“Seventy-Five Years”

CREIGHTON MEMORIAL
ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL

DIAMOND JUBILEE SOUVENIR
1870 - 1945

The Sisters of Saint Francis
Souvenir Program of

"The Diamond Jubilee"

CREIGHTON MEMORIAL
ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Conducted by
The Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph
(Denver, Colorado)

By FRANCIS J. BATH

Published as the official history of
Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph’s Hospital
and the Souvenir Program of the
DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION
September twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh
in the year of our Lord,
nineteen hundred forty-five
SECOND AND REVISED EDITION

Being an elaboration of the Golden Jubilee history published in 1930, commemorating fifty years of hospital service in Omaha by the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph.
FOREWORD

To Count and Mrs. John A. Creighton, whose friendship and financial support played such an important part in the establishment and early growth of our institution —

To all our other benefactors, friends and patients whose interest and patronage have made possible the development of the institution —

To the loyal doctors, without whose support and kindly ministrations our work of charity for the sick poor would be impossible —

To the pioneer Sisters, who endured many hardships and privations that Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph Hospital might endure —

To His Grace, Most Rev. James Hugh Ryan, S. T. D., Archbishop-elect of Omaha, and members of the Clergy, whose advice and friendship we sincerely need,

— WE DEDICATE THIS BOOKLET IN HUMBLE AND GRATEFUL APPRECIATION,

THE POOR SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS SERAPH
SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART

*Imparting a Heavenly welcome to all who enter*
His Grace, Most Rev. James H. Ryan, S. T. D.

Archbishop-elect of Omaha
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OFFICIAL PROGRAM
OF THE
Diamond Jubilee

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1945
2 to 5 p.m. — Tea for Members of the Creighton Circle
Parlors, School of Nursing
Musical Program—direction, Mary Fitzsimmons Massie
Refreshments

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
7:30 p.m. — Tea for Alumnae and Graduates of Creighton Memorial
St. Joseph's School of Nursing
Musical Program
Refreshments
Parlors, School of Nursing

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
7:00 p.m. — Banquet for Staff and Visiting Doctors, and Lay Guests
Sisters Refectory
CHARLES M. WILHELMJ, M.D., Toastmaster
Dean, Creighton University School of Medicine
"From Then to Now" — Address
B. M. RILEY, M.D., F. A. C. P.
"From '13 to '45 in Surgery at St. Joseph's"
JOHN W. DUNCAN, M.D., F. A. C. S.
Responses
HIS GRACE, THE MOST REV.
JAMES H. RYAN, S.T.D., Archbishop-elect of Omaha
Guests
Musical Program—direction, Mary Fitzsimmons Massie

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
7:00 p.m. — Banquet for Employes of Hospital
Sisters Refectory
Musical Program
OFFICIAL PROGRAM
OF THE
Diamond Jubilee

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1945

5:45 A. M. — High Mass
Diamond Jubilee
VEN. SISTER M. FULGENTIA FRISCH, O. S. F., R. N.
Golden Jubilee
VEN. SISTER M. Eleutheria Brygg, O. S. F.
REV. WALDMAR FRISCH, Celebrant, Millerville, Minnesota

10:00 A. M. — Solemn High Mass, coram Episcopo
RIGHT REV. MSGR. NICHOLAS H. WEGNER, D. D., Celebrant
Missa, Salva Regina by the Sisters Choir
Sermon, VERY REV. ALPHONSE M. SCHWITALLA, S. J.
President, Catholic Hospital Association,
St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.
Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

12:00 NOON — Dinner for Prelates and Clergy in Hospital Staff Room
Musical Program—Direction, Mary Fitzsimmons Massie

2 to 4 P. M. — Open House for the Public
Historical Exhibits

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

5:45 A. M. — High Mass
Silver Jubilees
SISTER M. CHRYSTOSTOMA REUDINGER, O. S. F., R. N.
SISTER M. FELIXCIONA DEPKA VON PRONDZINSKI, O.S.F.
SISTER M. EDMONDINE KUDLACZ, O. S. F., R. R. L.
REV. FRANCIS E. KRYSKY, Celebrant
Pastor, Assumption Church, Iron River, Michigan

9:00 A. M. — Solemn High Mass
For Living Benefactors, Patients and Friends of Hospital,
and Sisters of Franciscan and Mercy Communities
REV. CHARLES H. STRASSBERGER, Celebrant
Chaplain, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital

2 to 4 P. M. — Open House for the Public
Musical Program—Direction, Mary Fitzsimmons Massie
Historical Exhibit
OFFICIAL PROGRAM
OF THE
Diamond Jubilee

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

5:45 a.m. — High Mass in Thanksgiving
Rev. Charles H. Strassberger, Celebrant

9:00 a.m. — Solemn Requiem Mass
For Deceased Benefactors, Patients and Friends of Hospital,
and Sisters of Franciscan and Mercy Communities
Rev. John J. McNerny, S. J., Celebrant
Regent, Creighton University School of Medicine

2 to 4:00 p.m. — Open House for the Public
7 to 8:30 p.m. — Historical Exhibit

8:00 p.m. — Concert
Elks Glee Club, Omaha Lodge, B. P. O. E.
Direction, Billie Meyers
Auditorium, Nurses Home
Friends Cordially Invited

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

2 to 5 p.m. — Tea for Red Cross Volunteer Groups
Production Corps
Gray Ladies
Nurses Aides
Staff Assistants
JUBILARIANS

Five Sisters of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital join in the joyful festivities of Diamond Jubilee time to celebrate personally their Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilees of service in the religious life as members of the community of

THE POOR SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS SERAPH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1945
DIAMOND JUBILEE
Sister M. Fulgentia Frisch, O. S. F., R. N.
Assistant Superior
1886 May 1 1946

GOLDEN JUBILEE
Sister M. Eleutheria Brygg, O. S. F.
Supervisor, Central Dressing Room
1896 July 28 1946

Celebrant of Jubilee Mass
Rev. Waldmar Frisch, Millerville, Minn.
Cousin of Sister M. Fulgentia

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1945
SILVER JUBILEE
Sister M. Felixcigiona Depka von Prondzinski, O. S. F.
Supervisor, Nurses Cafeteria
1921 April 26 1946

Sister M. Chrysostoma Reudinger, O. S. F., R. N.
Night Nursing Supervisor
1921 June 29 1946

Sister M. Edmondine Kudlacz, O. S. F., R. R. L.
Medical Records Librarian
1921 June 29 1946

Celebrant of Jubilee Mass
Uncle of Sister M. Edmondine

Father Krysky, a native of Omaha, will celebrate his own Silver Jubilee as a priest in his home parish, Immaculate Conception Church, Sunday, September 30, 1945
MRS. SARAH EMILY CREIGHTON
Benefactress
Oct. 17, 1840—Sept. 30, 1888

HON. COUNT JOHN A. CREIGHTON
Benefactor
Oct. 15, 1831—Feb. 7, 1907
Nationally recognized as the second largest Catholic hospital west of the Mississippi River, and twelfth in size in the United States, the history of Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph's Hospital from the time of its founding in 1870 by the Sisters of Mercy has been one of hardship and sacrifice, of joy and heartache—but always one of development and expansion in providing for the immediate wants of the community, and anticipating its needs in future years.

Today, after three quarters of a century of unselfish service to mankind, the great institution climaxes its career to date with a Diamond Jubilee celebration, fittingly commemorating the completion of seventy-five years of love and devotion, of sacrifice and faithful care dedicated to alleviating the sufferings of the sick and injured, the feeble infant and helpless old age, the wealthy and the penniless.

The opening ceremonies of the three-day celebration, September 25th to 27th, take place upon the 75th anniversary of admission of the first patient in the original St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital on September 25, 1870, an appropriate observance of this memorable occasion.

Monument to Benefactors, Sisters

Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital was not always the institution as Omahans of today know it, many of the older residents vividly recall. Starting out in an humble way, with facilities to care for but twenty-eight patients and with accommodations of the most meagre sort, St. Joseph's Hospital ranks today not only as one of the largest Catholic institutions of the country, but as one of the most outstanding and completely equipped hospitals in the entire midwest. Omaha's reputation as a medical center, largely the result of the pioneer work accomplished by the John A. Creighton School of Medicine in conjunction with St. Joseph's Hospital, attracts patients to St. Joseph's not only from Omaha and immediate surrounding territory but
also from Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, and even farther distant points.

From the first small frame building which originally housed the institution to the present magnificent structure that stands as a perpetual memorial to the bounty of Count and Mrs. John A. Creighton, and to the unselfish and untiring efforts of the two great religious orders of nuns whose lowly work made possible the current festive event, the record of the pioneer temple of mercy has been an enviable one. With Christian Charity as the guiding star and with service to God and humanity as the dual purpose of the Sisterhood, the seventy-five year history which now is being celebrated is one of which not only the Franciscan Order but the entire central west well may be proud, for a similar history is in the making in many mid-western communities where the Sisters of Saint Francis conduct institutions of mercy, and schools, of later origin.

*Omaha a Frontier Town*

But let us first hearken back to the early days of Omaha and of the town's pioneer, and, for a number of years, its only hospital.

In the decade of years preceding the outbreak of the great Civil War, which rocked this nation from 1861 to 1865, Omaha was hardly more than an outpost on the westward march of civilization into the still then "wild and woolly west." A "port of call" it was for the early river boats that regularly stopped at the little town on the west bank of the Missouri river, midway between the Kansas and South Dakota lines, then a mere shell of the great and thriving metropolis which was to replace the rude little frontier town of eastern Nebraska.

Here, hardy explorers, unmindful of the dangers which beset their paths in their quest for wealth and fame, made their final stop for provisions and equipment to carry them onward into the nation's infant and largely unexplored territory of the northwest, still infested with tribes of hostile Indians.

*First Survey in 1854*

Although the Mormons were credited with having established the first white settlements within the limits of the present State of Nebraska in 1846, it was not until June 24, 1854 that President Pierce issued his proclamation announcing ratification of a treaty with the Omaha Indian chiefs, thereby throwing open to settlement the lands on the west side of the Missouri river. In the meantime, however, William D. Brown, of Council Bluffs, had investigated, in June, 1853, the possibility of establishing a ferry from the Iowa to the Nebraska side of the river. He was joined soon by several other Council Bluffs men in forming a ferry company and in September, 1853, the Marion, the first steam ferry on the Upper Missouri river, was placed in operation.

The first "Map of Omaha" appeared September 1, 1854, after the town site had been surveyed by Alfred D. Jones, who had been engaged by the
Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company to do the work. The original town plat consisted of 320 blocks, each 264 feet square. Soon, many of the more than 2,000 people who had flocked to Council Bluffs in the several preceding years coursed across the river and within three years more than 300 men had brought their families to Omaha to establish homes. Business in the infant town thrived for awhile, but in 1857 a financial depression, known as the "Panic of 1857," engulfed the country.

Grass soon grew in the streets of the new town and business became so poor that the Rt. Rev. James M. O’Gorman, upon witnessing the desolation on a visit to Omaha, at first declined to establish his headquarters in the town, and departed. After visiting several other prospective locations, however, he returned to Omaha and decided to cast his lot with the residents of the little river community. Prosperity returned in the years of 1859 and 1860 and the young community was off to a new start, which was to carry it far in the ensuing decades. As early as 1860, when the town’s population was officially recorded as 1,861, Omaha was establishing its claim to the title, “Gate City of the West.”

**Creightons Come West**

It was to this struggling frontier town that Edward and John A. Creighton, two ambitious young men who were destined to play a conspicuous part in the upbuilding of Omaha and the middle west, came in 1856 in their quest for wealth and adventure. Born in Ohio, the son of poor Irish immigrants, the youths grew to young manhood in their native state. In 1854, Edward, the fifth in a family of nine children, had established himself in telegraph construction work and was joined by John, eleven years his junior, upon the death of their mother in that year. Two years later, in company with James Creighton, a cousin, they came to Omaha.

Here the Creightons resumed their contracting operations, and within a short time had secured the contract for constructing the telegraph line from Omaha to St. Joseph. In October, 1856, Edward returned to his old home in Ohio and was united in marriage to Miss Mary Lucretia Wareham. The young couple established their home in Omaha and the Creighton brothers looked about for more worlds to conquer. In 1860, John took food supply trains to the miners of the west, but, fearful of an Indian uprising, returned to Omaha within a short time after disposing of his stock to Brigham Young, leader of the Mormons, for $20,000.

Then came the Creightons’ great opportunity, completion of which brought not only fame but wealth, and resulted in the linking of the east and west by a telegraph line, the construction of which was provided for by an appropriation of $400,000 from Congress. Overcoming almost superhuman barriers, including the menace of unfriendly Indians, the Creightons pushed forward with their mammoth project until on October 15, 1861, Edward Creighton
sent from Salt Lake City, Utah, the first message over the new lines to his wife in Omaha.

After finishing this undertaking, John A. Creighton turned his attention to trading in the gold mining camps of Nevada and was separated from his brother for an extended period of time. Meeting Miss Sarah Emily Wareham, younger sister of his brother Edward’s wife, he was united in marriage to her on June 9, 1868, in Omaha, the ceremony being performed by Bishop O’Gorman. Then John established himself in the grocery and transportation business. A daughter, Lulu, born to the couple April 9, 1870, their only child, died in infancy.
CHAPTER II

Mercy Nuns Come Early

When Rt. Rev. James M. O’Gorman came to Omaha shortly after his consecration as titular Bishop of Raphanea and Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska on May 8, 1859, by Bishop Peter Kendrick, of St. Louis, he soon determined that the establishment of parochial schools was necessary if Catholicity in his new See was to endure.

Accordingly, he applied to the Mother Superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Manchester, N. H., for Sisters to teach children of the Catholic families in Omaha. Early in 1864, seven young Sisters set out from their New Hampshire home to make the perilous trip to Omaha, fifteen hundred miles distant. After delays in Chicago and St. Joseph, Mo., these pioneer nuns arrived in Omaha by boat on October 21, 1864, and proceeded to the Convent which had been prepared for them at what now is 24th Street and St. Mary’s Avenue. Their first school was opened several weeks later in the old church on Eighth Street, and was known as Holy Angels School. The Sisters also visited and cared for the sick in their homes during these early years.

Humble Beginning

By the year 1870, Omaha had grown into a quite sizeable western city, its population in the ten year period having mounted to 16,083. It was in this year, 1870, that the history of St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital had its inception.

The following excerpt from the book, “Early Days of the Mercy Sisters in Omaha,” by Sister M. Madeleine, tells of the foundation and early history of the institution:

“At the request of the Bishop, two Sisters, Mother M. Joseph and Sister M. Evangelist, went West to collect funds to erect a hospital. They collected $12,000, with which the Sisters put up St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital. It was the first and only hospital in Omaha for many years. It was located at Twelfth and Mason streets. Good work was done there. Many a poor homeless man was nursed back to health and happiness, and many more died, reconciled to God after years of forgetfulness. Many pages could be written about the wonderful conversions and deaths at the Mercy Hospital.”

The need for the opening of a hospital in the growing community had become apparent to Bishop O’Gorman soon after the arrival of the Mercy Sisters, and it was to them that he appealed for help to meet the crisis which arose from the sickness and accidents besetting the many Irish Catholics who had come west for employment on the Union Pacific Railroad. Again, the Sisters acquiesced to the Bishop’s pleading, and they turned themselves with enthusiasm to the new task confronting them.
The Mercy Sisters possessed no funds of their own. There was no state or municipal grant, and the only alternative left them was an appeal to the generosity of the community on behalf of suffering humanity. In most cases, however, the Sisters had to seek out the generous in town and country; and, penetrating the interior of the state by the only avenue of access at that time—the Union Pacific Railroad—they visited the camps and works along its route, and solicited individually the generously disposed. The success of their efforts is attested by Sister Madeleine's statement, previously quoted, that the Sisters collected $12,000. The lot upon which the hospital subsequently was constructed was donated to the Sisters by Bishop O'Gorman.

Youth is First Patient

The institution was opened on the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, September 24, 1870, Bishop O'Gorman celebrating Mass for the Sisters and blessing the new institution.

As may be seen, the building was frame, and simple in construction. The interior also was plain, and comprised two wards and ten rooms, totaling in all twenty-eight beds. It seemed, at that date, to be ample enough for those of the population of Omaha, who from stress of circumstances should seek treatment under the shelter of its roof. Looking upon St. Joseph's Hospital in 1870, as it received the finishing touches from the builder, no one would be able to read from its simplicity and lack of adornment the labors, the perseverance, the privations and sacrifices, made by those ladies who had the courage to undertake it. To nurse the sick even for a reward is in itself, a good and humane work; but not only to nurse the sick without any recompense whatever to the individual, but more than this, to beg in order to provide them with comfortable shelter, care and treatment, is a work of humanity, and one which presumably all fair and candid minds will classify as heroic. This was the work of the Sisters of Mercy.

The first patient was admitted September 25, 1870, in the person of one Charles Nohles, 23 years old, a laborer, who remained in the hospital until October 10. Anna Herlitzki, 56, the seventh patient to come under the Sisters' care, was the first woman admitted, on October 8, 1870. She was discharged on June 8, 1871. In all, 55 patients were admitted during the last quarter of 1870, including 45 men and 10 women.

During the next two years, 225 and 240 patients were treated, respectively, after which the admissions ranged between 101 and 177 during the remainder of the decade. Financial troubles plagued the Sisters almost from the start, due to the fact that the contractor, Thomas O'Grady, apparently had grossly miscalculated the cost of construction. It was necessary, therefore, that the Sisters borrow funds to meet the excess building costs and to give a mortgage to cover the loan.
ST. JOSEPH'S MERCY HOSPITAL
Original Building, as it appeared 1870-1881
Lotteries Solve Financial Dilemma

The Sisters benefited handsomely, however, from the operations in Omaha and cities as far away as St. Louis of "Lottery King" James Monroe Pattee, who, after coming to Omaha from California late in 1870, established a partnership with Dr. J. W. B. Gardiner, physician of the Hospital staff. In 1871 he advertised far and wide his "$150,000 GRAND GIFT CONCERT in aid of the Mercy Hospital at Omaha", scheduled to be held January 30, 1872, at the Redick Opera House, Omaha. A series of lotteries was conducted during the year, the last being held with the Redick Opera House as the grand prize. In each instance, a Pattee-Gardiner man would be declared the winner and the Omahans, infuriated by the repeated apparently fraudulent schemes, put an end for all time to such "grand enterprises" in the community.

Records of the Sisters, however, disclose contributions totaling $8,100 by the "Lottery King" to the Hospital, in addition to generous contributions to their orphanage fund. The mortgage indebtedness was liquidated and, temporarily, hospital finances were in good condition. Despite adverse public opinion, the Sisters regarded Mr. Pattee as their outstanding benefactor.

Nebraska's population had increased fifty percent during the 1870-1880 decade, reaching 37,920 in the latter year, according to the Omaha City Directory. The Hospital was crowded and teaching responsibilities had increased proportionately, reaching the point where the Mercy Sisters were confronted with the problem of curtailing either their hospital or teaching activities, due to a shortage of Sisters. Therefore, at the suggestion of Bishop O'Connor, who had become the second Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska following his consecration in Philadelphia on August 20, 1876, the Sisters at their Chapter in February, 1880, voted to sell the hospital to another religious community in order that the Mercy nuns might devote their entire time to parochial education.

The Sisters of Mercy remained in charge of the hospital from its opening in September, 1870, to the 17th of April, 1880, when they turned over management of St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital to the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph, of the Perpetual Adoration, of Lafayette, Indiana. During these ten years the Sisters received and cared for 1,517 patients, thus averaging about 150 each year.
THE COMING OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS, the Golden Jubilee event of which was celebrated in 1930, occurred in 1880, but the events leading up to the decision of the yet infant order in America to establish a branch institution in Omaha reads somewhat like fiction.

When Mother Teresa Bonzel, Foundress of the order, made her first visit to this country in 1878, she journeyed westward from the American motherhouse to make arrangements for the founding of a branch house in Columbus, Nebraska. Finding conditions encouraging, she dispatched two Sisters from Lafayette, Indiana, in 1879, to establish St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, the first institution to be started outside the motherhouse.

To secure sufficient funds for erection of the hospital, the two Sisters visited neighboring towns within a hundred miles of Columbus, soliciting contributions for their new institution.

While on such a trip in Omaha, Divine Providence arranged that their footsteps guide them past the home of the generous-hearted John A. Creighton. Seeing the Sisters, Mr. Creighton hailed them and invited them inside, where he heard with kindly attention the object of their visit in Omaha. Drawing forth his check book, he tendered the Sisters a check for $1,000.00, by far the largest amount received, and sent them on their way rejoicing and thanking Almighty God for the chance meeting which had resulted so fruitfully. The generous benefactor also discussed with the Sisters the probability of establishing another branch house in Omaha and, later, joining with the Franciscan Fathers of the city, formally extended the Order, through Right Rev. James O'Connor, first Bishop of Omaha, the invitation to found in this city its second branch institution.

Franciscan Sisters Arrive

It was on April 17, 1880, at noon time, that the little band of four brown-robed nuns, humble children of their great patron, St. Francis of Assisi, arrived in Omaha. The group consisted of Venerable Sisters M. Alphonsa Neuhoff, Philomena Doerner, Hedwig Sahsen and Anna Teipel, all now deceased. The Franciscans thus became the third religious community to establish itself in the community.

Sister M. Alphonsa, who had previously been stationed at St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus, Nebraska, was honored by being appointed the first Superior of St. Joseph's Hospital. Sister Alphonsa was born in Morsbach, near the city of Cologne, Germany, in 1845, and joined the community of Poor Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Olpe, Westphalia, Germany, in
VENERABLE MOTHER TERESA BONZEL, O. S. F.
Foundress of the Community
Olpe, Westphalia, Germany—1830-1905
1871. Her religious fervor and administrative talent won for her the privilege of being among the band of Sisters who, in the fall of 1875, because of religious persecutions in their own country, migrated to America and established the American motherhouse at Lafayette, Indiana.

Under the guidance of Sister Alphonsa, the little group of Franciscans worked untiringly in the interests of their afflicted fellowmen and won hosts of friends unto themselves. The number of patients increased steadily.

**Sisterhood Incorporates**

After operating the hospital in Omaha for fifteen months, the Sisters began steps to establish themselves legally in Nebraska, and thus become qualified to acquire property and to otherwise expand their activities.

Accordingly, they associated themselves together and were incorporated under the name of the Franciscan Sisterhood of Nebraska, on July 23, 1881 with Sister M. Alphonsa, Sister M. Hedwig and Sister M. Philomena as the organizers.

The purposes of the organization, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, were: "to promote and encourage the mutual improvement of its members, keep hospitals, nurse the sick, maintain orphan asylums and teach the children . . . Its place of location shall be at Omaha, County of Douglas, State of Nebraska, but it may have and conduct such houses at other points in the state as may be deemed necessary and advantageous to the causes of charity, morality and education . . . No dues shall be required of the members, but each member is expected to devote her whole time and talent to the advancement of the interests and objects of this Association."

The Articles further stated: "The Capital Stock of this association shall consist of such hospitals, schools and orphan asylums in said state as it may now hold in trust for said Order and such other property as it may hereafter acquire. No shares shall be issued to any members, or otherwise, nor shall any of such property be diverted to the private use of any member or other person. The Superior of the Franciscan Convent of Omaha and her successor in office shall at all times be ex-officio the President of the Association."

The life of the Corporation was to extend to January 1, 1910. On the later date the Articles of Incorporation were amended somewhat, with Sister Hedwig Sahsen, Sister Dionysia Schekelhoff and Sister M. Edivarda Fitzpatrick as the signers, and the term extended to January 1, 1981.

