

**BELLEVUE HOSPITAL –
A CHRONOLOGY OF INTERESTING EVENTS, 1862-2000 –
AS REPORTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.**

Compiled and Edited by Phillip W. Weiss

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Sobriety” (page 136)**

April 27, 1862, page 2 – “Bellevue Hospital. Improved
 Conditions of Its Wards – Preparations going on for the
 Reception of Military Patients, etc., etc.”

A stroll of inspection in and about Bellevue Hospital is not now what it was short years ago, when the *ten governors* held sway and rats ran riot through its wards seeking whom they might devour, occasionally concentrating over a pauper baby for a midnight lunch, thus emulating their regal co-conspirators who recognized faint difference in value between a rat and a brat; and regarding the unconscious mother upon all too narrow couch whence their feast has just fallen, as only a pauper whom nobody owns, regaled themselves upon her offspring's tender flesh and yet quivering muscles. These things have given place, and with functionaries dethroned abuses have been abolished and vermin taught to feed on less congenial diet, viz: poison, which has so disgusted them with the present administration that they have left for parts unknown.

To the left and beyond the lodge are some new and neat apartments, where island convicts arriving too late for the boat are kept over night. To the right of the yard as you pass these is the “Dead House,” now hidden from view by the pretty new building of the “College.” Piles and stacks of rude red coffins loom on every side as one enters the dismal confines, but the cheerful “keeper” enlarges upon the merits of his domain to an extent that dispels the first repulsion. Here on the granite floors of two grim apartments are laid the street-found dead for recognition by their friends; or, a guilty thing forgotten and an outcast is brought and taken thence without a sigh of regret from any fellow-creature. A step to the windward brings a person in possession of the fact that researches of anatomical science progress in this vicinity; in short, that of the dissecting room, though not apparent, to the eye, is eminently so to the olfactories, and the intruder is inspired at once with a desire to abbreviate his experience in that locality and departs, accompanied, however, by the *cheerful keeper*, who would not upon any account have you miss the delightful *mélange* of the “Museum,” where the descriptive talent fairly launches forth, dwelling now upon this fearful array of false teeth, grinding from a digestive membrane where they had lodged, now carefully preserved in alcohol, after having caused the death of a wretched *delirium tremens* patient, who raved to the last that he had swallowed his teeth, but nobody believed him. Again the cheerful keeper, with scientific ignoring of any morbid sensibility, would direct attention to this terrible freak of nature, in the birth of a child with no neck or brain; and another, “from a private lady outside, six fingers and six toes per feet.” Yet further on was to be admired the beautiful state of preservation of the head of a Frenchman “what blowed his brains out,

skinned his face dried on natural; hole in the forehead where the ball went through just the same; whiskers all there, eyes dropped in." The object which seemed to be most foreign to any hold upon the cheerful keeper's regrets, and, in fact, called for little sympathetic memory from any lawfully-inclined citizen, was contained in a jar which he held aloft with as wavering motion, the undulating alcohol carrying with it the resistless specimen suspended from the stopper, which was described as "The spine of the back where a man was shot dead as he was crossing Harlem bridge, after stealing turkeys in the night."

The expression of the cheerful keeper's countenance, as he replaced the jar upon the shelf, if it did not say "served him just right," at least plainly told that other characters were more missed than turkey thieves.

The College Lecture Room just over the Museum is finely adapted to its use, and lectures are delivered during the course every hour from 9 o'clock in the morning till 6 P.M. It would appear from certain indications about the hall, that some of the young disciples of Esculapius are negligent of their advantages, preferring rather to distract attention from the dignified Faculty, by causing to snap and rattle the gaunt forms of skeletons hung by wires about the room, and even going so far as to insert short pipes between the stiff jaws of such scientific preservations. Passing across the grounds we come to the main hospital building – first, the reception room for patients, where their clothes are taken in charge and clean hospital uniform substituted, as it has been found necessary to abolish the former custom of allowing wardrobes from City dwellings to be retained by the patients in the wards, which frequently resulted in the spread of infection and filth. Now, they are at once washed and ticketed, if worth keeping, if not, they are burned and others provided for the recovered patient. The unclaimed garments of those who die are thus disposed of to the destitute.

The Warden, with his efficient assistant, Mrs. Riddle, the matron, are now engaged in preparing certain of the wards for the returning sick and wounded of our army. For this purpose several well-ventilated wards are to be emptied, which makes a removal of the more chronic cases to the Island Hospital necessary. This removal is generally distasteful to the patients, for the grand and beautifully located building on the opposite shore has had, since its opening, an unfortunate class of assistants, which has rendered its wards dreaded by the sick, and a visit to it a thing not undertaken with any satisfaction, as a ticket from the Commissioners does not here, as at the other institutions, guarantee a polite reception. It is to be hoped, however, that under the auspices of Dr. Sayre and others of his class, who make the surgical rounds of the two hospitals a circumstance hailed with welcome by the patients, and a tour fraught with instruction and interest to the favored visitor, that the wards of the Island Hospital may soon be regulated as becomes an institution so nobly planned and generously supported.

June 9 1873, page 4 – “Bellevue as a Hospital.”

In considering the propriety of taking the Bellevue property for prison purposes, it must first be determined whether it is now fit, or can long be available, for the hospital uses to which it has been devoted for so many years.

To uproot this time-honored refuge for the indigent sick merely to obtain a site for a prison, could not be defended. But if it shall appear that Bellevue is no longer a credit to the city, but has become in fact a charnel-house instead of a hospital, a decent regard for the commonest claims of humanity demands its instant demolition and that the ground be put to other uses.

If there is anything which is entirely beyond dispute, when examined in the light of competent testimony, it is that Bellevue is a disgrace to our city.

Infected at all times and in all parts with erysipelas, hospital gangrene, and other horrors, the buildings should not be occupied another day for the present purposes.

It is a matter of common notoriety that surgical cases are unusually fatal in Bellevue.

January 29, 1874, page 2 – “Bellevue Hospital Statistics.”

The report shows that on the 1st of January 1873, the number of patients in the hospital was 546; admissions during the year, 5,213; births, 498; total, 6,187; number of discharged, 4,636; there were 888 deaths during the year; total, 5,524.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgical Relief for the out-door poor afforded advice and assistance to 71,744 persons.

The Police cases brought to the hospital number 300, and the Coroners' cases amounted to 203.

August 8, 1874, page 8 – “Bellevue Hospital. The Changes in the Medical Board. The Causes of the Recent Reorganization – The Hospital and the College – Jealousy of Other Colleges.”

