

BOX

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FOLDER

185

Public Charities

1910-1912



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET,

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES, FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY."

MICHAEL J. DRUMMOND,
COMMISSIONER

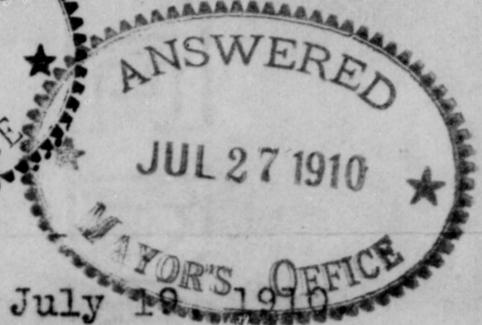
FRANK J. GOODWIN,
1ST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

THOMAS L. FOGARTY,
2ND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

J. MCKEE BORDEN,
SECRETARY.

WM. J. MCKENNA
2D DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

IN ANSWERING REFER TO



July 19 1910

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor.

S i r :

As per your request I enclose herewith statement showing the most important changes and improvements that have taken place in the Department of Public Charities since my incumbency, and trust you will find the same of interest.

Respectfully yours,

Michael J. Drummond
Commissioner

J.M.B
M.K

AUTOPSIES:

On April 6th I issued an order authorizing autopsies only when consent is given by the patient in writing signed in the presence of a witness or when consent in writing is given by the husband, wife, or next of kin. This order was made in order to prevent autopsies from being held without written consent.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE "BRENNAN" KITCHEN:

A great many of the steamboat employees of this department have been housed and fed on the inboard end of this pier. On the first of February I abolished this kitchen and dormitories and allowed such men as were entitled to board and lodging to lodge and board at our Municipal Lodging House on 25th Street, only about 400 feet from this pier. The rooms vacated by the "Brennan" kitchen and dormitories are being remodeled and converted into rooms for our Purchasing Agent, Departmental Dietitian and some of the force of the Bureau of Dependent Adults, as the latter's offices on this same pier were much overcrowded and structurally unfit for the duties that have to be performed by the clerks in the different divisions of said Bureau. The steamboat men ate on the boat; the number gradually increased until the accommodations were too small and the kitchen was placed on this pier. The privilege of eating at this kitchen had been abused more or less and I therefore concluded to discontinue it. At the time I made this order there were about 80 people taking three meals a day. This will result in a saving of about \$15000 or \$16000. a year to the City.

MATERNITY CASES:

During the year 1909 the City paid \$48,770.12 to private hospitals for taking care of 2431 maternity cases, each of which had been approved of by this Department, while only 188 cases were admitted to our hospitals on Blackwell's Island, where we had accommodation for at least 1175 during the year.

On April 15, 1910, I issued an order that the Department of Public Charities would refuse to accept as public charges, maternity cases which were admitted to any private hospital or asylum for care and treatment from the territory bounded by 23d Street on the south, Lexington Avenue on the west, 86th Street on the north, and the East River, unless such case was assigned to such hospital or asylum by the Department of Public Charities and stating that cases of above nature applying at said hospitals or asylums for relief may be referred to the Bureau of Dependent Adults, Foot of East 26th Street, Manhattan. The result of this order has been that instead of having an average of only 16 maternity cases a month, our census at the City and Metropolitan Hospitals, Blackwell's Island, has increased to 28 maternity admissions during May and 46 maternity admissions during June, an average of three times as many as during 1909. When we establish the dispensary at the foot of East 53d Street and the ambulance station at the foot of East 70th Street, the number of maternity admissions to the Blackwell's Island hospitals will be still further increased, the effect of which will be a saving of thousands of dollars to the City in the amount paid to private hospitals for such cases; the increase of the maternity cases being of great benefit to the hospital service, because of the larger field of experience for our internes and nurses.

