

# HAVENS FOR AILING

## Brave, Tenacious Struggle Founded Winnipeg Hospitals

By ELSIE MONTOSH

On she goes and around she goes, and where she stops nobody knows? What? Fate! Perhaps. If one believes in it. But it was not fate which gave Greater Winnipeg its seven general hospitals, two municipal hospitals, a military hospital, missions, public health services, and its more recent hospitalization insurance. It was the brave, conscientious endeavor of its people.

May 12 is National Hospital Day, a day set aside each year to commemorate the praiseworthy efforts of those who laid the foundations for hospitals of those who today work for these institutions.

Perhaps it was fate that made young Winnipeg the haven of countless devotees as well as of the more upright citizenry which laid the foundations for the largest city in the Canadian prairie west. Perhaps it was fate which overburdened a courageous, adventurous populace with communicable diseases, which cut down infants and children before they had scarcely tasted life.

But it was individuals who took steps to stamp out disease and lower the overwhelming death rate which was rapidly sapping the vitality of Winnipeg.

In the story of hospitals is unfolded the tale of the city. In 1843, when the Red River settlement composed only St. Boniface on one

bank of the river and Fort Garry on the other, it was Father Provencher who brought four Grey Nuns from Montreal to care for the sick in his frontier settlement.

These gallant women worked to stem the rising tide of disease, and their efforts were rewarded in 1871 when their first hospital, with four beds, was opened. Today, this hospital has become the largest Roman Catholic hospital in Canada, it four beds increased to 5,000, its staff of four enlarged to more than 500.

Both of an organized fight against typhoid fever, the Winnipeg General hospital, was conceived by a group of concerned individuals when they met Dec. 18, 1871, at Dreyer's hall, above the famed Red Saloon, on the southwest corner of Portage avenue and Main street.

This hospital is older than the city, for it began its work in 1872, the year before the city was incorporated, in a small building at the foot of the present Lombard street, on the bank of the Red river. Despite a tussle for funds, and with the enthusiastic activities of the young town's women, the hospital moved to the present location on Bannatyne avenue in 1875, the hos-

## White Garbed Saviours



A room engulged in quiet, men and women in white, the silence broken only by the doctor's clipped commands, the nurses' prompt attention, are part of the tense atmosphere where major surgery is under way. Masks and basins, sterilized trays, rubber gloves are among the important precautions taken against infection. This dramatic scene was pictured at Grace hospital.

pital being incorporated May 14, 1875. Objection to being considered the good Samaritan to all foundlings prompted the late Father Adelard Langevin, archbishop of St. Boniface, to purchase a building on the corner of the present Lombard street, on the bank of the Red river. This building was the establishment of the Misericordia hospital, now third largest in Greater Winnipeg.

When the St. Norbert home for foundlings was opened in 1900, the hospital had been moved to its present location on Sherbrook street and became more of a maternity home. But like a barometer of Winnipeg's growth, the Misericordia hospital was enlarged at various intervals to become a general hospital.

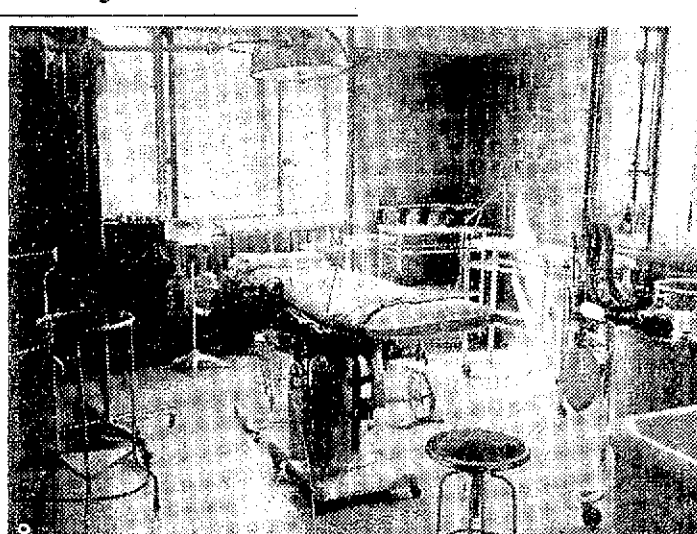
Grace hospital merged from a small Salvation Army home which offered help to the unmarried mothers of a frontier settlement, to its enlarged scope of a general hospital with complete, up-to-date equipment in X-ray and operating rooms.

