


2-1928

Jefferson Medical College Alumni Bulletin-Vol. 1 No. 9; February, 1928

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"Jefferson Medical College Alumni Bulletin-Vol. 1 No. 9; February, 1928" (1928). *Jefferson Medical College Alumni Bulletin*. Paper 10.

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Jefferson Medical College

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Vol. 1

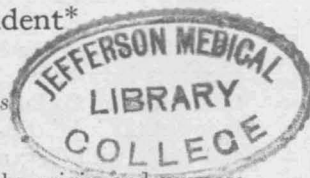
February, 1928

No. 9

Issued by the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association through the Committee on Publicity. Address all communications to the Editor, Dr. Edward Weiss, 1923 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

A Few Thoughts for the Medical Student*

BY EDWARD A. STRECKER, M.A., M.D.
Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases



INTRODUCTION

I HAVE made a somewhat unsuccessful attempt to discover the origin and purpose of this annual discourse to the incoming students. As we reckon time at Jefferson, it is a more or less ancient custom. Since it usually contains a generous measure of counsel and advice, it may have been made necessary originally by older and more degenerate days. According to Sir William Osler, "there was a time, and it is within the memory of some of us, when, like Falstaff, the medical student was given to taverns and sack and wine and metheglins, and to drinkings and swearings and starings, pribbles and prabbles." Happily, the stern demands of the modern medical curriculum, possibly aided and abetted by the national tendency to legislate for us our morals and habits, have regulated such cavortings to the dim country of fading memories, so that as Sir William concludes, "the Meds now roar you as gently as the Theologs."

WORK

In your desire to know the truth you must avoid too ready acquiescence. As soon as you can, get into the habit of testing things for yourself. Do not let yourself become an echo—that slavish creature who in the parlance of the day is called a "yes" man. You would be surprised to know how often text books of medicine make and repeat mistakes, and, it may be whispered that even Professors are not infallible. John Hunter admonished the student as follows: "Do not think but try," and this attitude of mind is valuable to cultivate. The question came up one day when discussing the grooves left on the nails after fever, how long it took for the nail to grow out from root to edge. The majority of the class had no further interest, a few looked it up in books, two men marked their nails at the roots with nitrate of silver, and a few months later had positive knowledge on the subject. The little points that come up in your reading, and, later on, in the examination of your patients, you should try to test out for yourselves.

EVERYDAY RESEARCH

I should like to say a few words about research. It may seem strange to bring this before you—you, who have yet to win your spurs as medical students—you, who have not yet listened to the first formal lecture in the curriculum. From another

* Excerpts from an address delivered at the Opening Exercises of the One Hundred and Third Session of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, September 21, 1927.

point of view, it is exactly the proper time to mention it. If one does not get started on research very early, it never gets done.

One need not go back a hundred years to find men who exemplified what could be accomplished by everyday research. The Faculty of this college will furnish you with as typical an example as may be found. Supporting the brilliant and incisive surgical diagnosis of J. Chalmers Da Costa are years of careful and exact observation and comparison. You see the finished picture and marvel at its beauty and perfect coloring, but you may not see the patience and the skill with which the pigments have been mixed. These men—Charcot, Da Costa and others simply followed the injunction to search, examine and study with diligence and care and to look again and again. This, if you choose, everyone of you may begin to do at once.

OBSERVATION

It is remarkable to what a limited degree we use our powers of observation. You may remember, that the great detective Sherlock Holmes, whose creator, by the way, was a physician, pointed out to Watson, that although he had walked up the stairway of their lodgings many, many times, yet he was unable to tell the exact number of steps. In medicine it has become so easy to apply an instrument or to take an X-ray picture or even to open the abdomen, that there is some danger that our faculty of observation may begin to atrophy, just as has our sense of smell. As you know, lower down in the scale of evolution the smelling lobes of the brain are beautifully developed and occupy a large space. In man they are cramped, and by comparison quite insignificant. Observation means more than simply looking. Observation in medicine means not only looking but seeing; training the whole battery of previously acquired knowledge on what is being observed and comparing, bringing the lenses of judgment to bear and eliminating and interpreting, and finally recording. The attention must be whole-souled and single in its purpose, if any-

thing is to be so engraved on the mind, that it may be readily recalled in the future.

