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In the third month of 1894, Friends Hospital admitted Yesta Lefkowitz for care. Her history was furnished by her husband, Davis Lefkowitz. A Jewish, Russian immigrant, Yesta Lefkowitz married at just 14 and gave birth to five children by age 26. With no past struggles with mental health on her record, she was in sound health until her fifth birth, when her husband reported her onset of insanity. The official form of insanity listed in her documentation is puerperal mania, puerperal meaning the period after birth in which one's body recovers or postpartum, and mania being her state of unrest and irrationality. Yesta Lefkowitz's husband reported that her issues began only two days after birth, giving her less than 48 hours to react to the turmoil of birth. Her symptoms include confusion, hallucinations, throwing objects, "talking nonsense," and not sleeping well. Half of these could be explained by general frustration and stress during postpartum. While in modern times, a doctor may recommend her treatment for a postpartum mood disorder and outpatient care, there are several reasons why her husband and the hospital took the route of inpatient care.

One probable reason is that the hospital specialized in postpartum care, despite its title as a mental hospital. Dr. Anna Broomall, the resident gynecologist at the time, was responsible for one of the first clinics for maternal care. The emphasis on maternal care means that the hospital would have been capable of helping Mrs. Lefkowitz with her specific set of symptoms. They also had a Training School for Nurses who also needed hands-on practice with postpartum patients, as Dr. Broomall believed those in medicine should all know maternity care to understand the value of life.²

Secondly, sending Lefkowitz to an institution focused completely on curing her postpartum, meaning that they hoped it was the best option to get her well and back to her duties as a housewife. It is important to remember that her admission was involuntary— her husband was the one who admitted her. While her husband's occupation is listed on the form, hers is "Housewife," which allows her husband to work and live conveniently as his many children and home are taken care of.

There is no certainty of the exact reason Yesta Lefkowitz ended up at Friends Hospital, only evidence that her admittance would benefit those at the hospital specializing in postpartum maternal care and her family. The specific interest in postpartum, emphasis on curing her effectively, and the need for her to return home to take care of her children make the hospital a reasonable choice, regardless of whether what Yesta Lefkowitz needed was time to recover.³

¹ Case History of Yesta Lefkowitz, Case Histories, 1893-1899, Box 20, Friends Hospital Records, Quaker and Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

² Gulielma Fell Alsop, *History of Women's Medical College 1850-1950*, n.d., 122.

³ Case History of Yesta Lefkowitz.