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THE NEW HOSPITAL.

The progressive spirit of Columbia's best citizens continues to make itself felt. At 7:30 o'clock on Tuesday evening, January 11, at the court house, the new hospital idea burst forth from beneath the crusts of the hitherto inaction when Mayor Norvell called a large and enthusiastic house to order.

Pursuant to a call by Dr. W. A. McAlester, these citizens came together to formulate ways and means of instituting this much needed hospital in Columbia. Mayor Norvell was made permanent chairman, and Dr. R. L. Reid was chosen secretary of the meeting. Business began at once in an earnest and determined fashion.

Dr. McAlester was called to the floor to



DR. A. W. McALESTER.

state the object of the meeting and set the ball rolling. He stated briefly that the object of the meeting was to get an expression from the citizens of Columbia and Boone county relative to this great question of erecting a hospital in Columbia. Then in a forceful way he reviewed the institution of hospitals in the past, showed how they had been hotbeds of disease, and thus became an opprobrium to the communities in which they existed. "But old things had passed away, and all things had become new." This state of affairs no longer exists. Scientific medicine now demands this home for the sick where the best results in the treatment of disease can now be ob-

tained. Among other things he said the 30,000 people of Boone county should organize and sustain this hospital on the broad basis of equality to her citizens. Faithfully and logically he presented its claims, by showing how the cost of treatment would be minimized to our citizens; how it would furnish the best of talent, and how the environment and proximity to the University and colleges argued greater success than do the city hospitals where the bustle and stir and costly accommodations militate against the end to be obtained, viz., the best treatment at a minimized cost to our citizens. He then closed his remarks by an appeal to the citizens of Columbia and Boone county to constitute themselves committees of one to carry forward the plan of organization.

Dr. W. T. Moore then responded with an excellent speech, in which he said: "This subject appeals to all, 'Whosoever sows liberally, reaps liberally.'" Then he made the bulk of his argument cluster around two points from Drummond's "Ascent of Man," viz., struggling for our own lives, and struggling for the lives of others. He showed conclusively that benevolence is the highest form of self interest, admonished the old bachelors to put their money into this enterprise, which he considered the next best thing to getting married. He showed beyond question the necessity of such an institution in connection with the medical department of our University, and expressed faith in the public spirit of our citizens in the promotion of such work.

Dr. Paul Schweitzer followed in his clear, logical way, in which he discussed the feasibility, cost, and humane aspect of the question under consideration. He referred to the fact that our money spent on such institutions would be spent at home. The number of medical students would be increased, as our theoretical and laboratory advantages here already offer superior advantages in many respects to other medical institutions in Missouri and elsewhere. He said that brick and mortar alone were not the requirements, but that skill, intelligence and heart were needed and could be found in our midst. Under the humane aspect of his speech, he was convincing in his argument that certain diseases could not be safely treated in our homes, and that the speedy,

painless treatment of the hospital, under the strict eye of antiseptic precautions, meant safety to ourselves and to those around us.

Rev. Winders discussed the question briefly as to the point of increase in the number of college and university students, and claimed that the greatest advertisement given such an institution would emanate through those channels.

W. A. Bright then addressed the chair, and called for the opening of the subscription lists, an evidence of the spirited enthusiasm which is bound to erect this much needed institution.

Walter Williams then sanctioned Mr. Bright's suggestion.

Col. Hickman and Dr. Hatcher made



DR. WOODSON MOSS.

good speeches and added much good humor to the occasion.

During the meeting Dr. McAlester received a letter from E. W. Stephens who was unable to be present. The letter as read will appear at the close of this article. Dr. Moss then moved that a committee of seven be appointed, of whom the mayor was to be one, and endowed with power to appoint sub-committees, and the duty of which was to formulate plans relative to cost and management of proposed hospital. The motion was seconded and carried, after which Mayor Norvell appointed the following committee: Dr. A. W. McAlester, W.

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