By their resolution, the Commissioners have ordained that the present Medical Board shall cease to exist on the 1st of September. The avowed cause for this is, as the Commissioners assert, an undue preponderance of members who are professors in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College; thus placing the representatives of the two other medical colleges of New York – the University College, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Twenty-third Street – at a disadvantage.

September 13, 1874, page 8 – “Warden Brennan’s Picnic. A Holiday for the Convalescents – Excursion to Hart’s Island, and Return.”

Shortly after 10 o’clock yesterday morning, the steamer Bellevue, in its best holiday attire, drew alongside the hospital dock at the foot of Twenty-sixth Street and East River, to take a load of convalescing patients on the second Warden Brennan picnic.

For the 350 patients on board, 350 pounds of meat, 350 quarts of milk and tea, 500 eggs, and endless quantities of sundries, such as crackers, cake, and apples, had been provided.

To break the ice two lady passengers and two young doctors took the head positions. A second quartet was raised with more difficulty; but at last two patients volunteered, and then the Warden, measuring six feet four, coaxed a little girl to dance with him. After this every one entered into the spirit of the thing, and the fun grew fast and furious.

February 22, 1880, page 12 – “A Hospital Outrage – Annie Brown’s Death – How They Treat Dead Bodies at Bellevue.”

The case of Annie Brown, the young married woman, who was taken to Bellevue Hospital on the 5th of January last, and whose hacked and disfigured body was discovered on the dissecting table of the Twenty-third-Street Medical College five weeks later, came up for investigation before the Charity Commissioners yesterday.

When Campbell arrived at the Morgue, a coarse pine box was pointed out to him as containing the body. He asked what had become of his handsome casket, but no one knew. The hospital people were

exceedingly anxious that he should not open the box; assured him that the sight would be repulsive; that there should be no doubt about identity; that the doctors who made the autopsy on Annie were ready to swear to the facts etc. Finding that the fireman was immovable, they reluctantly allowed the lid to be taken off, when instead of the “exhumed” body which had been promised, there appeared to be a shockingly mangled corpse, fresh from the dissecting room, the head gone, and the trunk hacked and disfigured almost beyond recognition.

May 13, 1882, page 8 - “A New Hospital Board. The Medical Staff of Bellevue to be Reorganized. Colleges Using the Hospital to be Equally Represented – The Number of Physicians Increased – The Change to be Made Next Week.”

At a meeting of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, held yesterday it was resolved to reorganize the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital. This action did not, however, originate with the Commissioners, but was taken at the instance of a number of medical gentlemen connected with the management of the hospital, prominent among whom were Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., and Dr. Lewis A. Sayre.

May 13, 1882, page 8 – “City and Suburban News”

In the account of the reorganization of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital Published in The Times of Saturday morning it was said that Dr. Charles Phelps and Dr. William C. Fluhrer were not members of the new board. Both of these gentlemen were, in fact, reappointed....

December 17, 1882, page 4 – “Training School for Nurses. An Appeal from The Medical Board for Financial Aid.”

The Training School for Nurses at Bellevue Hospital is in need of money to carry on its good work.

Two thousand five hundred dollars will educate a nurse in perpetuity, the donor having the yearly right to present an applicant for training. Could money return a better interest?

February 5, 1883, page 8 – “Murdered in a Hospital. A Man with Delerium Tremens Kills Another Patient in Bellevue.”

Michael Kellaheer, a tailor, of No. 352 East Ninth-street, was murdered yesterday morning in that part of Bellevue Hospital set apart for patients suffering from delirium tremens. The murderer was George Mahan, a powerfully built Irish machinist.

Mahan, after beating the life out of Kellaheer's body, turned on the other patients, who burst through a glass door and fled into the kitchen. Two of the kitchen hands, with the aid of a rope used as a lasso, succeeded in overpowering Mahan.

Mahan said in explanation of his attack on Kellaheer that he thought there was a conspiracy to kill him, and when he saw the men all armed with pistols, he took the first thing at hand to defend himself with.

February 9, 1883, page 8 – “A Distinguished Coroner's Jury.”

Coroner Merkle intends to take advantage of the opportunity offered by an inquest to be held to-day to make a thorough investigation into the management of the Alcoholic Ward of Bellevue Hospital. The inquest is in the case of Michael Kelleher, an inmate of that ward, who was killed on Sunday by George E. Mahan, a fellow-patient, who was crazy with delirium tremens. The Coroner wants to know how such a thing could happen if the delirious patients were properly watched, and he also wants to know if it is true that such inmates are not properly guarded and restrained.

February 14, 1883, page 14 – “Michael Kellaheer's Death.

Coroner Merkle's Distinguished Jury Renders a Verdict.”

Before any evidence had been taken Coroner Merkle said that the night orderly who was in charge when the murder occurred could not be found.

Warden O'Rourke testified that a paid man was never employed at night in the inebriate ward.

The Coroner did not blame the physician nor the Commissioners, but the subordinates in the institution.

September 4, 1884, page 5 – “Typhoid in Bellevue. The Hospital Reported To be in a Bad Sanitary Condition.”

Miss Tingley, a nurse, and Mr. Hebers Smith, an orderly at the hospital, have died within the past week of typhoid fever. In June last Dr. Williams, one of the physicians at the hospital died from a disease which was caused by the influx of sewer gas into his sleeping apartment.

Warden O'Rourke said to a Times reporter last evening that he considered the hospital in excellent sanitary condition. He thought the nurse and orderly contracted the disease from their careless handling of typhoid patients, of which there are a score under treatment. There is no plumbing inside the hospital except in the main building, where the Warden and his family live, and the sewers are all in towers outside the wards.

November 16, 1884, page 5 – “Bellevue in Early Days.

Foundation and Growth of the Great Charity Hospital. Originally an Almshouse, It Now Shelters and Either Kills or Cures Thousands Annually.”

But for a complete, connected story of the present hospital building from the day it was first opened, in 1816, until now, many dusty volumes of dreary and long-forgotten reports must be searched. Even these would be difficult to find. The Commissioners of Charities have not a complete set of their own reports, though the missing volumes may be consulted at the Astor or some other public library. Neither have the reports been continuous from year to year. The last one printed was in 1880, though a subsequent volume is now in the hands of the printer.

In those days no skillful, carefully trained nurses smoothed the pillows of the sick. They were cared for after a fashion by both male and female prisoners from the penitentiary, mostly rough and rude characters, the dregs of the worse element in a rapidly growing city. The majority of them, too, were foreigners. The patients always had one continuous grievance against the nurses. Whisky and spirits doled out in doses to the sick seldom reached their bedsides.