The Motherhouse corporation, The Poor Sisters of Saint Francis, Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration of Lafayette, Indiana, which had been organized July 31, 1882, in Indiana, made legal entry into the State of Nebraska on April 17, 1924. This made unnecessary the existence of a separate corporate organization within the State and on June 11, 1927, Notice of Dissolution of The Franciscan Sisterhood of Nebraska was filed in the office of the Secretary of State,
VENERABLE SISTER M. ALPHONSA NEUHOFF, O. S. F.
1845-1900
First Superior St. Joseph's Hospital — 1880-1885
being recorded in Book No. 57, Miscellaneous Incorporations. All property owned by the old corporation was transferred to the Indiana group. Officers at the time of dissolution were: Sister M. Hedwig Sahsen, president; Sister M. Cherubina Vogel, vice-president; Sister M. Dionysia Schekelhoff, Secretary.

**Purchase Omaha Hospital**

Following completion of the legal organization, the Franciscan Sisters proceeded to acquire from the Sisters of Mercy the hospital property, known legally as Lot 4, Block 230, City of Omaha.

A purchase price of $4,000 was agreed upon, for which a mortgage was given to the Sisters of Mercy, covered by a promissory note payable "two years after date, with interest thereon, after maturity, at the rate of six (6) per cent per annum, until paid." Payments on the note were made, as follows: August 2, 1883, $500; Sept. 4, 1883, $1,500; Feb. 9, 1884, $500; March 10, 1884, $500; April 17, 1884, $500; and the final installment of $500 on May 26, 1884. The Mortgage was released as of record by the Sisters of Mercy on May 18, 1885. Attorney James P. English represented the Franciscan Sisters in the legal transactions.

With the legal papers received from the Mercy order, the Franciscan Sisters came into possession of the original Abstract of Title to the land, conveyed for the first time by the United States of America to John McCormick on July 5, 1859; a Quit Claim Deed from W. R. Bartlett and Wife, executed April 28, 1870 to (Mother) Mary Ignatius Lynch and (Sister) Mary Josephine Graham, of the Convent of Mercy; a Warranty Deed from the latter to "The Mercy Hospital," dated Sept. 4, 1877, and a Quit Claim Deed from Bishop O'Connor to "The Mercy Hospital," recorded March 27, 1882.

**Addition Doubles Capacity**

In 1882 the capacity of the Hospital was not equal to the demands, and several were obliged to seek relief from their sufferings elsewhere. To relieve the crowded conditions, the Sisters of Saint Francis planned an addition to the structure. But here the same difficulty was to be met with by the Sisters of Saint Francis that the Sisters of Mercy had encountered in 1870—there were no funds available. The only recourse left was that of charity, so from house to house and among the railroad workers the Sisters pleaded the cause of the suffering sick.

Count and Mrs. John A. Creighton, with growing interest in the work of the Franciscans, bought and presented to the Sisters Lot 3, adjoining the hospital, as the site of the planned improvement. The new wing followed in general outline the original structure, with the exception, as a news story in The Herald pointed out, "the new is constructed without the verandas which surround the old and are regarded now as not requisite." The basement housed the steam boiler and laundry, and the Sisters' refectory. On the first floor were
a small reception parlor, the pharmacy, five private rooms, two wards with a capacity of twelve beds each, and bath rooms. The second floor contained a similar number of patient accommodations and, in addition, a dormitory for the Sisters; a chapel in the northeast corner and an operating room.

The new addition was completed in September, 1882 and increased the patient capacity to 90 ward beds and ten private rooms. The improvement cost $14,157.00, against which the Sisters had on hand $4,700 realized from a fair the previous winter, and $2,000 contributed by friends, including $500 from John A. and Sarah Emily Creighton. In addition, private rooms were furnished by Mr. Creighton, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Charles Turner, Joseph Creighton, Mrs. John McCreary, Schroter & Becht, and Rev. John J. Jennette, of Exeter. The working force of the hospital had been increased to 14 Sisters when the new addition was ready for occupancy.

"Fairs" Help to Finance Activities

Inasmuch as prevailing charges to patients who were able to pay their way, $5.00 per week in wards and $10 per week in private rooms, coupled with the further fact that fully 50% of all patients admitted were charity cases, failed to provide sufficient revenue to meet operating expenses of the institution, other sources of funds frequently were sought by the Sisters in order that they might maintain the hospital.

One of the principal avenues of extra income was the annual public fair, in which Catholic and non-Catholic alike united to aid "The Sisters' Cause," or "For Sweet Charity," as the events often were headlined in the current newspapers. The first of these fairs for the benefit of the Franciscan Sisters was held April 10-16, 1882, in Creighton Hall, 11th and Farnam Streets. Business firms as well as individuals contributed merchandise, fancy work, furniture and the like generously and then vied with one another to win or purchase at handsome prices the articles thus donated.

Newspapers of the day were lavish in their descriptions of the many prizes, and each day carried long lists of new articles which had been added to the various booths and exhibits. Competition was keen between ladies of the Cathedral Altar Society, Sacred Heart and Holy Family parishes, the St. Joseph German Society, the "German Table," the "Irish Table" and the refreshment booths to outdo competing groups in their generosity and the elaborateness of their displays. The Fairs became real events on the growing city's social calendar and, judging from newspaper accounts, most of the townspeople turned out with their entire families, the crowds being so large that on several occasions the fairs were extended from one to two weeks.

One newspaper, on March 21, 1882, editorialized:

"Mercy Hospital has been among us for years as the home of the sick. Rich and poor alike, all creeds and all conditions, have shared in its blessings and benefactions during this time. Within its
humble walls devout and devoted women, who have consecrated their lives to the care of the sick and the suffering, have been ministering angels to thousands of men and women whose only claim upon them was founded in human brotherhood.

"Not long ago, control changed from the Sisters of Mercy to the Sisters of St. Francis, a Sisterhood in the Church whose members are especially trained for the care of the sick. Language would utterly fail us to express all that the people of this city feel in regard to the work of these Sisters. Day by day, and night by night, watchful, tender, patient and vigilant, they have done their work, and when, a few weeks ago, the pestilence came among us, and all others feared and trembled, these brave volunteer soldiers of the Cross took their lives in their hands and stood watch and guard over its stricken victims.

"We hope that every man in the city will do what he can to swell contributions to the Fair and the subscriptions to the hospital fund."

Dr. George W. Miller, who had forsaken the practice of medicine to become editor of the Weekly Herald, came in for some good-natured but pointed "ribbing" at the pen of the editor of the Omaha Republican, in the following item:

"Dr. Miller with the wholesouled liberality of an aesthetic millionaire, spent $40 to $50 one night among the attractions of the hospital fair. As hard a case as the Doctor is, there are some soft and tender spots left on his indurated heart. When he goes to the hospital, he must get the best of care."

Another typical comment at the time of the first Fair was:

"Reverend Father Bushman, of Rulo, was 'gone through' at the Fair, this week; but he expected all that."

The first Fair netted the Franciscan Sisters $4,635.84.

The second Fair, held Sept. 1-6, 1884, at Falconer Hall, brought the Sisters a profit of $4,571.05, while in 1888, the Fair opening October 22nd
realized $8,000. Indebtedness of the Hospital on January 1, 1885 stood at $5,057.09. Receipts for the preceding year totaled $15,057.88, including profits from the Fair and donations of $1,326.35, while expenditures amounted to $15,114.97 for operation of the hospital.

Nursing the City's Smallpox Patients

The winter months of '82 were marked by the appearance of smallpox in some localities of the city, a number of the victims having been residents of the Slaven House, a lodging residence. City Health department officials promptly established a smallpox hospital on the county farm and thus provided isolation for the victims of the disease. While this limited the danger of contagion, the patients needed no less assiduous care and treatment. This the Sisters of St. Francis volunteered to give, as is evidenced by the following quotation from the Omaha Daily Herald of Jan. 27, 1882:

"The smallpox hospital on the county farm was finished yesterday . . . Three of the Franciscan Sisters at St. Joseph's Hospital have volunteered to serve as nurses at the hospital. The authorities have been very glad to accept their services. The extent of the sacrifice that these noble women make in thus taking their lives in their hands may be better appreciated from the fact that none of them have had the disease. They were vaccinated by Dr. Grossman—two of the Sisters went out to the hospital yesterday afternoon."

Later, reporting on the care of the patients by the Sisters, the Herald further commented on Feb. 26, 1882:

"The Herald is happy to be able to state that the Sisters have escaped the disease, and have been quite successful in their treatment of the patients who have been happily placed in their charge. John J. Donnelly, who was reluctant to go (Feb. 4) said yesterday morning, after the two Franciscan Sisters there had taken so good care of him, that he was glad to be there."

Donnelly was dismissed March 5th, fully recovered.

When the epidemic had subsided, two months later, the manner in which the Sisters had fulfilled their self-imposed duty was best attested by the following letter from Mayor Boyd:

"Omaha, March 21st, 1882

P. S. Leisenring, M. D., City Physician.

Dear Sir: Herewith find cheque for $100 which please present with my compliments to the Sisters of St. Francis who so kindly volunteered without fee or reward to nurse the sick at smallpox hospital. Now that their services are no longer required, they will need some article of clothing before they can without danger of contagion return to St. Joseph’s Hospital, and I trust they will accept the sum as a small token of the esteem in which I hold the service they have rendered to the poor and distressed.

Very respectfully,

J. E. Boyd, Mayor."

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When Dr. Leisenring presented the check to Sisters Lucia and Xavier, they protested that it was much more than they had deserved, but the Doctor and the Mayor thought otherwise and insisted upon acceptance of the gift.

The City Council also contemplated remunerating the good nuns for their work but this plan was forestalled by Bishop O'Connor, who was unwilling for the Sisters to accept municipal financial assistance. The wisdom of the Bishop’s decision was evidenced soon thereafter, when another denominational hospital was organized and some agitation started for municipal grants for that institution, based upon the City’s previous generous attitude to St. Joseph’s and the Sisters.

That the public, regardless of denominational preference, appreciated the policy established when the institution was opened—its doors are open to all applicants, the only passport for admission being that the applicant be a sufferer—was indicated by the patronage accorded the Sisters. The following abstract from the early records of the institution forcibly bears out this statement:

- In 1880—103 Catholics; 103 of other denominations.
- In 1881—121 Catholics; 142 of other denominations.
- In 1882—142 Catholics; 255 of other denominations.
- In 1883—241 Catholics; 299 of other denominations.
- In 1884—271 Catholics; 360 of other denominations.
- In 1885—276 Catholics; 359 of other denominations.
- In 1886—383 Catholics; 396 of other denominations.
- In 1887—209 Catholics; 462 of other denominations.

The same proportion holds true today.

This self-same policy of the early days of the institution’s history continues in force today. Although the management consists of individuals banded together in a religious community and all professing the Roman Catholic faith, race or religion forms no barrier to the applicant for admission.

_Sister Alphonsa Promoted_

In the meantime, Mother Mary Teresa Bonzel, Foundress of the Congregation, made her second trip to the United States in 1885 and before her return to Germany, she appointed Sister Alphonsa as Superioress Provincial, a duty which took her back to the motherhouse at Lafayette. Sister M. Hedwig was named to succeed her as head of the Sisterhood in Omaha and as superior of St. Joseph’s Hospital. Sister Alphonsa remained as leader of the order in America until her death, which occurred at the motherhouse on May 18, 1900.

The first profession of vows in what is now the Western Province took place in Omaha in 1885, during Mother Theresa’s second visit to the United States.

In an article entitled “_Little maids in serge_”, the Omaha World depicted the taking of first vows by a class of sixteen young women who had come to Omaha from convents and hospitals of the Order in the west, principally from Columbus, Denver and Emporia, Kansas. The occasion marked the completion of two and a half years of probation by the young novices, marked by bestowal of the black veil in place of the white one they had worn during their novitiate period. The ceremonies were conducted in the hospital chapel, in the presence of Mother Theresa and the 25 Sisters of the Omaha community.
CHAPTER IV

Creighton Interest Grows

When Edward Creighton died in 1874, he left to his widow a large fortune and the desire for establishing a free school for young men in Omaha. Complying with her husband's wishes, Mrs. Creighton provided in her will for a gift of $50,000 for the founding of such a school. At her death in 1876, John A. Creighton became executor of the will of which he also was the chief beneficiary. With this augmented source of wealth, John A. Creighton and wife greatly enlarged their sphere of charitable work, and the Catholic institutions of the city benefited nobly.

It was shortly after Sister Hedwig's installation as Superior that the faithful and meritorious work of the Sisterhood in the first small establishment attracted the attention of Mrs. Creighton. In 1882, an additional lot was purchased for the Sisters by the Creightons, who also helped finance the enlargement of the institution to twice its former size. The enlarged hospital could then accommodate a hundred patients, several of its wards containing from eleven to twenty-six beds each.

New Location Secured

The patronage of the enlarged institution continued to grow at such a rapid pace, due to the "Omaha Boom" which practically doubled the city's population between 1880 and 1885, that it soon became evident still further expansion would become necessary within another few years. All beds of the institution were filled and there were cots in the halls. Mrs. Creighton's interest in the work of the Franciscan Sisters grew steadily. Believing that the future progress of the institution might be hindered in its original location, the growth of the city having rendered the late site undesirable, Mrs. Creighton and her husband started acquiring, in 1887, land at the northeast corner of Tenth and Castellar streets. As a Christmas gift in 1887, the Creightons deeded to the Franciscan Sisterhood the property purchased by them in Block 1, South Omaha Addition to the City of Omaha, comprising four lots, 298x152 feet in size, valued at $15,000, as an ideal spot for their new structure.

Mrs. Creighton did not survive long to view the results of her charitable work, however, her death occurring on September 30, 1888. But even in death her charitable impulse was not to be stilled for in her will she bequeathed to the Sisters of St. Francis the sum of $50,000, to be used in the construction of a new hospital.

Thus the second period of development under the Sisters of St. Francis began for St. Joseph's Hospital. As a recognition of the benefactors, the new hospital was called the Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital.
Ideally Situated

Although shocked by the death of his beloved spouse, Mr. Creighton displayed increased interest in the Sisterhood and Hospital and he continued to acquire property at the site of the projected new institution. An early bulletin issued by the Hospital in 1894 described the new location in the following picturesque terms:

"The institution is located at the corner of Tenth and Castellar streets, on ground which for beauty of appearance and healthfulness is unsurpassed.

"North, east and south, the Missouri valley stretches for miles before the eye, its boundaries on both sides sharply marked by bluffs. Through this romantic landscape the river winds, shooting from bluff to bluff over a wide expanse of valley. Council Bluffs nestles amid the hills to the east, its arms extending westward almost to the river bank. To the west, the greater portion of Omaha, the city's great residence district is to be seen with its clusters of imposing mansions and modest cottages. To the southwest, South Omaha is outlined against the horizon, its vast industries clearly marked by columns of smoke."

Entering into the spirit of the bounteous bequest made by his wife, Sarah Emily Creighton, Count Creighton added $150,000.00 to the financial gift of his deceased spouse, and in 1890 was started the foundation of the mid-west's most magnificent institution which, when completed, cost $156,591.38. J. R. Voss was the architect, with Richards & Co. and the J. R. Barnachl Co. as the contractors. The Very Rev. Dean John Jennette, of St. Patrick's church, supervised the preliminaries, and on Sunday, November 23, 1890, the cornerstone was laid.

Cornerstone Laying Big Event

The cornerstone laying was a momentous event in the history of Omaha, which in the interim had grown to a city of 140,452 souls, according to the United States Census report of that year. Assembling at Fifteenth and Castellar streets, a procession was formed, headed by the Union Pacific band, followed by the Polish Society of St. Paul, St. Joseph Society, Knights of St. George, Knights of St. Peter and the Sr. Cyrillas and St. Vinces Young Men's Institutes. Bringing up the rear were the St. John Society and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, followed by seven carriages containing the prelates and clergy.

Right Rev. Richard Scannel, Ordinary of the diocese of Concordia, Kansas, officiated at the ceremonies. The Bishop laid the last bit of mortar beneath the stone, which was then lowered and set in position. A silver trowel was used by the Bishop, who presented the tool to James Creighton, construction superintendent. On one side of the trowel was the inscription: "John A. Creighton, and in Memory of the Late Mrs. Sarah E. Creighton, Founder of Creighton Memorial Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska." On the reverse side it read: "Cornerstone Laid Twenty-third of November, 1890, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Scannel of Concordia, Kansas. Presented to James Creighton, Superintendent."
Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital, 1892 — Chapel added in 1900
Contents of Stone

In the cornerstone were placed in a sealed copper box copies of the daily and weekly newspapers of Omaha, photographs of Pope Pius IX, Pope Leo XIII, the late Rt. Rev. James O'Gorman, first vicar of apostolic of Nebraska; Rt. Rev. James O'Connor, first Bishop of Omaha; Rt. Rev. John Curtis; Rt. Rev. Vicar General Choka, administrator of the diocese; the late Edward Creighton and wife, the late Sarah E. Creighton, John A. and James Creighton, and Henry Voss, architect. A parchment dedicating the Hospital to the Franciscan Sisters was signed by John A. Creighton and witnessed by W. F. Bechel, L. M. Anderson, James Creighton, George King, Henry Voss, John M. Dougherty, Bishop Scannel, Vicar General Choka, and Fathers Thomas Fitzgerald, Charles Breitkoff, Francis X. Daxacher and Moriarty.

The stone, which is of white Rawlins, Wyoming, sandstone, is located at the extreme southwest corner of the building. One side bears a cross and the date, "A. D. 1890," while on the other side is the inscription: "Blessed be the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

Father Thomas Fitzgerald, of Creighton College, made an address full of praise to the generous benefactor who had donated the building to the sick, poor and oppressed. Fully five thousand people listened intently to his address, for which he took as his text the inscription on the cornerstone. He dwelt upon the generosity of Count Creighton, the devoutness of his deceased wife and the characteristic philanthropy of the family.

Governor Thayer, who was present, praised the donors and the Sisters who were to carry on the good work.
In presenting the silver trowel to Mr. Creighton, Bishop Scannel said: "I have been requested to present this trowel to you in behalf of the Sisterhood of St. Francis, as a token of the esteem in which they hold you and your family. I wish to congratulate you and hope your good work may continue, and that you will receive your reward in this life and the life to come."

**Occupy New Structure**

The great structure was completed in 1892, and to it the Hospital moved on the feast of St. Anthony, June 13, 1892. The solemn blessing took place Saturday, July 2, 1892. Pontifical high mass was celebrated by Bishop Scannel, assisted by Fathers Hoeffe and Sorbley, of Creighton College, and Revs. Pacific Kohnen, O. F. M., P. C. Koopmans, J. Wagner, T. M. Conway, Charles Breitkopf, George J. Glauber, J. Stocker, John Jennette, P. Grant and John Miller, of the Cathedral. The St. John choir sang the LaJeals mass, with Prof. Schenk at the organ.

A banquet for the clergy followed, and in the afternoon the Franciscan Sisters conducted several hundred visitors through the new institution.

The original building occupied three sides of a square with front length of 200 feet and wings extending eastward 150 feet each. The material was of pressed brick, with brown stone trimmings. The main entrance was crowned by an imposing arch of brown stone, springing from a cluster of columns tapering into graceful lines, with a cross above the arch. Carved in the stone were the words, "Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital," and a statue of St. Joseph, patron of the institution, surmounts all.
The chapel occupied a large front room on the second floor. Modestly finished, it contained plain pine benches, bespeaking the severe simplicity of the lives led by the devoted and self-sacrificing nuns who conducted the institution. Principal decorations were confined to the altar.

Everything in the institution required for the care of the sick, however, was of the latest and best equipment obtainable. The building included 16 wards and 72 private rooms, providing accommodations for 200 patients, the 1894 souvenir bulletin states. With such facilities available, St. Joseph's Hospital took on a new meaning to the residents of Omaha and attracted patients in ever-increasing numbers from distant points to make Omaha the center of a great medical and surgical service for the mid-west.

Visiting days were limited to Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2 to 5 p. m. Visitors desiring to inspect the hospital facilities were received on the first and third Sundays of the month.

**Sister Xaveria's Death**

Sister M. Xaveria Probst, who had won many friends for herself and the Hospital when she took charge of the smallpox hospital in 1882, was appointed Superior of the institution in 1891, when Sister M. Hedwig was transferred to Cleveland, Ohio. Sister Xaveria's death occurred suddenly on June 10, 1895. The love in which she was held by the entire community was reflected in a newspaper article when she died:

"SHE HAS FALLEN ASLEEP"

"What is mortal of Mother Xaveria, of the Franciscan Order of the Roman church, was laid away yesterday in the Roman Catholic cemetery. The funeral rites were conducted in the little chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital, where she had been mother superior for the past five years.

"Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Father Choka, assisted by Fathers Jetts and Anastasia, of Columbus.

"Mother Xaveria took charge of the pest house here during the smallpox epidemic several years ago, and her work there was so confining that her health gave way when it was completed.

"No duty was too revolting for her to do nor no disease too deadly but that her watchfulness had nursed it. She had been a member of the Sisterhood twenty years. Her home was in Germany and she has been obliged to give up family and country to enter the humblest order, that of Saint Francis."

Upon Sister Xaveria's death, Sister Hedwig returned as Superior of St. Joseph's, remaining as its directing head until September, 1919, when she was transferred to Lincoln, Nebr., as Superior of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. She continued in that post until June 1929, when she retired from active work and left for the Motherhouse at Lafayette, Ind.

When it became known at St. Joseph's that dear Sister Hedwig was to leave, the members of the Medical Staff assembled in the hospital parlor on
the evening of August 26, 1919 as a surprise to Sister Hedwig, and to bid her Godspeed and a fond farewell. Dr. George F. Simanek presided and called upon Dr. Arthur D. Dunn and Dr. J. Frederick Langdon, who spoke of their appreciation of Sister Hedwig’s long years of devoted service to the up-building of St. Joseph’s. Dr. Langdon reminisced also upon her kindliness to him and all of the young doctors in their interne days.

Dr. Bryan M. Riley expressed the sentiments of the Staff in a beautifully worded presentation, which had been elaborately engrossed on parchment and signed by all the Staff members. Upon accepting the scroll, Sister Hedwig, overcome with emotion, could do no more than thank the doctors for their beautiful manifestation of her work.

A pall of sadness was cast over the Staff and Sisters of St. Joseph’s when word was received of the death of good Sister Hedwig, on January 28, 1941, at the Motherhouse in Lafayette. She was the last surviving member of the little band of four Franciscan Sisters who had arrived in Omaha on April 17, 1880, to start the great work which has led over the years to the present magnificent institution.

Flames Devour Landmark

After its abandonment by the Sisters as a hospital, the two-story frame structure at Twelfth and Mason streets was occupied by the John A. Creighton Medical College, from 1892 to 1897, when the school moved to its new, modern home. Thereafter, the original hospital stood vacant. On the night of April 15, 1899, the building was totally destroyed by fire, supposedly of incendiary origin. The World-Herald of that date reports:

"In less than forty minutes the last vestige of the historic building had been swept away, leaving only the brick basement and a few spectral beams of blackened wood and the big brick chimney as mute reminders of the familiar and favorite landmark, a precious memento of the past, which in its day served many goodly ends."

A hose wagon of fire department No. 1 became stuck in the clay on Marcy street while attempting to reach the flaming building and was rendered useless for the remainder of the night.

City Lots 3 and 4, Block 230, City of Omaha, as the original hospital site was known, stand today unoccupied, save for a healthy crop of tall weeds that mark the spot of Omaha’s first institution of mercy. The property was sold by the Sisters on October 19, 1908 to Samuel M. Elwood, who later sold them to George W. Johnson, on October 20, 1919. Mr. Johnson in turn conveyed them to Edna B. Johnson, November 22, 1926, in which name and ownership they remain today.

More Land Purchased

When the location for the new Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph’s Hospital was purchased by John A. Creighton, sufficient land was obtained to fill the needs of the institution for years to come, he believed. At the turn of
the century, however, indications pointed to the need for still further expansion in the future. Piece by piece, additional properties adjoining the new structure were purchased by Count Creighton and turned over to the Sisters.

In 1907, the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company acquired a tract of land immediately adjacent to the hospital property, on the north, and announced plans to erect thereon a large car barn. The Sisters and Doctors, as well as an aroused citizenry, protested vehemently against the proposed project. Several proposals were made to the street car company, including an offer by the Sisters and friends to purchase a site elsewhere for the car barns, and present it to the company in exchange for their two-block strip of land at Tenth and Dorcas streets.