CULTURE

From time to time, one hears the criticism, that medical men, by and large, no longer have the broad cultural interests that they formerly had. There was a time when a large share of the traditions of culture was in the keeping of the physicians. Now, one is apt to hear the opinion expressed, that the doctor has become so immersed in his profession, that he is rather out of touch with literary and artistic, and to a certain extent dynamic commercial and political movements. It is said that he has a single track mind.

Remember there are frontiers of culture which extend beyond medical boundaries. I hesitate to tell you what a small fraction of time will be left over from your studies and medical interests. But, doubtless, there will be a spare hour now and then. You are going to spend the greater part of the next four years in Philadelphia, and Philadelphia has some claim to being a city of culture. Somehow, the city has managed to avoid the extremes of a jazz mad age, and the canons of art, music and literature have been held more or less inviolate and intact. It might be suggested that during your stay here, you make some acquaintance with the museums, the libraries and the music of Philadelphia. It may be that you will be able to place a foundation of extra-medical learning, upon which later on, there will be erected a beautiful edifice which will be a constant joy and satisfaction to you and those who come into contact with you. Only this caution—medicine has the first claim, and for the time being such mundane things as bones and histological slides, chemical formulæ and heart murmurs are more important for you than the strains of an immortal symphony.

YOUTH

Possibly you look at the next four years with some hesitation and trepidation. Probably you have already said to

yourself, "How nice it must be to be a doctor," or "I wish I were through and done with it and engaged in the practice of medicine," or even "How good it must feel to have a seat in the Faculty."

May I say that you have one invaluable asset for which many a renowned physician or surgeon or Faculty member would cheerfully barter all his honors. You have that priceless talisman—Youth. You may remember the remark of Sir William Osler to the effect that men ought to be chloroformed when they reach the age of forty and the tempest which was stirred up in the teapot of newspaperdom. Sir William was not too serious, and yet there was a vestige of truth in what he said. New ideas do not come readily after the first half of life has been lived. Old ideas are revamped, worked over in detail, elaborated, matured and perfected all with great benefit to humanity, but, nevertheless, the strikingly original is seldom encountered. Only a very young eagle could have dared the unknown, and for the first time safely flown across the gray and threatening Atlantic!

There are a number of reasons why this is so. In the first place, it is natural that the greater richness and plentitude of experiences should be unfolded in the first few decades of life. Again, youth has an energy and a flexibility which is peculiar to itself, and which rapidly recedes as age advances. Finally, youth lacks caution. In other words, there is nothing to lose. Usually when a man has entered the fifth decade his intellectual fortune has either been made; its making is assured or else he is perilously near failure. In the latter instance the chances are against the probability of mending his condition, and it is likely that he will remain commonplace and mediocre. On the other hand, if he has established himself, he is apt to become cautious. Now he has something to lose. Caution stays his hand, and he thinks unduly of his reputation when he is tempted to embark upon uncharted seas.

It is more than a coincidence that so many great discoveries in medicine and in

allied fields were made by young men. In the third decade of their lives between the ages of twenty and thirty, there is to be found in medical history a galaxy of genius which it would be hard to surpass: Jan Swammerdam, Crawford Long, William Thomas Green Morton, Darwin, Eustachius, Vesalius, Ehrlich, Parè, Jenner, Neisser, Bichat, Semmeleweis, Van Helmholtz, Du Bois-Raymond, Velpeau, Carl Ferdinand von Graefe and his son Albrecht, and many others. Together this group of men whose average age was not much more than that of this Freshman class, contributed the following monumental discoveries: the first observation of red blood corpuscles in the blood of the frog, the initial use of ether, the work on the origin of the species, the first complete anatomic tables, the discovery of mast cells and the technique of staining, the first exarticulation of the elbow, vaccination, the discovery of the cause of gonorrhœa, a treatise on membranes, the recognition of the infectiousness of puerperal fever, the establishment of the law of the conservation of energy, the discovery of the difference of potential between the cut and the uninjured end of excised muscle or nerve and the definition of electrotonus, the publication of the original detailed work on surgical anatomy, the operations for iridectomy and cleft palate and the foundation of plastic surgery.