November 23, 1884, page 6 – “The Bellevue of Today. Sights in the Wards Of the Great Charity Hospital. Necessaries Abundant, Luxuries Scarce, and No Distinction of Color, Race, or Sect – Pastimes of the Sick.”

To look at the hospital from the outside one gets a very imperfect impression of the incessant suffering which goes on inside, or of the disciplined industry and routine which is constantly being exerted to relieve it.

All care is taken to exclude those morbidly curious and inquisitive people who seem to delight in looking upon all forms of human misery and suffering, and who will stand placidly by the bedside of the most pitiable or the most revolting cases without moving a muscle or shedding a tear.

It is not exaggerating to say that the 5,000 dead bodies brought to the Morgue every year are looked at by five times as many people, the majority of whom have no motive but idle curiosity.

Over the bed of a young woman suffering from pleurisy, with an undoubted prospect of recovery, was this, in letters 6 inches high: “Prepare to meet your God.”

The black man and the white man, the thief and the honest man, the virtuous woman and the woman who has fallen to the lowest depths of degradation, are treated side by side. No attention is paid to so-called classes, nationalities, or religion. All are served alike. None are too poor to be admitted. The dirtiest tramp that walks the street can get as good – oftentimes better – medical treatment as rich people who live in fine houses.

The Medical Board, who have exclusive control of the medical and surgical departments of the hospital, is composed of some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons in this city.

November 20, 1884, page 2 – “The History of Bellevue.” [Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of the New York Times:

In your issue of to-day I notice the article headed "Bellevue in Early Days" in which a correspondent asks where he can find a connected history of Bellevue Hospital. For a pretty full history of the growth of this institution and of the great medical college of the same name I can refer you to a book entitled "Contemporary Biography of Eminent Men of the State of New York," published by the Atlantic Publishing Company in 1878. In the article on the life of Dr. Isaac E. Taylor, of this city, who has been attending physician to Bellevue Hospital since 1851, and who is the founder of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, you will find all the facts and date you need. H.W. Mitchell, No. 747 Madison-Avenue, New York, Sunday Nov. 16, 1884.

August 27, 1885, page 5 – "No Epidemic at Bellevue."

The putting in of new pipes and other sanitary improvements made at Bellevue Hospital are not considered by the managers of that institution to have caused typhoid fever among the orderlies and nurses in the hospital.

January 15, 1886, page 2 – "Graduating Trained Nurses. Twenty-Four Graduates From the Bellevue School."

William E. Dodge presided and Dr. E. L. Keyes made the address to the graduates. It was on the obedience, courage, and honesty required of nurses. The annual report read shows that 244 graduates have left the school since the first class was graduated, 10 years ago. Of these only 5 have died, 22 are married, and 28 have responsible positions in hospitals as heads of training schools, matrons, and head nurses.

September 20, 1886, page 7 – "To Build a Bigger Jail. Some New Great Works of the Charities Commission. A Model Penitentiary, Farms for the Insane, Bellevue's Ventilation, and the Training School."

The Commissioners of Charities and Corrections, who have charge of the city's criminals, paupers, and sick, idiotic and insane persons, are preparing for some extensive and much-needed, improvements.

Another very important measure of reform that is now going to be immediately effected is the improvement of the sanitary conditions of Bellevue Hospital, by supplying that venerable institution with an effective heating and ventilation system. Twenty thousand dollars will be expended in putting in a system of air tubes, each containing an exhaust fan kept in constant motion by electricity.

Twenty years ago there was an appalling epidemic of mortality among the maternity cases in this hospital. The deaths reached as high as 60 and even 70 percent, among women confined here through septicemia or blood poisoning. It was almost a sentence of death to become a mother in that institution. The maternity department was then removed over to the Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, and sheltered temporarily in tents, subsequently in isolated pavilions, when the death rate suddenly dropped to almost nothing. Since then there have been no confinements in Bellevue Hospital.

September 28, 1887, page 8 – “Mrs. Townsend's Gift.”

The pavilion erected by Mrs. R. H. L. Townsend at Bellevue Hospital for the treatment of women suffering from ovarian tumors was yesterday formally presented to the city.

The cornerstone of the Townsend Cottage was laid last Easter Monday. It was designed by Mrs. Townsend as a thank offering for her deliverance from a serious illness.

Six hundred patients were regaled with ice cream and buns in honor of the day.

October 13, 1889, page 9 – “The Patient Died. A Badly-Injured Lad Carted From One Hospital to Another.”

A Chambers-Street Hospital ambulance arrived at Bellevue Hospital just before 6 o'clock Friday evening, and Dr. Wells, the ambulance surgeon, got two attendants to take the patient on the ambulance stretcher to the surgical ward.

At the Chambers-Street Hospital on the 9th, the patient vomited and was delirious. No explanation of his insubordination was given and Dr. [W.N.] MacArtney [chief of the first surgical division] did what he could for him, but [Elliot] Nixon died at 3:55 A.M. yesterday.

He was, Dr. [J.W.] Proctor [Chambers-Street Hospital House Surgeon] and Dr. Wells said, in excellent condition when removed or he would not have been transferred.

Dr. Proctor did not want to make any insinuations about Bellevue Hospital management, but he hoped that Dr. MacArtney at the inquest would be able to establish the fact that he saw Nixon soon after he arrived at the hospital.

October 14, 1889, page 5 – “Alexander Nixon’s Death. The Question of His Removal to be Investigated.”

The body of seventeen-year-old Alexander Nixon was taken to his distressed father’s home yesterday morning at about 8 o’clock. By order of Coroner Messemer, and at the request of Dr. W. N. MacArtney, chief of the first surgical division at Bellevue, an autopsy had been made on the body by Deputy Coroner Conway. The father, a porter in a Leonard-street woolen house, literally gasped when he learned of his boy’s death. He had not known of his removal to Bellevue.

Dr. Proctor, who was surprised to learn of the death, says Nixon was all right for removal.

October 18, 1889, page 8 – “Nobody Held Responsible.”

Coroner Messemer held an inquest yesterday in the case of Elliot Nixon, the lad who was run over at the corner of Vestry and Hudson streets on the evening of Oct. 7 by a car of the Grand-Street Crosstown line, and who died at Bellevue Hospital on the 12th.

In this case it was charged that the death of the boy was due to or was hastened by his removal on the 11th to Bellevue Hospital.

The jury gave a verdict exonerating the driver of the car from all blame and also said that no censure should be attached to the authorities of the Chambers-Street Hospital.

March 26, 1894 – “Bellevue College Graduates. Of the Eighty-nine Nearly All are New Yorkers – Winners of Places and Prizes – The Official List.”