Following an extended public discussion, including a heated protest by Rev. M. P. Dowling, S. J., President of Creighton University, the street railway officials agreed to sell the whole tract to the Sisters for its cost to them, $30,000, and at the same time they rejected an offer of a $5,000 bonus from the hospital for the ground. Further purchases from time to time during the early part of the century gave the Hospital an area of four square city blocks, comprising some fourteen acres of land.

The location of the new hospital was in one of the most thickly settled sections of the city. The area south from Pierce street and eastward from Tenth street to Parkwilde Avenue (Seventh street) often was referred to as "the Gold Coast" of Omaha, as is attested by the numerous stately mansion-type homes which still stand in the area. Among them is the former home of Dr. George F. Simanek, long a member of the Staff of St. Joseph's, and for a number of years Chief of Surgical Staff. The population of the city in 1880 was recorded as 30,518, but the Omaha boom, then in its infancy, was responsible for doubling the count in five years, bringing the number of residents to 60,835 in 1885.

Streets in the vicinity of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital were unpaved in the early days and street railway lines then extended only to Tenth and William streets. "Cabbies" did a thriving business in transporting visitors to the institution and although horseless vehicles, the modern automobiles, have completely replaced the mode of transportation of a half-century ago, hitching posts still stand at the curb line in front of the Hospital as silent evidence of the days when sleekly-groomed horses neighed and stamped while their drivers were on errands in visiting the sick.
CHAPTER V

Erect New Buildings

A LTHOUGH OTHER HOSPITALS had been established in Omaha in the meantime, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital continued to set the pace, improvements and new buildings being added as required to keep the institution the foremost and most modern in the central west.

In 1898, Count Creighton recognized the need for special facilities to care for the surgical cases of the institution and had erected a two-story structure to house the Surgical Department, at a cost of $10,000.00. The formal opening of this building occurred September 1, 1898.

The structure was 35x70 feet in size and was placed between the two wings of the Hospital. It contained two large operating rooms, apartments for the treatment of eye and ear cases, bath rooms and lockers, and surgical instrument cases. Latest modern appliances for clinical purposes were provided and the spacious amphitheatre, the only one in the city and said by leading surgeons to have been the finest in the United States, provided excellent quarters for the regular course of lectures which were delivered by the professors of the Creighton Medical College. The amphitheatre had a seating capacity of 100 persons. J. E. Deitrick, of Omaha, was the architect.
The Chapel

Construction of a beautiful new chapel for the Sisters was started in 1899, this generous contribution also having been made by Count Creighton, who, in 1895, had been made a Knight of St. Gregory and later raised to the dignity of a Count of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his splendid work for Catholicity in Nebraska.

The chapel, 42x87 feet in size, was located about thirty feet north of the hospital proper, but was connected by spacious galleries on each floor, permitting easy access for the Sisters, nurses and patients to religious services. It was completed in 1900, with a seating capacity for 200 persons, at a cost of $22,000. The stained glass windows, exquisite in color and tint, and the three wooden altars and communion railing, were in perfect keeping with the style of the interior and were the gift of friends of the Sisters. The beautiful sanctuary lamp was given by Mrs. Lulu Largey, of Butte, Mont.

Later on, when the expansion program of 1908-10 was under way, the Chapel was moved eastward so that the entrance to the Chapel proper was from the east side of the main hospital corridors. The building was remodeled and greatly enlarged, and the seating capacity increased to 300 persons, its present size. The architecture of the Chapel now is Romanesque in style and it is considered one of the most beautiful places of worship in the middle west.

The sanctuary contains three magnificent Carrara marble altars, which were designed and constructed in Italy. The Communion railing is of the same material with onyx pillars, and was carved to be in harmony with the design of the altars. The main altar was the gift of John A. McShane, in honor and
memory of his wife, Mrs. Catherine Lonigan McShane, now deceased. The Sisters erected the two marble side altars in honor of their esteemed benefactors. Mr. and Mrs. McShane were the parents of Mary L. Hosford, the wife of Willard D. Hosford, vice-president of the John Deere Plow Co., Omaha, and a member of the Lay Board of St. Joseph's Hospital. Soft light stealing in through the artistically stained glass windows, imported from Munich, Bavaria, gives an atmosphere of prayerful solitude to the haven of worship. A large Salve pipe organ completes the equipment of the Chapel.


**New Lighting Lends Beauty**

The beauty of the Chapel was further enhanced in the spring of 1940, when new Gothic lantern type lights, suspended from the ceiling through the nave of the edifice, replaced the old sidewall lighting brackets installed in 1910. New ceiling lights also were hung in the choir, the baptistry and the rear vestibule. In addition, the entire chapel was renovated, pictures retouched or repainted and the ceiling redecorated, while the Stations of the Cross were artistically refinished, with a gold mosaic background and robes in natural colors on the figures in the foreground. The project was carried out through the benevolence of Mrs. Margaret Meyers, as a memorial to her beloved husband, Edward P. Meyers, well known Nebraska rancher and long time friend of St. Joseph's, who died in the hospital August 25, 1938.

At the same time, Mrs. Agnes Landgraf, widow of Dr. Ernest W. Landgraf, prominent member of the St. Joseph's staff who died June 2, 1935, provided an attractive lighting treatment for the sanctuary as a memorial to her husband. A new flood lighting system replaced the old arches of light in the dome of the sanctuary, while the Crucifixion scene above the main altar was lighted with a full width fluorescent unit, and the altars proper with spot lights.

A further benefaction, in 1945, by Mrs. Meyers was the presentation of a new shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which occupies the niche near the St. Joseph altar in the chapel, former location of one of the confessionals. The Shrine was erected in memory of Mrs. Meyers' parents, Patrick and Ellen Gorman, and her brother, John P. Gorman and wife. The beautiful new statue of Saint Joseph and Child Jesus, erected in September, 1945, on the hospital
campus in front of the Nurses' residence, which greets hospital visitors as they approach from the north, also was the gift of Miss Mary Margaret Meyers and her fiancé, Edwin John Ressegieu, in memory of her father. It was blessed at ceremonies on Sunday, September 23, in the presence of members of the Meyers family, and friends.

Transfer of the confessional rooms from the front to the rear of the Chapel, and installation of 92 new, heavy oak pews completed the Chapel projects on July 15, 1945. The old pews and a large statue of St. Francis Xavier were given by the Sisters to the St. Benedict colored parish, Omaha. At the same time, the oratory at the rear of the Chapel was converted into a shrine in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother, and Stations of the Sorrowful Mother erected for private devotion. The statue of St. Anthony and Infant Jesus was installed in the former confessional niche, near the Blessed Virgin altar.

Chaplains

The Rev. Francis Xavier Daxacher was the first chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, serving from the time it was taken over by the Franciscan Sisters in 1880, until 1894. He was succeeded by Rev. Patrick J. Judge, who had assisted Father Daxacher in July and August, 1893. Father Judge retained the position until March 18, 1895.

The third Chaplain was Very Rev. John Jennette, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Omaha, who was largely instrumental in first interesting Count Creighton in the possibilities of locating St. Joseph's Hospital at its present site. After being appointed pastor of the new St. Patrick's parish in 1883, Father Jennette built the first St. Patrick's church and also St. Bridget's church, South Omaha, which for several years he served as a mission from St. Patrick's.

In March, 1895, Father Jennette resigned the pastorate of St. Patrick's to take the post as Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, it being his belief that he could do far more good by devoting himself entirely to the suffering and unfortunate in the hospital than he could possibly perform in parish work. He entered with great zeal into his new duties and for 23 years he devoted his entire attention to the cause of the suffering and the poor. He died at the hospital, June 16, 1918, at the age of 76, and in the 45th year of his career as a priest. He was Dean of the Omaha district for many years and also served for 25 years as one of the six consultants to the Bishop.

Succeeding Father Jennette was the Right Rev. Msgr. Charles Mugan, who had taken over the duties of Chaplain when the former's health began to fail, several months prior to his death. Msgr. Mugan continued to fulfill the duties of chaplain for ten years, until he, too, was compelled by failing health to retire in 1928. After his retirement, Msgr. Mugan retained his home at the hospital and continued to celebrate mass as regularly as his health would permit until the onset of his fatal illness, July 19, 1932. He died four months later, on November 18th.
The Chapel As It Is Today
Succeeding Msgr. Mugan was Rev. Joseph F. Duhamel, who became Chaplain on October 15, 1928 and served to December 12, 1930. He was followed by Rev. Gebhard Stakemaier, from December 13, 1930 to March 12, 1932, when he was forced to relinquish his strenuous duties and seek lighter parish work because of poor health. Rev. Elmer Bachman, O. F. M. served temporarily until the appointment of Rev. George Mikulski, whose tenure extended from March 12, 1932 to April 3, 1935, when he likewise returned to parish duties.

Heads Nocturnal Adoration Group

The Rev. Charles H. Strassberger, previously assistant pastor at St. Peter’s Church, Omaha, was assigned by Bishop Joseph F. Rummel as Chaplain on April 3, 1935, and has served continuously to the present date. In addition to his duties as hospital chaplain, which he has performed with the utmost dispatch and devotion, Father Strassberger has served since July 1, 1938 as Spiritual Director of the Omaha Nocturnal Adoration Society, and officiates monthly at the opening exercises each night of the organization’s all-night vigils before the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Hynes Memorial Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene’s Church.

A native of Buffalo, N. Y., Father Strassberger first studied at Canisius College in his home city. He completed his studies at St. Bonaventure’s Seminary, St. Bonaventure, N. Y., and was ordained to the priesthood February 7, 1926, at Detroit, Mich., by Right Rev. Joseph Plagens, for the Omaha diocese. Father Strassberger’s first assignment was as assistant to Rev. Jeremiah Buckley, at St. Bernard’s Church, Omaha, for several months, following which he went to St. Mary’s Church, Laurel, Nebr., as Administrator for six months. He later served as Administrator at St. Andrew’s Church, Bloomfield, and St. Patrick’s O’Neill. In 1927, he was appointed assistant to Right Rev. James W. Stenson, V. G., and served at St. Peter’s church, Omaha, until March, 1934, when he was appointed by Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel to the chaplaincy at St. Joseph’s Hospital.
No record of the good priests who served as chaplains of the hospital would be complete without mention of the activities of Rev. Albert Zemp, unofficial assistant to Father Strassberger for several years prior to his death on January 13, 1940. Father Zemp, whose failing hearing had forced him to retire from active parish duty, came to St. Joseph's on January 30, 1936, at the suggestion of Most Rev. James Hugh Ryan, S. T. D., Bishop of Omaha, to make his home.

A Swiss watchmaker before entering the priesthood, Father Zemp was a picturesque figure as, with his snow white beard, he labored day after day over his work bench that he had set up in the large tile bathroom of the suite which he occupied. His room was a veritable watchmaker's paradise, with cuckoo, chimes and striking clocks uniting in a perpetual symphony which emanated from Room 238. There, among the many rare and beloved clocks and watches with which he had lived and slept, Father Zemp passed to his eternal reward, sadly mourned by the Sisters and many friends among the patients and former patients to whom he had endeared himself by brief but friendly visits.

"I can't hear a word you say; I'm only the fifth wheel on the wagon around here. God bless you!" Thus did Father Zemp greet patients while making his daily rounds spreading God's blessings and good cheer among the unfortunate sick, for whom he offered daily mass until stricken with his fatal illness, five weeks before his death.
Men's Medical Ward — 1898
CHAPTER VI

Count Creighton’s Death

When, in 1905, the Sisters of St. Francis solemnly observed the silver jubilee of their arrival and beginning of their charitable work in Omaha, one of the most greatly interested attendants was Count John A. Creighton. Right Rev. Bishop Scannel, who since officiating at the cornerstone laying of the new Hospital in 1890 had been appointed to the See of Omaha, was present at the solemn High Mass celebrated in the chapel by Rev. Adolph Rockel, O. F. M., to commemorate the twenty-five years of service by the Franciscan Sisterhood. The Silver Jubilee sermon was delivered by Rev. Theobald Kalamaja, O. F. M. Many members of the clergy from far and near were present for the momentous event.

But Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital was soon to suffer an irreparable loss, for on February 7, 1907, the soul of the noble founder of the institution was called to its Heavenly Home by its Maker. His death occurred at 1:27 a.m. at his home, 20th and Chicago streets, where Sister Hedwig, Sister Johanna and Sister Clothilda had been in constant attendance as nurses since he first was stricken, together with a Poor Clare nun.

Count John A. Creighton passed on to his Eternal Rest in the 76th year of a life overflowing with deeds of kindness and love for his less fortunate fellow-men. His demise was mourned not only by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, whose staunch friend and benefactor he had been ever since they came to Omaha, but by the citizens of the community which had benefited so wondrously from his benefactions and to whom he had proved himself a practical demonstrator of true Christian philanthropy.

Whole City Pays Homage

The entire community mourned; business houses and city offices closed for the funeral services on Saturday, February 9th, by proclamation of Mayor James C. Dahlman. St. John’s Collegiate Church was unable to accommodate even a fraction of the vast throng which stood, with bared heads, outside the edifice as the body of the great public benefactor was borne out after the solemn Requiem Mass, of which the Very Rev. Henry Moeller, provincial of the Missouri province of the Society of Jesus, was celebrant. No greater tribute to the memory of the departed could have been paid than that in the closing remarks of the eulogy delivered by the Rev. M. P. Dowling, President of Creighton University:

“And now, John A. Creighton, farewell ’til the judgment day! We consign your body to earth, your soul to your Creator! Go forth to that land where your works alone will follow you and bespeak for you a welcome! May you have a tomb of orphan tears wept over you; may every tear be a prayer, every prayer a blessing, every blessing be ratified by the Almighty Father Whom you gave a faith as strong as adamant, a heart as generous as love, a heart as true as gold, a heart large enough to embrace all mankind in an undying af-
fection. In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, we bid you a long farewell!"

Count Creighton’s body was interred in the family plot at Holy Sepulchre cemetery, beside the remains of his beloved wife who had preceded him in death almost twenty years, as well as the graves of his brother, Edward, and his wife, who also had been called to their eternal home before him. Here, in death, were reunited four souls whose married lives had been spent happily together under one roof, the stately mansion at 404 North Twentieth street, where in life they had spent many happy years in close companionship.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Bequest to Sisters

Foreseeing the needs of the institution if Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital was to grow and keep apace with the progress of the city and the middle west, Count Creighton provided generously for the financial welfare of the Sisters in Omaha in his will. A bequest of $200,000.00 was contained in the document for the institution.

In addition to his benefactions of more than $2,000,000.00 to Creighton University, and his contributions to St. Joseph’s Hospital, totaling approximately $750,000.00, Count Creighton also constructed a convent for the Poor Clare Sisters at Thirtieth and Hamilton streets, costing $85,000.00. The full extent of his gifts to church and charity and education will never be known, because they were continuous for many years, of all amounts, at all times. The priest, the Sister, the committee seeking aid for laudable purposes, and the poor begging for subsistence, were the constant and welcomed visitors at his office and often at his home.

Besides the specific bequest of $200,000 to the hospital, Count Creighton provided that the residue of his estate after all designated gifts had been paid should be divided among his beneficiaries in the same proportion as the specific bequests bore to the total value of the estate. Accordingly, the Sisters of St. Francis received 14.90 percent of the residue, or a total of $395,000 after deduction of taxes. The total value of the estate was $3,847,000, less costs of $167,000, leaving a net value for distribution of $3,680,000. The Creighton University received approximately 40 percent of the residue, the remainder being divided among relatives and other beneficiaries. Estate inheritance taxes amounted to $150,000, including $28,500 on the hospital’s share.

His "Buttermilk Bills"

One of the finest examples of the unselfish character of this great man and his unbounded love and devotion for his unfortunate fellowman, was manifested in the years following the death of his beloved wife. On Sunday afternoons it was his regular custom to appear at Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital to pay a brief but happy visit with all the sick. As he entered each
room, from a large sack or box which he carried, he withdrew a handful of succulent candy chocolate creams, which as "Dr." Creighton he dispensed as "Buttermilk pills" with characteristic Irish witticisms and instructions as to the "doses" to be taken. Those patients whose sojourns in the Hospital were of an extended character looked forward from one Sunday afternoon to the next, anticipating with unaffected delight the weekly "calls" of "Doctor Creighton" and his pleasant "prescriptions." This practice he continued for many years, and until a short time before his death, deriving great pleasure from his weekly visits among the sick and afflicted.

Another humorous incident which the Count enjoyed telling upon himself took place on a series of his Sunday afternoon visits to the hospital.

In those days, the doors of the hospital were kept locked at all times, and one Sister was assigned with the key to open the door for visitors. When Sister Dolorosa, who had been in charge of this duty, would admit Count Creighton, he would walk over to the Poor Box near the door and, teasingly, make believe he was trying to drop a $20 gold piece into the box, the slot of which was too small to admit such a large coin. Then, turning to Sister Dolorosa, he would say "Too bad, Sister, too bad!" and drop the coin back into his pocketbook.

This performance he repeated Sunday after Sunday for more than a month, to Sister Dolorosa's discomfort and Count Creighton's great delight. Not to be outdone, however, Sister Dolorosa determined to outwit the Count and garner the $20 gold piece for the Poor Fund. Finally, when Count Creighton came again the following Sunday and walked to the box to repeat his joking performance, he was quite surprised to find that the coin this time readily slipped from his fingers into the box, for Sister Dolorosa had sufficiently enlarged the slot since he last had teased her! Appreciating that the tables had been turned and that he had been made the victim of his own joke, Count Creighton laughed heartily and joyously went his way, with the knowledge that his twenty dollars would be well used to provide care or food for some of the deserving poor.

Following the death of his beloved wife, Count Creighton moved some of the most prized possessions from the family home to a suite of rooms maintained for him on the main floor of the Hospital, close to the beautiful chapel in which he took so much pride. There he spent days at a time, in intimate association with the work of the Sisterhood which was so near and dear to his heart.

Sisters "Carry On"

Although stunned by the death of their great benefactor, the Sisters of St. Francis determined to carry on to even greater success the work in which they had been so generously encouraged by Count and Mrs. Creighton. Devoted service to the wants of the unfortunates entrusted to their care brought rewards in increasing patronage and in 1908 it was necessary to add the north
section to the main building, including the front structure, 250 feet long, and the north wing, which extends eastward 150 feet. The combined length of the several buildings facing on Tenth street was increased to 470 feet by the new addition, the present length of the Hospital building, exclusive of the Nurses Home.

J. M. Nachtigall, well known Omaha architect, drew the plans and supervised the construction work, of which the total cost was $487,927.97. William P. Deverell was the general contractor. The J. J. Hanighen Co. installed the plumbing and heating, the cost exceeding $68,000. Besides the new main structure addition and the modernizing of the original unit of the present structure, the project included construction of a new boiler house and laundry building, costing $33,000; a new kitchen building for $14,000; a $7,300 barn and chapel alterations costing $24,000. Chapel furnishings by the H. J. Bourgeois Co. cost approximately $8,000, and new elevators, $10,700.00.

The beautiful natural stone grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, just northeast of the Nurses' residence, also was erected during the 1908-1911 building program, probably in the summer of 1910. The structure was built entirely by hand by one Edward Koenig, as several of the older Sisters and personnel recall the artisan's name, assisted only by such hospital employees as volunteered their services. No plans or blue prints were used, they recall; the elderly Bavarian artist was his own architect and carried the plans in his mind, executing them as skillfully as if they had just come freshly off the drawing board. The statues and decorations all were imported from Munich, Bavaria, and when the work was completed, the architect-builder proceeded on his way about the country to erect more such shrines.

The Grotto is a beautiful replica of the world-famous shrine in Lourdes, France, and offers a quiet, restful Retreat wherein to breathe a silent prayer to the "Comforter of the Afflicted."

Dedication of the new wing of the hospital and the enlarged Chapel took place on Wednesday, June 21, 1911, when the new marble altars were used for the first time. Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. M. Colaneri, Chancellor of the Omaha diocese, was celebrant, assisted by Rev. Edmund Roediger, O. F. M., of St. Joseph's Church, and Rev. Edward M. Gleeson, of St. Cecelia's Cathedral, as deacon and sub-deacon, respectively. Rev. James W. Stenson was Master of Ceremonies and the Rev. E. A. Magevney, S. J., rector of Creighton University, delivered the sermon. The choir of St. Joseph's church sang the Mass.

A dinner in the evening for the Staff and University faculty was addressed by Victor Rosewater, editor of The Omaha Bee, and Mayor James C. Dahlman. The institution was opened to the public for inspection on June 22nd and 25th. Editorializing on the occasion, the Omaha Sunday Bee of June 25th said:

"Lives of single-minded pure devotion have built up in St. Joseph's Hospital a wonderful institution. It is a little city in itself where the people are sufferers and the laws are the laws of life and death. It looms hugely against the east, housing hundreds of the sick and wounded, and pervaded with the spirit of silent helpfulness and gentle kindness of the Sisters of St. Francis."

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CHAPTER VII

Further Improvements

Following completion of the new boiler house and laundry building, four new 125-horsepower boilers, and a Warren-Webster vacuum heating system, were installed in 1912 to furnish power and heat for the enlarged institution. In 1914, a new two-story fireproof laboratory building was erected at the rear of the clinical amphitheatre and operating rooms, to provide expanded facilities for the proper diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

During the 'teens, several community disasters of great proportions taxed to capacity the facilities of the institution.

The first of these was the Tornado which struck the western and north-central sections of the city on Easter Sunday, 1913, leaving death and destruction in its wake. Fifty-seven of the victims of the devastating tornado were admitted to the hospital. Sister Hedwig and her loyal band of Sisters, members of the Staff and the house staff of six internes worked hard and faithfully all night without rest to alleviate the sufferings of the injured and dying. Members of the house staff included Drs. John W. Duncan, F. G. Kolouch, J. R. Dwyer, E. S. B. Geesman, W. J. Kavan and J. E. Trierweiler.

After the last of the tornado victims had been cared for, Sister M. Hedwig, Superior, notified the Tornado Sufferers' Relief Committee that the Sisters would accept no pay from the 57 patients treated, donating their services to the cause of the victims. The Sisters were given a public vote and expression of gratitude for their generous offer.

The second catastrophe was the "Spanish Influenza" epidemic, which swept the nation, in the fall of 1918. So serious was the outbreak in Omaha that the Sisters set aside 90 beds in a separate isolation division for victims of the disease. From October, when the epidemic first started, to January 1, 1919, the Sisters admitted 557 patients suffering with influenza, of whom 82 succumbed, many of these being in a dying condition when admitted. Included among the patients cared for were 72 members of the Students Army Training Corps, to whom the Sisters and the Attending Staff cheerfully donated their services as a patriotic duty.

Nurses' Home, Annex Built

A $350,000 building program in 1923 provided a residence for the students of the recently organized lay training school for nurses, and a Mental and Nervous Annex for the care of psychiatric and nervous cases. These patients previously had been cared for in accommodations on the lower floor of the north wing, with provisions for the care of 15 patients. This division, inaugurated in 1919, was closed when the new addition was completed.
The new Annex, a detached structure at the east edge of the hospital proper, has accommodations for 28 patients normally, with beds for 14 men on the first floor and a similar number of women on the second floor. The department is equipped for the care and treatment of such cases, with hydrotherapy tubs, needle showers, insulin and electric shock treatments and other modern scientific apparatus. A large recreation room in the basement provides facilities for games and contests as a pastime for patients, who also have the freedom of the hospital grounds and tennis court when their condition permits.

*Half Million Dollar Debt*

Further enlargement of the institution was found necessary in 1926, to provide additional hospital facilities so badly needed.

The dormer windows which has graced the original building gave way in the march of progress. The roof of the spacious attic was raised along the entire length of the structure to make room for another full floor. In addition, another full story was added to the new division which had been built in 1910, making the structure four stories high on the old original section and five full stories on the north and central sections, and a full basement. The Sisters' convent, which formerly had occupied the attic space at the north end of the institution, was moved to the top floor of the original unit. The new fourth floor of the north wing and the front section to the middle wing became the home of the rapidly growing Maternity Department. The top floor now is devoted exclusively to Surgery and X-ray pavilions.