DISTRIBUTION OF BODIES FROM MORGUE:

An order made April 15th, 1910 regulating the distribution of anatomical material to the various medical colleges in Manhattan in accordance with section 217 of the public health law and section 2083 of the penal code seems to have satisfied all of the different colleges. During the past three or four years there has been constant complaining by the colleges of the lack of material which has been assigned to them. This new order seems to have satisfactorily settled this discussion as we have heard of no complaint from the Medical Colleges.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND INSTITUTIONS.
GENERAL MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT:

The promulgating of rules and regulations governing the institutions of this Department on Blackwell's Island and the ~~appointing~~ of the General Medical Superintendent to have charge of all these institutions has been effected with the best of results. This change was made February 12, 1910. It makes one man responsible to me for all these institutions and they are therefore more uniformly and better governed. I consider this an important step in the right direction of hospital administration.

PURCHASE, CARE, ISSUE AND REPORTING OF STORES AND SUPPLIES:

On April 29th an order was issued reorganizing the auditor's office, the purchasing agent's office, and the office of the General Storekeeper, with a view to expediting the auditing of the bills, the better supervision of the purchasing of supplies, and also a better distribution of supplies through our General Storehouse to the various institutions, which we think has worked to good advantage from every point of view.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, BLACKWELL'S ISLAND:

A teacher has been appointed to teach the children (about 40) of the Metropolitan Hospital and the Tuberculosis Division of said hospital.

These children are patients who are able to go about but are not well enough to be discharged. This is the first time that a teacher has been appointed for the children in the hospitals on Blackwell's Island, and I feel that it will be a great benefit to these children for many of them remain in the care of the Department for years. They are either deformed through tubercular diseases of the joints or other diseases which prevent them from attending school.

NEW CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL:

Opened May 18th. This is a hospital with a capacity for 100 patients with all the necessary adjunct buildings and equipment. It takes the place of the small emergency reception hospital that has been maintained for several years in a rented building at Coney Island where there was capacity for only about 8 patients. At the present time the new Coney Island Hospital has 60 patients and is rapidly filling up.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT 26th STREET PIER:

The gate-way to the Island hospitals and institutions to this Department is the Examining Physician's office at the foot of East 26th Street where last year 19,376 patients were examined. Here the patients congregate awaiting to be transferred to the respective hospitals, homes and asylums on Blackwell's and Randall's Island, and as there were only four boats per day as follows: 9:30, 10:30, 3, and 3:30 from this pier to the Island, there would often be a large crowd of patients waiting for the 3 o'clock boat with no nurse or attendant to look after them. All were sick and most of them poorly clad. A great many of these were transfer cases from Bellevue.

After I assumed office, I insisted that Bellevue Hospital should send a female nurse and a male attendant with all their transfer cases to stay with the patients until they were accepted by this Department aboard our boat.

The schedule of the boats has been so changed as to have a boat for patients leave this pier every hour from 9 to 12 and 1:30 to 3:30 thereby relieving the long wait of the patients who might apply for treatment or relief just after the 10:30 boat had departed. This change has been of great benefit to the many suffering patients and has also greatly facilitated the work of our hospitals on Blackwell's Island as the patients now arrive hourly instead of formerly in two sections, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

NEW EMERGENCY HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE STATION, FOOT OF E. 70th STREET.

Permission has been obtained from the Dock Department to extend and remodel our waiting room at Foot of East 70th Street into a Reception hospital and Ambulance Station. Plans are being prepared now and we hope to have it in operation by the first of the year.

At present there is no public hospital on the East Side of Manhattan, between Bellevue at 26th Street and Harlem Hospital at 136th Street. The new Reception Hospital, Foot of East 70th Street will be a great benefit to this large section of the City, for from this point the patients can easily be transferred to the two large hospitals on Blackwell's Island, where heretofore there has been admitted by transfer from Bellevue Hospital, mostly convalescent or chronic cases.

