dispensary service as an outdoor department. This was adopted by City Council, and the Medical Society then appointed a committee of five to carry out the purposes of the memorial and to act as a building committee. From this period, June, 1904, to December, 1904, there were many conferences with a committee appointed by City Council, of which Alderman Leiby was chairman, before a form of contract, the plans of the new Roper Hospital, etc., were agreed upon, and the Mayor instructed to sign a deed transferring the City Hospital property to the Roper trustees. It was in March, 1905, before we had possession of the old buildings and the wrecking of them started.

On May 28, 1905, the first work was commenced on the present building, and to-night, Mr. President, February 19, 1906, we wish to turn over to the Medical Society of South Carolina, the new Roper Hospital, modern in every detail of arrangement, surpassed by few in the country, equalled by none in the South, a building in which we think the medical profession and every citizen of Charleston should take pride. Over two years since the appointment of the original committee of nine and eight and a half months since actual construction began.

The Hospital consists of five buildings, and is constructed of brick, with tile roof, with the exception of the kitchen and laundry building, and stable and morgue building, which are of wood and stucco.

It has accommodation for over two hundred patients, provision being made for the separation of the races, (a condition not met with in the hospitals of the North,) separation of the sexes of the races, separation of diseases, viz.: 4 medical, 4 surgical, 2 tubercular, 2 insane, 2 infectious, making in all fourteen wards—besides children's rooms, maternity rooms, private rooms, sleeping quarters for house staff, superintendent, druggists—white, help offices, etc. The number of rooms in the building, not including closets, is 162. Each ward or department has separate linen and supply closets, diet kitchen, dining room, bath and toilet. The porches on the west of all wards are inclosed with glass and steam heated.

The offices of the outdoor department are located in the basement of the Lucas street building.

The Riverside Infirmary has been remodeled

inside, the rooms made much smaller, so as to give accommodation for thirty private patients. The former building accommodated eighteen.

There are five surgical operating rooms. The general operating room in the main building, dedicated to the memory of Dr. R. B. Rhett; private operating room in the Riverside department, accident room, near ambulance entrance, for police cases; eye and ear room, room for outdoor clinic.

The entire plant is heated by steam from a 125-horse power boiler, which also runs the machinery of the laundry, supplies the kitchen with steam for cooking, heats the hot water supply of the building. The hot water supply is from two tanks of 600 gallons each, located in a pit beneath the students' stairway. The plumbing work in the building is of the best, the most modern fixtures being installed in all departments and operating rooms.

The kitchen and laundry are models of their kind, and are equipped with all modern appliances.

The stable, morgue and carpenter shop are in one building, in the northwest corner of the grounds. This building is conveniently and comfortably arranged, supplied with heat and electric light.

The kitchen, main building and Riverside department are connected with a covered corridor, enclosed with glass and steam heated.

The ventilation of the Hospital is provided for from each room by shafts, which lead to a common shaft in the cupola. In these shafts are steam pipes to create a draft, the foul air from each department being taken out in this manner.

The buildings are lighted by electricity from the street current. It is wired so that the superintendent has control over the lights in the whole plant from a switch board in the office. In the wards the reflectors are placed beneath the lights. This is to give a general glow over the room, at the same time protecting the patients' eyes.

There are two stairways in the main building, built of iron, with slate treads and platforms. One in the front of the building, around the elevator shafts; the other in the back, opening on the yard. This is for the students and leads to the entrance of the operating and lecture rooms.

The building, while not absolutely fire-proof, has ample fire protection. Brick walls separate all departments; each are provided with fire plugs for hose and iron fire escapes on the porches.

The infectious pavilion, which is separated from the main building, has accommodation for twelve patients, six whites and six colored. It has rooms for isolation of nurses, store rooms, etc. This has been one of the needs of the city for many years, and should prove of vast benefit to its citizens and business interests.

The condition as existed before, of having consumptives in the medical wards, is, without doubt, responsible for many new cases of that disease. We hope by having them in a separate ward in this building to be able to do more for them; at any rate they will cease to be a menace to the health of other patients. A patient will not come to the hospital and recover from typhoid fever, for instance, and leave with consumption.

The buildings have been wired for the installation of a private telephone system of nineteen

stations, connecting all departments with the superintendent's office.

The building is completed with the exceptions of the elevators, which were unavoidably delayed, and are being installed at the present time.

Each member of your committee has worked hard. They realized fully at all times their responsibility. The work has been a pleasure to them, first, because they knew that the hospital would benefit the sick and maimed; second, they thought they were working for something that would help Charleston, and last, that they were helping to place the medical profession in the position that it should have occupied in the management of the medical institution of the city.