The improvements at this time were completed in 1928 at an outlay of approximately $750,000, a third of which was financed through liquidation of stocks and bonds remaining from the assets received from Count Creighton's estate which were still of value. The balance of the construction costs came through a mortgage loan of $500,000 from a large life insurance company, bearing 5 1/4% interest. D. X. Murphy & Brother, Architects, Louisville, Ky., prepared the plans; the construction work was done by Peter Kiewit Sons Co., Omaha.

Adverse business conditions following in the wake of the 1929 national depression affected the hospital seriously, making the financial path of the Sisters a thorny one during the next few years. However, by converting a few additional securities which had been found to be of some value and by stinting themselves in every way possible, the Sisters succeeded in reducing the mortgage loan to $415,000 by the time that the full effects of the monetary situation hit the mid-west in 1932-33.

Cash income during 1932 fell 18 percent below the previous year and patient admissions declined to the lowest point since World War I, the hospital providing 10,000 fewer days of service than in 1931. A net operating deficit of $10,000 was sustained. Free services accounted for 22.8% of all business done.
Free meals totaling 10,742 were provided to men out of work and many baskets of food were distributed.

Financial conditions were even more disheartening in 1933, when income dropped another nine percent and free service increased to 25.4% of total business. Free meals served to poor men numbered 17,103 during the year, the breadline hitting a peak of 101 men per meal at the depth of the depression. Payments on the mortgage indebtedness were suspended completely, although, providentially, the interest payments of $21,935 were met during the year. A Lawn Social during the summer netted $700, this sum coming as a godsend to aid the Sisters in their charity work when most other sources of gifts had practically ceased.

Another Loan Necessary

Failure of the old boilers, installed in 1912 and operated for years far beyond their rated capacity because of the great expansion in the size of the institution, caused a further expenditure of $45,000 during the summer of 1934. The four 125-h.p. boilers and underfeed stokers were replaced with two 300-h.p. bent tube boilers, fired with chain-grate stokers, either unit of which is sufficiently large to carry the entire load of the hospital plant and the Nurses' residence. An electrically-operated overhead conveyor was installed to transfer the coal from the bunkers to the stoker hoppers as well as to remove cinders. A de-areating boiler feed water heater and automatic soot blowers also were purchased. The project was financed through a bank loan.

An up-turn in patient admissions and a slight improvement in cash income was a heartening development during the year, and a noticeable decline took place in the number of unemployed men who applied for meals, the number dropping to 7,631, nearly ten thousand less than the preceding year. In the following year, 4,505 meals were served.

Refinancing of the $415,000 mortgage balance, at a lower rate of interest and on more advantageous repayment terms was completed June 1, 1936. Interest and refinancing costs, totaling $25,170, were met and the balance of the boiler installation cost loan was retired during the year. A Lawn Fete, netting $600, and a Chicken Dinner, netting $400, together with gifts from a number of friends, assisted in meeting these disbursements.

Broken pipes beneath the floor of the Refectory made necessary the breaking up of a large part of the concrete floor in October, 1936. The entire floor was in poor condition, hence a new parquet floor of 9x9 inch oak blocks was installed, for the greater warmth and comfort of the Sisters. The work was completed in mid-December.

With slowly improving business conditions, the Sisters were able in 1937 to resume payments on the mortgage, which had been suspended five years before. Improvements of the year included rearrangement of the laundry floor plan and the installation of a rebuilt 44x64 inch ultra-speed drying tumbler, a 30-inch extractor and stationary ironing boards.
New Home for Business Office

One of the outstanding improvements of the decade was the erection of a new building immediately east of the Main Lobby, and connected therewith, to accommodate the Business Office, which had expanded greatly since its establishment, June 1, 1930.

The building, 23x41 feet in size, is two stories high, and of fireproof construction. Sidewalls and ceilings are acoustically treated; the lower walls are of white oak veneer paneling, finished in silvery gray, with chrome trim. Work, started October 30, 1939, was completed December 30, and the structure was first occupied on First Friday, January 6, 1940. Cost was $10,000. The

THE BUSINESS OFFICE
Center of Accounting, Purchasing, Credit and Secretarial Activities

building houses the accounting, credit, purchasing and secretarial departments, and connects directly with the Admissions office. John Latenser & Sons firm drew the plans; George Latenser, contractor, the building.

Refrigeration units, to provide cold drinking water in all divisions of the main building, were installed at a cost of $1,600 during 1939; additions to the Laundry in 1939-40 included a new large hot water tank and heater; a 42x84 inch Cascade washer, five presses and a sleever unit.

Open Central Stores Unit

A development which has added much to the efficiency of the hospital purchasing and stores departments was the establishment, in 1938, of a new
Central Stores division. The bakery, which had occupied the ground floor of a two story building north of the main kitchen, was moved to a new location and addition between the main kitchen and the special diet kitchen. The old coke fired oven, which had been installed in 1910, gave way to a twelve-bun pan gas fired revolving reel oven, which immediately reduced fuel costs by fifty percent. A separate room for the storage of flour and bread supplies was provided.

After opening of the new bakery unit, on April 6, 1938, the former bakery building was remodeled and the entire building of two stories and basement converted into a Central Stores department. Incoming shipments flow in orderly fashion from the receiving door on the east to the issuance counter on the west side. Bulk storage facilities occupy the entire basement under the stores and main kitchen buildings, while the second floor provides supplemental storage space for smaller and lighter items, as well as linen stocks. Supplies are dispensed upon written requisition only from the issuance counter on the ground floor, which is completely equipped with steel shelving and bins. Separate rooms adjoining contain stationery, bulk supplies, flooring materials and paints.

The Central Stores department was opened on the Feast of St. Anthony, June 13, 1938, and since has become one of the most valuable assets of the institution.

Additional improvements in 1938 included the installation of a new tile floor and glazed wall tiling to a height of eight feet, in the Main Kitchen, and wainscot height in the meat cutting and vegetable preparation rooms.

On the second and third floors, north wing, open porches 10x40 feet in size, were enclosed to provide lounges for recuperating patients, and visitors. Likewise, the porch at the east end of the middle wing, first floor, was converted into a sun porch parlor and library for the Internes, whose quarters had been moved to the wing in 1937, when their previous rooms had been absorbed in the Union Pacific department expansion program.

Increase Patient Facilities

By the turn of the decade, patient admissions again were steadily on the upgrade and the demand for additional accommodations was becoming urgent. Work, therefore, was started late in the year to convert the Fourth Floor Middle from employe quarters into facilities for patients. Original plans had contemplated more or less temporary use of the floor for patient service, to relieve peak loads, but the conversion developed into a full-fledged remodeling project which, when completed, provided one of the finest divisions for patient care in the entire institution. Suites of wooden hospital furnishings were installed in the private rooms while the semi-private rooms were equipped with heavy-duty gatch type beds, combination vanity tables and desks with detached mirrors, and old-fashioned platform rockers as “easy chairs”, which proved extremely popular with patients and visitors alike.
Another feature is a separate four-bed room, with private bath and powder room, for the Student Nurses who are ill. At the east end of the division is an attractive sun porch, separated from the patient rooms by a full glass brick wall.

Installation of cubicle curtain equipment was started in 1941, when three eight-bed rooms in the sun parlor unit were afforded single-room privacy with the new curtains. So popular was the equipment that similar installations since have been completed in practically all of the three and four-bed wards, the physical therapy department and in some of the semi-private accommodations, including the labor rooms of the Maternity division.

New heavy-duty gas ranges replaced obsolete 25-year-old stoves in the Main Kitchen in 1942, effecting a considerable saving in gas consumption.

**Soft Water for Entire Structure**

An 18x45 foot cement block, one-story addition outside the boiler room proper was constructed in 1943 to house the entire water softening plant, which was enlarged by the installation of a 72x60 inch Refinite unit in November. With the additional unit, the plant's capacity was increased to 170,000 gallons per regeneration at 12 grains of hardness, providing softened hot water throughout the hospital and nurses' home. A large salt reclaimers also was installed. The project cost was $4,000.

Additional storage space was provided with the enclosure of an open porch and an "L" shaped open space, at the east end of the north wing, for the storage of mattresses, furniture and equipment. Doors are sufficiently large to permit removal of extra beds, which are completely set up and ready for use in an emergency.

Construction work in 1943 included the enclosure of open porches on second, third, fourth and fifth floors, north wing, east end; fourth floor middle and fourth floor south, and remodeling of the enclosed porch on first floor, south wing.

The following year, similar enclosures were made of the porches on second and third floors, middle division, and these were utilized immediately upon completion for the addition of additional patient accommodations, as had been the first floor, south, room which became part of the new Kenny Treatment Center.

Principal building addition in 1944 was an "L" shaped second-story structure over the service corridor adjoining the Mental and Nervous Annex, 11x51 feet in overall length, with an additional width of twelve feet on the eastward projection. The larger room, 12x24 feet in size, provides office and classroom space, with nurses’ chart desk adjoining. The remainder of the area contains a small consultation room for doctor and relative of patients, and a larger room for individual lockers for patients. The cost of the addition was $5,000. Rosario Rindone was the contractor.
Large Sound-Conditioning Project

Probably the most noticeable improvement of 1944 was the acoustical treatment project, which started in a small way with installation of "Accousti-Celotex" in the rooms for disturbed patients of the Mental and Nervous Annex, and in floor service kitchens to reduce noises in the hospital. Next in line was the Maternity Department service pavilion, including the nurseries, labor and delivery rooms.

During a short experimental period, experience indicated an appreciable decrease in noises in the areas thus treated, coupled with a marked decline in the restlessness of critically ill patients. Contracts, therefore, were let for ceiling treatment in all of the hospital corridors, a project which was brought to completion in September, 1945, at a total cost of approximately $12,000.

Other 1944 installations included a new "American" six-roll steam mangle in the laundry, in January, and an automatic doughnut machine in the Bakery, the latter through the courtesy of Miss Ophelia Hayden.

When the old wooden corridor flooring in the original building of the present structure had become so deteriorated by 1944 that it no longer could be patched and repaired with safety, a terrazzo floor replacement project was initiated. Floating of a new floor in service corridors which had to remain in use fourteen hours or more of the day was no easy task. The noise of the grinders sent chills playing up and down the spine—dust permeated every nook and corner within air travel distance—ice and food cards went on
trips far out of their accustomed paths — but finally the noise and dirt subsided and out of it all emerged corridor floors beautiful and substantial, which should endure as long as the buildings remain.

Numerous Family Memorials

During the past five year period, much has been accomplished in installing modern furnishings and equipment for the comfort and convenience of patients. New gatch beds, numbering 280, have replaced old style beds without backrests. This new group included twelve modern suites of wood hospital furniture secured when the Dr. Anton Kani private hospital closed in 1942. A private campaign conducted by Mrs. Adolph Sachs and Mrs. M. C. Howard netted $750 for the purchase of twelve new youth crib beds and bedside cabinets for the Pediatrics department. Sixty bedside cabinets were secured for patient rooms.

St. Joseph's has benefitted prodigiously through the generosity of numerous friends and patrons who have undertaken through the years to furnish patient rooms or special facilities and equipment as lasting Family Memorials, for the good of their fellowmen and posterity. Several of the unusual memorial projects have been mentioned; a detailed description of all would require another similar publication in size. Hence, credit for such benefactions is given in summarized form elsewhere.

One of the attractive memorials is the Shrine of the Sacred Heart on the mezzanine landing of the main staircase in the main lobby.

Bestowing a Heavenly benediction upon all who enter the institution, The Sacred Heart statue stands appealingly before a rose colored mirror, 6x8 feet in size, above a base of beautiful Italian marble, which is surmounted by growing plants. The whole is lighted by invisible pale blue neon tubing. Venetian blinds and flowered drapes on either side of the Shrine complete a most appropriate setting. The Shrine was the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Ben F. Ewing and Family.
Staff Doctors' Lounge Room

Private Room and Bath — 1945
VENERABLE MOTHER M. BASILIA KUGLER, O. S. F.
Provincial Superioress, St. Joseph Province
The Poor Sisters of Saint Francis Seraph
Motherhouse — Denver, Colorado
CHAPTER VIII

Largest of Franciscan Institutions

Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, dean of Omaha's hospitals and institutions for the care of the sick, is unique in several ways. Not only is it the largest of Nebraska's hundred-odd general hospitals and the second largest Catholic institution west of the Mississippi River, but it is also the biggest of the twenty-one hospitals conducted by the Poor Sisters of St. Francis in both eastern and western provinces. The Omaha institution was the third established by the Order in the United States, being preceded only by St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lafayette, Indiana, founded in 1875, as the parent house of all the American institutions controlled by the Sisterhood, and St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus, Nebraska, which opened in 1879.

As an institution of 450 beds and 60 bassinets, and capable of expansion to accommodate 500 patients in an emergency, St. Joseph's provides complete facilities for the treatment of practically all diseases with the exception of tuberculosis and venereal conditions. The Hospital contains one-fifth of the total number of hospital beds in Douglas County.

Many Departments

The Surgical Pavilion contains twelve fully equipped operating rooms for the care of major and minor surgery, and a similarly furnished room near the ambulance entrance for emergency cases. Among the special equipment added within the past five years have been two major operating tables, a Bovie-Universal electro-surgical unit for making incisions and coagulating blood vessels, a Bell orthopedic table and auxiliary apparatus, Ritter motor driven dental chair for tonsillectomies and other minor surgery, and a Sweet eye magnet for the extraction of foreign bodies.

X-ray Department additions include two radiographic tables, with high-speed Buckey diaphragms; 500 m. a. transformer, with rotating Anode tube and centralinear control; monorail tube stand, verticle stereoscopic shifter, motorized cassette changer, synchronous timer, fluoroscopic unit and universal stabilizer. Installation of this new equipment provides two complete radiographic rooms and two fluoroscopic rooms, thus greatly speeding up service both to doctors and patients. A spot film device, included in the new equipment, provides greater detail in X-ray examinations than was possible previously. Electric refrigeration has been installed to maintain temperatures in the x-ray film developing tanks. Cost of the additional equipment was $15,000.

In 1944, the department made 12,223 radiographic and 1,184 fluoroscopic examinations, also giving 1,319 physical therapy treatments.
Special X-Ray Apparatus

In recognition of the outstanding work performed at St. Joseph's by Dr. James F. Kelly, Sr., hospital radiologist, in the treatment of deep-seated infections and gas gangrene, which led to development by Dr. Kelly and his associate, Dr. D. Arnold Dowell, of a self-envisioned and assembled therapy unit, the General Electric X-ray Corporation presented Dr. Kelly with the first heavy duty portable unit manufactured by it, known as the K-10. The machine is the largest portable X-ray unit of its kind in the United States, producing up to 140 kv, is entirely shockproof and may be plugged into any light socket in the hospital.

The same firm presented one of its latest model fever therapy cabinets and inductotherm to the hospital, in recognition of the teaching courses conducted in the institution in connection with the School of Nursing and the Medical School, to replace an older style model. The unit is valued at $625.

The Pharmacy has two full-time registered pharmacists who compound and dispense from 150 to 200 prescriptions each day, or an annual total of approximately 70,000 orders. The average inventory of drug stocks is about $18,000. St. Joseph's was one of the first eighteen hospitals in Nebraska to be designated an official distribution depot when the wonder-drug, Penicillin, was made available for civilian use in May, 1944. Its own consumption of Penicillin averages 60,000,000 units each month since the lifting of restrictions. A 42 cubic foot refrigerator maintains the Penicillin and other biologicals at proper temperatures in the drug department.

Laboratory is Hospital Workshop

The Pathological Laboratory is among the most completely equipped in the country and, in addition to the work of the St. Joseph's patients, performs the more difficult tests for a number of the smaller outstate hospitals.

The Laboratory Staff includes a pathologist and assistant pathologist, a resident pathologist doing post-graduate work, the Sister medical technologist, seven lay registered technicians and two secretaries. Increasingly, medicine relies on science; to doctors and nurses actually engaged in the battle with disease, the laboratory acts as an intelligence department, supplying them with information derived from very technical tests to guide them in their diagnosis and aid them in estimating the progress of their patients. Inconspicuous to the patient, the laboratory constitutes one of the most important phases of the hospital activities. It is the workshop in which chemical, pathological and bacteriological departments function together to speed the recovery of the patient.

A large museum is kept, where specimens are available for study, and a file containing approximately 69,000 tissue sections makes possible a study even of cases in the early history of the Hospital. During 1944, the Laboratory performed 115,030 examinations and 156 autopsies.
In addition to the main Laboratory a specially equipped pathological division is conducted in connection with the surgical department in which frozen tissue sections may be examined and diagnosed within a few minutes, while patients are still on the operating tables. The operating surgeon knows at once whether a malignant condition exists and may govern his surgical procedure by the report of the patient's condition.

In connection with the Laboratory, animals necessary for many of the tests are raised in a section of the hospital gardens. Included are rabbits, guinea pigs, white rats and mice.

The Pediatrics Department provides specialized service and attention for children from infancy to the age of 15 years, with a trained staff of nursing supervisors.

Feed Three Thousand Daily

In the garden and orchard are grown much of the vegetable and fruit supplies required in the mammoth kitchen, occupying a separate ground floor building, from which an average of 3000 meals are served daily. The kitchen is immaculately clean and has all the modern appliances for the proper handling and preparation of food. Beneath the kitchen is a spacious storehouse in which several carloads of canned goods are kept regularly, supplementing the large quantities of fresh goods which are delivered daily to the Hospital kitchens. A modern bakery provides 150 loaves of home-made bread and other delicacies daily for the patients and hospital workers. A new oven of greater capacity is an early requirement.
The Diet Kitchen, presided over by an expert dietitian and her assistants, provides appetizing meals in which every food element is accurately measured, heat-producing factors are calculated and prescribed by the Doctor just as precisely as he prescribes medicine for his patients.

Service Departments

A laundry, as complete and efficient as any of the larger commercial plants, operates daily to keep clean the vast supply of linens, bedding, patients clothing and other necessary washable goods needed for operating the institution.

In the modern power plant, fifteen to twenty tons of coal disappear in the boilers daily during the winter months, providing heat for the large institution and Nurses' residence. In addition, steam is supplied for cooking purposes, for operation of sterilizers in Surgery and floor dressing rooms, and for the water heating system. An ice machine and refrigerating plant also are independently operated here to keep food in first class condition and to supply large quantities of ice — several tons daily during summer months — which so often provides relief to the fevered brow and relieves the thirst of parched tongues and lips.

Print Shop

St. Joseph's was one of the first hospitals in the country to boast of its own complete print shop, wherein are produced the large quantities of printed supplies needed daily.

When Sister M. Wilhelmina Schinner retired in 1925 from nursing duties after 36 years of such work, she took up printing as a hobby. With the aid and advise of a friend, Michael Basar, she purchased a used 10x15-inch Gordon press, a paper cutter and several fonts of type, and with these she started to learn the tricks and secrets of the printing art. Sister Wilhelmina proved an apt student and she soon was setting the type, cutting the stock and running the press like a veteran. All of the operating expenses, as well as the original cost of the equipment, were financed from the profits of a candy, ice cream and stationery cart with which she visited patients rooms each afternoon to supply their personal wants and needs. Toiletries and other small items were added as her business grew. Sister Wilhelmina remained in active charge of the print shop until her death, September 7, 1935.

The shop since has had a full time printer who produces, in addition to the printing needs of St. Joseph's, the requirements of the Motherhouse and other institutions of the Western province. Besides the press originally purchased by Sister Wilhelmina, the shop now is equipped with a "Little Giant" automatic press, with a speed of 2700 and 3500 impressions per hour, a new and larger cutter and other apparatus, besides a wide and excellent assortment of type fonts. History forms, charts, records, stationery, pamphlets and booklets form the daily run of the shop.
Tailoring and linen shops of the hospital keep three Sisters and four lay seamstresses busy daily, providing the new supplies, clothing and many articles used by the various hospital departments.

**Gift Shop**

The little candy, ice cream and stationery cart business, established on a small scale by Sister Wilhelmina, was "inherited" by Sister M. Nunziata, who had taken time out from her duties as supervisor of the student nurses' cafeteria to "pinch hit" during her predecessor's illness. The stock and cart were moved from the print shop to a room immediately adjoining the cafeteria, where it grew steadily.

In March, 1943, Sister Nunziata requested leave of her Superiors to retire from the strenuous duties of the cafeteria work because of poor health. After securing relief, she devoted her entire time to the candy store, which resulted in an accelerated growth for the thriving little business. New lines were added, including toys, dolls and other gifts for the little patients in the Pediatrics department, as well as magazines, an enlarged line of toiletries, cigarettes and tobacco and novelties suitable as patients' gifts. A varied supply of school needs for student nurses and medical students resulted in increased patronage.

When the Gift Shop had outgrown its second home, new quarters were arranged in a more central location near the main entrance elevator, in Rooms 33 and 35, Ground Floor. Plate glass show cases effectively display the varied lines of gifts and personal necessities now readily available for guests and visitors. **Gift Shop** hours are from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily.

**Personnel Increases**

When the Sisters of St. Francis assumed charge of the first and modest St. Joseph's Hospital, but four nuns were in charge. This number was steadily augmented, however, and at the end of the fourth year there were twenty Sisters engaged day and night in operating the growing institution. Their duties were manifold and their hours long. During the daytime their work was largely in caring for the patients. After hours, when visitors had departed and most patients were asleep, their tasks included the more menial jobs of scrubbing, cleaning and making ready for the morrow's work. Even after moving into the new and larger quarters on South Tenth street, the energetic Sisters continued their many-fold tasks besides caring for the sick and performing their religious duties, which require several hours daily.

Although the number of patients cared for increased rapidly in the new hospital, the number of Sisters available did not keep pace with the need, due to the requirements of additional institutions which had been opened from time to time in various parts of the country. The group of twenty-five
Sisters in charge a quarter of a century ago has increased to forty-five at the present time, most of whom are engaged in supervisory capacities.

Lay employees were necessary to augment the staff of nuns and Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital now employs a force of 280 full time women and men in various capacities, in addition to the group of 185 student nurses who perform a portion of the work among the patients, but all under the supervision of Sisters who are trained nurses, or graduate nurses, many of whom are employed in the institution. In addition, there are about 70 part time employees on the payroll.

Oldest employee in point of service is Miss Agnes Wuebben, who has made her home and worked at the hospital since November 9, 1900. She is employed in the laundry. Seven employees have records of 25 years or more of service; three have worked continuously for twenty years or more; eight additional have seen 15 years of service and eleven more have worked 10 years or longer.

That the Hospital ranks with many of the city's industries may be realized from the fact that the institution's expenditures in 1944 were approximately three quarter million dollars, 80 per cent of which remained in Omaha, either through purchases from local business houses or through salaries paid to employees. Payroll requirements, which in 1930 amounted to $75,000, and in 1935 to $80,500, by 1941 had doubled and in 1944 were more than triple the figure of a decade before, with all promise of reaching the three hundred thousand dollar mark by the end of 1945!

"OUR LADY OF LOURDES" GROTTO

On the Hospital campus, a beautiful replica of the Shrine at Lourdes, France
CHAPTER IX

Special Departments

The story of St. Joseph's would not be complete without mention of those several departments whose activities are an unending source of public interest — the Maternity Division, the Blood Bank and the Kenny Treatment Center.

"Saint Joseph's, Nebraska," would be the state's fourth city, were all of the babies born in the institution since opening of the Maternity department, in 1918, assembled at one point.

On September 1, 1945, the number of St. Joseph's babies had soared to 17,570, quite a mushroom growth for a "community" which in the year of its founding, 1918, had only fourteen "inhabitants." Sister M. Corneliana has been "mayor" of this populous community since 1929, and has seen the annual influx of newcomers increase steadily, until it is now nearly fourfold of the number during her first year "in office." New arrivals in 1944 totaled 1,572 and to September 1, 1945, 992 were born.

As a token of their appreciation of Sister's services over such an extended period of time, members of the Medical Staff, on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee celebration in September, 1944, presented Sister Corneliana with a check of $750 to cover the cost of a new obstetrical table for her department.

