

Good Samaritan Seal And Women Who Embodied Its Ministering Spirit: ...

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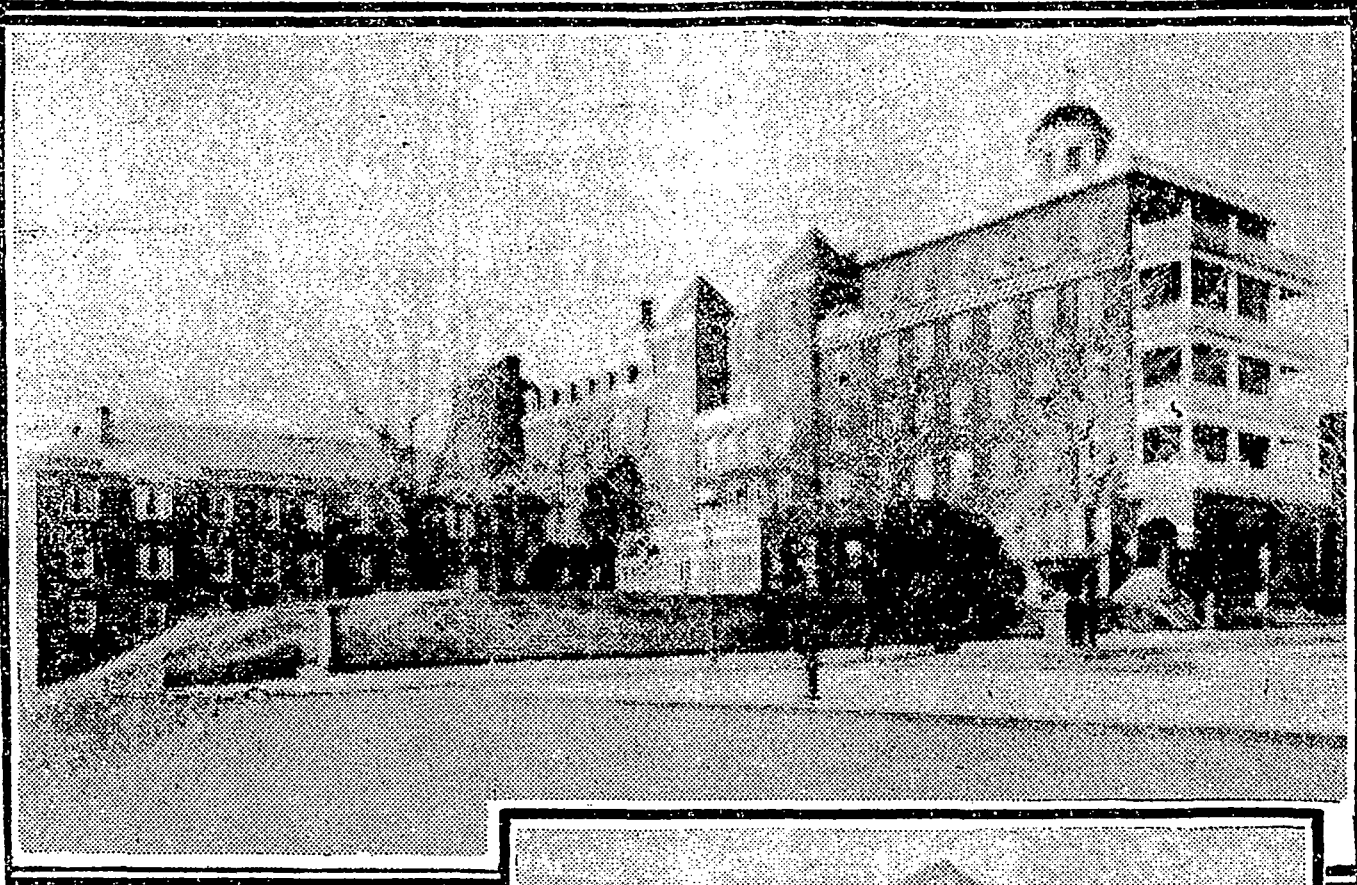
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Good Samaritan Seal And Women Who Embodied Its Ministering Spirit

The Church Home And Infirmary, Established 62 Years Ago By Episcopalians Of Baltimore And The State Of Maryland And Nobly Maintained By Them, Is Unique In Its Dual Mission.

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

*"They serve God well
Who serve His creatures."
—Mrs. Norton, in "The Lady of La Garave."*



THE CHURCH HOME AND INFIRMARY

Have you ever thought that one of the pleasantest words in the English language is the word neighbor, applied to those who are near us in body and should be near us in spirit. It is a word that embraces those, not kindred, who are constantly affecting one another's lives. Familiar faces, accustomed voices, people whose footfalls echo and re-echo as they pass one another's homes or places of business. It is a social relation created by dependence of individuals upon those nearest at hand. Neighbors were the original "first aids" in the emergencies of life. It is this fine spirit of brotherhood that carries the world along. From cradle to grave man is dependent upon the kindly offices of others and those most Christlike in spirit, are they who most deeply feel this sense of responsibility toward others, especially toward those more helpless than themselves.