Eighty-nine young men have passed the final examinations at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

April 3, 1894 – “Coroners Bitter Against Bellevue. Doctors, They Say, Are Disobliging and Have Often Been Uncivil.”

The ill-feeling which has for some time existed between the Board of Coroners and the officials of Bellevue Hospital was yesterday greatly intensified by the Acts of two physicians connected with the hospital. As a result, the Coroners declare they will force the hospital authorities to grant them what they consider to be their rights. It will be war, they say, to the end.

The hospital officials, it is claimed, have persistently shown a disposition to be unobliging, and have even been uncivil to the Corners when they have gone to the hospital on business.

After waiting at the Morgue for an hour for the surgeon’s reply [to a request for information about the death of Annie Ballaock], Dr. Donlin grew impatient and sent a second messenger after the surgeon. The messenger returned with the information that the surgeon was dining, and could not attend the matter then.

October 26, 1895 – “Say He Left a Child to Suffer. Police Claim that a Bellevue Ambulance Physician Refused to Dress an Injury When He Could Have Done So.”

Sergt. Saul claims that the doctor [Ambulance Surgeon Goodman] refused to take the lad [Samuel Lewis, eight years old] in the ambulance, and when he protested that it was an outrage to require a child in such a condition to walk to the hospital, when he might as well be treated on the spot, curtly told him that he was attending to the medical end of the case

and went away. The child's arm was bandaged at the station house, and he went home.

Dr. Goodman, when seen at the hospital, denied the Sergeant's statement.

At the hospital it was said that Dr. Goodman was a most humane and careful man.

January 28, 1896 – “Not All Vagrants, He Says. Why Men From Lodging House at Bellevue are Discharged. Magistrate Crane Declares They Should Not Be Sent to Workhouse Because They Sought a Night's Shelter.”

Two representatives of charity societies appeared before the board [The Board of Police Magistrates] to inquiry why persons sent from the lodging house at Bellevue Hospital to the courts as vagrants had been discharged recently.

March 3, 1896 – “Clothing for the Insane. Charities Commissioners Object To Making Provision. Dr. Macdonald Will Not Yield. He Refuses to Receive Three Patients in Manhattan State Hospital – Referred to Corporation Counsel.”

Three patients who had been adjudged insane and had been sent from the reception wards at Bellevue Hospital to the wharf to be transferred to Manhattan State Hospital were yesterday refused transportation by the orders of Dr. A. E. Macdonald, Superintendent of the hospital, because the Commissioners of Charities had failed to comply with the law in furnishing the patients with new clothing.

The Commissioners say that to furnish the clothing would entail a great and unnecessary expense upon the county, as they calculate that it would cost at least \$15 to equip each patient as required by the rules, and as an average of 225 patients is transferred every month, the cost would be large, and they have no funds at their disposal to meet this outlay.

March 3, 1896, page 7 – “Warden William B. O’Rourke Out. Dismissed as Superintendent of Bellevue Hospital by the Commissioner of Charities.”

The Commissioners of Charities met late yesterday afternoon and dismissed Warden O’Rourke of Bellevue Hospital.

Commissioners Croft, Faure, and O’Bierne were present at the meeting, but not one would say anything as to the reasons for Warden O’Rourke’s dismissal, excepting that general mismanagement was charged against him.

When visited last night Warden O’Rourke made the following statement: “There have been no special charges brought against me, therefore, there is nothing to answer.” “The institution speaks for itself. The reason for my dismissal is politics.”

March 4, 1896, page 9 – “Warden O’Rourke’s Dismissal. Rigid Examination by Commissioners of Charities – Other Dismissals May Follow.”

Mr. O’Bierne maintained that lax discipline was responsible for O’Rourke’s dismissal. He was asked if there were any specific cases that could be cited.

“Well,” said the Commissioner, “there is the case of a patient who had his overcoat stolen. It was valued at \$35. Then, a man, while a patient in the hospital, had to pay 5 and 10 cents for a glass of milk. Furthermore, there is a man named John Maloney who is on the payrolls as an orderly. We know that his brother has an undertaker’s establishment across the street from the hospital, and Maloney uses his position to get him trade. All this should have been well known to Mr. O’Rourke.”

When asked if an attendant in the amphitheatre named Leonard earned \$125 over his salary by assisting at operations, he [O’Rourke] said that, to the best of his knowledge, he only received presents from the doctors at Christmas.

March 5, 1896 – “More Changes at Bellevue. Work of Investigation to Continue – Keeper White of the Morgue Next to be Put on the Rack.”

“There will be no public investigation,” he [Charities Commissioner Croft] said, “and any talk of turning the matter over to the Commissioner of Accounts is only conjecture. They have too much to do, anyway. We have certainly found a very shocking state of affairs at the hospital, which will in the end lead to a number of changes.”

Mr. Croft would not say what time these changes would come, but thought that it would be within a few days.

“The next department at which we shall strike will be the Morgue,” he said. “We have proof of mismanagement there. We know for one thing that Mr. White, the keeper of the Morgue, has been in collusion with this man Maloney and his brother, the undertaker, of whom so much has been said.”

June 21, 1896, page 8 – “Could Not Cure Carey. Delirium Tremens Too Much for the New Specific.”

The first death in Ward 33 at Bellevue Hospital, which was set apart last Monday for the treatment of chronic alcoholic cases, under the supervision of Dr. Isaac Oppenheimer and with a specific which he desired to test, was reported yesterday.

Patrick Carey, a horseshoer, thirty-three years old, living at 521 West One Hundred and Thirty-first Street, was assigned to the new ward early in the day, and six hours later died. He was suffering from delirium tremens when he came from the ambulance in which he had been transferred from the Harlem Hospital.

His death was caused, according to the death certificate, by Bright’s disease.

It was said at Bellevue Hospital that Carey was too far gone for any remedy to save him.

July 21, 1896, page 8 – “Doctors are Indignant. They Object to Trying Cure for Drunkenness at Bellevue. Medical Board of the Hospital and Other Physicians Arrayed Against the Commissioners for Granting Permission to Conduct Experiments Under Dr. Oppenheimer’s Methods – Say They Have Gone Beyond Their Province.”

The fact that two wards in Bellevue Hospital had been set apart for the trial of a so-called “cure for drunkenness” discovered by Dr. Isaac Oppenheimer, was published in the newspapers several weeks ago.

The inventor of this new drink cure has been using his specific for about three years, and not much notice was taken of it by the other physicians of the city, but as soon as permission was given to him to introduce it in the city hospital the trouble began, with the Medical Board of the hospital on one side and the Commissioners of Charities on the other.