Other new equipment added during the past several years included a MacEachern delivery table, the gift of Miss Anna Plummer, a long-time resident and employee of the hospital; adult cribs in labor rooms, a new infant resuscitator which was contributed by members of The Creighton Circle and a Hess incubator with oxygen equipment. The newborn nursery, which had been enlarged and remodeled in 1941, is now lighted with fluorescent fixtures and is equipped with germicidal lamps to reduce the possibilities of cross infection among the infants. St. Joseph's is the first hospital in which "double-deck busses" were used to save time and steps for the nurses when taking infants to the mothers at feeding times, the novel baby conveyor carts having been developed in the institution's carpenter shop in January, 1943.

Many G. I. Babies

The extent of aid granted dependents of men in the armed forces by the Federal government is reflected in records of the Obstetrical Department, in which 18½ percent of the births in 1944 were to beneficiaries of service men under the Maternal and Child Health program, EMIC, of the United States Public Health Service. Total births under the EMIC program from July, 1942 to September 1, 1945 numbered 552.

The Obstetrical department occupies the middle and north sections of the fourth floor, containing facilities to care for fifty mothers and the same number
of infants. For many years St. Joseph’s Hospital has maintained the strictest care in the identification of infants, preventing any possibility of error in giving the new-born babe to the wrong mother. A bracelet bearing the name of the infant is placed on the baby’s wrist immediately after birth, this identification remaining with the child until it is taken home from the Hospital. This department is in charge of a Sister who is a registered nurse and who is especially trained in the care of mothers and babies. She is assisted by graduate nurses.

Open Poliomyelitis Unit

Overshadowing all undertakings in recent years, the establishment of the Sister Kenny Treatment Center as a new department of St. Joseph’s won for the institution statewide attention and commendation during the poliomyelitis epidemic which struck with great force in the midwest during 1943.

Interest in the Kenny movement first was fostered in the summer of 1942 by Dr. Floyd S. Clarke, head of the Pediatrics department and a member of the Douglas County Chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. His enthusiasm was stimulated by several visits to Minneapolis where he conferred with Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Australian nurse who popularized the treatment method which bears her name, and viewed some of the extraordinary results being accomplished. When the decision was reached to start a Kenny Center at St. Joseph’s, Mrs. Mae Sindelar, R. N., was sent to Minneapolis at the expense of the Polio Foundation to study the Kenny method, remaining six months until April, 1943.

In the meanwhile, with all established departments operating at practically full capacity, the decision was reached by Sister M. Fulgentia, Superior, to install a year-round weather enclosure on a large porch at the east end of the Pediatrics division, which, with other adjacent facilities, gave promise of properly housing a small but complete poliomyelitis department. Priority application was made for materials necessary for the remodeling project but, after months of anxious waiting, WPB rejected the project as “unessential.” Undaunted, a special appeal was made to Everett W. Jones, WPB hospital consultant, on a visit to Omaha in April. After personally viewing the needs, and further noting the lack of facilities in the community for treatment of polio sufferers, Mr. Jones advised a renewal of the application, promising a personal certification of the urgency of the situation to his superiors. This time the application was approved speedily.

Construction work was started as soon as materials became available, but the delays already encountered made impossible completion of the project before patients began to arrive, several months in advance of the period when the initial demand for treatment had been anticipated. With arrival of acute cases, completion of the project was abandoned, so that the maximum number of patients could be handled.

Begun as an auxiliary service in a small way, with a planned maximum of 8 to 10 beds, the infant department scarcely had opened its eyes before it
had blossomed into full adulthood, its activities attracting attention and commanding assistance from all other departments. The first patient admitted was an eight-year-old girl, on April 12, brought to Omaha from California where she had suffered an attack of infantile paralysis. Unable to walk, little Virginia first was hot-packed and given the routine Kenny treatment. Soon she began to respond and on June 17 she left the hospital, able to run and dance, and to resume all her former activities.

Second patient was a seven-year-old girl, who had been stricken with poliomyelitis over three years previously, admitted April 28, 1943. After undergoing treatment, she stood alone, momentarily, on June 25, and on August 2, took her first two steps since being afflicted. From that time forward, her improvement became quite noticeable. During the first three-month period, only chronic cases applied for admission, apparently spurred to hopes of recovery through the nationwide publicity of Kenny methods.

**Acute Cases Arrive**

The first acute case was admitted August 3. Acutely ill patients came in rapid succession thereafter and by the end of August the entire first floor of the south wing had been converted temporarily from Pediatrics to Poliomyelitis service. The influx of new cases continued throughout September and, to a lesser extent, for several months longer, so that by year’s end, 89 patients had been admitted. Nine deaths occurred, all of bulbar type afflictions, but of the remainder practically all experienced recovery or improvement.

Highlight of the 1943 poliomyelitis season was the visit of the famous Sister Elizabeth Kenny to the hospital on October 6, when she conducted a clinic for doctors, nurses and relatives of afflicted patients. A grant of $500 by the Douglas county polio foundation chapter, and gift of a similar amount by members of The Creighton Circle aided the Sisters in establishing the Kenny department. After struggling for six months with family type washing machines, which proved unable to withstand the heavy strain of polio work, a small laundry extractor was secured, which greatly lightened the work. Two more of these units since have been added by The Creighton Circle.

Valient service was rendered the hospital and polio sufferers by volunteer workers, who responded nobly to appeals for help by newspaper and radio. One Volunteer, Mrs. Hugh Bell, of Shenandoah, Iowa, made weekly trips at her own expense to devote a twelve-hour day to assist in the care of the disease victims.

Visitors of note in 1944 included Dr. Miland V. Knapp, professor of physiotherapy at the University of Minnesota, who conducted a clinic of poliomyelitis patients at the hospital on May 23, and Mr. Basil O’Connor, of New York City, President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, who inspected the department and visited with each of the patients, on June 17. The Douglas County Chapter rendered financial assistance to sufferers from the community who were unable to defray their own expenses.
Blood Bank Inaugurated

St. Joseph's also won wide acclaim by establishment of the first blood deposit bank in Nebraska, which was officially opened on November 19, 1940.

Popularly named "The Bank of Life" by the Omaha World-Herald, the Blood Bank had as its first donor, Dr. Leo C. Henrich, a member of the hospital staff, who made an "advance deposit" on November 14. However, the pint of blood which he gave that day was used immediately in an emergency operation. On the official opening date, nine freshmen football squad members from Creighton University volunteered donations of blood to furnish the Bank its initial capital. Within the first two weeks, the saving of two lives was attributed by doctors directly to the ready availability of the proper types of blood from deposits in the Bank.

The great interest of Dr. B. C. Russum, hospital pathologist, and Sister M. Euthalia, medical technologist, was in a large measure responsible for establishment of the Blood Bank at St. Joseph's.

The capacity of the Bank was greatly enlarged, in August, 1941, with the installation of a 66 cubic foot porcelain refrigerator, with dual compressors and automatic controls to assure proper and constant temperatures for the safe storage of whole blood and blood plasma. St. Joseph's was one of two teaching hospitals in the state designated as depositories for dried blood plasma by the Office of Civilian Defense during the war emergency. Since dissolution of the OCD, the plasma has been given to the hospital for use of charity patients.

In 1944, 916 blood transfusions and 132 plasma transfusions were given. In addition, blood and plasma were furnished a number of other hospitals in which blood banks are not maintained.

Cancer Clinic One of First Approved

The St. Joseph's Cancer Clinic was established in 1931 by James F. Kelly, M. D., F. A. C. R., hospital radiologist.

It enjoyed the distinction of being one of the very earliest to be surveyed by the Approval Committee of the American College of Surgeons, which began to function the same year the Clinic was organized. Likewise, it was accorded national recognition when St. Joseph's was named among the 140 such organizations given approval in the first published list, in 1933, of Clinics meeting the minimum standards as prescribed by the American College of Surgeons, working in conjunction with the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

St. Joseph's was the first Cancer Clinic in Nebraska and adjoining states to receive full approval and continued to enjoy that status until several years ago. There now are five fully approved Cancer Clinics in the state, all in
Omaha, which conform with the minimum standards, viz: 1, Organization; 2, Conferences; 3, Patients; 4, Equipment; 5, Records; 6, Treatment.

The work of the Clinic was given recognition in 1937 when Miss Martha J. Stoltnow, well known retired Omaha public school teacher, provided a bequest of $1,625 in her will, to be used as the nucleus for establishment of an endowment to finance operations of the Clinic. Miss Stoltnow, who had been a sufferer from cancer for several years and died in St. Joseph's on August 27, 1937, expressed a desire that through her benefaction other victims of the dread disease might be spared sufferings or possibly restored to health through research work conducted by the Cancer Clinic.

Income from the endowment, known as the Martha J. Stoltnow Cancer Research Fund, is used to finance follow-up work of the research program. Staff conferences are held every Friday morning throughout the year, at which cases are presented and records of illnesses and treatment studied.

An activity, financed by the Martha J. Stoltnow Fund, which brought St. Joseph's not only national but international attention during 1939 and 1940, was a display at the Cancer Exhibit of the New York World's Fair, featuring the institution's Cancer Clinic. The exhibit contained photographs of the Hospital and its cancer clinic rooms, together with a resume of methods used in developing the Cancer Clinic, on a large placard beneath the pictures. The Cancer Exhibit was dedicated formally on Thursday, April 20, 1939, to the memory of Mme. Marie Curie, discoverer of radium, by her daughter, Eve.
As old as the history of St. Joseph's Hospital itself is the Union Pacific department, in which hundreds of employes of that great western railway system are treated annually.

"The very month the hospital opened, the Union Pacific made arrangements to have their accident cases handled at the Hospital", writes Sister Mary Edmund, in her chronicles, "Sisters of Mercy in Nebraska."

Many employes who were engaged in extension of the railroad's projects through Nebraska were brought to Omaha when sick or injured, a large number of the men having been Irish Catholics who came west when the Union Pacific rails were being extended to connect with the Southern Pacific lines from the west to form the country's first transcontinental railway system. Early records indicate that the Union Pacific paid the Sisters the sum of $5 per week for each employe hospitalized, and $1 per week for each bed in its 17-bed ward while unoccupied.

After removal of the institution to the new structure on South Tenth street, the Union Pacific occupied several different locations on upper floors. Outgrowing its quarters several times, the Union Pacific department was moved May 1, 1929, to more spacious accommodations, and now occupies the entire first floor of the north Hospital wing, northward and eastward from the main elevator.

Foremost on the list of 1942 improvements was the remodeling and renovation project, which practically transformed the entire section of the institution occupied by the railroad hospital department. The large open porch at the east end of the wing was enclosed, casement windows of double sash construction being used to afford a panoramic view of the hospital grounds and gardens, as well as the beautiful Iowa hills beyond the Missouri river. The old doorway to the porch was removed and an arched opening installed to permit an unobstructed view for 160 feet down the corridor. Colorfully decorated and attractively furnished with an abundance of maple furniture, Venetian blinds and fluorescent lights, the sun porch is a cordially inviting spot.

Included in the remodeling project also were the U. P. offices, including a new and complete nurses' station desk, with space for 48 charts. The north
corridor was transformed into a cozy waiting room for incoming patients, with telephone and a small private examining and consultation room adjoining. A new cabinet type double compartment sink, a large work table and a dishwashing machine were installed in the kitchen, and fluorescent lights in the kitchen, offices, dressing and medicine rooms, and corridors.

**Medical Staff**

Dr. Samuel D. Mercer served as chief surgeon of the Union Pacific Medical department from the time it was organized until 1886.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Dr. Mercer came to Omaha in 1866. In the same year, he opened the town's first hospital, known as the American Surgical Institute, 162 Harney street, "for the treatment of all classes of surgery, chronic diseases and deformities," according to newspaper advertisements of the day. The hospital was an elaborate appearing institution, for that early day. It burned down, however, shortly after its opening, as also did the town's second hospital, the Good Samaritan. Dr. Mercer was active in civic affairs and was one of the organizers of the Omaha Medical College, in 1869, which failed to materialize, and also of the second such school under the same name which opened in 1881, the forerunner of the present University of Nebraska medical college.

Following Dr. Mercer as Union Pacific chief surgeon was Dr. Oscar J. Pfeiffer, who served from 1886 to 1890; Dr. W. J. Galbraith, 1891-1897; Dr. A. F. Jonas, 1897-1928; Dr. John R. Nilsson, 1928-1942. Upon the death of Dr. Charles R. Kennedy, district surgeon, on July 29, 1938, Dr. J. Frederick Langdon, a member of the St. Joseph's Staff since he interned in the institution in 1906-07, was named to succeed him. Also appointed at that time were Dr. Adolph Sachs, consultant; Dr. B. C. Russum, consulting pathologist and Dr. Arnold McDermott, assistant surgeon. The new appointees were the first Creighton University graduates ever to be chosen as members of the Union Pacific Staff.

A complete reorganization of the Medical Department was effected May 1, 1942, by President William Jeffers, who announced the appointment on that date of Dr. Adolph Sachs as Medical Director, and the retirement of Dr. Nilsson, chief surgeon. Also named to the Staff were Dr. Lynn T. Hall, assistant medical director; Earl M. Southard, Chief Clerk; Dr. Earl A. Connolly, Dr. J. Dewey Bisgard, Dr. Roy T. Mauer, Dr. J. Frederick Langdon, Dr. Arnold McDermott, surgeons; Dr. William L. Sucha, orthopedic surgeon; Dr. Raymond L. Traynor, consultant physician; Dr. Charles McMartin, urologist; Dr. W. J. McMartin, consulting urologist; Dr. G. Alexander Young, Dr. Richard Young, neurologists; Dr. Clarence Rubendall, oculist and aurist; Dr. W. Howard Morrison, Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, oculists; Dr. Herman Kully, oral surgeon; Dr. William Shearer, consulting oral surgeon; Dr. C. C. Tomlinson, Dr. Olin J. Cameron, dermatologists; Dr. Francis L. Simonds,
consulting radiologist; Ray A. Best, nurse and manager, St. Joseph's Union Pacific office.

Due to serious illness, Dr. Langdon was compelled to retire as U. P. surgeon in August, 1943, but was able to resume private practice on a limited scale late in 1944.

Credit for many of the improvements in services and facilities of the Medical Department's hospital division belongs to Dr. Adolph Sachs, Creighton graduate and St. Joseph's interne, 1907-08, and long time friend of the institution, who is closely associated with President Jeffers. The Union Pacific division now has 45 beds, in addition to its own drugs, dressing and first aid rooms.

**Cordial Cooperation**

Characteristic of the spirit of cooperation between the railroad authorities and the medical department was the dedication of the Union Pacific's "Your America" nationwide broadcast, Sunday, May 13, 1945, as a tribute to the hospitals of the country on "National Hospital Day." Guest speaker of the occasion was Dr. Donald C. Smelzer, president of the American Hospital Association. An especial musical setting was provided by the Union Pacific orchestra and chorus of 65 artists, concluding with Irving Berlin's stirring war song, "Angels of Mercy", in honor of the members of the nursing profession serving in hospitals and the armed forces.

A Berman Locator, a delicate instrument for the spotting of foreign bodies within the human body, installed by the Union Pacific Medical department in its St. Joseph's unit, was one of the first such devices placed in use in the United States. Its use was extended to all members of the St. Joseph's Staff through courtesy of U. P. officials.

At the time of *Golden Spike Days*, in April, 1939, President Jeffers remembered the Sisters and patients with a Boston cream pie, 58 inches in diameter and weighing 180 pounds. The "pie" was beautifully decorated and attracted much attention before being cut and distributed to the service kitchens as dessert for the patients, Sisters, student nurses and employees that evening.

William M. Jeffers

*President, Union Pacific*
CHAPTER XI

Medical Schools Established

The first school of medicine in the state of Nebraska was organized in Omaha, being incorporated May 22, 1869, as the Omaha Medical College. After the appointment of a faculty and other organizational work had been completed, the project was abandoned as being premature.

In 1880, the Nebraska School of Medicine was formed by some of the same physicians who had organized the Omaha Medical College. The latter group was persuaded to abandon its charter and the newly organized school incorporated under that name on June 14, 1881. A modest building was erected at Eleventh and Mason streets, at a cost of $4,500. In 1887, the building was moved to Twelfth and Pacific streets and another story added. Being situated on the ground immediately adjoining St. Joseph's Hospital on the south, an arrangement was effected whereby the students of the medical school were given the privilege of the hospital wards to secure suitable clinical material. The arrangement continued in force for several years.

Creighton School Opens

When the John A. Creighton Medical College was founded on May 30, 1892, as a department of Creighton University, an agreement was made with the Sisters whereby the old hospital building at Twelfth and Mason streets would be used for the medical school classes, pending construction of a permanent home for it at Fourteenth and Davenport streets. The building was remodeled after being vacated by the hospital and in it the school opened its first session, September 27, 1892, continuing to March 30, 1893, with 36 students registered from six states.

By an arrangement made with the Sisters through the good graces of Mr. Creighton, all clinical material and advantages of the Hospital were reserved in perpetuity for the exclusive use of the Faculty and students of the John A. Creighton Medical School. This agreement was effected between Mr. Creighton and Sister M. Xaveria, Superior of the Hospital, with the Rev. James F. X. Hoeffer, S. J., President of Creighton University, as witness.
Dr. P. G. Keogh, well known member of the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital of a half century ago, served as the first dean, holding the office from 1892 to 1896. After leaving Omaha, Dr. Keogh practiced in Salt Lake City for a number of years, until his death in 1924. He was the father of Frank S. Keogh, deceased, former president of the Paxton and Gallagher Co. Dr. DeWitt C. Bryant served as Secretary and Dr. W. J. Galbraith as Treasurer of the Medical School from its opening, until 1896.

The financial depression of 1893 deterred Mr. Creighton from starting immediate construction of the new building which was to house the Medical College, and it was not until 1896 that the work was started. The first unit of the building was 66x132 feet in size, and was located at the northeast corner of Fourteenth and Dav- enport streets. With furniture and equipment, the structure cost approximately $80,000, exclusive of the site. The Sixth annual session of the school opened September 28, 1897, in the auditorium of the structure.

The School of Medicine opened with a three-year course but, in 1894, this was extended to four years, thus earning for Creighton University the distinction of being the first school in the west to require four years of study to qualify for a medical degree.

With the opening of the 1895-96 term, Rev. James Pahls, S. J., assumed his new duties as President of Creighton University. Dr. Bryant, long a member of the Staff of St. Joseph's Hospital, became secretary-treasurer, and Drs. W. J. Galbraith, A. W. Riley and J. S. Foote members of the Board of Regents. Dr. Bryant, in 1896, served as Acting Dean of the Medical College, and in 1897 he succeeded Dr. Keoghe as dean, serving until 1900. Dr. John P. Lord held the office from 1900 to 1901.

In the latter year, Dr. Bryant returned to the office and remained as head of the Medical College until 1913. After thirty years of service with the Hospital and Medical School, he took up residence in Claremont, California, where he practiced until his death on June 30, 1940. As one of the greatly beloved members of the Creighton faculty, Dr. Bryant surrounded himself with a legion of friends in his university connection, where he was known affectionately as "Daddy" Bryant, as well as among his patients in hospital and private practice.

Dr. C. M. Wilhelmj, B.S., M.S., M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine
Dr. A. L. Muirhead followed Dr. Bryant as Dean of the Medical College, from 1913 to 1916, and Dr. James Ross Clemmens from 1916 to 1918. Upon the latter's retirement from the post, Dr. Herman von W. Schulte became Dean, serving with distinction until his death, which occurred July 13, 1932. After Dr. von Schulte's death, the post remained vacant for a year, until the appointment on September 12, 1933 of Dr. Bryan M. Riley, Creighton '00, and for many years Director of the Medical Department of St. Joseph's. Dr. Riley served on a part-time basis for six years, until September 12, 1939, when he resigned to devote his entire time to his private practice. He now holds the rank of Professor Emeritus of Medicine.

Present Incumbents

Charles M. Wilhelmj, B. S., M. S., M. D., who had come to Creighton University in 1930 as Professor of Physiology, was appointed Dean of the Medical College September 12, 1939, to succeed Dr. Riley. Dr. Wilhelmj, St. Louis University, '23, before coming to Omaha had served as an Associate in the Division of Experimental Surgery and Pathology, Mayo Foundation, and as instructor of physiology, at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He also has served as chairman of the Administrative Board of Creighton since his appointment as Dean. Dr. Wilhelmj, by virtue of his office, is the Chief of Staff of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital. In addition to his University duties, he is active in civic affairs and during World War II served as chief of Emergency Medical Service, Office of Civilian Defense. He also is a member of the committee presently studying a complete reorganization of the City of Omaha Health Department.

Rev. John Joseph McInerny, S. J., present Regent of the School of Medicine, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of John M. and Catherine Clancy McInerny. He was educated at St. Louis University, receiving his A. B. degree in 1919 and his A. M. degree in 1920. Father McInerny was ordained in the Society of Jesus, in June, 1927. He served as an instructor in Biology at his Alma Mater, 1928-30, and there received his M. S. degree in the latter year. The following year, Father McInerny was appointed as a Lecturer in Philosophy, Creighton School of Medicine, and, in 1933, as Dean of the School of Nursing, and Regent of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

The Very Rev. Thomas S. Bowdern, S. J., President of the Creighton University, was installed December 8, 1943, as the seventeenth Jesuit Father to hold that high office. His elevation to the presidency climaxed nineteen years of experience both in teaching and administrative phases of university education.
Preceding his appointment as President, Father Bowdern had served as Dean of the Graduate School, Dean of the Summer Session, Dean of University College and Regent of the School of Journalism at Creighton, coming to Omaha in 1931 from St. Louis University, where he had served as Dean of the School of Education. In addition to his duties as the executive head of the twenty-five hundred students found in peacetime years at Creighton University's ten schools and colleges, Father Bowdern is Rector, or spiritual superior, of the fifty Jesuit Fathers and scholastics stationed at Creighton. He holds degrees of Master of Arts in Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in education.

Regents of the School of Medicine and, co-incidentally, Deans of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing, have included:

1892-95  Rev. James F. X. Hoeffer, S. J.
1895-99  Rev. John Pahls, S. J.
1899-1907 Rev. M. P. Dowling, S. J.
1907-28  Rev. William P. Whelan, S. J.
1928-31  Rev. T. A. Ahearn, S. J.
1931-     Rev. John J. McInerny, S. J.

THE MAIN ENTRANCE — 1945
A Sunny Welcome to St. Joseph's
CHAPTER XII

The Hospital Staff

From its very inception, the history of St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital and of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital has been one especially blessed with outstanding physicians and surgeons as members of the Medical Staff.

Several prominent early day doctors, who had come to Omaha during the first decade after its founding, formed the nucleus of the first staff when the original hospital was opened in September, 1870.

First of these to arrive was Dr. George L. Miller, graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York in 1852, who came to Omaha as a general practitioner in November, 1854. After achieving considerable prominence as a diagnostician but without pecuniary gain, Dr. Miller forsook medical practice to enter politics and become editor of the Omaha Herald, in which he had a half interest. These fields proved more lucrative and Dr. Miller continued his editorial work until 1888, when he retired. Another early practitioner was Dr. James Porter Peck, 1850 graduate of Cleveland Medical School, who settled in Omaha in 1856. He was one of the organizers of the Nebraska Medical Society, in 1857, and of the Omaha Medical Society, in 1866, serving as the first president of the latter group. He was one of the most active Staff members.

Dr. Jetur R. Conkling came to Nebraska in 1851, and began practice at Tekamah. Twelve years later he was appointed post surgeon at Fort Kearney but after eight months he came to Omaha, where he acquired a large practice. As city and county physician, he sent many patients to St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital, of which he served as chief of staff in 1876. Other early comers who patronized the hospital included Dr. George Tilden, who came to Omaha in 1866 after graduating from Albany Medical College; Dr. R. C. Moore, acting assistant surgeon in the Union army, who came in 1865; Dr. James H. Peabody, ’60 graduate of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., who returned to Omaha in 1866 after having been stationed here in 1864 in charge of the military district of Nebraska, and Dr. H. P. Jensen, who began practice here in 1873 upon graduation at Long Island College.