There has been for 62 years established in this city an institution the seal of which depicts this Gospel allegory. It shows the Samaritan, the true neighbor, kneeling beside the stricken man ministering to him, the refuse of oil, the flagon of wine at hand, with the donkey patiently waiting to perform his share of the burden of ministry, while in the distance the careless priest and cold-hearted Levite pass, regardless of the call of need.

This interesting seal is that of the Church Home and Infirmary, Broadway and Fairmount avenue, a hospital and home maintained by the Episcopalians of Baltimore and of the State of Maryland since early in the fifties, and its seal is but the symbol of the spirit in which the work of this benevolent hospital and home has been carried on.

Edgar Allan Poe Died Here.

Many travelers visit today the rotunda of the Church Home and Infirmary to see a tablet upon which is the inscription, "To the Memory of Edgar Allan Poe, who spent his last days in this house." Yes, like the man who went down from Jerusalem, Edgar Allan Poe, great poet and story writer, whose genius all the world now honors, was in pathetic straits when the doors of this building opened to receive him. But that was before the edifice had been taken over by the Episcopal churches of Maryland. It had been erected in 1836 and was used as a medical college, a department of the old Washington University, since merged into the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of this city. It was as a helpless, homeless man, sick unto death, not as the brilliant author of "The Raven" and "The Bells," that the poet was carried beneath this sheltering roof, where he was faithfully nursed and provided with medical aid until he died, and this single incident, but one of many thousands of similar cases that have received shelter and medical service here, entitles the edifice to the benediction of Heaven and the warm appreciation of the community and also makes peculiarly fitting the adoption of the Samaritan's seal.

And how did the Church Home and Infirmary come about and when did it begin its mission to the City of Bal-

timore? The establishment of this very unusual benevolence, looking to the welfare of those without homes of the Episcopal creed and its mission of service to the sick of any denomination, dates back to 1858, when the Rt. Rev. W. R. Whittingham, D. D. was spiritual head of the Diocese of Maryland. At that time St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church supported an infirmary on High street, and several other churches of that denomination maintained a church home on Biddle street.

Cross From Old St. Paul.

It was decided in 1858 to merge these two benevolences under the name of The Church Home and Infirmary and establish the institution on Broadway and to place the new institution under the management of the Deaconesses of the Diocese of Maryland. When the building opened in February, 1858, 36 inmates were admitted, 20 of whom came from St. Andrew's Infirmary and 16 from the old Church Home Society.

to Bishop Whittingham the purchase of the old medical college of Washington University by the Episcopal Church for its present purpose. "I was very small at the time," she said, "so small my father had to lift me over the rough places in the street, but because my mother was an invalid and there were children still younger than myself, I became a sort of pocket edition to my father, accompanying him to many places where such small children were not usually taken."

Asked whether the medical college of Washington University was a hospital as well as a college, Mrs. Sioussat replied that while she did not know positively, she felt assured it was, since the infirmary feature had been the first consideration when the purchase of the property was made and that she did know for a positive fact that Edgar Allan Poe, who died in this building while it was still the medical college, died in the arms of a physician named Cullen.

"Not," said Mrs. Sioussat. "Dr. Thomas S. Cullen, present chairman of the medical committee of the Church, Home and Infirmary, but a physician of the same name, who was one of the medical staff of the college and a valued friend of my aunt. I am under the impression that he and Poe had had some previous acquaintance. I know he attended him with all possible solicitude and that Poe was nursed by Dr. Cullen's special nurse, Miss Anne Robinson, an English woman and a graduate of the Royal College of Nurses, London. Twenty years later she nursed me through a critical illness and she was a fine woman. She was devoted to Dr. Cullen and after his death used to go out herself and scrub his tombstone with acids."

"The facts concerning Edgar Allan Poe during that interval when he was lost in Baltimore while en route to his wedding, are: That a note, I think without signature, was sent to Mr. Neilson Poe, of Baltimore, saying that a gentleman named Poe was unconscious and in what was then called a 'pen,' a place where election rowdies forcibly detained men whom they kidnapped and intoxicated or drugged and then took them from one voting place to another on election occasions. Edgar Allan Poe had been so unfortunate as to be one of their victims. The desperate illness that ensued and resulted in his death, it was beyond the skill of Dr. Cullen and his faithful nurse to conquer. I still have a miniature portrait of Dr. Cullen bequeathed me by my aunt."

Home In Spirit As In Name.

The home thought and atmosphere have always existed in connection with the building. It has its own beautiful chapel, with daily service for inmates and a service open to the public each Sunday, and this chapel has a gallery communicating with the hospital wards, into which invalids can be wheeled from sickrooms or wards and as indicative of the consideration that has always been shown the residents of the home it is said the first elevator to be installed in any public building in Baltimore was one put in the Church Home and Infirmary that the old folks residing there should not be obliged to climb the stairs. There is also, adjoining the chapel, a Chamber of Peace, where any who die either in the home or the infirmary are placed until their burial. Here friends are free to come to pay a last tribute of love and respect to those who have passed from earth, and it sets the institution apart as a place of sympathy as well as of scientific healing. No grim mortuary chamber here, but a Chamber of Peace, within sight and sound of the activities of life.