Arrayed with the Medical Board in the controversy are nearly all the members of the professions in the city. They regard it as an outrage that, under the circumstances, the Commissioners should have prevailed on to grant to one person the right to exploit a secret method for the cure of drunkenness in one of the public institutions.

Dr. Joseph Collins of 47 West Thirty-eighth Street, speaking on the matter to a reporter for The New York Times, yesterday said, “This attempt to exploit quackery in a public institution is a matter which physicians cannot allow without giving utterance to their emphatic disapproval.”

July 22, 1896, page 9 – “Drink Cure at Bellevue. Commissioner Croft Explains Why Test Was Permitted. Impressed that a Remedy for Drunkenness Has at Last Been Discovered – Patients Come Out from Treatment with Clear Eyes and Health-

**Looking Faces – Medical Criticisms Met – No Cost to the City –
Results the Object, He Says.”**

Despite the protests made by the medical profession against setting aside of two wards at Bellevue Hospital for experiments with an alleged cure for drunkenness, the Commissioners of Charities still believe that they are pursuing the right course, and will allow the treatment to continue.

“All we are looking for is to obtain the best results.”

Turning to the business side of the proposition, President [Silas C.] Croft said he did not know that a stock company had been formed to manufacture and sell the new “cure.”

March 6, 1911, page 4 – “To Relieve Bellevue Congestion.”

Deputy Medical Supt. O’Hanlon said yesterday that the Department of Charities will take steps at once to relieve the congestion in Bellevue Hospital. A week ago there were 1,340 patients in the institution, but yesterdays the roster was 1,240. The capacity is 1,030 beds, and it was necessary to place extra cots in the wards.

**July 4, 1911, page 8 – “Hospital Pay Withheld. Dr. Flemming
Signs a Letter Not Complimentary to the Employees.”**

All of the employes of Bellevue Hospital were up in arms yesterday when they read a notice posted on the office door announcing that their pay for the month of June would not be given until after the holiday.

Dr. Flemming said that he had written the letter in the best interests of the conduct of the hospital and would stand by it. Further he refused to discuss the matter.

**April 28, 1913 – “Want Government to Pay. Aliens at Bellevue
Cost the City \$208,000, Say Accounts Commissioners.”**

The Commissioners of Accounts submitted to Mayor Kline yesterday a report on the free treatment and maintenance of indigent aliens in the

Bellevue and Allied Hospitals. The report says that during the year 1912 there were 57,422 persons treated in the wards of Bellevue and its allied institutions, and that an inspection of the records of these patients, in 11,334 cases treated in October, November, and December last year, show that 671 has been less than three years in the country.

“Applying this percent,” says the report, “which is undoubtedly conservative, to the patients treated in these institutions for the years 1910, 1911, and 1912 – amounting to 164,661 – were find that approximately 9,879 aliens not citizens of this country were treated without charge. The average cost of treatment of each patient during these three years was \$1.10, and on this basis the total cost of the aliens treated during the three years therefore amounted to \$208,446.90

January 26, 1916, page 12 – “In the Psychopathic Ward. What Mr. Ames Experienced Under the Microscope of the Alienist.”

[Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Will you permit one who has had the rather unusual privilege of an involuntary testing of his brains, and, happily surviving the ordeal, the not altogether unnatural satisfaction of having them stamped O.K. by very high authority, to express briefly his opinion regarding the proceeding?

As to Bellevue and the “psychopathic,” while I should not be inclined to recommend it to my friends as a particularly pleasant place for a ten days’ outing, yet if one is forced to come under the microscope of the alienist, much worse conditions might exist. In my known case I received many valued privileges: a separate room, the inestimable boon of a closed door, meals sent in, books galore, &c. The doctors treated me with the utmost consideration, the nurses were ministering angels, one of whom particularly I shall ever recall as the angel, not of “the darker drink” as old Omar has it, but of the potion that bringeth sleep. The attendants were all kindly and human, and I saw no evidence whatever of harshness or brutality.

To conclude: It is my sincere desire belief that the psychopathic ward is conducted in the most able manner possible under conditions of perhaps limited appropriations. More light and air I think highly desirable, and greater opportunity for outdoor exercise. I am certain, however, that Dr. Gregorie is doing the very best he can under the circumstances, and for

his unfailing courage and patience I esteem it a privilege to count him a friend. Should any of our bitter detractors feel a little uncertain as to the sanity of their rage against us, I should take pleasure in giving them a card of introduction to Dr. Gregorie with the suggestion, "Go thou and do likewise."

Edward R. Ames
Assistant Leader Church of the Social Revolution
Brooklyn, June 21, 1916

February 16, 1916, page 6 – "Hospital Employes Needy.

Bellevue Head to Aid Many Whose Salaries Are Held Up."

Many of the 800 employes at Bellevue Hospital notified the Superintendent, Dr. George O'Hanlon, yesterday, that they were in dire financial straits because the city has not paid them their salaries for January.

The trouble, Dr. O'Hanlon said, is caused by the confusion as to the new budget. The pay in some of the other city departments was held up for a time until the requirements of the new budget could be translated.

March 9, 1916, page 13 – "Saleswomen for Charity. Prominent

Women Will Act as Clerks in Gimbel's Next Week."

The undertaking is in behalf of needy convalescents discharged from Bellevue Hospital. The plan is under the auspices of the Social Service Bureau of Bellevue, of which Mrs. William Church Osborn is Chairman.

The Social Service Bureau which last year distributed \$14,000 in contributions for relief, maintains a staff of thirty-two women under Miss Mary E. Wadley, with headquarters at the hospital. The city contributes about \$23,000 a year toward the salaries of part of the staff. The remainder of the expenses, as well as the funds for emergency relief, is supplied by outside contributions.

April 29, 1916, page 9 – "Circus at Bellevue Makes Sick Rejoice.

Pain Forgotten as Band Brays and Clowns Cavort in the Yard of

**Hospital. Motley Throng Present. Gray Old Men and Women,
Prisoner Patients, And Pale, Childish Sufferers See the Show.”**

The Greatest Show on Earth pitched its big top in Bellevue Hospital yesterday morning for its annual special performance there. Its audience was composed of all the sick who were well enough to walk or to be wheeled out upon the tiers of balconies surrounding the courtyard.

It was 10 o'clock before Fred Bardna, dressed in a gorgeous green satin suit, removed his green hat to match and began, "Ladies and gentlemen." By that time all of the balconies were filled and the audience numbered more than 1,000 persons.

To all the audience it was "Miss Wadley's circus." Miss Mary E. Wadley is the head of the Social Service Bureau at Bellevue and it was through her that arrangements were made to bring the big show to the institution.