First recorded death of a member of the St. Joseph’s staff was that of Dr. Paul Grossman. Born in Schoenmitz, Germany, in 1846, Dr. Grossman
was assistant professor in surgery at the University of Breslau, from 1873 to 1876. After serving for four years in the German army, and winning the Iron Cross decoration, Dr. Grossman came to Omaha in 1880 and immediately became a member of the hospital staff. He served as Professor of the Practice of Medicine, John A. Creighton Medical School from 1882 to 1895, when he was forced to retire because of ill health. He continued his private practice, however, as his health would permit, but in September, 1905, he was compelled to give up his work completely. After a few months relaxation, his health improved so much as to encourage him to fulfill a long-felt desire and visit, again, his "fatherland." After a few short weeks of peace and quiet among the scenes of his boyhood, he passed peacefully to his eternal rest.

The second Staff member lost by death was Dr. Benjamin F. Crummer, native of Illinois, who came to Omaha in 1888. Four years later he was chosen to fill the chair of General Medicine, Creighton Medical College, whereupon he became intimately associated with the Hospital, demonstrating exceptional ability as clinician, counsellor and teacher. His death occurred in 1906.

The following year, the Sisters mourned the loss of Dr. Andrew W. Riley, A. M., M. D., who passed away January 31, 1907, after 17 years as a member of the Staff and a teacher at the Medical School. He was a graduate of the University Medical College of New York, and came to Omaha in 1889, becoming immediately associated with the Hospital.

Staff Grows Steadily

Practically all of the old time doctors associated with Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital prior to the turn of the century now are deceased; several, however, are still active in their profession. Their places, however, have been taken at the Hospital and Medical College by men of the same high calibre. Many members of the present staff were students under doctors who were on the original hospital staff and who later were instructors when the medical school was founded.

The present staff of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital consists of ninety-seven of the city's leading physicians and surgeons, exclusive of members in military service. Associate staff members and visiting doctors, in addition to the regular staff, bring the total of doctors eligible to practice at the hospital to 177. Several of the members of the Attending and Courtesy Staffs, who have been in military service, numbering fifty, have returned to resume their practice in Omaha since the cessation of hostilities in World War II.

Many Years of Service

Upon the retirement of Dr. Charles C. Allison as Chief of Surgical service, in 1917, due to failing health, Dr. Alfred J. Brown was appointed to fill the position. However, Dr. Brown had occupied the post for only a short
time when he was called into military service in World War I, serving until the war ended. Dr. Allison died August 28, 1918, after twenty years as a member of the Staff and of the Faculty.

Dr. George F. Simanek, member of the St. Joseph's staff since his internship, 1903-04, was named Acting Chief June 5, 1918, and later was permanently appointed as Chief of Surgical Service. An indefatigable worker and leader, Dr. Simanek occupied the position until June 11, 1935, when he resigned to devote his entire time to his private practice which had suffered greatly due to his activity as Chief of Staff at the Hospital and Professor of Surgery at the Creighton medical school. He has continued as a loyal member of the staff and supporter of St. Joseph's throughout the intervening years.

In the reorganization which followed Dr. Simanek's retirement, Dr. Charles McMartin, Ph.B., M. D., was chosen head of the Surgical department and Dr. Adolph Sachs became Chief of Medical Service. Both have been valued members of the Staff since 1907. Dr. Sachs, who graduated from Creighton Medical College and interned at St. Joseph's in 1906-7, is one of the leading internists of the Midwest and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. McMartin began practice in Omaha after his graduation from Rush Medical College, Chicago. He is a prominent urologist and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Charles M. Wilhelmj, Dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine, is ex-officio Chief of Staff of St. Joseph's.

Three Are War Victims

Three St. Joseph's interns who entered military service immediately following completion of their internship, surrendered their lives during World War II.

First to lose his life was Captain Gilbert C. Campbell, interne from 1940-41, who was killed in action November 15, 1942, in the Solomons. Second fatality was Captain Charles J. Mooter, 1941-42 interne, who died December 15, 1943 from injuries received in New Caledonia. Third Interne Staff member to die was Lieut. Anthony S. Greco, classmate and fellow interne of Dr. Mooter, who was killed in action June 22, 1944 in Italy.
Only Staff member to lose his life in World War I was Major Emil De-Lanney, who died in service December 23, 1918.

A beautiful service flag honoring St. Joseph’s Staff members, nurses and lay employees, was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Edmund M. Walsh. The flag contains three gold stars in memory of the Doctors who lost their lives in service.

To effectively express their appreciation of the work of the Sisters down through the years, members of the Staff at the Diamond Jubilee banquet given in their honor at the hospital, Wednesday evening, September 19th, presented to Sister Crescentia and the Sisters a beautiful blue leather folder, with the hospital’s name in gold on the front cover. Lined with gold cloth, the portfolio contained a crisp $1,000 bill, together with several sheets of parchment paper upon which were the names of more than a hundred doctors who had made the Diamond Jubilee gift possible.

With the gift was the request that the Sisters secure for the sanctuary of the Chapel a Sedilia, for which they have longed many years, as a lasting remembrance of the Staff on this momentous occasion.

Internes

“The appointment of Interne secures service in the hospital with furnished room and board.”

Such was the inducement held out in the 1895 catalog of the John A. Creighton School of Medicine to prospective applicants for the position as Interne at St. Joseph’s. Apparently the appeal was not without merit for the records disclose a steady supply of internes in increasing numbers for 51 consecutive years.

First interne at St. Joseph’s was Dr. R. M. Malster, who served from October, 1894 to October, 1895. Hospital and School records fail to disclose Dr. Malster’s Alma Mater but his name appears as an Attending Surgeon at St. Joseph’s in 1895, 1896 and 1897. Oldest known surviving St. Joseph’s interne is Dr. G. A. Harris, of Valley, Nebr., who served from October, 1895 to October, 1896 with Dr. Charles Furay, now deceased. Next oldest surviving Interne is Dr. Frederick J. Wearne, of Omaha, whose interneship extended from May, 1898 to May, 1899. Dr. Wearne still is in active practice on the Staff of St. Joseph’s. Dr. Peter F. Conlin, who served from October, 1898 to October, 1899, is now a resident of Los Angeles, where he has been in poor health for some time. Dr. Paul H. Ellis, interne from May, 1899 to May, 1900, also continues in practice here. Dr. Rudolph Rix, who served with Dr. Ellis as interne, passed away July 14, 1938, after nearly forty years of practice in Omaha.

“Old Timers” Still Active

Dr. Bryan M. Riley, who began his medical studies during the last year that the medical school occupied the original hospital building, on Twelfth
and Mason streets, also is still actively associated with the staff at St. Joseph’s. Dr. Riley graduated in May, 1900, and served as Interne at St. Joseph’s until May, 1901. His fellow interne, Dr. Michael A. Floersch, also continues active practice at Topeka, Kansas.

Another former interne of St. Joseph’s who also continues as an active member of the Staff of St. Joseph’s is Dr. George F. Simanek, who served his interneship from May, 1903, to May, 1904. Dr. Simanek is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and, besides serving as Chief of Surgical Staff of St. Joseph’s from 1918 to 1935, he for many years was Professor of Surgery at the Creighton medical college.

The original quota of internes, which began with one in 1894, has increased steadily through the intervening years. In 1895, two graduates were awarded internships, and in 1901 the number increased to three. Dr. Joseph Lauvetz, of Wahoo, was one of the first group of four who served in 1905-06, while Dr. Joseph F. Shramek and Dr. Leo A. Dermody were in the first group of six, from 1910 to 1911. The number has continued to increase periodically, until the 1945-46 group now includes twelve graduates on general service. In all, 387 graduates, principally of Creighton University School of Medicine, have served as internes at St. Joseph’s since 1894.

**Residencies Established**

Dental internships were instituted in 1926-27, with E. E. Klabzuba, D. D. S. as the first dental interne. Since then, 16 dental graduates have been assigned to St. Joseph’s. In addition, 22 doctors have served as residents in the specialties of Radiology, Pathology, Medicine and Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, since establishment and approval of such specialty residencies.

B. Carl Russum, M. D., Creighton ’16, was the first full time resident in Pathology, coming to St. Joseph’s in September, 1920, after his internship at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., and two years of army service in World War I. He served as Resident for a year, thereafter being Instructor in Pathology at Creighton, 1922-24. His appointment as Attending Pathologist at St. Joseph’s and Director of the department at Creighton dates from 1924, succeeding Dr. James S. Foote, who had held the appointment from its establishment in 1900 until 1919, and Dr. Edward J. Cary, who filled the dual posts in 1919-22. Dr. Foote expired on June 30, 1925. To Dr. Russum goes the credit for establishment and development of the present highly skilled and well equipped pathological, chemical and bacteriological laboratory departments.

Dr. James F. Kelly, Sr., present Radiologist and head of the Cancer Clinic, also served his interneship at St. Joseph’s, after his graduation from Creighton in 1915, and has been a member of the Staff continuously, excepting 18 months
Army service during World War I. He served as Associate Professor of X-ray at Creighton University and assistant radiologist at St. Joseph's, until his appointment as Professor of Radiology and Physical Therapy at the School, and Head Radiologist at the hospital in 1933. Dr. Kelly succeeded Dr. A. F. Tyler, who had held the two positions since 1910, when the Sisters established their own X-ray department. The first X-ray equipment in St. Joseph's Hospital was installed in July, 1900, by Dr. John P. Lord and Dr. F. Rustin, with Dr. Charles F. Crowley as Skiagrapher. Dr. Crowley, who also served as hospital chemist during the same period, passed away August 29, 1945.

Dr. Kelly was responsible for organization of the Cancer Clinic, in December, 1931, at which time he also established the Deep X-ray Therapy department and installed the present 220,000 volt equipment for treatment of deep seated conditions. The permanently installed equipment was supplemented in 1938 by the first mobile therapy unit manufactured by the General Electric X-ray Corporation, previously described in Chapter VII.

First Residency in Radiology

D. Arnold Dowell, M. D., Creighton '31, who interned at St. Joseph's in 1931-32, was the first physician to serve as Resident in Radiology after approval of such residency was granted in 1933, and remained for three years. He was followed by Dr. John E. Downing, Creighton '35 and St. Joseph's interne, 1935-36, who also served a three-year residency. Subsequent residents in X-ray have included Dr. James G. Sawyer, Dr. Robert F. Corkle and the present resident physician, Dr. James F. Kelly, Jr.

Other St. Joseph's internes who have served as Residents in specialty fields since such residences were given approval by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, with terms of service, include:

Pathology (Approved 1938)—Dr. Oscar Carp, 1940-41; Dr. Regis E. Weland, 1941-42; Dr. Francisco J. Campos, 1943-45; Dr. Geraldine Lainson, 1945-46.

Obstetrics and Gynecology (1938)—Dr. Harold F. Funsch, 1939-40; Dr. Arthur F. Gore, 1941-42; Dr. Robert J. McNeil, 1942-43; Dr. Kenneth A. MacInnes, 1943-44; Dr. Valerian V. Kobza, 1944-45; Dr. James R. Kovarik, 1945-46.

Medicine and Surgery (1938)—Dr. Hector P. Garcia, 1941-42; Dr. Joseph J. Borghoff, 1945-46 (Medicine only).

The national preparedness program played havoc with plans for establishment of a two-year internship, beginning July 1, 1941, as before that date twelve internes who had contracted to remain for the two-year period were called to report for service at the completion of their first year. It is contemplated that two-year internships again will be inaugurated when medical school schedules return to normalcy.
CHAPTER XIII

School of Nursing

But very few Schools of Nursing in this country enjoy the distinction of having functioned for the training of both members of religious communities and lay nurses at two distinct periods in their histories, as is the record of the Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

Since its inception as an essential and integral part of the institution, the history of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing dates back to the closing years of the last century. In the meantime, it has maintained a record of uninterrupted service in the education of young women in the care of the sick, until it now numbers among its Alumnae 882 graduates, including ninety-two Sisters of two religious Orders and 790 lay nurses, representing a total of 35 graduating classes.

St. Joseph's School of Nursing was first founded in 1899, at the request of Most Rev. Richard Scannel, D. D., Bishop of Omaha, as a training school for members of the Poor Sisters of Saint Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration, and its opening class consisted of fourteen Sister students.

The movement which led to founding of the School of Nursing ante-dates its actual establishment by two years, Sister M. Livina Thompson, M. A., present Director, indicates in her thesis covering the histories of the three schools of nursing conducted in Nebraska by the Poor Sisters of St. Francis. In 1897, the medical staff of St. Joseph's inaugurated a voluntary project, to give the Sisters lectures in medicine, surgery, bandaging, etc. The Doctors gave them practical instructions in nursing procedures, and occasional lectures in medicine. There were at that time no state requirements for training schools, the only requisite being that students "be intelligent and capable of the studies taught."

Bishop Requests Training Course

The successful progress of this volunteer movement led Most Rev. Richard Scannel, D. D., Bishop of Omaha, to request of Sister Hedwig, Superior, that she secure permission from Reverend Mother Alphonsa, at Lafayette, for the opening of a training school for members of the community. Permission was
given gladly, and Sister M. Basilia Kugler, pharmacist in one of the Order's hospitals, was sent to Omaha to become first Superintendent. Dr. H. B. Hamilton was elected president of the school. With sixteen other members of the Staff, and assisted by Rev. Charles Coppens, S. J., of Creighton University, a two-year course was inaugurated in 1899, with fourteen Sister-students in the class. Seven Sisters from other Franciscan hospitals soon joined the class, swelling the number to 21 but several were compelled to drop out due to ill health, before their course was completed. Sister Basilia, now the Mother Provincial of the Western Province, was summoned back to the Motherhouse in Lafayette in mid-1900, and Miss Agnes Smith, of St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chicago, served as acting superintendent for six months until the appointment of Sister M. Edwarda Fitzpatrick, who was superintendent until 1903.

The first graduation exercises of the School of Nursing took place in the hospital parlors, then located in the rooms now occupied by the Pharmacy, on December 11, 1901. In attendance were Rev. M. P. Dowling, S. J., President of Creighton University, and the sixteen members of the lecturing staff. A newspaper account of the event said:

"On Wednesday evening the spacious parlors of St. Joseph's Hospital presented a more animated appearance than is usual in that conventional establishment. At 8 o'clock, Dr. Bryant, dean of Creighton Medical School, took his place before a table on which were placed thirteen rolls of parchment done up in regular valedictory style, and assuming the gavel with dignified authority, called the meeting to order. He introduced Rev. M. P. Dowling, who, in his usual happy manner, said their business was indeed one of pleasure and gratification. It was to confer upon thirteen members of the Franciscan community so many diplomas as graduated nurses of the institution. He congratulated the candidates on their well-merited distinction in being able to attain to efficiency in the profession of nursing. As each candidate was called and came forward, Dr. Bryant presented her with a diploma."


Five of First Class Living

Five members of that first graduating class still are living. Sister M. Afra, for many years in charge of the office at St. Joseph's until 1928, now occupies a similar post at Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney, Nebr. Sister
M. Edwarda, who later served as pharmacist and also as record librarian at St. Joseph's, is now at the Motherhouse in Denver, as, too, is Sister M. Jose­phine. Sister M. Protasia still is active at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, Ill., and Sister M. Adelheid at St. Alexis Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

Each Sister graduate received a compiled lecture-book, carefully hecto­graphed, that contained notes and hand-drawings covering the course of lec­tures given.

Sister M. Eustella, a member of the 1902-03 class, was appointed Super­intendent of the school in 1903, at which time there were 45 Sisters in the Omaha community, and 24 attending physicians on the staff. Sister M. Edwarda served a second term as head of the school, 1906-11, when Sister M. Eustella again was appointed. The number of Sisters then had increased to 55 and the attending staff to 36. Classes were graduated every other year, as follows: 1901, 13 graduates; 1903, 8; 1904, 7; 1906, 7; 1908, 7; 1910, 7; 1912, 8; 1914, 13; 1916, 11; 1918, 11. Sister M. Wilhelmina, who in 1925 established the hospital print shop, was a member of the 1903 graduating class.

Between 1912 and 1918 the Sisters of St. Joseph, of Concordia and Salina, Kans., who had no training school of their own, enrolled nine of their Sisters in the classes of St. Joseph's Training School, eight of whom graduated.

Three of the Franciscan Sisters who graduated in the lateral classes are still on active service at St. Joseph's, including Sister M. Romalda, '12, Super­visor of Third Floor, South; Sister M. Paschalina, '16, in charge of Fourth, Middle, and Sister M. Liberia, '18, X-ray and Physical Therapy technician.

The training school progressed steadily, if not phenomenally, through the years 1898-1916. The work of the first years, 1898-1903, was accomplished under great difficulty, with many patients and few Sisters. Members of the training school faculty gave their services free of charge. To the present, this gratuitous system is admirably maintained. Sister M. Eustella remained in charge of the Sisters' training school until it closed in May, 1918, at which time eleven Sisters were graduated. Since 1919, the Sisters have received their training in the Motherhouse at Lafayette, Ind., and Denver.

_Lay School Opens in 1917_

The decision during 1917 to have the training school for Sisters at the Motherhouse paved the way for the organization of a secular training school for nurses at Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital. Rev. William P. Whelan, S. J., regent of the Creighton University School of Medicine, was largely influential in the steps which led to opening of the lay training school, and on November 20, 1917 the first class of eighteen students was admitted. Father Whelan took an active part in advising and teaching and also designed the class pin which is used in all the Schools of Nursing conducted by the Franciscan community. The motto on this beautiful pin, illustrated at the
head of this chapter, is "Vita Aliis Vota"—"Lives Devoted to Others". It has a blue background, with border of gold.

As none of the Sisters had taken state board examinations in Nebraska, Miss Mary McMahon, R. N., of St. Louis, Mo., was named acting superintendent of the lay school until a Sister could qualify. Sisters M. Eustella and M. Livina took the examinations in November, 1917 and received their licenses December 15, 1917. Sister Eustella continued in charge of the Sisters' training school and Miss McMahon held the position as superintendent of the lay school until June, 1919, when Sister M. Livina Thompson, R. N., M. A., was appointed, and still remains as Director.

The Obstetrical department, a necessary adjunct to a training school, was organized by Miss McMahon in 1918, with Sister M. Natalia, R. N. as first supervisor. The department contained 15 beds for mothers and a nursery of 15 bassinets. The first patient was a negro woman. By 1918, the number of Sisters in the hospital had increased to 63.

**Thirteen Students in First Class**

Thirteen young women, including eleven from Nebraska and two from Indiana, comprised the members of the first lay class enrolled in the School of Nursing, two of whom dropped out soon after entering. Their number was augmented in January, 1918, by another group of eight students, including two who previously had been in training at the old Presbyterian Hospital of Omaha, and one from the Douglas County Hospital training school. The two groups were merged into one class. Thereafter, classes were admitted three times a year, January, June and September, from 1918 to 1927; in February and September from 1927 to 1931, after which only one class was admitted, in September, each year.

Upon completion of the prescribed three-year course, diplomas were awarded on November 20, 1920, to eighteen graduates:

Mary Elizabeth Dugdale, Matilda Dannecker, Sarah S. Jerger, Virginia C. Kocher, Deborah R. Leibee, Anna M. Marek, Grace V. O'Malley, Grace
M. Rickets, Florence E. Schuler, Mabel M. Wright, Eleanor S. Wenninghof, Charlotte L. Bricknell, Gertrude Eckerman, Alice E. McCreary, Bertha E. Brunk, Mary Ann Foley, Alicia Lawler and Edith M. Gishpert.


Sister M. Livina conducted the School of Nursing alone until 1922, when Sister M. Bertranda, now superintendent of St. Edward's Hospital, New Albany, Indiana, was named her assistant. Since that time the following assistants have served: Sister M. Carina, Sister M. Henrica, Miss Mary O'Neill, Sister M. Fabiana, Sister M. Mechtildis, Sister M. Placidia, Miss Phoebe Kandel, Miss Clara Brook, Miss Rose Corrigan, Miss Kathleen Followell, Miss Alma K. Folda and Miss Kathleen R. Bottani, the present assistant director.

It was a requirement in 1922, though not generally enforced, that candidates for entrance have a high school education, although the requirement of two years high school had been enforced for some time. Miss Mary O'Neill was Assistant Director from 1925 to 1930. Energetic and loyal in carrying out the curriculum and advocating a high standard of morale in the school of nursing, Miss O'Neill became a factor in effectually raising the school to a collegiate basis.

On February 1, 1918 the School of Nursing became an integral unit of Creighton University. Two programs now are offered: (1) a three-year course leading to the diploma of graduate nurse; (2) a five-year course leading to the
diploma of graduate nurse and the degree of bachelor of science in nursing. The three-year course now consists of 1,350 hours of theory or didactic work, supplemented by practical experience and integration of the theory in the fourteen divisions of the hospital. Miss Ruth E. Bethke and Miss Evelyn O'Connor, St. Joseph's graduates, were awarded the first bachelor of science degrees in nursing by Creighton University, June 7, 1928. Miss O'Connor died shortly thereafter, on July 28, 1928.

$300,000 Building Erected

The rapid growth of the lay training school had attained an enrollment of 90 students by 1922, making necessary plans for the erection of a combined School of Nursing and residence. Construction of a building to house 150 students was started late in the year and on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1923, the cornerstone was laid. Exactly a year later, the six-story fireproof structure costing $300,000, was dedicated, on March 19, 1924 and on April 1st the students took possession of their new home, after having been housed in the hospital building since opening of the school in 1917. Most Rev. Archbishop James J. Harty officiated both at the cornerstone laying and the dedication. Members of the Staff furnished one complete floor, installing metal furniture.

Sister M. Emelina has served continuously as House Mother since the home was opened. Miss Jessie E. Graham, formerly head nurse at Presbyterian Hospital, was the first Hostess. She resigned the position in May, 1937 to return to her old home in England, where she still resides. Miss Frances E. Bathen has served as Hostess for the past several years.

Student Organizations

The St. Joseph’s School of Nursing Alumnae Association was organized September 14, 1920, by the first graduating class. First officers included Grace O'Malley (Kinney), president; Deborah Leibee (Haynes), secretary; Mary Dugdale (Allen), treasurer. Objects of the organization include educational social activities, and promotion of the welfare of the School of Nursing. Until the advent of World War II, the Alumnae Association provided a scholarship of $100 annually to the graduate attaining the highest scholastic standing. This award enabled many graduates to continue on their studies toward a B.S. degree in nursing. Present officers are: Miss Katherine C. Cronin, '28, President; Miss Mary McGuire, '43, Vice-President; Miss Alice O'Neill, '27, Secretary; Miss Helen Pfeiffer, '42, Treasurer.

The School of Nursing has an excellent library which includes more than 1000 reference books, and 600 volumes of fiction, in addition to current professional journals. Outstanding additions to the library were 180 volumes in 1937, including a set of 50 volumes of “The Harvard Classics” and 10 volumes
of "Crowned Masterpieces of Literature," contributed by Miss Jessie Graham, and 181 volumes added in 1939. Contributions of books always are welcomed.

Among student organizations affording recreational and cultural facilities, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary is outstanding.

The Sodality was organized in September, 1923, by Rev. Francis X. Reilly, S. J., of the Creighton faculty, who still continues as Director of the society. Although purely a voluntary organization, its membership includes most of the Catholic students of the School who meet each Sunday morning in the Chapel for short devotions which include prayers and hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a brief sermon by Father Reilly.

Other organizations include the Mission Club, Literary Club, Big Sister Club and Glee Club. In addition, intramural sports are fostered and a course in physical education provides wholesome and enjoyable exercise. Basketball is the outstanding activity during the winter months, and students disport themselves all through the warmer seasons on the excellent tournament size all-weather tennis court adjoining the home.

The auditorium is equipped with two excellent sound projection machines, the contribution of Dr. and Mrs. Adolph Sachs, and a portable crystal beaded projection screen, given by Miss Gwendolyn Sachs. Motion pictures are shown weekly through the winter months for the students, Sisters and patients.