With this admitting or Reception Hospital mentioned at East 70th Street, all classes of patients may be admitted direct to the Island Hospitals, as we will maintain an ambulance service and there is now a half hourly boat service from this point to the Island. The patients themselves will thus be benefitted, for they can be sent directly to the Island hospitals where they may stay until thoroughly well- instead of at present, most of the patients who go to Bellevue are transferred to the Island via 26th Street to convalesce, and sometimes they are sent from Bellevue too soon, but Bellevue is a large emergency hospital and must have room for the more acute cases as they arrive.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL BILLS:

On April 11, 1910 I directed that our Medical Examiners visit every private hospital in the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx having patients as City charges, with a view of determining if the patients they had on their bills were really being treated at these

hospitals. They so far have visited 28 hospitals, 4 reformatories, 3 maternity hospitals, 2 homes and 2 tuberculosis hospitals, with the result that many names were found carried on their bills but the patients themselves were not at the hospitals. These discrepancies were the result, no doubt, of the fact that some person at the respective hospitals had failed to notify the clerical force of the hospital when the patient had been discharged.

I am inclined to that view, rather than to the other view that might be taken, that the hospitals were purposely padding their bills in order to get more money from the City. However, the result of the investigation has been that many names have been stricken from the City bills.

NEW NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL AT THE CITY HOME,
BLACKWELL'S ISLAND:

Opened June 24th. This is a great benefit to the Department in relieving the congestion which has existed for years in the City Hospital and City Home.

This hospital is for chronic cases of nervous diseases and has accommodation for about 80 patients. This is something that the Department has been needing for years. The building was started last year but has just been completed.

FARM COLONY, STATEN ISLAND:

About seven years ago a sewage disposal system was installed at this institution. At that time there were only about 170 inmates while now there are over 400. The water supply was from wells. New wells were also driven to accommodate the additional inmates. This disposal system has become worn out and inadequate. I therefore, on May 24th, requested the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to issue corporate stock to the amount of \$84,200. to provide means for the construction of a sanitary sewer trunk line from the Pierhead line at the foot of Nicholas Avenue to the Richmond Turnpike on Willowbrook Road and from that point to the Farm Colony Road, at its intersection with the Port Richmond Road, for the exclusive use of the institutions of this Department in the Borough of Richmond. This request was granted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and approved of by the Board of Aldermen, but the matter was placed under the jurisdiction of the President of the Borough of Richmond. The work on the sewer line will proceed as soon as the Borough President's office is able to get out the specifications. This sewer is large enough to provide for the future growth of the Colony when it is intended that the Colony shall accommodate about 5000 inmates. The water supply of this Colony has been from wells but we were afraid these wells were being contaminated by the sewage owing to the Sewage Disposal Plant not being in thorough working order. I therefore took up the subject of supplying the Colony with water from the City mains. The Water Department has acceded to my request and are to extend their mains up to the Colony so that all these buildings will in the future be supplied with City water. The Water Department is at present preparing the plans and expect to award the contract for extending the water main in the near future.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE DEPARTMENT:

On June 13th I appointed the following as members of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Department:

Dr. Richard Kalish.
Dr. C. E. Quimby,
Dr. C. G. Child, Jr.
Dr. E. D. Klots,
Dr. A. L. Root,
Dr. W. F. Honan,
Mr. Rudolph Block,
Mr. N. Taylor Phillips,
Mr. Warren Leslie,
Dr. Royal S. Copeland.
Dr. C. F. Barber
Dr. Orlando S. Ritch.

These men are all deeply interested in the Department and I am sure their counsel will be of great advantage to me.

HELP IN INSTITUTIONS:

We are allowed about 2370 positions. There are, in addition to these positions, 427 unpaid help about the institutions. To keep these 2370 positions filled it required during 1909, 8749 actions; that is, appointments, promotions, resignations, transfers, dismissals and reductions. At least 75% of these changes occur in the positions paying from \$5. to \$20. per month. This condition cannot be remedied until more money is appropriated for these lower grades. This explains why we cannot make a saving in our salary appropriations.