The institution has welcomed both those who paid for services received and those who had naught of this world's

goods. To care for the latter class, beds have been endowed and legacies bequeathed and the treatment of each class is identically the same.

Work Of Devout Women.

The Church Home and Infirmary has preserved its pleasant atmosphere of home, its quality of consecration to a noble mission, along with steady scientific progress along modern hospital lines. Doubtless this is due to the fact that for many years the institution was under the management of women of deep religious convictions, whose lives were dedicated to good work and who brought fervently the Samaritan spirit to their service in this place.

The deaconesses from St. Andrew's Infirmary were first to come to the Church Home and Infirmary in the capacity of nurses, and to them was intrusted the care of the sick. They served the institution with skill and fidelity, and as early as 1863 consideration was being given to the establishment there of a training school for instruction in nursing—a place where women might find both a home and an opportunity to nurse under medical instruction and supervision. It was thought that such a training school would be of great value, both to the institution and the community at large. In 1866 the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd voluntarily offered to take charge of the home for a three months' experimental period, and filled their mission so faithfully that the trustees were only too glad to urge their continuance in that office.

In 1872 the Sisters accepted an invitation from the Bishop of Missouri to remove to his diocese, and their departure more than seriously distressed the trustees of the institution, for among them were all who were left of the original deaconesses of Maryland then serving in the State. After anxious consultation and search, a religious—Sister Ann and her associates of the Sisterhood of St. Luke the Physician—undertook the work, entering Easter Day and coming into sick wards and quiet rooms with the true spirit of ministering angels. The Sisterhood of St. Luke the Physician was an order of Christian women of which the bishop of the diocese was the spiritual head and members of which were directed solely by him. Two Sisters, Sister Eliza and Sister Margaret, who were among the first

deaconesses set apart when the deaconess order was established in Maryland, were offered a permanent residence at the home when their order removed thence and gladly availed themselves of the opportunity to remain. One of them, Sister Margaret, had engaged in the work at the Church Home and Infirmary from its very beginning. She shared its vicissitudes, which were many, and lived to enjoy the certainty of its success. For 32 years she remained there, until, at the age of 86 years, she passed peacefully away in the midst of this environment endeared to her by such long association.

Sister Anne and those of her order did not remain very long in charge, and upon their removal Miss Mary J. Bradford, a lady of rare executive ability and Christian character assumed charge of the work, assisted by Miss Theodora Gilmore and Sister Margaret. Mrs. Bradford continued in charge of the Home for 15 years and finally died there in 1890 and

Miss H. M. Sudler assumed the responsibilities and duties that had been hers. Miss Sudler also remained for many years matron of the Home and upon her retirement from active service a yearly pension, equal to the salary she had received was voted her in appreciation of her long and faithful connection with the Home.

In 1898 Mrs. Lucas became superintendent of nurses, supervising both the work and the studies of the nurses that were in attendance upon the five floors or wards, and gradually there developed the fine Training School for Nurses that is now under the direction of Miss Jane E. Nash and which this year boasted a graduating class of 17 efficient nurses. After the resignation of Mrs. Lucas, the nurses' training school was successively in charge of Miss Mallalieu, Miss Lucy Sharp, Miss Saunders, Miss A. Miller, Miss Caroline Taylor, Miss Weidman, Miss Nancy P. Ellicott, Miss Mary B. Thompson, Miss Lucy Sharp, Miss Waters, Miss Hartwell, Miss Bennett, Miss

V. Bartlett and now Miss Jane E. Nash, who, strange to say, came to Baltimore from most successful management of Fordham Hospital, New York, that same Fordham where Edgar Allan Poe took his child-wife, Virginia Clemm and where the poet tasted the very depths of pain and poverty in being unable to procure for this wife, so passionately loved, the common necessities of life. The average number of residents in the Home is 50, and during the past year 2,235 patients were admitted to the infirmary, which is in all respects maintained upon the high scientific plane of the best modern hospitals.

To both Home and Infirmary more demands for admission are made than can be complied with. An annex has been built and still further additions are planned and these proposed developments are designed to benefit equally the home and the infirmary features of the hospice. The seal of the Good Samaritan will continue the symbol of both.



THE FRONT DOOR.

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Infirmary the cross which had so long adorned the spire of that sanctuary.

The first resident physician of the institution was Dr. W. C. Worthington, appointed in 1873, and the second, Dr. Frank D. Gavin, appointed in 1874.

Mrs. Sioussat Attended Opening.

Mrs. Albert Sioussat, of Baltimore, is among those who recall the opening, in 1858, of the Church Home and Infirmary, and from notes designed for her forthcoming book on Baltimore, she adds the interesting fact that her late father, the Rev. Dr. George Armstrong Leakin, was the one who first suggested