Observe Silver Jubilee

Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment at St. Joseph's of a center for the education of lay women in the field of nursing highlighted activities of the School of Nursing in 1942.

The Silver Jubilee observance was held Friday, October 30, in connection with Homecoming ceremonies at Creighton University, and attracted a goodly representation of the seven hundred graduates who had passed through the portals of the School during its first twenty-five years. High Mass in the Chapel, with Rev. Charles H. Strassberger as celebrant, opened the day's festivities. Father Strassberger during the Mass warmly welcomed the returning graduates and spoke glowingly of their sacrifices for suffering humanity. Sister Mary Livina, Director of the School, was Guest of Honor at the luncheon in the Staff rooms following the Mass. Present also were Sister M. Fulgentia, Superior; Sister M. Crescentia, Assistant Superior and the four
honorary Alumnae, Sister M. Romualda, Sister M. Dominata, Sister M. Paschalina and Sister M. Liberia.

The Anniversary program, in the auditorium, was featured by presentation to Sister Livina of a miniature ornamental tree from the branches of which dangled twenty-five silver dollars, given by the Alumnae in appreciation of Sister's long period of service as Director of the School of Nursing. Deeply beloved by the graduates, Sister Livina has presided over the destinies of every graduating class since founding of the school. Greetings from the first graduating class were expressed by Mary Dugdale Allen, '20.

A Silver Jubilee souvenir program, compiled and issued by the Alumnae Association, proved a valuable and important contribution to the archives of the school.

Containing photographs of the School and Nurses' Residence, and of Sister Livina and Sister Fulgentia, the booklet also carried greetings from them and from the Alumnae president, Miss Alma K. Folda, '28, Assistant Director and a guiding figure in arrangements for the Silver Jubilee celebration. Included also were histories of the school and Alumnae association, and a list of graduates serving in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps in World War II.

Most valuable was the directory of graduates, arranged according to classes, which included present name, address and occupation; names of husbands and children of married members, and a record of further degrees and achievements, as well as positions held, since graduation. Four members were listed 'In Memoriam,' including Helen Murphy, '22; Delia Felix, '24; Bertha Lohberger, '25, and Lillian Piskach, '30.

Copies of the souvenir program and directory were sent to all graduates.

*Flag Day Ceremonies*

Also memorable in the annals of the School of Nursing was the 'Flag Day' celebration on Sunday, June 14, 1942, when a new 35-foot flag pole on the campus in front of the Nurses' Home, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The flag was borne in procession from the Chapel to the lawn by the student nurses, followed by the Color Guard of American Legion Post No. 1, the Red Cross Volunteer service women, including Gray Ladies, Nurses Aides and Production Corps, and the Sisters and Clergy. The Omaha Civic Orchestra furnished music for the occasion and Commander J. J. Freyman, M. C., U. S. N. R., a member of the St. Joseph's Staff, delivered an inspiring address on 'The American Flag.' The Very Rev. Nicholas H. Wegner, D. D., Chancellor of the Omaha diocese, spoke on 'The Church and the Flag.' Sister Livina made the presentation of the flag to the School of Nursing and it was blessed by Msgr. Wegner. While 'Old Glory' was being raised, the Color Guard stood at attention in salute. Motion pictures of the celebration were taken for the School of Nursing history library.
Accelerate Nursing Course

In conjunction with the nationwide war time program for acceleration of courses in medical and nursing schools, enrollment of a new class was completed June 27, 1942 with 46 pre-clinical students. To provide for the abnormal number of residents, the auditorium on the fifth floor of the Nurses' Home was converted into temporary dormitory facilities, housing 30 Freshmen students. The ceiling and sidewalls were fully insulated and air circulators installed. A high iron fence also was erected on the porch roof, to provide the girls a safe lounging place on warm evenings.

Many Cadet Students

When the United States Nurse Cadet Corps was established, July 1, 1943, by the U. S. Public Health Service, St. Joseph's was one of the leading schools of nursing in the country to become affiliated with the program. The First C. N. C. class to be admitted was that of June 27, 1943, 32 of 38 new students in that group being enrolled as CNC students. In addition, 52 members of the starting classes of September, 1941 and June, 1942 joined the Corps.

Likewise, for the first time since the admission of two Freshman classes was discontinued in 1931, the enrollment of winter and summer classes was resumed in 1944 to assist in accelerating the education and graduation of additional nurses urgently needed in the military expansion program of World War II. The June, 1944 class of pre-clinical students was the largest such group admitted in the history of the school, 53 girls gaining entrance at that time. Including January and June, 1945 classes of 23 and 49 students, respectively, a total of 238 Cadet Nurse Corps members have entered training at St. Joseph's since the founding of the Corps.

Concurrent with the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the establishment of St. Joseph's Hospital, the School of Nursing celebrates its Silver Jubilee this fall of the graduation of the first class of lay nurses, on November 20, 1920.

Special Courses

Special courses of instruction offered at St. Joseph's include an Approved School for X-ray Technicians, advanced courses for post-graduate work in Obstetrics and Surgical Technique, and a new course for clinical laboratory technicians offered in conjunction with the Creighton University School of Medicine.

Fifty students have completed the two-year course in the School for X-ray Technicians, offered to a limited number of high school graduates under the direction of Dr. James F. Kelly, Sr., Radiologist, and Sister M. Liberia, R. N., B. S., R. T., R. P. P. T., head of the department. A certificate is awarded upon satisfactory completion of the course, which was established in 1920. The St. Joseph's School for X-ray Technicians was one of six in the
country found to be fulfilling the essentials of an acceptable school, as adopted by the American Medical Association, when inspections were started in 1943.

The first post-graduate course in Obstetrics was offered to graduate nurses in September, 1940, and certificates were awarded February 1, 1941 to four students who had completed the required work. Plans to inaugurate annual courses in Obstetrics and Surgical Technique in September, 1941, were interrupted by defense preparedness preparations and the growing shortage of nurses. Advanced courses in these subjects will be resumed, however, after the continuing shortage of nurses has been alleviated.

Latest special work inaugurated is that for the training of clinical laboratory technicians, offered in a choice of three courses leading to various college degrees.

1. Two years college, followed by twelve months actual practical work in hospital laboratories, leading to Certificate from Registry of Medical Technicians, of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

2. Three years college, followed by twelve months actual practical work in hospital laboratories, leading to Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology, and Certificate.

3. Four years college, supplemented by same practical work as above, leading to full Bachelor of Science Degree and Certificate.

All college work will be at Creighton University, under direction of B. Carl Russum, A. B., M. D., Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology, assisted by Dr. Thomas McCurdy, assistant Professor, and Dr. Regis E. Weland, instructor in pathology. The hospital practical work is supervised by Sister M. Euthalia, B. S., M. T., who specializes on Hematology; Miss Kathern B. Forest, A. B., M. T., Bacteriology, and Miss Rosemary McLenon, B. S., M. T., Biochemistry.
CHAPTER XIV
Administration

That Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital ranks among the foremost in the country is evidenced by the recognition afforded it by the national professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, American College of Surgeons, Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, and the American Hospital Association.

When the hospital standardization program of the American College of Surgeons was instituted in 1918, during the administration of Ven. Sister M. Hedwig, St. Joseph’s was one of the original 89 hospitals out of more than seven thousand in the United States which was accorded a Class “A” rating. The standardization program, which gives recognition only to hospitals meeting at least the minimum standard requirements of the A. C. of S., has resulted in a general improvement of hospital operation throughout the country, as is indicated by the 1944 report of the College which disclosed full approval extended to 3,152 institutions, and conditional approval to 383 additional, out of a total of 3,911 surveyed during the year. St. Joseph’s was one of 27 Nebraska institutions winning full approval in 1944.

Rigid requirements must be maintained to secure continued approval, which it is the desire of every first class institution to attain. Rules of the national organizations are rigidly enforced.

Medical and surgical cases, and those coming within the domain of the specialists, are so segregated as to facilitate the care of the individual patient. By this plan the attention of assistants who are efficient in special lines of nursing is assured.

The handling of patients from the time of admission to discharge is, as far as possible, on a standardized basis. All surgical cases, except emergency, are required to enter the Hospital at least twelve hours before operation. A complete history is taken, physical examination made and pre-operative diagnosis posted. At the operation the surgeon is required to dictate the findings, normal and abnormal, technique used and the final diagnosis.

Clinical research of cases of special interest is conducted and such matters are discussed at the staff meetings, which are held monthly. The medical and religious nursing staffs consider the scientific and administrative aspects of the problems that must necessarily arise in the conduct of the institution. Very accurate and complete scientific records are maintained.

Succession of Superiors

When in 1919, by Canon Law, the tenure of Sister Superiors was limited to six years as head of the local religious communities, necessary changes in a number of the Franciscan institutions also affected St. Joseph’s.
Sister M. Hedwig, who had been Superior of the Omaha Franciscan community, was transferred to St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln, being succeeded at St. Joseph's by Sister M. Hermana Meschede, who came to the city from Colorado Springs, Colo. Her administration included the building of the new Mental and Nervous Annex in 1923, at a cost of approximately $65,000, and the new $300,000 School of Nursing and Nurses' Residence, completed early in 1924. Sister Hermana remained as Superior until September, 1925, when she was transferred to St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus. She continued there as Superior until her death, December 12, 1928, at the age of 68 years. Her home was in Diedinghausen, Westphalia, Germany. She entered the Franciscan Community at Olpe, Westphalia, at the age of twenty, coming to the United States in 1882. Sister Hermana was the aunt of Henry H. and Joseph B. Meschede, engineers at St. Joseph's for more than twenty years.

Sister M. Silveria Lenerz, who came from St. Joseph's Hospital, Logansport, Ind., to succeed Sister Hermana in September, 1925, lived but a year after taking over her duties in Omaha, dying at St. Joseph's November 6, 1926. An aggressive and forward-looking administrator, Sister Silveria's regime was marked by installation of a complete mechanical refrigeration plant and storage refrigerators to replace old ice-cooled cabinets, and by the initiation and preparation of plans for the remodeling and enlargement program of 1927-28. Death prevented her, however, from seeing her plans carried to fruition.

Building Contract Let

To Sister M. Cherubina Vogel, who also came to Omaha from the Logansport institution, fell Sister Silveria's mantle on November 6, 1926 and her extensive building project plans. The contract for the enlargement and remodeling of the hospital structure was let on the feast of St. Anthony, June 13, 1927, and work immediately started. Sister Cherubina remained at St. Joseph's until after the building program had been completed, being trans-
ferred January 23, 1929 to St. Anthony’s Hospital, Louisville, Ky., where she was stationed until her death in that city, April 18, 1944.

Taking the place of Sister Cherubina was Sister M. Cosma Kruse, who arrived January 24, 1929 from St. Anthony’s Hospital, Michigan City, Ind., to become Superior and Administrator of St. Joseph’s. Inheriting a debt of half a million dollars, incurred during the 1927-28 expansion program, Sister Cosma was faced with the herculean task of making operational ends meet and at the same time beginning a reduction program on the mortgage indebtedness, as well as pay heavy semi-annual interest installments. A quiet and mild-mannered Sister of the old school, whose first knowledge of Omaha had come while serving as pharmacist from 1883 to 1900, first in the enlarged original hospital building, near the Union and Burlington stations, and then in the new institution, Sister Cosma plunged into her difficult assignment with vigor. By the time that the 1929 financial panic had struck the mid-west in full force, in 1931, Sister Cosma had reduced the mortgage debt to $415,000, in addition to meeting interest payments and clearing up a number of old obligations. In 1932, however, she was forced to suspend payments on the loan as the first step in an intensive retrenchment program made necessary by tobogganing economic conditions of the period.

It was while thus confronted with weighty problems that Sister Cosma’s health broke, in 1933, and she was bedfast for an extended period. The fervent prayers of the Sisters, that her life be spared so that she might celebrate the completion of a half century of service in the Master’s vineyard, were answered. On October 26, 1933, Sister Cosma sat in a wheel chair in the center aisle of the hospital Chapel while the Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Francis Rummel, D. D., pontificated at the solemn Golden Jubilee Mass of thanksgiving. She was attended by Mother M. Basilia, Provincial Superior. The ceremonies were most beautiful, made even more so by the presence of 50 little girls, dressed in white and wearing golden head bands, with the figure “50” thereon in gold. As a testimonial of their high esteem the Staff Doctors presented Sister Cosma, for use in the chapel on festive occasions, a magnificent set of gold vestments, imported from France.

The venerable Sister’s strength was not equal to the excitement of the occasion, however, and she was compelled to return to bed several weeks later, and remain there until long after the holidays. With little sign of returning strength, Sister Cosma tendered her resignation as Superior of St. Joseph’s early in 1934. She continued to make her home at St. Joseph’s until her death, on February 1, 1937.
Sister Fulgentia Arrives

Transferred from St. Anthony’s, at Louisville, Ky., Sister M. Fulgentia Frisch arrived March 9, 1934 to assume the reins of management at St. Joseph’s and to continue, in her quiet but loving way, the duties inherited from her predecessor.

First undertaking confronting Sister Fulgentia shortly after her arrival was the necessity of installing new boilers in the power house, a task made doubly hard by the fact that the institution has only just started its slow upward climb from the 1933 depression level, and the securing of funds for the project was almost an unsurmountable problem. A bank loan finally was negotiated and the job carried to completion that summer.

In June, 1935, St. Joseph’s was one of the host institutions to visitors in attendance at the national convention of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, which attracted three thousand guests to the city. The convention was held at Creighton University gymnasium and auditorium. The hospital Chapel was crowded daily during Masses celebrated by many priest visitors at the meeting. A number of improvements were made in the hospital prior to the convention, including renovation of the main lobby, and its refurnishing in modernistic appointments by Drs. John W. Duncan and Ben F. Ewing.

Sister M. Fulgentia Frisch, O. S. F., R. N.
Administrator, 1934-1943
Another Golden Jubilee

When on April 30, 1936, Sister Fulgentia celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of her reception into the Franciscan Order, she had as celebrant of her Golden Jubilee Mass her cousin, Rev. Alfred Frisch, of Clearmont, Minn., and as the preacher for the momentous occasion an old classmate, Rev. J. J. Hoffman, of Falls City, Nebr., whose home also was in Wallendorf, Luxembourg, Germany, in the days before both came to the United States. Fifty little girls dressed in white, with one bearing a crown of gold, attended Sister Fulgentia, as also did Ven. Mother M. Basilia, provincial supe rioress.

Celebrities at the banquet given by the Sisters for the Staff Doctors as one of the social events marking the Golden Jubilee celebration included Most Rev. James H. Ryan, S. T. D., Bishop of Omaha; Hon. Roy L. Cocharan, Governor of Nebraska; Hon. Roy N. Towl, Mayor of Omaha, and Rev. Patrick J. Mahan, S. J., and Rev. John J. McInerney, S. J., representing Creighton University. Members of The Creighton Circle and the St. Joseph's Alumnae Association also were entertained at a Tea in honor of the event.

As her Golden Jubilee visit, Sister Fulgentia was privileged to attend in Lafayette on September 27th the Golden Jubilee celebration of Mother Mary Verena, of Olpe, Westphalia, Germany, world Motherhouse of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph.

Complimenting Sister Fulgentia on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, members of the Staff purchased a beautiful suite of cherry wood furniture for Room 336 as a token of their esteem for her.

Realizes Long Felt Ambition

Outstanding ambition of Sister Fulgentia after her arrival in Omaha was to pay off, if possible, the balance due on the mortgage indebtedness. Many discouraging problems presented themselves, but by steadfastly declining to incur additional obligations which were not absolutely necessary for operation of the institution or the proper care of patients, Sister Fulgentia was able to realize her ambition by the close of her third term of office.

After retiring from her strenuous duties as head of St. Joseph's, Sister Fulgentia asked that she not be assigned to a Superiorship again and that she be granted the privilege of ending her hospital career in the state in which it had started—her loved, adopted Nebraska to which she had come direct from her childhood home in Luxemburg, in January, 1881, to make her home with her uncle, Rev. John Mueller, pastor of St. Mary's church, Bellwood, Nebr. Her entry into the religious life took place several years later at St. Francis Academy, Columbus, now known as St. Bonaventure's school.

Sister Crescentia Returns

Appointed as the new Superior and Administrator of St. Joseph's was Ven. Sister M. Crescentia Wickenheuser on August 15, 1943. In taking up her
new duties, Sister Crescentia became head of the institution in which she previously had served as Surgical Supervisor, in 1926-29, and as Assistant Superior from October 29, 1942. In the meantime, Sister Crescentia had served as Superior of St. Anthony Hospital, Denver; St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln, and St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, Ill.

With improvements restricted to absolutely essential wartime projects, Sister Crescentia undertook in 1944 a program for enlargement of the Mental and Nervous Annex to relieve overcrowded conditions in that unit. The program, treated in detail elsewhere, achieved a marked improvement in the department through removal of office and other service rooms from the floors themselves to permit additional patient accommodations. Another major improvement in the institution was the installation of acoustical treatment to ceilings and walls in noisy areas, much to the delight of the patients, Sisters, employees and visitors.

Sister Crescentia also was responsible for redrafting of the Constitution and By-Laws governing Staff organization, and for the appointment of committees composed of a large representation of Staff members, Sisters and lay advisors on the Staff and Administrative boards. Outstanding business men, including William M. Jeffers, president of the Union Pacific Railroad; William J. Coad, president of Omar, Inc.; Willard D. Hosford, vice-president and general manager of John Deere Plow Co., and Ralph E. Svoboda, attorney, were appointed on the lay advisory board.

During 1944, Sister Crescentia served as President of the Omaha Hospital Council. She is a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators and a Director of the Nebraska Blue Cross Plan, as well as Second Assistant Provincial of the Western Province.

She also was instrumental in the acceptance by St. Joseph's of an invitation to be one of eight hospitals in the United States selected for the internship training of fifteen Sisters from South and Central American republics, a project arranged by the Very Rev. Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S. J., president of the
Catholic Hospital Association, through the United States Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. First visitors assigned to St. Joseph's were two Mexican nuns of the Discalced Carmelite Tertiary community, who spent from July 13 to November 30, 1944, at St. Joseph's in an advanced study of hospital procedures and administration.

Oldest nun from the standpoint of continuous service at St. Joseph's is Sister M. Ludovica Doring, O. S. F., who on September 20, 1944, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her investiture in the Order. She first was stationed at St. Joseph's from 1895-96, and returned to Omaha from Denver in 1900 to remain continuously since that time. Sister Ludovica is a seamstress and also has charge of the employe quarters.

**Pioneer "Blue Cross" Institution**

When the Associated Hospital Service of Nebraska, later to become popularly known as the "NEBRASKA BLUE CROSS PLAN", was formed in January, 1939, St. Joseph's was one of the original seven hospitals in Omaha which financed and incorporated the organization.

Although a pre-payment hospitalization plan had been contemplated in Omaha for several years, it was not until the latter part of 1938 that Omaha hospital administrators felt the time was ripe for such an organization in the community. Associating themselves together under the above title, the hospitals raised approximately $7,500 among themselves to finance such a plan, which began business February 1, 1929, with Rev. Harry E. Hess, of Methodist Hospital, Omaha, as President. The organization grew slowly at first, but surely. Under the leadership of Donald J. Burke, prominent Omaha business man, who became President in 1941 and served for three years, the progress of the Plan became more pronounced. In 1942, the Plan extended its activities to outstate communities and experienced a rapid increase in membership, passing the 50,000 mark in July, 1945, under the able direction of J. H. Pfeiffer, Executive Director.

Sister M. Fulgentia served as a member of the Board of Directors from 1939 to 1943, after which Sister M. Crescentia was elected as a Director.

During 1944, the Plan paid $113,908.92 to hospitals for care of members, of which St. Joseph's received $20,992.

St. Joseph's also is a member of the Omaha Hospital Council, organized in January, 1933, of which its administrator, Sister M. Crescentia, served as President in 1944. It also is a charter member of the Nebraska Hospital Assembly, organized December 9, 1936, of which the Hospital's business manager served as President from its formation until March 29, 1939.

**National Hospital Day**

The institution on several instances has won wide acclaim for its part in the public observance of National Hospital Day, which is celebrated annually
on May 12th, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, recognized as the founder of modern nursing. Such participation has included educational programs on various phases of health problems, radio addresses by hospital personnel, demonstrations of health procedures and new technical equipment.

Civilian Defense Activities

As an integral unit of the Omaha Office of Civilian Defense organization, St. Joseph's took an active part throughout World War II in the community's preparedness activities. Its close proximity to the Bomber Plant, the packing houses, railroad centers and other major defense industries made the institution a logical center for medical and hospital care in event of any community catastrophes.

After participating in several community-wide blackout and "incident" trials, a "catastrophe" which did not turn out to be an OCD "incident" occurred September 22, 1943, which caused great excitement throughout the community for a few hours and really did serve to prove the mettle and efficiency of the hospital's disaster organization.

During the noon hour, the Admittance Office was startled to receive a telephone message from the OCD disaster center, advising that a large bomber had crashed through the roof of one of the assembly buildings at the Glenn L. Martin-Nebraska Company plant, at Fort Crook, and that approximately 40 victims were being rushed to St. Joseph's.

Upon confirmation of the authenticity of the advice, the entire hospital organization was mobilized and really went into action, within 40 minutes completing the setting up and placement of 45 extra beds to care for victims of the disaster. Receiving rooms were staffed with interns, nurses and nurse aides, and forces in the X-ray and Surgical departments were on their toes, waiting for arrival of the injured. Staff doctors also rushed to the hospital from their offices and made ready to care for the crash victims.

In the meantime, further telephonic reports had indicated that the majority of workers in the assembly plant had been out to lunch when the bomber crashed into the structure, and that the number of casualties was far less than at first had been anticipated. Final investigations disclosed that two 'plane crew members had been killed and five others burned or injured, all being taken to the Fort Crook Station Hospital.

Despite the large amount of extra work required to get the hospital back to normalcy again, the Sisters were pleased to witness the speed and efficiency with which the employees functioned in this real emergency, demonstrating the smoothness with which the services of the institution could be mobilized in the event of a major catastrophe. Public tribute was paid to the hospital and personnel for its splendid showing by Dr. C. M. Wilhelmj, co-chief of emergency medical service, in his report to Dr. Wallace D. Hunt, OCD regional medical head.
Sisters Unite in "Te Deum"

Confronted, like all other industry, with wartime problems which at times loomed herculean, including curtailment of supplies and particularly of personnel in all divisions, the Sisters redoubled their efforts to serve a greatly expanded patronage even though the quality of service could not be maintained at the customary standards.

Aside from the vast number of nurses and graduating students who entered military service, in addition to a small number of lay workers, key personnel throughout the institution remained loyal, despite the lure of inflated war industry wages and salaries which beckoned strongly. The Sisters thus were able to furnish necessary care, and to assist many in returning quickly to their defense jobs, despite the lack of some of the frills which patients occasionally demanded.

When V-E day was proclaimed, May 8, 1945, the Sisters prayed with even greater fervor for a speedy and final victory on the western battle fronts, so that a war-torn world might soon again return to the pursuits of peace time activities and family life.

Finally, when the exultant news of V-J Day was flashed throughout the world on August 14th, eve of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Chapel bell joined for a quarter hour in the glorious crescendo which heralded the beginning of the era of peace which all nations long had waited—and the Sisters, gathered for their evening meal, united in a joyous and heartfelt "Te Deum" to Almighty God for the great Heavenly blessing He had bestowed upon a weary world.
CHAPTER XV

Volunteer Organizations

Throughout the history of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital, volunteer workers have performed invaluable services for the institution and Sisters, without which much of the success of the past decades would have been well nigh impossible.

Earliest published reports of the Hospital indicate a generous measure of public support, coupled with unlimited publicity in the columns of the various newspapers of the era. Parish societies and nationality groups played important parts in assisting the Sisters in the early days of the institution, and particularly in the conduct of the various fairs and social functions for the benefit of the hospital.

Public acknowledgment by the Sisters of such support is contained in the 1894 annual report, the first booklet published, in which the Sisters state:

"To the Ladies of the Flower Mission, we extend our gratitude for the flowers bestowed on the suffering sick.