July 19/10

W. to Changes ^{new}
improvements

taken place since

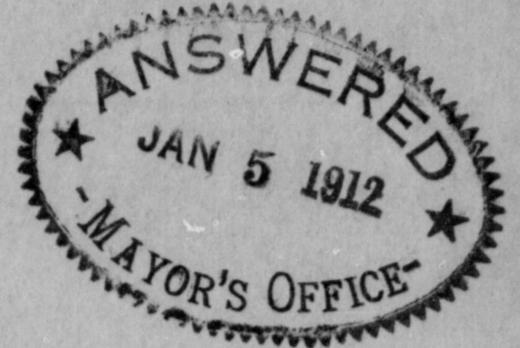
Jan 1/1910

WILLIAM LUSTGARTEN
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

68 WILLIAM STREET

NEW YORK January 4, 1912

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
City Hall,
New York, N. Y.



My dear Judge:

We spend millions of dollars in private and public charities for the maintenance of our derelicts; I have often wondered are all the poor in New York, are all the derelicts, the tramps, the broken-down men produced by New York, and if not, why should New York keep on supporting the riff-raff of every city and town of the country as it appears to be doing now?

The immigration laws permit us to deport undesirable citizens within three years after their arrival in this country; In this way, protecting us from the foreign and criminal class. Every time calamity howlers talk of our bread lines and of how this town is infested with criminals and how much charity we are doing every year, it only attracts others of the same type from all over the United States to our city. Ought not the other cities and towns from which these men are recruited be compelled to take care of their own poor and their own tramps and be compelled to provide for them.

Our city is becoming more and more every day like a big club or organization. It is too much to expect the city to support its own poor and its own unfortunates and in addition have the other cities throw the support of their derelicts upon us.

The city is infested just now with a lot of panhandlers, plain tramps or bums as we might call them. It is not enough to have the police pick them up and have them committed to the city jail; some systematic effort ought to be made to return them to the place from which they came and have their home communities take care of them. While, personally, I believe the community owes the individual an opportunity to earn an honest livelihood, under the most scientific system of exact justice we will always have our dipsomaniacs, drug fiends and

WILLIAM LUSTGARTEN
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

68 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

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Jan. 4, 1912

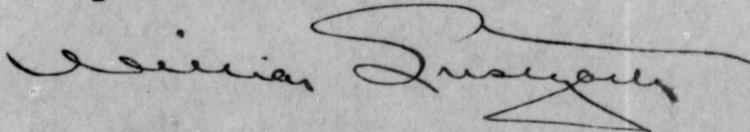
shiftless class. It is not right to ask one community such as the City of New York- as rich as it may be - to shoulder the load of the entire country. I am sorry for the man that is down and out and I want to help him, but have we not enough of our own to help of this kind?

You, undoubtedly, have addressed yourself to this phase of our city life. Don't you think something ought to be done to remedy conditions? The duties of charity and correction commissioners ought not to be merely to act as city almoners and keepers of jails, but to investigate conditions that make charities and make bums and tramps possible and to suggest some such remedial legislation as will eventually make the posts of charities and correction commissioners unnecessary. They ought to make it their business to ascertain where the persons committed to their care come from and make some effort to return them to those places and have those communities maintain them and not permit them to be incessantly preying upon us.

This is a big problem and ought to be tackled at once. I know of no one more competent to do it than you.

If I can be of any service to you in such an investigation of existing conditions as will undoubtedly become necessary before a remedy can be suggested, I shall be pleased to help.

Respectfully yours,



AML/

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MAYOR:

From William Lustgarten, who asks why New York City should go on supporting the riff raff of every other city, as it appears to be doing now. The immigration laws, he says, permit the city to deport undesirable citizens within three years. He thinks the cities and towns from which these people come should be prepared to take care of their own poor and their own tramps and bums, and that some systematic effort should be made to return them to the places from which they come.

R. A.

August 8, 1910.k

Dear Sirs:

In answer to your letter of July 15th, requesting that when the investigation into the charitable institutions of the city which is now being made shall have been finished opportunity be given to answer any charges that may be the result before the matter be made public, I beg to say that I shall try to have that course taken, but I have to inform you that the Commissioner of Accounts has taken no part and is taking no part in the investigation upon my direction not to do so. Investigation is being carried on by the Comptroller's office. When he has finished I may take it up through the Commissioner of Accounts, but that may not be necessary. The Commissioner of Accounts did take some testimony with regard to a voucher which was revealed in an institution on Staten Island, but when this new investigation was inaugurated I instructed him to cease as I would prefer to conduct the investigation in my own way

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Charitable
Institutions
(finances) ✓

or in his way if we are to conduct it at all.

