

HOW GUILFORD COUNTY GOT HER TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM

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(Read before Third Annual Tuberculosis Conference at Durham, October 31st, 1923.)

Guilford County's Tuberculosis Hospital is now nearing completion, and we are justly proud of it, for it represents years of long and patient building. Its real cornerstone was laid in 1915, when a small volunteer charity organization was presented with a check for \$45 realized from the sale of seals. With this paltry sum to our credit in the bank, and with the charge of a young girl destitute and in need of treatment at Sanatorium, began the first active tuberculosis work in Greensboro. We didn't save that girl—she had gone too far—but it was the beginning of our relief work, which gradually developed into tuberculosis relief work almost exclusively, as we realized the need and the opportunity.

This work we financed by appeals to business men, to fraternal organizations, and our colleges and churches. We offered the public each year a statement of our budget showing how these funds were expended, and we won the confidence and financial assistance of practically every business concern of the city. Then with each succeeding December, and its Christmas Seals, we aimed at a higher goal and reached it. Back of our work, and always ready with progressive ideas and advice, stood Dr. McBrayer, urging us on to greater effort.

In 1920 we used part of our seal money to purchase a cottage sanatorium, borrowing from the bank the amount necessary to complete the purchase price. In two years time we had paid off the entire indebtedness in addition to operating our tuberculosis home. This modest little institution proved a God-send until we were able to build our present county hospital.

In the three years of operation we have salvaged fifteen cases, who have been restored to working power. It has proved conclusively that it pays to start the fight on a small scale while working and striving for the larger project.

December 20, 1921, the election was called for our \$100,000 bond issue for a county sanatorium. The success, or failure, of a bond issue is determined before, not on election day, therefore look well to your plans. The preliminary campaign, if well planned and executed, will assure your success. Study your registration books with holy diligence, and see to it that every qualified voter registers, then any opponents may be converted before the election. Don't spare your advertising. A sympathetic and enthusiastic local press is certainly one of the strongest factors in the fight, but you can't expect them to give more than frequent and strong editorials as their contribution, yet you can't stop there. Advertise with such force and appeal that nobody shall fail to read and discuss the issue—full-page advertisements, I mean. This costs money, of course, but it pays to advertise your cause, and perhaps some generous-hearted citizen will take care of this necessary expense, which was Guilford's experience. Secure pledges of support from all civic and fraternal orders, your churches and women's organizations, cash in every phase of your community life.

Full credit is due the women of Guilford for their splendid work. They rallied a wonderful force at the polls, and it was largely due to their zeal that we showed a majority of fifteen hundred votes. In this election we had

the support and sympathy of our board of county commissioners, whose influence meant much. We also had the years of service of our faithful and efficient district nurse, familiarly known as "Mother Peck," and the "Good Samaritan of Elm Street," with results to show that the volunteer work in Guilford had been worth while and merited a co-operative county fight.

With the hospital assured, it then developed upon the volunteer workers in the fight to keep up a keen interest throughout the county, and create a feeling of pride in, and responsibility for, the success of the institution. Now that the doors are almost ready to be opened, we are preparing to wage a mighty warfare.

We are very fortunate indeed in having secured for our superintendent Dr. J. L. Spruill, with his experience and reputation in State clinical work. For the past two months he has been on the ground making an exhaustive survey of the county, and formulating definite plans of operation. Clinics have already been held in Greensboro and High Point, and will be extended throughout the entire county.

GUILFORD COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM

By DR. J. L. SPRUILL, SUPERINTENDENT

The Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium is the first institution built under the act of 1917, which authorized any county to build and maintain a tuberculosis hospital by bond issue and special tax.

It is a beautiful structure located on a hill overlooking highway number ten, ten miles from Greensboro and five from High Point, and is at present about completed, and will be formally opened January 1, 1924.

Its total cash value when finished and furnished will be about \$165,000, and will accommodate sixty patients without crowding. The building consists of a central or administration

The Medical Society has passed a resolution whereby every case of tuberculosis coming under their observation shall be reported to the county hospital. The health departments of both Greensboro and High Point have pledged their hearty co-operation to the same end. This makes the institution a clearing house for all tuberculosis work under the general supervision of Dr. Spruill. In the field work, Greensboro will maintain a whole-time tuberculosis nurse; in High Point the city nurse will stress the tuberculosis branch of her work for the coming year, and in the county at large another tuberculosis nurse will be employed.

Christmas Seals this year will be sold with a greater zest to aid in the National and State work, and for the local purpose of financing the relief, nutrition and other branches of field work not taken care of by our maintenance tax.

With the county's health organizations, community clubs and every available health force pressed into service, we are organizing for a dead-on-arrival fight against tuberculosis. Our weapon is the two-edged sword—Prevention and Cure.

building and two wings of two stories each, with a basement under the central.

The central building contains the main waiting room, business office, physicians' examination rooms, X-ray rooms, central charting and filing room, patients' living room, dining room (white and colored), kitchen, and staff dining room, all on the first floor. The second floor contains the physician's private apartment and the nurses' quarters. The basement is occupied by the boiler room, ice plant, sterilizing room, laundry and a number of store rooms. The drug room and laboratory are also located in the basement.