**April 30, 1916, Section V, pages 9-10 – "Bellevue at Present Site
Just One Century. Famous Hospital Dates Back to Time of Peter
Stuyvesant When a Young Dutch Surgeon Undertook to Care for
the Sick.”**

In these days of medical precision, of quick and accurate surgery, the groping ways of a century or more ago have been forgotten, yet the story of the marvelous revolution in hospital science has been to large extent unfolded in the wards of Bellevue, which took possession of its present site on April 29, 1816, just 100 years ago yesterday.

But Bellevue's history goes further back than a century. The hospital can justly claim to be the oldest in the United States; in fact, it is older than the dawn of American independence. It traces its origin to the humblest source, and its history and development are exceedingly interesting.

In 1902 the Legislature created the Department of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, which was to comprise Harlem, Fordham, and Gouverneur Hospitals. The buildings were erected in the order named. A new Bellevue was started in 1906. A pavilion, A and B, with 400 beds for medical cases,

has been in use since November, 1908, and two years later a morgue and pathological laboratory and men's dormitory were finished. The following year a power house, coaling station, and laundry were built. Pavilion I and K, including an amphitheatre and X-ray department, is also completed. Other pavilions, to be used for diseases of the nose, throat, eye and ear, and administration purposes, also a psychopathic and alcoholic building, should be finished in about six years, making the time for the completion of Bellevue as now planned about sixteen years. The number of beds Bellevue will then have will be about 2,000 and the cost about \$20,000,000.

September 15, 1916, page 22 – “Cantata on a Playground. Small Tubercular Children Give ‘The Voices of Nature.’”

The children who go to Bellevue Hospital every week for the tubercular clinic transformed a part of the city's most congested area into a big flower garden last night and turned themselves into flowers, bees, birds, and frogs to represent “The Voices of Nature” in a cantata by that title. It was held in the playground at 420 East Twenty-sixth Street, which was given by Mrs. William Church Osborn for the use of the tubercular children.

January 31, 1918, page 6 – “Hylan Puts Norris in Riordan's Place. Director Of Laboratories at Bellevue Now Chief Medical Examiner. Appointed for 3 Months. Mayor Explains That He Never Meant to Give ex-Coroner the Permanent Place.”

Mayor Hylan appointed Dr. Charles Norris, Director of Laboratories at Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, yesterday, to the post of Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Norris stood second on the Civil Service list of three and was one of those whom the Municipal Civil Service Commission has been seeking to remove from the list on the ground that no formal consent had been obtained by the medical colleges for the performance of the autopsies which were required in the medico-legal examination for the position.

April 18, 1918, page 13 – “Circus Visits Bellevue. Sudden Influx of Child Patients When Elephants Arrive.”

When the circus left its home at Madison Square Garden yesterday afternoon to give its annual show at Bellevue Hospital Dr. George O. Hanlon, the Superintendent of the hospital, thought he had only 1,400 patients, but somebody stepped on the safety valve of the calliope just as the procession of monkeys and elephants started through the gates, and an epidemic of disease suddenly affected every child within the sound of the jazz music.

Stomachs that never ached an ache except on too much fruit, feet too small for rheumatics, and hearts too young for any disease suddenly made a trip to Bellevue imperative. Some went to the dispensary and pleaded measles, mumps, and toothache, and one small but bright youngster confessed to gout. But wise old Dr. Rial of the circus staff consulted with Dr. Ringling and diagnosed all ailments as “kidditis inquisitivitis,” and said he had the only cure in the tubes of the jazz calliope.

November 3, 1918, page 6 – “Trade and Travel Back to Old Hours. Influenza Waning Rapidly, So Emergency Schedule is Abolished After Tuesday Evening. Talk of Permanent Plan. Zone System Also Discussed, Due to Success of Method Tried During Epidemic.”

Dr. George O. Hanlon, Medical Superintendent of Bellevue Hospital, announced yesterday that the quarantine which was declared at the hospital two weeks ago because of the influenza epidemic has been lifted and that visitors may again call at the hospital during the regular visiting hours.

January 18, 1921, page 27 – “Ask Trial to Oust Bellevue Trustees. Commissioner Hirshfield Charges Board With Incompetency in Breaking Contract. \$36,500 Boilers Involved. Hospital Heads Say New Equipment Failed to Meet Their Specifications.”

Corporation Counsel O'Brien has been asked to investigate the action of the Trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals in rescinding a contract awarded to the Chute, Thornton & Bailey Corporation for the installation of three boilers costing \$36,500 in the new Fordham Hospital. At the same time Commissioner of Accounts David Hirshfield has recommended in a report to the Mayor that the Trustees be tried on charges of incompetency with a view to removal, because of their action in rescinding the contract.

January 19, 1921, page 17 – “Toppers Increase in First Dry Year.

Court Records Show 156 More Arrests for Drunkenness Than in

1919. December Worse Month. 5,813 Persons Were Arraigned

in 1920, While Previous Year Showed Only 5,657. Raid Brooklyn

Basement. Liquor Firm Head Released in \$5,000 Bail –

Prohibition Director Says Chemists Obeyed Law.”

Dr. Menas S. Gregory, director of the psychopathic and alcoholic wards at Bellevue Hospital, said last night that the number of male alcoholic cases had doubled since prohibition and there have been more female patients. The increase in the number of alcoholic cases began last November. Some of the patients were taken to the hospital in comas and without regaining consciousness. Dr. Gregory thought that this was due to the stuff that is being sold for liquor.

February 6, 1921, page 16 – “New Liquor Curb Dams Floods

Here. Many ‘Wholesalers’ Trade in Cellars and Shacks, Some

With Only Desk Room. ‘Perfume’ With a Kick. \$5 and \$10 a

Case Reported Graft Rate for Non-interference by Dry Agents.”

The illegal traffic has been attacked from a new source, it became known yesterday. Because the concoctions dispensed in many saloons have swamped Bellevue Hospital with alcoholic cases, Dr. John W. Brannan, President of the Board of Trustees, is directing a campaign against saloons in the vicinity of the institution.

September 12, 1924, page 7 – “Held for Beating Girl in Taxicab. Man Who Says His Father is ‘Political Boss’ Rages at Arrest and Threatens Police. Young Woman in Hospital. Unconscious From Blows and Liquor Poisoning – Bank Book Identified Her as ‘Ruth Seymour,’ Actress.”

