

A City Board of Health was created by the Legislature in 1870; it consists of the Mayor and four physicians, and has control over the Health Office and all the public charitable institutions of the city and county. From a small beginning the Health Department has grown into a very important branch of the city government. It controls appointments involving an expense to the city of several thousand dollars a month, and has a general oversight of all sanitary affairs.

The German Hospital is built upon a lot fronting one hundred and thirty-seven and one half feet on Brannan Street (near Third Street) and extending back two hundred and seventy-five feet. The main building is of brick, three stories high, facing the northwest, and occupies all the frontage except what is required for a wide carriageway. It was built in 1853; a wing was added in 1860, and a second one in 1869, so that the hospital can accommodate one hundred and thirty patients. The remaining portion of the grounds, equaling over one half the area, is laid out with grass plats and walks, and planted with trees. There are but two wards in the hospital, each containing ten beds; the remaining rooms being designed for one or two patients only. The hospital is under the control of the German General Benevolent Society, which now numbers over three thousand city members. The charges, which include medical attendance, are \$2 per day, with from 50 cents to \$1.50 extra for private rooms if they be desired. During the year 1875, the German Hospital received for treatment six hundred and eighty-two patients, the average number present being seventy-two. There were fifty-one deaths in the same period. The attending physicians are Drs. F. Von Loehr, J. Regensburger, A. Wilhelm, and W. F. Smith.

The French Hospital, or "Maison de Santé," is also under the charge of a society, the "Société Française de Bienfaisance Mutuelle," organized in 1851, and now having a membership of three thousand. The building is a large two-story brick structure, occupying the center of a hundred-vara (two hundred and seventy-five feet by two hundred and seventy-five) lot on Bryant Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, the remaining grounds being laid out in gardens and planted with trees. Originally, the hospital completed in 1859 was but one story in height. In 1869 a second story was added, increasing the capacity to the accommodation of one hundred and seventy patients. In 1875 there were admitted to this hospital eight hundred and forty-one patients, the weekly average number present being eighty-five. During the year there were seventy-eight deaths. The charges are \$2 per day for ward patients and \$3 for those desiring private rooms. Drs. Brigham and Hoffstetter are the Visiting Physicians, and Dr. E. Prevost is the apothecary.

One of the finest of the private hospitals is the St. Mary's Hospital, under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. It was erected in 1861 on a hundred-vara lot on the southwest corner of Bryant and First streets. The building is of brick, four stories high, and measures seventy-five feet by one hundred and fifty on the ground. The design is, when occasion shall require, to add to it a wing, which will double its present capacity. No hospital in this city excels this in interior arrangement. The ceilings are high, the halls broad, the rooms capacious, the ventilation and general adaptability to the purposes intended excellent. There are but one or two large wards, the majority being intended to accommodate from six to twelve patients; besides these there are a number of private rooms. In the wards and rooms there are beds for one hundred and eight patients. During the year the wards are often full. The average number of patients for the year 1875 was about ninety, and the total admissions for the year numbered eleven hundred and fourteen. In the same period one hundred and forty deaths occurred. Patients in the general wards are charged \$10 per week, those occupying private rooms \$20. Dr. James Murphy is Visiting Surgeon; Dr. J. D. Whitney, Visiting Physician, and Dr. C. G. Kenyon, Resident Physician.

In 1868 the Italian Benevolent Society erected a hospital for the use of its members and others. Two blocks, bounded by Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Noe, and Castro streets had been secured, and afford a most admirable site. The building faces the east. It is of brick, two stories in height and contains beds for forty patients. A wing may be conveniently added should more room be required. During the first eleven months of 1872 there were admitted to this hospital two hundred and three patients, the average number present at any one time being over eighteen; and the number under treatment on the first of December, 1872, being about ten. For various reasons, perhaps as much because of its great distance from the central portion of the city as from any other cause, this hospital was closed toward the latter part of 1873; when it will again be open for patients is not known.

In 1853 the Government caused to be erected at Rincon Point a very large, four-story brick hospital, one of the finest buildings in the city at that time, and ever since, from its character and position, a prominent landmark. It was designed for eight hundred patients—sailors of the merchant and national marine—probably five time as many as were ever within its walls at one time. Until 1868 it continued to be used. In this year the severe earthquake further impaired a foundation already rendered insecure by extensive grading, which had left the hospital perched upon a high embankment, and it was vacated. After numerous removals and vicissitudes, the patients at last secured a home in the building formerly occupied as the asylum for the deaf, dumb, and blind, on the corner of Mission and Fifteenth streets. The buildings, two in number, were four stories high, of brick, and perhaps as suitable for a hospital as buildings converted to such purposes generally are. They were probably the best accommo-