In the fourth decade at an average age of less than 34—Thomas Bartholinus described the existence of the thoracic duct, John Abernethy ligated the external iliac artery for aneurysm, Ephraim McCowell performed the first ovariectomy, John Priestly discovered nitrous oxide, Laënnec invented the stethoscope, Robert Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus, Von Behring first used diphtheria antitoxin, Frederiek Banting discovered insulin, Madam Curiè did her work on radium, Pasteur did his work on ferments, Parè published his treatise on gunshot wounds, Lavoisier discovered oxygen, Schandinn described the *Spirochaeta pallida*, Skoda systematized percussion and auscultation,

Widal suggested his diagnostic test for typhoid fever, Claude Bernard determined the glycogenic function of the liver, Bell published his anatomy, Hodgkin described a disease entity, and Ricord differentiated gonorrhoea and syphilis.

When we come to the next decade, the fifth, the years between 40 and 50, then there is a sharp decline in the frequency of medical genius. Lord Lister had just turned forty when he communicated the successful results of antiseptics. Finally, William Harvey at the age of 50, described the circulation of the blood. There is, however, little doubt that this publication was delayed for many years. Per-

haps, Harvey anticipated the storm of protest which would greet his remarkable effort and wanted a few more years to show as evidence of intellect.

You may take these names and what they stand for as stars to which you may aspire. You who have strong and willing muscles, brave hearts and flexible minds, scarcely need any words of encouragement from us. Your purpose and your youth should be sufficient to carry you headlong to success. Still, it may not be amiss to give you Godspeed, and in the name of our President and the Board and the Faculty, I give it to you from my heart.

The New Jefferson Medical College

PRELIMINARY architects' drawings of the new Jefferson Medical College building have been completed and approved by the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees.

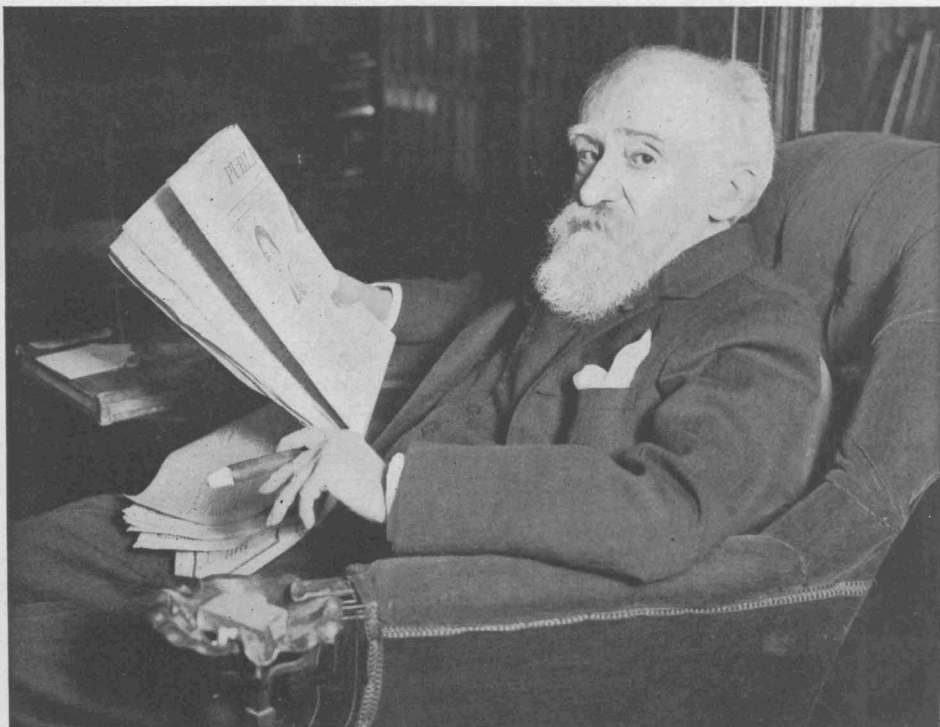
The seven buildings standing upon the site of the proposed new college building have all been vacated by their tenants and demolition will begin shortly.

Contract for the structural steel will be

placed immediately, and work upon the foundation and erection of the steel frame work will begin as soon as excavations are completed. It is planned to have the steel structural work erected during the summer months so as to interfere in no way with the teaching. The building should be completed and ready for occupancy in the summer of 1929.