COUNTY NEWS.

Charleston.

The most important event of recent occurrence in Charleston was the opening of the new Roper Hospital. On the night of Feb. 19th, a special meeting of the Medical Society was held in one of the wards of the new hospital for the purpose of receiving from the building committee the completed building.

Addresses were delivered by the mayor of the city, Mr. R. G. Rhett; the president of the Medical Society, Dr. C. M. Rees; and the chairman of the building committee, Dr. R. S. Cathcart. A full history of the Roper Fund was prepared and read by Dr. W. Peyre Porcher. Dr. J. S. Buist moved the acceptance in an able impromptu speech. At the conclusion of the ceremonies several thousand citizens who were the guests of the Medical Society were given an opportunity to inspect the elegant structure.

On Feb. 27 the student body of the Medical College assembled in the surgical amphitheatre where they were met by the Dean of the Faculty; several members of the faculty; the chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Dr. T. G. Simons; and the chairman of the building committee, Dr. R. S. Cathcart. After welcoming the students to the new hospital the Dean, Dr. F. L. Parker, introduced Dr. T. G. Simons, who spoke as follows:

"In behalf of the commissioners of the Roper Hospital I welcome each of you to-day. At the recent opening ceremonies you heard of the grand, unselfish work of those of the profession who, in past decades, built and maintained the old Roper Hospital; all honor to their memories. They deserve the gratitude of all of us for their devotion to a sacred trust. High ideals are not of times, and I will allude to a more recent instance and ask to be allowed a personal mention. To-day this modern Hospital, so well equipped and so fitting in every detail of construction, is the fulfilment of the untiring, unselfish devotion chiefly of one man, who, in spite of opposition, with a clear conscience and unflinching zeal, overcame difficulties and made secure all the benefits you to-day enjoy.

"I allude to Dr. Robert S. Cathcart.

"When Mr. Thomas Roper in 1843 or 1845 bequeathed the legacy to the Medical Society of South Carolina, a trust to erect and maintain

and regulate a Hospital of such dimensions as they, in their better judgment, may direct for the 'permanent reception or occasional relief of all such sick, maimed or diseased paupers as need surgical or medical aid, and whom without regard to complexion, religion or nation, I would they should admit therein. The site of the said Hospital or infirmary, to be at or near Charleston.'

"Such, gentlemen, is the origin of the trust fund. Other donors have given by legacy and otherwise to the fund, but it was due to the broad spirit of love for his fellow man that was in the heart of Thomas Roper that the fund had its beginning. This new building has a large sphere of usefulness besides the God-given feature of charity. 'I allude to the education of physicians and nurses, who by their training and skill will carry out from its portals benefits to the sick and the suffering wherever such educated physicians and nurses shall go. I deem it but right that material for instruction should be drawn from its wards and its wide clinical facilities in special lines of treatment in the outdoor service; from these sources fully informed physicians shall go forth to earn the love and appreciation of their patients and also to reap material benefit for themselves.

"I would not have you to acquire alone the experience that will enable you to diagnose and treat disease, but also to acquire an ethical culture and regard for your profession as a most sacred calling.

"To learn the amenities and tender considerations due from the true physician to his patient, a gentle dignity of word and act, these make the well rounded physician of tact and professional accomplishment. I would urge you to begin here in these wards the study of the consideration due the sick, even the pauper sick; many enter here the victims of misfortune, and not always here from errors and vices of their own; all need help and encouragement, and kind words and gentle, firm manipulation of their cases, rather than indifference to their feelings. Nor need the fear of social equality burden your thoughts. Sickness is a great teacher. I can recall the dignity of Dr. Eli Geddings, and the master hand of Robert Kinloch, with gentle firmness in the attention to the sick paupers regardless of color, creed or nation.

"Instruction from their cases is right, but no untimely remark should be uttered at their bedside. The golden rule is applicable to the humblest sufferer. Thackeray has given one of the grandest pictures of a perfect man in Col. Newcombe, and his code of ethics was 'be a gentleman,' and more recently a rare type existed in Robert E. Lee, 'Anax Andron,' a king of men, whose watchword was duty; these men were grand exemplars of gentle dignity. Medical colleges do not teach medical ethics, and often the commercial spirit is too evident in physicians who, in their desire to succeed and acquire wealth, forgot the true dignity of the profession and its claims upon each member to aid each other in all professional advance for the benefit of the profession, and its claims on each of us to maintain ethical relations to the craft. A physician's individuality should be most apparent. Nor should we decline to direct the public in