"To the editors and many others, who have sent us reading matter and papers, we extend our thanks.

"To the public in general, who have so liberally cooperated with us in our work of caring for the sick and suffering by giving from time to time so generously of their bounty, we beg to extend our grateful thanks."

Aid Society Formed

The first organized body of volunteers on record was the St. Joseph’s Hospital Aid Society, which was instituted April 5, 1896, with the warm approval of Right Rev. Bishop Richard Scannel. The annual membership fee was $1.20. Mrs. J. B. Furay was elected the first president. The Sewing Society, a branch of the organization, met on the first and third Wednesday of each month, the members devoting themselves to the repair of hospital linens and garments for patients. The organization apparently continued active until 1915, after which date no further mention is made of the group in the Hospital’s annual reports.

The Creighton Circle

Early in the 1920’s, a number of the wives of Staff doctors worked together informally to assist the Sisters and Hospital in various ways, under the leadership of Mrs. A. Hugh Hipple.

The women continued their activities in this manner until 1929, when they organized formally and adopted the name of “The Creighton Circle.” Mrs. Herman W. von Schulte was elected the first president and Mrs. Adolph Sachs as vice-president.
The first event sponsored by the new organization was a mammoth carnival and celebration, "The Kermis", in the auditorium, parlors, class and demonstration rooms of the School of Nursing, December 9-11, 1929. Mrs. Hippie and the late Leo A. Hoffman served as co-chairmen of the event, which netted the organization about $5,000. The sum was turned over to the Hospital as a Christmas gift.

Adopting the Pediatrics Department as the special beneficiary of their activities, the ladies undertook in 1930 and 1931 to remodel the nursery rooms and the sun porch, installing steel casement windows and enlarging the nursery quarters. Each year since, The Creighton Circle has sponsored social activities of various types, including chicken dinners, lawn socials, teas, book reviews and similar events to raise funds for their projects. Since the onset of World War II, the women have engaged in many wartime volunteer undertakings, and in place of the social activities they have conducted personal solicitations for funds among the members and their friends to finance their work.

In addition to the purchase of beds, cribs, bedside cabinets and other furnishings for the Pediatrics Department, the Circle has contributed linens and similar necessities as well as cash donations ranging upwards to $500 for the division when particular needs did not present themselves. The 1945 project consisted of the purchase of germicidal lamps to be installed in the nursery sections. In 1944, the organization furnished two portable laundry type extractors for use in the poliomyelitis division, and in the previous year an infant resuscitator for the Maternity department nursery.

Present officers include Mrs. Fred M. Watke, president; Mrs. Thomas L. Houlton, vice-president; Mrs. John J. Grier, secretary-treasurer.

Red Cross Workers

A new era in gratuitous service, of recent origin, has followed in the development of various types of volunteer groups under the ever-expanding program of the American Red Cross.

With several of the services started as peacetime activities, the program responded with characteristic Red Cross alacrity to the stress of World War II demands of military and hospital needs. Quickly, new services were organized as the requirements became apparent—women, anxious to do their part in the great conflict, responded nobly and performed yeoman assistance in a concerted effort to bring about speedy victory.

First of the volunteer services to function in Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital was the Red Cross Production Unit, organized at a meeting February 11, 1938, in the parlor of the Nurses’ Home. Mrs. Catherine Folda, a member of the Red Cross Board, and worthy representative of a family long friendly to St. Joseph’s, was responsible for perfection of the organization,
which started with a membership of eleven women. Assisting Mrs. Folda was Mrs. Lester C. Armintrout as vice-chairman. Meeting monthly at the hospital, the members made surgical dressings, made or prepared hospital requirements of linens, and performed other similar duties.

During the seven and a half years of its existence, the Production Corps has devoted 7,549 hours of service by 96 women to the hospital's cause. Of the original group of eleven women, three have attended meetings regularly throughout full time and now wear seven chevrons, representative of their seven years of service. These include Mrs. L. C. Armintrout, present chairman; Mrs. A. J. Proskovec and Mrs. F. J. Sieczkowski. In addition three have served six years and four for five years. The group suffered the loss of its organizer and one of the most active workers in the death of Mrs. Folda, on November 1, 1942, after an illness of seven months, and the Sisters one of their most loyal friends.

**Gray Ladies — Nurses Aides**

Personal service to patients was the object and purpose of the Red Cross Gray Ladies organization, which began functioning in St. Joseph's Nov. 1, 1939, one of the first hospitals in which this service was inaugurated. Since that time, the Gray Ladies have rendered valiant service to the patients through library book distribution, letter writing for bed-ridden patients, reading to convalescents, shopping and other personal attentions. In addition, they have served as hostesses in the hospital lobby, distributed mail and otherwise assisted in the admittance office.

During the first full year of service, 1940, the Gray Ladies, under chairmanship of Mrs. L. D. Brown, gave 487 hours of service, which number had been increased ten fold by the end of 1942, when 4,980 hours were given. Records for 1943 and 1944 increased steadily to 7,128 hours in the latter period. For the first six months of the current year, 4,026 hours of service have been rendered by the 27 Gray Ladies on duty at St. Joseph's. Other chairman have included Mrs. Ann Blakeney, Mrs. Hazel Rammaciotti, Mrs. Minnie Ormsby, Mrs. May Pickard and the present leader, Mrs. Grace Beeson. Since 1939, the members had contributed a total of 24,795 hours of service to July 1, 1945.

The Volunteer Nurse Aides instituted their service at St. Joseph's on March 1, 1942 and during that year contributed 3,776 hours of service. This figure was more than doubled in 1943 when they gave 8,920 hours and the latter amount duplicated in the following year, when the volunteer aides responded generously to the need for more nursing help, providing 8,475 hours of gratuitous service. This same splendid service is being continued in 1945, affording welcome assistance to the Sisters and nurses during the nurse shortage which continues acute, despite the cessation of military demands.

Thirty-three Nurses Aides, under the direction of Mrs. Gervase Reinert, have provided 25,215 hours of gratuitous service since the corps was estab-
lished. Lt. Col. Joanna Peter, Director, ANC, Seventh Service Command, Omaha, addressed capping ceremonies for 28 Red Cross Nurse Aides, February 10, 1945, at the School of Nursing.

Another phase of Red Cross Volunteer work which has proved of value to the institution is the Staff Assistants Corps, composed of women who hold full time employment and contribute spare time service, principally in clerical and secretarial lines. Under the direction of Mrs. Norman M. Haried, workers in this section have assisted in the Admissions office and Medical Records library since October, 1944.

Junior Red Cross Hospital Aides functioned during the summer vacation period of 1945, with pleasing results, after a training period which included lectures on "Hospital Ethics" and "Psychology of the Sick," supplemented by ten hours of practical work. Thirty of the 64 high school junior and senior students who completed the course contributed a minimum of 16 hours per week, from mid-June until September 1st, at St. Joseph's.

Another group which gave valiant service during the summer months in 1944 and 1945 was the "TOPS"—"Teens Offer Patriotic Service"—twenty girls comprising the St. Joseph's contingent giving two six-hour days of service weekly throughout the vacation period.

**Needlework Guild Activities**

A consistent volunteer group is the St. Joseph's Needlework Guild, which annually is responsible for a sizeable contribution of blankets, linens, garments and similar articles to the Hospital. The in-gathering, occurring in October each year, regularly assembles twelve to fifteen hundred articles which either have been made by the women during the year, or donated by them for the harvest gathering. Mrs. Francis J. Schleier has been Chairman of the In-gathering committee for a number of years.
CHAPTER XVI

Western Province Established

The community of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration, after foundation of its American Motherhouse in 1875 at Lafayette, Indiana, grew rapidly, both as to members and as to establishments.

By 1930, the territory served by the Community extended from Ohio on the east to Colorado and New Mexico on the west; from Evanston, Ill., on the north to Louisiana in the south. Its institutions included twenty-one hospitals, four orphanages, one home for the aged, a normal training school and numerous parochial and public schools scattered throughout the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas and New Mexico.

Because of this vast expansion and the administrative problems thus presented, the Holy See, in 1931, divided the community into two divisions, the Eastern at Lafayette, Ind., and the Western at Denver, Colo. Ven. Mother Mary Bernarda Weller, provincial superioress, remained as head of the Eastern Province, while her assistant, Ven. Mother Mary Basilia Kugler, was appointed as first provincial supeiroress of the Western Province.

The Denver province was opened formally on the feast of Saint Joseph, its patron, on March 19, 1932. Provincial headquarters were established in a section of the St. Anthony Hospital, Denver, conducted by the Sisters since 1887. Assigned to the Western Province are all of the institutions and schools west of the Mississippi River, consisting of nine hospitals, five of which are in Nebraska; two orphanages and thirty elementary and high schools. In addition, the Sisters also own and operate a home for aged Catholic men and women, at Morrison, Colo., donated to them in 1943 by Frank Kirchoff and family, of Denver. The home is known as Mount Elizabeth Retreat, in memory of Mrs. Kirchoff.

Mother Basilia, who had been stationed here at St. Joseph’s on two occasions, first as pharmacist in the original hospital as well as in the new institution, and later as superintendent of the training school for Sisters, celebrated her Golden Jubilee at the Motherhouse in Denver, February 6, 1941. The ceremonies were attended by Sister M. Fulgentia and Sister M. Simphrosia as representatives of the Sisters at St. Joseph’s.

Dedicate Permanent Home

When, in 1943, the Community acquired ownership of the former Oakes Home, a formerly well known Episcopalian institution in Denver for a permanent Motherhouse and novitiate, there was great rejoicing among the Sisters in the happy realization of a decade-old hope for a separate headquarters for the Sisterhood.
Formal dedication of the renovated and remodeled institution was held December 14, 1943, with His Excellency, The Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr, D. D., Archbishop of Denver, as celebrant. Solemn High Mass, coram episcopo, was offered in the former Episcopalian chapel, a beautiful place of worship which was adapted to Catholic use with but few minor changes. In the sanctuary had been erected a new altar honoring Christ the King while at the rear of the chapel stands a shrine, entitled “Celestial Love,” depicting Christ reaching down from the Cross to embrace St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the Order.

Overlooking all who enter the Motherhouse Administration building is a modernistic statue of Saint Joseph, patron of the Western Province, and Child Jesus. To the left of the Administration unit stands St. Clare Hall, the home for novices, while at the extreme right is Nazareth Hall, a junior college. Across the street, north, from the main structure is Mother of Grace Hall, a three story structure, which was dedicated July 7, 1945 as the Community’s home for aged Sisters. It is a complete unit in itself, with a separate Chapel and other necessary facilities. Here the aged nuns may satisfy every whim and fancy, heedless of the usual rigorous routine of convent life.

Encourage Vocations

At the rear of Saint Clare Hall is the new home and school for aspirants, which was formally opened August 25, 1944. The purpose of the school for aspirants is to realize vocations for the Sisterhood. Here, living in a religious atmosphere and under special direction during the formative years of their lives, the aspirants learn the Franciscan way of life, as well as the underlying principles of a vocation dedicated to the service of God and to the service of humanity for the love of God.

Aspirants ordinarily enter upon completion of their elementary school course, although this is not a requirement. The educational program permits completion of the high school course in three years. At the beginning of the last year of high school work, aspirants are admitted to the postulate and, upon completion of the high school course, to the novitiate. Many educational opportunities are made available to them in school and hospital professions, and in domestic service.

Acquiring the 350-acre Carlisle Estate, near Mishawaka and South Bend, Ind., the headquarters of the Eastern Province was transferred to the new location in 1943 to permit necessary expansion. The new Motherhouse, in the former Carlisle family mansion, is known as Mount Alverno.
CHAPTER XVII

Open To All

Operated without restriction as to nationality, religion or color, with expert attention alike for the poor as well as those able to pay their way in whole or in part, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital has ever hewn to the great Christian ideal of Charity, which has been the policy of the Franciscan Sisterhood ever since its establishment in 1860 by Venerable Mother Teresa, and has steadfastly guided them in administering their legacy of love in the many institutions now operated in this country and the old world.

From the very first year when the Sisters of St. Francis assumed charge of Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital, their work has been largely a labor of love down through all their 65 years of service in Omaha. When records for the year of 1880 were summarized, it was disclosed that the Sisters had ministered to a total of 156 patients, of whom sixty-three were pay patients and ninety-three were cared for free of charge. This ratio reversed itself in the second year of their charge, 142 pay patients and 121 free patients making up the total of 263 persons who were admitted to the institution. In 1882, however, these figures executed a complete “about-face” and in that year 272 patients were attended gratis as against 123 pay patients out of the year’s total of 395 served.

Records for the seventy-five year period to September 1, 1945, show that a total of 279,465 patients have been cared for by these ministering Angels of Mercy, the good Sisters of St. Francis. Of this total, 95,683 were full pay patients, 121,328 part pay, and 61,110 charity.

Many Free Beds

Because of its affiliation with the Creighton Medical College, St. Joseph’s Hospital maintains sixty beds which are set aside exclusively for clinic patients and which are in use practically all the time, with many times a waiting list for empty beds. To these patients as well as to its pay and part pay patients, the complete facilities of the Hospital are available at all times for the proper diagnosis and treatment of their afflictions. Competent nursing service is provided in the clinic department as well as all other sections of the Hospital and through this division of the institution, the desire of Count and Mrs. John A. Creighton for competent medical and hospital care for the poor of the community is provided in perpetuity.

Free patients admitted during 1944 received 11,377 free patient days’ treatment. The value of this free service was $78,280.13.

List of Patients Grows

The growth of the Creighton Memorial St. Joseph’s Hospital service to the community may be realized from the fact that the 156 admissions of 1880,
the first year under Franciscan supervision, had grown to 12,055 in 1944. That 1945 will establish a new high record is practically certain, there having been 8,173 patients admitted from January 1 to September 1, 1945. The number of medical cases treated during 1944 was 4,365, while 5,988 surgical patients were cared for during the year. The number of operations last year was 7,474. Tonsil operations numbered 1,725. Deaths totaled 311, or 2.57 percent of the total number of admissions, as compared with 10 percent in 1880. The average stay of patients in the Hospital was eleven days.

Many Creeds, Nationalities

Although under Catholic control, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital is operated strictly on a non-sectarian basis insofar as admission of patients is concerned. The same efficient service is rendered all patients, regardless of creed, color or nationality.

Various religious beliefs are represented among the patients admitted each year, as may be discerned from the following list of denominational adherents taken from the past year's record:

- Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Congregational, Dunkard, Episcopal, Evangelical, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Latter Day Saints, Lutheran, Methodist, Menonite, Mission, Mormon, Mohammedan, Presbyterian, Protestant, Quaker, Reformed, Seventh Day Adventist, Society of Friends, Universal, Salvation Army, United Brethren, and non-Sectarian.

Nationalities, too, are liberally represented during the course of a year, as follows:

- American, Afro-American, Austrian, Brazilian, Belgian, Bohemian, Canadian, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, English, Finlander, French, Greek, German, Holland, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Lithuanian, Mexican, Moravian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Prussian, Roumanian, Russian, Swedish, Swiss, Syrian, Turkish and Welsh.

When the Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital of forty years ago was celebrating its Silver Jubilee after a quarter century under Franciscan operation, the institution had a number of large medical and surgical wards, each containing from eight to a dozen beds. In the original structure, at Twelfth and Mason streets, the largest ward contained twenty-six beds, and there were several ranging from ten to fifteen beds each. Visiting hours were on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m.

Today most of the wards contain but four beds with the exception of the eight-bed cubiculed sun parlors, and some of the clinic patient wards. There are 110 private rooms. Semi-private beds number 282 and there are sixty public beds. Greater leeway is given visitors, the hours for calling upon patients now being daily from 2:00 to 4:00 p. m. and 7:00 to 8:30 p. m., in accordance with the uniform visiting hour schedule adopted in January, 1945 by the Omaha Hospital Council.
Prospects for the Future

The St. Joseph's Building Fund, established late in 1943 with a sizeable benefaction by Dr. and Mrs. S. J. Carnazzo as a nucleus, is growing to rather substantial proportions at Diamond Jubilee time. It has been augmented by donations from a number of other Staff Doctors as the result of suggestions offered by the Sisters, as well as several subsequent benefactions on the part of initial donors. Other citizens also have joined in swelling the Fund, including a $5,000 contribution by Mrs. Ludovica F. Crofoot, and generous gifts by anonymous benefactors.

To further aid the project, several friends of the institution have signified their intentions to include bequests to the FUND in their wills, a thoroughly laudable method of contributing to a worthy cause, and one which might profitably be followed by many others, in view of the general provisions of the Federal income tax regulations covering gifts to charitable enterprises.

The needs for an enlarged nurses' home, permitting use of the present residence structure for expansion of hospital facilities, offer the opportunity for a family memorial project which would provide homelike quarters for the two hundred or more student nurses who are expected to engage in studies for the nursing profession, including many who will be eligible for an education under the government's new G. I. Bill of Rights for ex-service women. Such a structure also would serve as a Family Memorial down through the ages and provide one of the most pressing needs in the institution's post-war expansion program.

Today, the Sisters' plans, now in the formative stage, envision an even greater St. Joseph's during the next several years—an institution making provision for expanded specialized services for residents of the mid-west—which will further enhance Omaha's reputation as one of the outstanding medical centers of the nation.

*   *   *   *

In addition to Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, the Sisters of St. Francis also conduct the parochial schools of Immaculate Conception and St. Stanislaus parishes, both located in Omaha.
RESUME

During Christ's sojourn on earth nearly 2,000 years ago, the Saviour summed up the great Christian precept of Charity in the following words:

"I was hungry and you gave Me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me to drink, sick and you visited Me—amen, I say unto you, as often as you did this to the least of My brethren, you did it to Me."

Ever mindful of the exhortation of the Divine Master, the Sisters have carried on valiantly, in the face of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles at times, but their faith has never wavered. In times of distress, when economic conditions are at their lowest ebb and the clouds are darkest, the door of their institution is ever open to the sick and the hungry, the poor and the oppressed. Their service to the community has increased each year, and when another seventy-five years have run their course, the faithful Sisters will yet be on hand to soothe the fevered brow and to minister to the needs of all.

Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital remains as a permanent monument to the John A. Creighton family, which played such an important part in the development of Omaha; a family whose foresight recognized the needs of the yet unborn generations for institutions of education and mercy. Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital also stands as a worthy tribute to the years of sacrifice and devotion of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis in their love of mankind, and in this meritorious work also serving their Creator.
CREIGHTON MEMORIAL ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

GROWTH

YEAR BY YEAR

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<th>Year</th>
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### CREIGHTON MEMORIAL ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

**GROWTH—Continued**

**YEAR BY YEAR**

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*Figures to September 1, 1945
OUR BENEFactors

The furnishings of the rooms at St. Joseph's Hospital have been the result of the kindness and generosity of the following people:

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Allison
Harry M. Aloe
Mr. J. O. Barker
Mrs. M. Beecher
Mrs. P. Britt and Mr. T. Langer
Mrs. Martha Brown
Mrs. Matilda Brown
Dr. D. C. Bryant
Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Burkard
Mrs. Vincent Burkley
Burkley Printing Company
Dr. and Mrs. S. J. Carnazzo
The Creighton Circle
Dr. F. E. Coulter
Mr. Charles Creighton
Count John A. Creighton
Mr. John D. Creighton
Mr. E. A. Cudahy
Mrs. Elizabeth Cudahy
Clara Creighton Daugherty
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Daugherty
F. H. and T. L. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dawson
Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Dermody
Mr. and Mrs. P. Duffy
Dr. John W. Duncan and Sisters
Dr. T. J. Dywer
Dr. and Mrs. Ben F. Ewing
Mary A. D. Ewing
Hannah S. Friesen Memorial
Mother M. Fulgentia (The Staff)
Mrs. J. B. Furay
Miss M. Furlong
Mrs. Ben Gallagher
William and Mary Gamble Memorial
Reverend G. J. Glauber
Thomas E. Godfrey
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Gross
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Mrs. Fred Hamilton
Dr. H. P. Hamilton
Mr. F. Hanlan
Mr. Edward Hayden
Mr. Joseph Hayden
Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Heafey
Mrs. Alice Hellyer
Drs. E. G. and W. O. Henry
Mrs. L. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hoffman
Miss Mary Hughes
Mr. P. E. Iler
Mary Alice and
Catherine Ann Jenkins
Dr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Kroupa
in memory of
Susan Nolan Johnson

Rev. P. J. Judge
Mr. P. Kearney
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. C. Kennedy
Knights of Columbus,
Omaha Council No. 652
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C. T. and L. L. Kountze
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Krug
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Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McShane
Mr. and Mrs. M. A. McShane
in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McShane
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Metz
Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Meyers
Mrs. Margaret Meyers
Miss Mary Margaret Meyers and
Edwin John Resegieu
Claire Daugherty Millard
Mr. W. B. Millard
Joseph F. Mongene by Alice Mongene
Mr. Frank Muir
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Murphy
J. M. Nachigall
Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Nash
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Nejdl
Mr. and Mrs. D. J. O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. O'Connor
Omaha Lodge of Elks No. 29
Mr. W. A. Paxton
William Paxton, Jr.
Mrs. Mae Peterson, Jr.
in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pickens
Miss Anna Plummer
Mr. J. Ramge
Mr. Lewis Reed
Mrs. Anastasia Riewe
A. W. Riley, A. M., M. D.
Dr. B. M. Riley
James Riley
Mr. J. Ritty, Dayton, Ohio
Very Rev. J. Ruesing
Mr. J. Rush
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Schenk
Miss L. Schenk
Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Schleier
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Schmitz
Dr. and Mrs. George F. Simanek
St. Joseph's Society
Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Storz
Mrs. Anna Straub Memorial
Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Sucha
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Townsend
Mr. and Mrs. C. Vincent
Dr. and Mrs. Edmund M. Walsh
Hon. J. M. Woolworth

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WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Like many histories of by-gone days, this narrative of the founding and growth of The Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph's Hospital has been assembled piece-meal from many sources.

The information is regarded as authentic, the meagre early records of the Hospital and other sources having been reviewed minutely to compile a history that will supply as accurate a picture as possible of the chain of events which has transpired during the past three-quarters of a century.

Learning from experience, the Sisters of Saint Francis in recent years have kept institutional diaries, so to speak, from which are compiled annually written records of the events and happenings that will leave for their successors a complete set of Chronicles depicting the successes and failures, the achievements and disappointments, the smiles and the heart-aches, of the present momentous era.

For data which has made possible the presentation of this more comprehensive account of the institution's early history, the Sisters and the Author are indebted and deeply grateful to these sources:

The Creighton University Library
Office of Alumni Association, The Creighton University
Omaha Public Library
Byron Reed Newspaper Collection
"Omaha, the Gate City"—Arthur C. Wakeley
"The Story of Omaha"—Alfred Sorenson
Rev. Eugene Hagedorn, O. F. M., Historical Records
Rev. Ferdinand Krings, Letters
"Early Days of the Mercy Order in Omaha"—Sister M. Madeleine, R. S. M.
"Sisters of Mercy of Nebraska"—Sister Mary Edmund Croghan, R. S. M.
"Franciscan Schools of Nursing in Nebraska" (Thesis)—Sister M. Livina Thompson, O.S.F., R.N., B.A., B.S., M.A.

Archives:
Franciscan Sisterhood of Nebraska
Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph
Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital
Annual Reports—1894-1926

Catalogs:
St. Joseph's School of Nursing
John A. Creighton School of Medicine
The True Voice, 1904-1930
Omaha Daily Bee, 1883-1910
Omaha Daily Herald, 1873-1878
Omaha Daily World-Herald—1889-1910
Omaha Excelsior, 1906

And kind interviews on the part of the older Sisters, employees and members of the Hospital Medical Staff, and Faculty of The Creighton University.
INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTED BY THE
POOR SISTERS OF SAINT FRANCIS SERAPH

MOTHERHOUSE
St. Joseph Convent
Denver, Colorado

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The Blessing of Saint Francis

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. May He show His Face to thee and have mercy on thee; May He Turn His Countenance to thee and give thee Peace!