Very truly yours,

M. J. H. W.
Mayor.

Edward M. Grout, Morgan J. O'Brien,
Eugene A. Philbin and Geo. W. McGoldrick, Esquires,
111, Broadway, Manhattan.

August 8, 1910.k

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Very truly yours,

W. H. Wood
Mayor.

August 8, 1910.k

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Very truly yours,

W. H. Taylor
M a y o r.

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or in his way if we are to conduct it at all.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Gaynor
M a y o r.

Edward M. Grout, Morgan J. O'Brien,
Eugene A. Philbin and Geo. W. McGoldrick, Esquires,
111, Broadway, Manhattan.

-2-

A. C. MAC NULTY
LAWYER

27 WILLIAM STREET

TELEPHONE: BROAD 3494.

NEW YORK October 27, 1910.

Hon. W. J. Gaynor,
Board of Estimate, City.

Dear Sir :

The items for charitable institutions and purposes in the tentative budget, aggregating \$4,734,252., are apparently open to attack as unconstitutional, if the proposed payments are based upon the mandatory provisions of §230 of the Charter.

The Constitution (article viii, §14) provides that the Legislature may authorize but shall not require municipal corporations to make appropriations to charitable institutions, under private control.

I call attention to this matter in the interest of the helpless inmates of institutions who are supported in whole or in part by the City. A tax-payer's action is liable at any time to result in stopping payments on appropriations to such institutions, if such appropriations are based upon provisions of the Charter which are apparently mandatory, and, therefore, unconstitutional.

The last paragraph of §230 of the Charter gives your Board the broadest discretion as to charitable appropriations, and I suggest that the City's benefactions be based upon that paragraph rather than upon the mandatory provisions which precede it, in order to avoid any possible controversy .

Very respectfully,

A. C. Mac Nulty,

ACM/M



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET,

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES, FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY."

MICHAEL J. DRUMMOND,
COMMISSIONER

FRANK J. GOODWIN,
1ST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

THOMAS L. FOGARTY,
2ND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

J. MCKEE BORDEN,
SECRETARY.

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

Personal.

August 1, 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor,
City Hall,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

Enclosed please find copy of the opinion of the Corporation Counsel bearing on the relation existing between the City and the Private Charitable Institutions to which indigent children are committed. This is a very important opinion and its effect will be far-reaching. In any event, it should put an end to the annoyances to which some of our Private Charitable Institutions have been submitted during the past year.

Respectfully yours,

M. J. Drummond
Commissioner.

(Enclosure)

Aug 1/1911

Copy of opinion
from Corp Council
bet City and the
Charitable institutions

(Source)

Subpoena No. 1

Comptroller

BOOK RETURNED BY THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York, November 24, 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor, Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

We have the honor to hand you herewith, as a member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, a copy of a communication sent this day to Hon. William A. Prendergast, Comptroller, in relation to the proposed conditions governing payments to charitable institutions included in the Budget recently transmitted to the Board of Aldermen.

Very respectfully yours,

Edward W. Trout
Morgan Johnson
Gene A. Philbin
Michael F. McLeod

(Enclosure)

New York, November 24, 1911.

Hon. William A. Prendergast, Comptroller,
New York City.

Sir:-

The "City Record" of the 6th instant contains the budget for 1912, as transmitted to the Board of Aldermen by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and under the heading "Conditions governing payments to Charitable Institutions" appears what purports to be certain regulations concerning appropriations for the coming year to charitable institutions and the requirements that will be exacted from the latter as conditions precedent to the receipt of public moneys from the City. We understand that such regulations were formulated by you, or under your direction. No opportunity has been given to the institutions to be heard as to the terms so proposed to be imposed, and we now, on behalf of the Catholic charitable institutions, beg to inform you that they protest against the insistence upon certain of such requirements, and will be unable to receive dependents of the City if such requirements are made a condition for the receipt of moneys as compensation for the care, education, and maintenance of such dependents.