**Unusual
Entertainment
Features
at the
Mid-Winter
Smoker**

**Members of the
Alumni Association
are urged to attend the
Annual Meeting and Election
preceding the
Mid-Winter Smoker**



The Death of Professor J. Solis-Cohen

DR. J. SOLIS-COHEN, Honorary Professor of Laryngology at the Jefferson Medical College, died at his home on December 22, 1927, in his ninetieth year.

Dr. Solis-Cohen was born in New York City, February 28, 1838, but was educated in Philadelphia, graduating at the Central High School in 1854, and then studying medicine both at Jefferson Medical College and the University of Pennsylvania. He received his medical degree in 1860, and at the outbreak of the Civil War left an internship at the Philadelphia Hospital to serve as an assistant surgeon with the Army and later with the Navy. Resuming practice in Philadelphia in 1866, he soon specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases

of the throat and air-passages. A few years later he had become recognized as a foremost authority in that branch of medical science.

In 1867 he was appointed as lecturer on electro-therapeutics, and in 1869 laryngoscopy and diseases of the throat and chest at Jefferson Medical College. In 1882 he was made Honorary Professor of Laryngology, lecturing regularly until 1888.

Dr. Solis-Cohen began his studies in laryngology at a time when the medical profession looked upon specialism with skepticism. Indeed, so opposed were physicians to the specialized study of diseases of the throat that he met with considerable opposition in his effort to establish laryngology as a distinct speciality.

In addition to his work at the Jefferson Dr. Solis-Cohen served for many years on the staff of the old German Hospital, now the Lankenau, the Jewish and other hospitals. He was the oldest living ex-president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. He was one of the founders of the American Laryngology Association and its president for two terms. He was an active member of

many medical and military organizations and clubs. He was a member of the Union League.

Dr. J. Solis-Cohen is survived by two sons, Dr. Myer Solis-Cohen, and J. Solis-Cohen, Jr., and five daughters.

His brother, Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen, long a member of the faculty of the Jefferson, was recently appointed Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Bernard Samuels, Jefferson '07

Elected Professor of Clinical Surgery, Department of Ophthalmology,
Cornell University Medical College

DR. BERNARD SAMUELS, Jefferson, '07, has been appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery, Department of Ophthalmology in the Cornell University Medical College. Shortly after his graduation Dr. Samuels did post-graduate work in Philadelphia and New York, and then spent a year abroad in

further post-graduate study of diseases of the eye. In 1914 he settled in New York, and since that time has been steadily advanced at the Cornell University Medical College. During the World War Dr. Samuels, with the rank of major, had charge of the department of head surgery at Camp Dix.

The Commission on Healing Art

THE commission on healing art was authorized by the legislature of 1927 and the appointments were made by Governor Fisher. There are 12 members; one Homeopath, one Eclectic, two Legislators, four Laymen, three Cultists, and Dr. Ross V. Patterson, who is the only regular physician on the commission.

The purpose is to study the laws relating to the healing art and to make recommendations to the legislature of 1929, in the hope that such recommendations will result in the enactment of wise laws governing the practice of medicine and related branches of the healing art.

Mid-Winter Smoker
Thursday Evening
February 23d
Penn Athletic Club

The Mid-Winter Smoker

THE annual mid-winter smoker of the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association will be held on Thursday evening, February 23, at 8.30, at the Penn Athletic Club, Eighteenth Street and Rittenhouse Square.

There will be a few short addresses, but the evening will be chiefly occupied

with novel entertainment features, among which will be movies and several excellent vaudeville numbers.

Preceding the smoker will be the Annual Alumni Meeting which all members of the Alumni Association are urged to attend.

Fostering Jefferson Traditions

A SPECIAL committee of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association with Dr. E. J. G. Beardsley as chairman has been appointed for the purposes of collecting Jefferson memorabilia. An appeal is issued to Jefferson

graduates and Jefferson's friends to send to the alumni office of the College pictures, books, and records of any nature that deal with Jefferson's glorious past, in order that they may bring to the new college building the spirit of the old.

