

HOSPITAL FOR COLORED PEOPLE.

Auspicious Beginning of the Provident Hospital—The Medical Staff.

White people have been trying to wipe out the color line for years, but it has come to be the privilege of the colored folks of Chicago to make the opening attack on race discrimination. The first patient of the new Provident Hospital will be an Irishman.

Before last night the colored people had no place here where they could send their sick ones to be built up by doctors of their own race and where young colored women could be trained for nurses. The other hospitals may pretend to receive all the sick and the maimed that come to them, but dark patients and white nurses have never been found who will establish themselves on terms of mutual good-will. Knowing this Dr. Daniel H. Williams, the oldest colored medical man in Chicago, conceived the idea of starting a hospital for his race several years ago. It was originally intended exclusively for the colored, but out of the idea has grown the Provident Hospital, which has taken down the barriers and will admit every one who has a claim to the attention of a physician.

The hospital is in the three-story brick building at the southwest corner of Dearborn and Twenty-ninth streets. It was opened last night with singing and speeches, and the cozy rooms for the patients were examined by a crowd that made difficult any attempt to move rapidly from place to place. Nearly all the prominent colored people of the city were present during the evening.

The opening address was delivered by Dr. J. T. Jenifer of Quinn's Chapel, who called special attention to the fact that the color line had been disregarded in the plans of the hospital.

He was followed by the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, who congratulated the colored people on the excellent direction their charitable purposes had taken. It was a step toward the goal of the highest good will toward their fellow-men that they had taken.

To heal the sick and comfort the afflicted had been the great objects of the lives of noble men in all times and the colored people of Chicago were to be commended for joining, independent of the older organizations, the crusade against the terrors of sickness.

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Magee and Frank A. Dennison made short addresses in the same vein, and the audience joined in singing hymns before dispersing.

The hospital has a small beginning, but it is well backed with money and professional skill, and its founders say they hope to make it one of the foremost among institutions of the kind in Chicago. Twelve cots, established by private subscription and by the contributions of the colored people's churches, are ready for patients. Two nurses in the day and two at night will assist Mrs. Anna Felton in the management of the house. The medical staff consists of Drs. Ralph N. Isham and Daniel H. Williams, surgeons; Frank Billings, physician; Henry T. Byford and A. A. Weeley, gynecologists; W. W. Jaggard, obstetrician; F. A. Lawther and G. C. Hall, children's department; M. G. Crissup, dental surgery; Horace M. Starkey, oculist and aurist; Stanley M. Black, pathologist; D. A. M. Curtis, house physician and superintendent of the training school.

The Rt. Rev. John M. Brown is President, Richard M. Hancock Vice-President, John T. Jenifer Treasurer, Louis H. Reynolds Secretary, and Lloyd G. Wheeler Auditor. The Advisory Board consists of Judge Walter Q. Gresham, the Rev. Frank W. Gunsaulus, Dr. R. N. Isham, Mrs. C. B. Lawrence, Norman Williams, Dr. Frank O. Johnson, Mrs. J. J. Glessner, and Mrs. Stella Dyer Loring.