Like the General hospital, the present Victoria and St. Joseph's hospitals had their small beginnings in efforts to combat communicable diseases. Prevalence of scarlet fever in 1911 prompted Dr. Thomas Beath to set up and operate a small hospital on Bannatyne avenue. Later he moved his hospital to River avenue, and named it Victoria. This has become one of the city's reliable general hospitals.

But Dr. Beath's original work of was taken over and carried on by the city of Winnipeg in 1911. It had become evident that care and treatment of such diseases was a public matter requiring definite hospital control by a responsible body of citizens working in co-ordination with the city health department.

Outcome of making hospital service a civic utility was the establishment of King George and King Edward hospitals with a present

## Ready for Action



St. Joseph's hospital operating theatre claims all the adjuncts to promote speed and efficiency in work carried on within its walls. Good light from large windows, light radiated from the lamps above the operating table, and up-to-date equipment are all evidenced in the above photo.

bed capacity of approximately 370. St. Joseph's hospital, north Winnipeg general institution, commenced its work in 1918, when influenza struck the city with vengeance.

Putting Winnipeg in the forefront of Canadian cities, the Children's hospital, founded in 1903 to lower the infant mortality rate, is today outstanding for its treatment of infantile paralysis.

This department for the re-education of paralyzed muscles was opened in 1921 by the junior Red Cross. Infantile paralysis cases treated and discharged in the last year number 83, with 14 at present under treatment. General hospital cases here totalled 2,309, with 40,161 hospital days. There were 1,505 operations, major and minor, in the last year.

In the seven general hospitals alone, 46,822 individual persons from among the total of approximately 315,000 citizens in Greater Winnipeg were admitted during the last year.

In St. Boniface hospital there were 13,376 patients, an increase over the previous year, with 158,208 hospital days; in the General hospital, 14,709 patients, with 205,894 hospital days; in the Misericordia, 8,922 patients, with 64,696 hospital days, and 2,719 operations; in Victoria hospital, 3,551 patients with a daily average of 85 adults and 11 babies, and 11,687 operations; in St. Joseph's hospital, 3,125 patients, with 26,767 hospital days and 1,330 operations; in Grace hospital 2,330 patients, with 31,471 days for adults, 900 births, and 1,334 operations.

Among other institutions doing worthy work for the sick in Greater Winnipeg are St. Roch's hospital, St. Boniface Sanatorium, Shriner's hospital for crippled children, Mount Carmel clinic, the Margaret Scott clinic, the Victorian Order of nurses, the Red Cross, the Registered Nurses' association, Deer Lodge military hospital, the city and provincial health departments, and the Manitoba Hospital Service association.

The latter service provides hospital insurance to enable persons to afford hospital care when needed. Cost of this protection ranges from

75 cents to \$1 per month, and since the association's inauguration Jan. 1, 1939, 31,137 have enrolled. An even 15,000 individuals were admitted to hospital, thus protected, in the first year, and up to the present this year, 8,057 have been admitted.

During the month of April alone, the association paid \$8,000 to city hospitals. Approximately 72 per cent of its income is paid to the seven member hospitals: General, St. Boniface, Misericordia, Grace, St. Joseph's, Victoria, and the Children's.

## Patients Follow New War

Victims of the war-to-end-war, valiant heroes of a war which brought but 22 years of peace, veteran soldiers of Deer Lodge military hospital read and hear with dismay that the world they gave themselves for is plunged into conflict.

