

St. Mary's Centenary

(Continued from page 1A)
...to find a suitable site for the proposed hospital.

The next day Dr. Bradley and ... toured the countryside around Rochester and concluded the best location was the property where the hospital stands today.

Dr. Bradley reported "I was familiar with it, had passed it almost daily for years and it struck me at once as 'the place'."

The Rev. St. John of the ... and Augustine ... recommended that a couple of buildings near the Bull ... had been purchased by ... Thoen for use as a hospital.

... buildings were merely ... stone stables ... for dilapidated wood ... residences had ... built on the site ... as the Sibley estate.

... payment on the property amounted to \$1,000, a sum ... Thoen obtained in a ... subscription drive.

Medieval church history records that St. Teresa of Avila was laughed at by the Spanish mayor when she told him she would build a hospital "with one diocet and God."

The Spanish saint had both ... Sister Hieronymo ... said her two companions from Buffalo who had but ... "costs us" they walked into ... all basis on Sept. 8, 1857 ... St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Sister Hieronymo's ... a ... association ... launching the hospital were Sister Martha Bridgeman and Sister Felicia Fenwick.

... THREE nurses went ... to ... in ... and ... ready for their first patient on Sept. 15, 1857.

Sister Hieronymo on Sept. 19 ... her hospital's principles in a press report:

"The institution shall ever be opened to the sick of all ... conditions or of any ... race or color. Patients who desire spiritual help from members of their ... shall have every facility afforded them to obtain the ... The Sisters are ever willing to admit the sick poor gratis as far as their means will permit."

The Sisters also promised "the best medical and surgical attendance in the city." To fulfill this promise, they named Dr. Bradley as First Physician and Dr. E. M. Moore as First



Children's ward finds Sister Mary Teresa comforting Mamon Lee Graham recovering from broken leg.

Surgeon. Dr. Keuchling agreed to visit German speaking patients.

Names long famous in Rochester's subsequent history appear in early records of contributions made to the struggling new hospital. These names included organizations such as the Sons of Malta and the Shoemakers Union as also individuals George Ellwanger, Patrick Barry, Mrs. A. Home, Mrs. James Cunningham, Mrs. Owen Gaffney.

Jeremiah Cavanaugh gave a cow as payment for his hospital care.

Eleven days after the hospital opened, St. Mary's was incorporated Sept. 19, 1857 with five trustees forming the official board: Very Rev. Francis Burlando, C.M., director of the Sisters of Charity at Exton, Md., Michael Lester, Sister Hieronymo, Sister Martha and Sister Felicia.

A VISITOR to the hospital in these early days described the scene:

"The loft in one of the stables is used for men patients. The ground floor serves as a kitchen where a little stove purchased for \$10 serves for both cooking and heating. In the other stable, the women patients are made as comfortable as possible. The Sisters

sleep in the loft of this second stable."

Despite such primitive conditions, the Sisters cared for 250 patients during their first year in Rochester. They replaced the woodshed between the stables with a two story building in 1858 and the following year added a three story unit bringing the three year old hospital to a 200-bed capacity.

In addition to the hospital patients, the Sisters also served uncounted numbers who called at the hospital daily for treatment and prescriptions to help less serious ailments.

Statistics

Facilities at St. Mary Hospital must be numerous and varied to care for the patients. The following information released by the hospital show typical statistics during a one year period.

During the past year the hospital served 651,426 meals and handled 1,820,645 lb. of laundry.

There were 14,082 patients admitted to the hospital in 1956. Care of these patients was handled by 499 full time personnel plus 216 part time workers for a total of 715. The average number of patients in

the hospital at one time was 257.

There were 5,317 babies born at St. Mary's during the year. The average number of newborn in the hospital each day was 58.

Treatment was also given to 15,999 persons in the outpatient clinic and another 9,547 were administered by the emergency department. Approximately 47 patients were admitted to the hospital each day.

The laboratory at the century-old hospital handled 170,382 examinations and there were 22,483 X-Ray examinations.

but simply as a statement of facts.

ROCHESTER'S MAYOR. Samuel G. Andrews, impressed with the struggling efforts of the Sisters petitioned the federal Secretary of the Treasury to authorize a Marine Department at St. Mary's Hospital. Washington officials approved and dispatched disabled and convalescent Marines to Rochester.

When the Civil War broke out between the states in 1861, Sister Hieronymo faced the task of nursing thousands of wounded and sick Union soldiers.

She launched a building program to meet the growing demands on her already cramped facilities. With money borrowed from Monroe County Savings Bank and from private individuals, Sister Hieronymo pressed her plans to erect the four story main unit costing over \$200,000 at the corner of Buffalo St. (now West Ave.) and Genesee St.

Thousands of Rochesterians attended the June 28, 1863 dedication rites when Bishop Thronon blessed the cornerstone.

At this date, St. Mary's was still Rochester's only hospital. Next nearest hospital was in Buffalo. As the Civil War took its toll of victims, struggling sick and disabled soldiers came in tens and hundreds to St. Mary's.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT at Washington appealed to Sister Hieronymo to open a separate soldiers ward in her proposed new hospital building. But even while construction was still going on, the servicemen poured in. Tents were hurriedly put up across from the hospital and women of the neighborhood were recruited by the nuns to aid in caring for the wounded.

An 1863 hospital report describes the arrival of a train from Albany with soldiers "from the front."

The report says their wounds and injuries were "disgusting beyond description." The report charges that the victims were "most cruelly neglected" during the days of their journey to St. Mary's.

On one day alone in the spring of 1861, over 300 soldiers arrived at St. Mary's.

THE NUNS APPEALED to Rochesterians to contribute bandages, food, and "delicacies of the season" to meet the urgent needs of these critical days.

Construction of the new four story unit boosted the hospital's capacity to 1,500 patients.



DR. J. WM. QUINLAN
Medical Staff President

but the flood of war victims still filled the wards and private rooms and taxed every available space the Sisters could find.

At the war's end, a new "Liberty Pole" was erected on the hospital grounds by soldiers cared for there. A detachment of Union Blues led by Major A. T. Lee provided an artillery salute at the Stars and Stripes

were raised above St. Mary's, Rochester's Mayor Moor and President Anderson of the University of Rochester spoke of St. Mary's "record of valor" at the flag ceremony attended by throngs of citizens.

Flames swept the hospital at midnight on Feb. 15, 1891, wiping out the progress of thirty years. The gutted structure was repaired within six months and in 1898 a ten room surgery "pavilion" was added.

During the 90's, St. Mary's "Circle of Perpetual Help" began its now sixty year record of generous help to the nuns. Organized to sew linens and wrap bandages the circle numbered 100 women in 1891 who also raised \$7,000 and 8,000 pieces of linen in their first six years of activity. First president of the circle was Mrs. W. C. Barry, who guided the helping organization for its first three years. The circle members still meet regularly every two weeks with Mrs. Mortimer F. Donovan as this year's president.

An additional lay auxiliary group at St. Mary's is the Society of Seton Workers. Its 600 members are divided into 18 branches which meet separately to fold gauze, decorate trays for patients, select toys for children, and keep the hospital library in order.

Founded in 1905, the Seton (Continued on page 8A)

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of
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Shower His
Blessings
Upon
You!

May We
Extend
Sincere
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to
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and the
Sisters of Charity
on
Their
100th Anniversary
in the
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of
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and
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