The girl had fallen unconscious to the floor of the machine and the patrolman ordered the chauffeur to drive to the police station. The girl’s clothing had been torn to shreds. Officers at the police station attempted to revive her, but their efforts failed and Lieutenant McGowan telephoned Bellevue Hospital for an ambulance. Dr. Kaplan, who responded, looked at the girl and walked away without attending her in any way, according to the police.

Dr. Kaplan told the police he would not take the girl to the hospital, “because she is suffering from alcoholism and the hospitals do not take such cases.”

When the girl’s condition grew worse Lieutenant McGowan sent another call to Bellevue Hospital. Dr. Kaplan responded again, and for a second time refused, it was said, either to administer medical aid, or remove her to the hospital.

Fearing she would die, policemen placed the girl on a stretcher and took her to the West Thirtieth Street Station in a patrol wagon. Lieutenant O’Connor refused to let the girl be placed in a cell and sent a call to New York Hospital. Dr. Thompson, who responded, said the girl was in a serious condition from alcohol poisoning and hurried her at once to Bellevue, where she was accepted as a patient. She was placed in the prison wards, a technical charge of intoxication having been entered against her by the police.

September 13, 1924, page 16 – “Held in \$5,000 Bail for Attack on Girl. Prisoner is Son of Dennis Powers, Tammany Captain in the 5th Assembly District. Young Woman is Arrested. Charge of Intoxication Against Her Leads to Dispute Between Physicians

and Police.”

The girl became hysterical and Lieutenant McGowan summoned Dr. George Kaplan of Bellevue Hospital. The physician diagnosed the case as one of alcoholism, and she was arrested on the charge of intoxication. Dr. Kaplan was called later to attend the girl again, but he did not take her to the hospital.

She was sent to the West Thirtieth Street Station in a patrol wagon, but the Lieutenant, observing her condition, summoned an ambulance from New York Hospital, and Dr. Thompson, describing her condition as a serious case of alcoholism, took her to Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. George O’Hanlon, Superintendent of Bellevue and allied hospitals, issued a statement yesterday denying the assertion of the police that Dr. Kaplan has refused to take her to Bellevue on his two visits to the West Forty-seventh Street Station “because cases of alcoholism were not admitted to Bellevue.” Dr. O’Hanlon’s statement was backed by Dr. Kaplan, who said that in each instance he had treated the girl. He denied that he had merely examined her and had refused to take her to the hospital, as alleged by the police.

October 3, 1924, page 14 – “Bellevue Doctor Slack, Says Nurses.

Testify I. S. Hirsch, Head of X-ray Department, Hampers

Treatment by Absences. Mayor’s Nurse Accuses. Indecent

Language Used, Hirshfield is Told at Inquiry – News to

Superintendent O’Hanlon.”

Three nurses yesterday accused Dr. Isaac Seth Hirsch, for fourteen years head of the X-ray department at Bellevue Hospital, of hampering the treatment of patients by failing to appear regularly at the department.

The star witness was Edna S. Steiger.

Miss Steiger attended Mayor Hylan during his illness at Saratoga last year. Her claim of \$2,000 against the city has been the subject of bitter dispute between the Mayor and Controller Charles L. Craig.

Miss Steiger testified that Dr. Hirsch attended the X-ray clinic, in

which malignant diseases were treated, only an hour or so on the days on which he visited the hospital, and that he sometimes remained away for a week. The nurses, she said, were reluctant to attempt the dangerous work of giving X-ray treatments in the doctor's absence. This, she added, delayed the work of treating patients. She also charged that Dr. Hirsch frequently used indecent language and that the attendance sheets for which he was responsible were not properly kept.

Dr. Hirsch, whose salary is \$3,500 a year, yesterday denied that he had been remiss in his duties. Dr. George O'Hanlon, Superintendent of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, said: "Never at any time have I received a complaint regarding Dr. Hirsch or his department. I have heard nothing whatever regarding this. Two weeks ago I received a request from Commissioner Hirshfield for the nurses and for Dr. Hirsch. As for the X-ray machine and its alleged disuse, I know of my own personal knowledge that it was being used to capacity at all times."

October 4, 1924, page 30 – "Asks One-Man Rule for City

Hospitals. Hirshfield Says He Will Again Urge Mayor to Change

Present System. Coler Praises Dr. Hirsch. Hearing on Charge

Against Head of Bellevue X-Ray Department Goes Over to

Monday."

Commissioner of Accounts David Hirshfield, declared yesterday that his investigation into the charge against Dr. Isaac Seth Hirsch, for fourteen years head of the X-ray Department at Bellevue Hospital, has made it imperative that he again recommend to the Mayor that all municipal hospitals be operated by only one department. At present these institutions are either part of the Health Department, the Department of Of Public Welfare, or the Board of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals.

The next hearing will be held on Monday morning. Dr. Hirsch said yesterday that while he has not been subpoenaed, he will be there. Dr. George O'Hanlon, Superintendent of Bellevue, will be called to testify, Mr. Hirshfield said. Dr. Hirsch, according to Miss Steiger, failed to appear regularly in his department, thereby hampering the treatment of patients.

Commissioner Bird S. Coler of the Department of Public Welfare commended Dr. Hirsch as "one of the most competent men in this or any

country.” Some years ago, he said, he received several anonymous letters, and that after an investigation, he found the charges were unfounded. The highest type of work is being done in Dr. Hirsch’s office, said the Commissioner.

October 7, 1924, page 12 – “Nurses Blame Dr. Hirsch. He Says, However, That His Entire Salary is Spent on His Work.”

Two more nurses from Bellevue Hospital testified yesterday at the hearing on conditions in public hospitals in this city, which is being conducted by Commissioner of Accounts David Hirshfield. They corroborated the testimony of Miss Edna S. Steiger, who nursed Mayor Hylan at Saratoga and later became a hospital investigator for Hirshfield, that X-ray treatment at Bellevue had been hampered by frequent absences of Isaac Seth Hirsch, head of the X-ray department.

After the hearing, Dr. Hirsch, who had not been called to the stand, said that while he received \$3,500 a year from the city, he paid an assistant out of this sum and made other expenditures which consumed the entire salary and left him nothing in the way of remuneration from the city position he has held for fourteen years.

Dr. Hirsch said that 54,000 treatments were given in his department last year.

December 6, 1924, page 15 – “Assail Conditions in 2 City Hospitals. Dr. Silverman and Bishop Lloyd Report on Bellevue and Willard Parker. Blame the Administration. Charge the Sick Poor are in Peril of Fire and Disease While Officials Play Politics.”

In a scathing criticism yesterday of conditions at Bellevue Hospital, and a more moderate attack on the situation at the Willard Parker Hospital, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanu-El, place the entire blame for the state of these institutions on the City Administration.

