

OREGON CITY HOSPITAL

The establishment of the Oregon City Hospital embodies the story of woman's splendid courage and confidence, in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles. For every branch of manual work required for the fitting up of the old hospital on Dimick street and known as the "Wildwood" hospital was done by the three women who engendered the idea. These women are Mrs. M. B. Mesny, Miss E. V. Parks and Miss S. R. Bailey. The painting, papering, lighting and actual carpenter work was done by these founders of the hospital without support from the citizens and business men.

These women decided that they would go ahead and establish a hospital themselves, there being a crying need for such a public institution here. And they did. They put their own muscle and brains and enthusiasm into their work. It would succeed. It must be an accomplished fact. This was in April, 1911, when the idea was broached. After a short time the public began to realize that three women, recently arrived from the East, were doing for the city what its own citizens had not done.

It was not long before "Wildwood" hospital had fourteen patients and the first month after it was formally opened to the public there was a revenue of \$350. Surely this was a grand showing but the people had said "Go ahead and show us" and they were being shown. The hospital was then occupying but five rooms on the lower floor and tents supplied ample protection for many patients out-of-doors. The upper part of the hospital building was a mere unfinished attic. These brave women with their own hands partitioned it off into a ward and two private rooms, doing the papering and finishing themselves. The quarters were not satisfactory and it was only after a discouraging search of three weeks that even this location could be secured. But, as Mrs. Mesny says: "We would have started in a tent if we had been compelled to," and the hospital was started.

For seven months these quarters were occupied by the struggling little hospital and then interest began to be shown by some of Oregon City's

public spirited citizens. It is due primarily to the women for the establishment of the hospital but to several well known local men of this city and Miss Bailey's father, J. W. Bailey, of Montana, who gave substantial financial assistance, credit is given for making it possible to move to the excellent site at Washington and Tenth streets. These men lent their aid and money to the project and it was not long before the company was incorporated under the name of Oregon City Hospital. The officers are Mrs. M. B. Mesny, president; Miss E. V. Parks, vice-president, and Miss S. R. Bailey,

The building is three stories in height and on the western exposure there are three tiers of porches twelve feet in width and protected from the elements for the use of convalescents. There are seven private rooms, one large men's ward, one large women's ward, one women's surgical ward, reception hall and office.

There is an efficient elevator service and the entire building is furnace heated. The rooms and wards are electric lighted, the wiring and placing of the fixtures being done by Mrs. Mesny and her associates. The Oregon City Woolen Mills furnished free



secretary-treasurer and manager of the domestic government.

It was after incorporation that bonds were offered the citizens and the response was unanimous among the progressive element, for it was only a short time after, that \$7,000 had been raised and the new hospital site and building purchased and stands today free of debt. So it happens that in the short space of eight months Oregon City boasts of a finely fitted hospital, due to the pluck of three enterprising women.

The Oregon City Hospital is situated upon an eminence overlooking the Willamette river and commands an excellent view of the lovely vista of hills and valleys in the distance. It rests snugly in a grove of sheltering trees and enjoys the health-giving qualities of the fresh air of the heights.

of charge an entire wagon load of fine quality blankets.

The surgical and obstetrical departments are under the direct supervision of Mrs. Mesny while Miss Parks is in charge of the medical and children's sections. A training school for nurses is even at this early date in operation and the entire hospital is thoroughly equipped for all branches of surgery, both major and minor cases.

There will be no regular attending physician, the hospital being open to all practitioners. Dr. E. A. Sommer, the well known physician of Portland, will operate here. Both Mrs. Mesny and Miss Parks are registered nurses and are graduates from the Illinois Training School at Chicago, than which there is none on a higher plane of efficiency in the United States.