

KIV AUSTEN DAN DENOS
11/26/1930 p-1

M'DONOUGH GROUP'S LEADERS PONDERING FUTURE OF \$45,000

Hope Day Nursery and Edgecombe Sanitarium Make Bids for Property Held by Memorial Corporation

The Rip Van Winkle of hospitalization—the McDonough Memorial Hospital Corporation—which began functioning as an infirmary in 1898, kept its doors open until they were closed two years later by the city, and then lapsed into a fitful thirty years' sleep, figuratively rubbed its eyes yesterday and prepared to discharge its obligations to the New York public, which created the *dracmally creature*.

A group of physicians, a pharmacist and a business man yesterday considered plans for the future and the possibility of asking the Supreme Court to permit the corporation to dispose of its assets, while a hospital and a day nursery were making bids for the hospital group's property.

After a futile attempt last year by the International Hospital Association to purchase with its modern community hospital, Edgecombe Sanitarium and the Hope Day Nursery were busy Monday with the view of adding the old group's assets to their holdings.

Group Has Three Houses.
The extinct hospital's property today consists of three houses, known on the County Clerk's records as Nos. 18, 20 and 22 West 114th street. The houses are held for the corporation by Neil and Parker, the realtors, 145 West 158th street. John E. Neil was formerly financial officer of the hospital.

A meeting of the members of the corporation, who were called to the Anderson and Blue Pharmacy, 340 St. Nicholas avenue, last Wednesday night to consider disposition of the property, was abruptly terminated. Dr. St. Clair Jones, the president, 223 West 146th street, declared out of order a proposal to authorize Neil and Parker to negotiate a mortgage for one of the houses in order to raise funds to tidy the property for rental. Property worth \$45,000.

Make Bid to Get Hospital's Funds

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places their total value at \$45,000. The houses are without tenants.

This property is the remaining evidence of the late nineteenth century movement which once operated a hospital sadly lacking in facilities, and seriously handicapped by lack of funds.

The group now in control of the assets of the old hospital includes, in addition to Dr. Jones, Drs. Joseph W. Saunders, secretary; Godfrey Nurse, treasurer; Louis T. Wright, chairman of the campaign fund; Allen B. Graves, James L. Wilson, Leo Fitz Neuron, Aaron L. MacGhee, Richard A. Taylor, Percy C. Mundin, Ralph H. Young, E. F. Roberts, Albert B. Reed, F. Theodore Reid; also John Reid Anderson, pharmacist, and John E. Nall.

Death Thins Ranks.

These men are the mere skeleton of the old group. Death has thinned the ranks of the pioneer enthusiasts for decades.

The McDonough Memorial Hospital, named in honor of one of the earliest Negro physicians in New York City, received its charter in July, 1895, after several years of collecting of nickels, dimes and larger contributions. The first patient was admitted July 12, 1898.

The institution was conducted mainly by donations. Located in a brick building at 439 West Forty-first street, it cared for fifty-nine surgical cases during its first year, in addition to medical treatments. The budget for the initial twelve months was \$4,594.00, of which patients paid \$524.00 in fees. Concerts and entertainments brought in \$535; the churches contributed \$35, and the balance came from any person willing to give. Frederick Vanderbilt, white philanthropist, contributed \$1,050 of the \$4,594.00 for equipping the operating room.

City Closes Hospital.

New York City officialdom, however, was not satisfied with the standards maintained, and closed the hospital in 1900. The assets lay dormant for a decade.

In 1910 a few of the men still connected with the movement purchased a controlling share in the affairs of the McDonough Memorial Hospital.

Movement Starts Again.

In 1911 Dr. Richard A. Taylor was elected president, and a charity ball, the proceeds of which were turned over to the hospital fund, was given. Dr. Allen B. Graves headed the movement in 1912, but the following year Dr. Taylor again was chosen president, and plans were made for renewed efforts in behalf of the proposed institution.

After America entered the World War, an appeal was made for funds to provide a hospital that would cooperate with those controlled by the surgeon general of the army. Soon after this was planned, however, the surgeon general issued a statement saying that no more institutions of the type contemplated by the McDonough group were needed by the army.

Tolerance Halts Plans.

About this time there was some dissension in Harlem over the methods that should be employed in getting hospital training for Negro physicians. Some thought that efforts should be made to get Negro doctors into institutions like Bellevue Hospital. A white philanthropist was persuaded to pledge a large sum of money to the McDonough proposition because Negroes had not then been admitted to municipal institutions like Bellevue. Soon afterwards six Negro physicians entered Bellevue

and the pledge was withdrawn. The success at Bellevue was only temporary, for Negro physicians are no longer on the staff.

The idea motivating the backers of the movement since its inception was the establishment of a hospital where Negro physicians could gain proper experience. A coalition of the various elements of the Harlem community was attempted during the administration of Dr. Taylor. Working with him, Dr. D. Iverson Hoage, and other medical leaders were Ferdinand Q. Morton, representing the Democrats, Edward A. Johnson, representing the Republicans, and John M. Royall of the Citizens' Union.

Campaign Breaks Down.

Several appeals were made by this group during the war for funds to be used in founding a new hospital in Harlem. The 133d street property was purchased prior to a drive for funds in 1919, when the late Dr. William A. Sinclair of Philadelphia was brought to New York to conduct the campaign. Money raised under his leadership was turned over to William J. Shefflin, white, treasurer, and John E. Nall, assistant treasurer, or "uptown treasurer," as he was known. The goal for the hospital was \$100,000, but scarcely \$5,000 of this amount had been raised when Dr. Sinclair disagreed with the officers of the corporation and returned to Philadelphia.

When the backers of the proposed hospital became convinced that it was futile to consider its establishment any longer, attention was given to possible uses to which the money might be put. Then the Harlem property was purchased. Since public contributions had been accepted for a hospital which would undertake some charity work, the corporation is legally and morally obligated to see that funds under its control are so used.

International Sought Merger.

International Hospital planned at the time of its transformation from the private sanitarium of Dr. U. Conrad Vincent to the community owned institution of today to follow such a program. A majority of the McDonough group, however, was not sufficiently impressed by the prospects of International to deed its holdings over to that institution and effect a merger.

With interest aroused in the long dormant hospital corporation's signs of activity, aged men and women, who gave their quarters or were haggled into buying "refreshments at sociables" for the movement, were relieved preparing to ask that something at least be done with the McDonough assets before time and death erase all memory of the old struggle for an infirmary.