Emeritus Professor F. X. Dercum Honored

AT the two hundredth anniversary celebration of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, April 28, Dr. Francis X. Dercum, emeritus professor of nervous and mental diseases, Jefferson Medical College, was elected president to succeed the late Charles D.

Walcott, director of the Smithsonian Institution. In the history of this society, fifteen of its members were signers of the Declaration of Independence, it is reported, eight were presidents of the United States, and seven received Nobel prizes.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Alumni Association
of the
Jefferson Medical College
February 23, 1928
Penn Athletic Club
Eighteenth and Locust Streets
Philadelphia
at
7.30 P. M.

Officers for the ensuing year will be elected at this meeting.
Please make an earnest endeavor to be present.

All Alumni
are invited to attend
the
Alumni Mid-Winter Smoker
and
Vaudeville Entertainment
Thursday, February 23, 1928
at 8.30 o'clock
in the Ball-room of
The Penn Athletic Club
Eighteenth and Locust Streets
Philadelphia

Jefferson Ex-Residents Society

PRECEDING the annual dinner of the Alumni Association held on June 2, 1927, a meeting of Jefferson Ex-Resident Physicians was held for the purpose of perfecting a permanent organization. This society was first formed in 1908, and functioned for just one year.

Dr. Wilmer Krusen served as president and Dr. B. Franklin Royer as secretary.

The present officers follow: President, Dr. John M. Fisher; First Vice President, Dr. E. J. Klopp; Second Vice President, Dr. Frank H. Krusen, and Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. H. W. Jones.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1918

10th Anniversary

Further information will be sent to you. Meanwhile send all communications to Dr. R. S. Griffith, 1310 Pine Street, Philadelphia.

The Alumni Fund of the Jefferson Medical College

A YEAR has passed since we have presented a report of the Alumni Fund. During this period there has been a greater response from the graduates, indicating an interest and desire on their part to contribute to the financial support of the educational activities of the College. This response has been partly due, we feel, to the inspirational objectives which have undoubtedly injected new life into the work; first, the project of our New College Building, and secondly, the creation of the John Chalmers DaCosta Memorial. The last-named naturally impels every Alumnus desire to become one of those to make possible the tribute which the Association has undertaken to pay to Dr. DaCosta.

In reviewing this year's statement of class standing, it is gratifying to realize

that certain chairmen have shown material results from their enthusiastic efforts. In contrast to these, however, there are others whose results are nearly negligible, and it is to the latter we especially appeal for more vigorous effort, in getting response from those of the Alumni who have not yet contributed, but whom we know are willing and glad to do so, considering the opportunity in the light of a privilege.

Every Alumnus should study carefully the accompanying report, showing the status of his class, and if he has not already helped to raise it to the head of the list, then he should hasten to add his share in order that he may be proud of the part, no matter small or great, that he has played in the building of a GREATER JEFFERSON.

General Financial Statement, December 31, 1927

	Alumni Contributors	Amount Received
1922.....	353.....	\$16,763.83
1923.....	505.....	17,438.49
1924.....	629.....	8,427.85
1925.....	1041.....	13,333.87
1926.....	1147.....	15,771.72
1927.....	1291.....	40,854.69
		<hr/>
		\$112,590.45*
Interest and accretions to December 31, 1927.....		13,571.01
		<hr/>
Total amount of fund, December 31, 1927.....		\$126,161.46†

* This sum includes \$22,448.59 contributed by 115 non-graduates and organizations.

† Does not include two life insurance policies of \$1,000 each; Building and Loan shares of a maturity value of \$1,000; and a U. S. Adjusted Service Certificate for \$336, payable in 1946.