Deer Lodge hospital was opened to care for returned soldiers shortly after the outbreak of the war in 1914. Until Dec. 20, 1919, it was only a convalescent home, but on that date it became a hospital to accommodate the overflow of patients just across the Assiniboine river at Tuxedo Military hospital.

Some of the first inmates brought to Deer Lodge military hospital are still in the institution. Among these are a few who remember that the location of their hospital is an historical site.

Known as Reindeer Lodge, the original house and site were notable as the residence of the late Hon. James McKay, speaker of the Manitoba legislature, under the Gerrard-Davis administration, and afterwards a member of the Davy's government. James McKay resided there from 1880, when the house was first completed, until 1879.

The lodge, located at Silver Heights, about five miles from the centre of the city, of Winnipeg, became famous as a stock farm, with Mr. McKay's thoroughbred winning coveted ribbons and cups. Even before he sold the property in 1879, the lodge was becoming favored as an outing place, away from the bustle of a thriving city.

Passing from one owner to another, Reindeer Lodge was vacant for a time until finally leased and opened as a road house and hotel by H. A. Chadwick. The building was suited to the purpose. Constructed of heavy logs and chinked with sheathing, a storey and-a-half in height, it was surrounded on three sides by a piazza and upper balcony. Each peak of the roof was decorated with a set of deer horns.

Customers came in light buggies drawn by prancing horses, making a day of it to enjoy the sheltered lawns and gardens. Greatest attraction was Chad's bear, kept in a sort of zoo with birds and animals. The bear would entertain so long as refreshments were forthcoming from his audience.

sessions of poker were not infrequent. Rumor has it that on one occasion—the hotel itself was staked and lost in one hand, four acres beating four kings.

Old Reindeer Lodge was presented to the government for use as a convalescent home during the war and became a hospital. Sick and wounded returned men came to the government for care and treatment, and accommodation was increased in 1928 when a new three-storey brick building was erected.

In May, 1929, the first patients entered Deer Lodge, and accommodation for 250 was completed (that fall). Henceforth, the hospital operated under the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Main diversion for convalescents who are able to move about is cards. They play on the large glassed and heated balconies from early morning to lights out at nine every night. A large recreation room on the third floor provides snooker, books, magazines and games for those who seek other outlets for their remaining vitality.

Permanent care patients occupy a wing in the basement in a quiet atmosphere away from sicker patients. Some of these are allowed to work about the hospital, earning a wage of \$5 per month. This small amount adds to their month's allowance of \$8 from the government. Of this \$8, each man has \$4.50 put to his credit for the purpose of buying clothes, and the remaining \$3.50 buys tobacco and other small luxuries.

Patients number anywhere from 190 to 225 during the winter, and from 140 to 145 during the summer months.

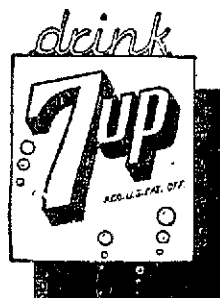
justified its existence in the record of its work. The main building has a bed capacity of 200, and need for this centre for treating patients suffering with tuberculosis is evidenced by the fact that more than 90 per cent of the beds have been occupied each year.

The children's section of the hospital has been filled to approximately 60 per cent of capacity. Patients are brought from all parts of Manitoba, but Winnipeg has contributed the greatest number, more than 33 per cent of the total admitted.

Erected on the site of Louis Reil's birthplace, directly across the river from the university of Manitoba, there are three buildings, set on 62 acres of land. In the main building are adult patients, the staff, kitchens, dining rooms, administrative offices, and a chapel.

## Coronation Trees Will Be Blessed

Blessing of two maple trees planted on the coronation day of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, May 12, 1937, in honor of their majesties, will take place Sunday at 2 p.m. at 651 Redwood avenue, Rev. W. C. Turney, of St. Michael and All Angels' church, and Rev. John J. Zezuliak, will officiate.



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