This attitude was made clear to you under the express authority of the Most Reverend Archbishop and the Right Reverend Bishop in a communication to you under date of the 16th of March last, and to which no reply has ever been received. In order that, if possible, the position taken by the Catholic Church may

be made more explicit, we beg to state that the right of the properly constituted authorities to make the most thorough enquiry as to the correctness of the bills rendered by the institutions against the City and as to the proper administration of all affairs concerning the moral, mental, and physical care of the wards of the City committed to the care of these institutions, is not questioned for a moment, and every facility will always be granted to make such examinations as may adequately accomplish such purposes.

It is with equal force asserted, however, that you are not to be permitted to enquire into the affairs of Catholic institutions not connected with the performance of the duty assumed by them in relation to such dependents, nor do we believe that any reasonable person would hold for a moment that such investigations as the City has a right to make would involve the broad demands made by you regarding the finances of the institutions, or permit your examiners to enquire into most private affairs, as for illustration, to ascertain the names of those who, moved by charity, may give money to our institutions, and the names of the reverend sisters and the amounts contributed by them, wherever the circumstances permitted, upon entering the Order. The same view would apply also to the disbursement of moneys received from private sources for the ordinary expenses of the sisters, such as the purchase of clothing and other necessaries of life relating entirely to themselves and not connected in any way with the moneys received from the City.

The attitude so taken on behalf of the institutions is not only sustained in reason, but also in law as appears by the opinion of the Corporation Counsel as contained in a letter written

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MAYOR:

V

From Edward M. Grout, Morgan J. O'Brien, Eugene A. Philbin and Michael F. McGoldrick, , enclosing copy of a communication they have addressed to Comptroller Prendergast concerning proposed conditions governing payments to charitable institutions in the 1912 budget. This communication concedes the right of the city authorities to enquire into the correctness of the bills rendered by the institutions against the city and as to the proper administration of all affairs as to the moral, mental and physical care of the wards of the city committed to these institutions, but asserts that enquiry cannot be made into the private affairs of Catholic institutions not connected with the performance of the duty assumed by them in relation to these dependents, which is the position taken also by the Corporation Counsel, who is of the opinion that these institutions are not the recipients of any subsidy or benefaction from the city, but that the money which they receive is compensation for services performed.

✓ x

.....
CITY OF NEW YORK, ss:
.....

Sister Francis Ignatius Supt. and Treas.
.....

of said city, being duly sworn, says she is the *Treasurer*
..... of *Seton Hospital*
.....
in the city of New York; that all patients who are now
charged against the city of New York, and all those who
have been charged, have been properly accepted by the
Department of Public Charities, and are and have been
proper charges.

Also, that she is familiar with the Rule of
the Department of Finance regarding payments to institutions
on account of board of patients who are charged against the
city, viz: that any moneys so received shall be deducted
from the amount of the city bill.

Also, that any moneys so received have been
properly deducted from city bills, and that no patients
paying board of seven (\$7.00) dollars per week or over have
ever been charged as city patients; and if lesser payments
were made to the Hospital on account of board by patients
charged against the city, the amounts have been deducted as
aforesaid.

Sister Francis Ignatius Supt.
.....

Sworn to before me this *17th* day of *May*, 1912.

Joseph L. Cunningham
.....
Com. of Recds New York City No. 18.



Department of Finance
City of New York

William A. Brendergast, Comptroller

May 20, 1912.