Statement of Class Standing, December 31, 1927

Rank	Class	Living Graduates	Contributors	Percentage	Amount
1	1904	143	69	48.25	\$6,010.15
2	1912	140	66	47.14	2,903.66
3	1876	31	14	45.16	719.00
4	1918	93	40	43.01	2,156.00
5	1920	162	66	40.62	2,994.50
6	1914	138	54	39.13	1,685.00
7	1921	110	42	38.18	964.00
8	1906	168	65	38.69	6,329.00
9	1917	132	50	37.87	1,676.00
10	1869	11	4	36.36	500.00
11	1916	150	52	34.66	2,498.00
12	1913	109	36	33.02	1,740.20
13	1922	85	28	32.94	534.25
14	1915	130	42	32.30	1,813.50
15	1903	138	44	31.88	2,973.34
16	1902	119	36	30.25	2,798.00
17	1911	102	29	28.43	1,894.00
18	1908	149	42	28.18	4,535.00
19	1919	134	36	26.87	819.00
20	1879	49	13	26.53	952.67
21	1909	121	32	26.45	1,118.00
22	1886	103	26	25.24	2,805.00
23	1862	4	1	25.00	16.00
24	1868	8	2	25.00	101.00
25	1870	12	3	25.00	141.00
26	1874	28	7	25.00	4,210.00
27	1872	13	3	23.07	85.00
28	1897	87	19	21.84	1,073.00
29	1896	120	26	21.66	2,122.00
30	1910	132	28	21.21	1,763.00
31	1887	79	16	20.25	836.00
32	1907	114	23	20.17	1,600.00
33	1895	96	19	19.79	794.00
34	1881	62	12	19.35	5,232.00
35	1901	109	21	19.27	4,180.00
36	1900	83	14	16.86	455.00
37	1905	138	23	16.67	1,795.09
38	1867	6	1	16.66	10.00
39	1875	24	4	16.66	545.00
40	1884	73	12	16.43	1,740.00
41	1899	67	11	16.41	1,090.00
42	1892	69	11	15.94	726.00
43	1894	103	16	15.53	1,464.00
44	1865	7	1	14.28	2.00
45	1888	86	12	13.95	436.00
46	1891	93	12	12.90	1,584.00
47	1890	96	12	12.50	861.00
48	1923	145	18	12.41	254.00
49	1880	54	6	11.11	91.00
50	1877	39	4	10.25	245.00
51	1882	80	8	10.00	2,755.00
52	1925	141	14	9.92	188.00
53	1883	80	7	8.75	1,338.00
54	1898	37	3	8.10	72.00
55	1885	63	5	7.93	105.00
56	1889	103	8	7.76	177.00
57	1893	105	8	7.61	1,405.00
58	1878	49	3	6.12	127.00
59	1924	137	7	5.10	68.00
60	1926	144	4	2.78	27.50
61	1927	138	1	.72	5.00

Pledges Received Since June 1, 1927, to January 31, 1928

Class	Pledged	Paid on Pledge	Number Contributing
1920	\$8,865.00	\$2,300.00	36
1917	8,325.00	562.50	25
1906	5,375.00	2,680.00	27
1904	4,835.00	2,265.00	17
1912	4,100.00	1,025.00	21
1902	4,025.00	565.00	16
1908	3,135.00	1,585.00	12
1918	3,100.00	1,215.00	11
1903	3,025.00	983.34	14
1911	2,625.00	905.00	5
1910	2,415.00	860.00	11
1899	2,275.00	550.00	6
1916	2,050.00	425.00	11
1915	1,955.00	470.00	8
1896	1,600.00	450.00	5
1921	1,500.00	455.00	11
1894	1,375.00	995.00	7
1901	1,375.00	325.00	5
1886	1,300.00	1,300.00	2
1907	1,300.00	530.00	11
1884	1,200.00	500.00	2
1919	1,150.00	197.50	8
1891	1,025.00	325.00	2
1893	1,020.00	320.00	2
1862	1,000.00	500.00	1
1882	1,000.00	1,000.00	1
1914	930.00	200.00	11
1923	925.00	165.00	10
1922	860.00	113.00	9
1905	850.00	240.00	5
1909	655.00	185.00	6
1925	600.00	142.50	9
1874	500.00	500.00	1
1875	500.00	500.00	1
1913	425.00	215.00	4
1890	400.00	330.00	3
1887	375.00	175.00	3
1897	375.00	185.00	4
1883	300.00	150.00	1
1888	300.00	300.00	4
1892	200.00	110.00	2
1898	200.00	20.00	1
1924	185.00	47.50	4
1869	125.00	125.00	2
1900	120.00	120.00	2
1926	75.00	10.00	2
1927	25.00	5.00	1
1881	10.00	10.00	1
1895	10.00	10.00	1



IVYCROFT FARM
Convalescent Home for Men of Jefferson Hospital