Honorable William J. Gaynor,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

With this I am returning to you Mrs. Gillmore's letter of May 13, 1912, in which she charges that the city discriminates in favor of Roman Catholic institutions. Mrs. Gillmore cites as the reasons for her belief certain conditions prevailing in Seton Hospital, a Catholic institution, and the House of Rest at Inwood, a Protestant institution. This matter has had my careful personal attention and I now wish to give you the following explanation:

Every applicant for admission to Seton Hospital as a city patient must first apply at the Tuberculosis Clinic, under the joint supervision of the Departments of Health and Charities, and undergo a physical examination to determine his eligibility as a patient for a consumptive hospital. A thorough investigation is then made by the Department of Public Charities as to the financial condition of the applicant, and if found able to pay as much as the per capita rate allowed by the city, he is promptly rejected as a city charge. If after investigation it is found that the applicant or his relatives are unable to pay, he is then, and not until then, considered a proper public charge and is sent to the hospital as such.

The Department of Public Charities does not stop here but follows up the relatives of the patient in each case and endeavors to collect as much as possible toward the board of the patient while a city charge. Amounts so collected are refunded to the city. Only \$83.29 has been collected in this way for patients at Seton Hospital during the last sixteen months.

Any moneys paid at the hospital on account of board for city patients must be credited on the city bills, and a statement that such moneys are credited forms a part of the affidavits sworn to by the sister in charge and attached to the monthly bill rendered to the city, and without which the bill cannot be paid. During the

past sixteen months only \$10.00 has been collected at the hospital from city patients, and this amount has been duly credited on the bills. Not only is this done but care is taken by the hospital to deduct from city bills the one or two days that a patient may be temporarily absent during the month.

In order that the position of Seton Hospital upon this question should be made a matter of official record, I have secured and herewith enclose an affidavit prepared by Sister Frances Ignatius, Superintendent and Treasurer, bearing date of May 17, 1912.

Mrs. Gillmore calls attention in her letter to the small percentage of "free cases" treated at the hospital, as shown in the Annual Report, and seems to think that all the other patients, including city charges, are paying the hospital \$7.00 per week or more. She obtains this idea evidently from the statement in the report that "the amount received from the City of New York..... is part payment, per capita, for the care of patients", and believes that the patients pay the other part. The fact that the hospital is anxious to convey is that the cost of maintenance above the amount paid by the patients is borne, not by the patients, but by the hospital. It is true that ward patients who are able to pay are charged \$7.00 per week, but these are never charged against the city.

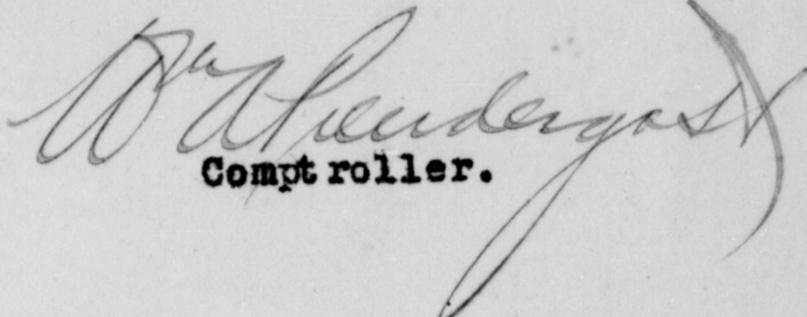
Mrs. Gillmore says the House of Rest, a Protestant institution at Inwood, receives nothing from the city for its free patients, a number of whom are of the Catholic faith. The House of Rest has never made application for city aid, and presumably is not seeking it. This is so with many other institutions, including Catholic, Jewish and Protestant. An institution, in order to be placed in the City Budget, must desire city aid at least enough to ask for it, and certainly cannot be paid for city patients without first being placed in the Budget by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Since this institution has never sought payment for its free cases, the city can hardly be blamed for not paying for them, but if proper application is made there is no reason to suppose that it would not receive the same consideration as a worthy institution of any other faith. The city does not discriminate in favor of any institutions. At the present time the institutions receiving city aid number as follows:

Protestant.....97 Catholic.....43 Jewish.....17

It is true, however, that the amount of money paid to Catholic institutions is larger in the gross than the amount paid to either Protestant or Jewish institutions. This is due to the fact that Catholics have the largest number of large institutions. They care for the largest number of patients and it is only because they are rendering this actual service that they receive more city money.

Believe me,

Very truly yours,


Comptroller.