Rabbi Silverman, a member of the Auxiliary Committee of the City Visiting Committee, inspected these two institutions last week with other members of the committee.

“I visited Bellevue and Willard Parker Hospitals,” he told his fellow members “and without attempting to harrow up your feelings, I want to say firmly and deliberately that I am appalled by the unsanitary and from the fire standpoint the unsafe condition of part of the buildings of Bellevue and part of the buildings of Willard Parker Hospital. And I believe that any good citizen of sound mind and of good intent who would visit these hospitals would come to the very same conclusion after only a very cursory examination.

There [the Outpatient Building, housing Bellevue’s Children’s Clinic], he said, hundreds of mothers carry their little children on their arms up the “wooden, rickety” stairs, which, he declared, taxes the strength of even strong and health folk. The mothers, he asserted, are unusually sick themselves, or at least weakened, haggard and wan, and easily susceptible to the contagious diseases from which the children suffer.

The physicians make their examinations and diagnoses in “two-by-four cells” and are therefore greatly handicapped in their work, he stated.

Dr. Silverman recommended that the building and others in the Bellevue group be razed. A tent in an open field, he said, would serve a better purpose than the present building.

Bishop Lloyd agreed that “everything Dr. Silverman said about the terrible conditions is true.”

December 7, 1924, page 3 – “Mayor Writes Bishop on 2 City Hospitals. Tells of Conditions at Bellevue and Attacks Dahl on the Transit Issue.”

Past administrations permitted conditions to exist at Bellevue which should have been corrected. For a half a century the need of modernizing that institution has been talked about. The present Administration of the city appropriated about \$5,000,000 within the last eighteen months to correct the improper conditions. Contractors are working at full speed upon new buildings. Foundations have already been laid for pavilions F and G. When these are completed, the use of the old Bellevue building will be discontinued and the Bellevue question will have been solved. I am sure

that you have not been told these facts by those who sought to use your name for their own selfish purposes.

December 9, 1924, page 21 – “Rabbi Replies to Mayor. Dr.

Silverman Renews Charges as to Hospital Conditions.”

“The evils that I have pointed out are real and had, up to the time of my visit, not been considered for immediate action. I believe that if the Mayor would visit the dispensary building at Bellevue Hospital and the Willard Parker Hospital and see for himself the things that I have seen he would feel just as much exercised about them as I am.”

December 14, 1924, page 7 – “Gratwick Charges Hospital

Neglect. Head of State Charities Board Says City Institutions are Dangerous and Insanitary. Warnings Go Unheeded.

Commissioner Coler Credited With Efforts to Improve Situation – Letters to Board of Estimate.”

“The old ward buildings of Bellevue,” the report said, “are worn, inconvenient and because of their combustible interiors are a most dangerous fire risk. We firmly believe that in the event of a fire the 300 or more patients who are cared for in these buildings could not be removed without an appalling loss of life. These patients are wards of the city and the City Government is responsible for their safety.”

The old kitchen, which serves the entire hospital, was called “inadequate, unsuitable and insanitary” and so far distant from many of the wards that the food carried through the open, became cold before it reached the patients. The dispensary was described as too small, “in poor repair and in its present condition cannot be kept clean and sanitary.”

In spite of these repeated warnings, however, it was asserted that there had been no substantial improvement.

April 2, 1928, page 21 – “1,843 Patients Now in Bellevue.”

[1,843 patients] is above the bed capacity of the hospital, which is about 1,800. Cots have been moved into several wards. The census also showed that on March 29 there were 1,956 patients in the hospital, the largest number in the history of the institution.

April 16, 1928, page 22 – “Clothing for Bellevue Patients.”

[Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of the New York Times:

May we ask the interest of your readers in the patients who are often in urgent need of clothing at the time of their discharge from Bellevue Hospital? They are of all sizes, and almost anything that is on good condition can be used for them by the Social Service Bureau, whose work is very direct, dealing with such problems as a father temporarily out of work and whom a good suit may aid in securing desirable employment; a mother, recovering from an illness and who should be sent to the country for convalescence before taking up her home duties. A suitable outfit will enable her to go there in a self-respecting way. The same need for children is ever present.

Those who feel interested and can help will be doing a great kindness by sending their things to Lola G. Yerkes, Social Service Bureau, Bellevue Hospital, First Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street. Telephone Caledonia 1156.

Kate Harrison Prentice. New York, April 12, 1928

April 18, 1928, page 10 – “Bellevue is Overcrowded. 2,053

Patients Set Record, Exceeding Bed Capacity by 73”

Bellevue Hospital had more patients yesterday than on any other day in its history, according to Dr. Mark L. Fleming, General Medical Superintendent, who said the total, 2,053, was 73 more than the bed capacity. During the influenza epidemic of 1917 there were frequently as many as 2,000 patients.

May 29, 1928, page 25 – “Opens Narcotics Ward. Bellevue to

Give Treatment Today for the First Time in Six Years.”

A ward at Bellevue Hospital will, beginning today, be devoted to narcotic treatment. The ward is in the old building, has twenty-five beds and is for men who apply for commitment at Magistrate's Courts.

This is the first time in six years that Bellevue has had accommodations for treatment of narcotic cases.

June 11, 1928, page 23 – “Offers to Treat Drug Addicts.”

A comprehensive study of the treatment of narcotic addicts by a committee of physicians is now in its third week at Bellevue Hospital, it was announced yesterday by Dr. William R. Williams, head of the committee. The study was undertaken at the instigation of Commissioner of Welfare Richard C. Patterson Jr. and Mayor Walker. It was announced that a few non-criminal addicts may be received for treatment on application to Magistrate McAdoo.

January 12, 1929, page 33 – “Bellevue Sets a Record. 217

Admissions in 24-Hour Period Passes Mark Made Last Year.”

Bellevue Hospital broke all known records Thursday with 217 admissions for the twenty-four hours ending at midnight that night. The previous records were made last year when on March 12, April 10 and April 17 there were 209 admissions on each day.

Just what percentage of these cases are colds or influenza could not be learned. Many of the patients are sent directly to the wards, and diagnosis is made later.

The records at the hospital last night showed that there were 1,104 men, 610 women, 110 girls and 82 boys, or a total of 1,906 patients in the hospital. There were twenty-four deaths on Thursday, or about twice the usual number. Hospital records show that there generally is a daily average of ten deaths throughout the year.

Sickness also hit the hospital staff. There are two doctors, forty nurses and two ambulance drivers on the sick list. Some have colds and mild influenza.

February 15, 1929, page 22 – “Hospital Visiting Days Mixed.”

[Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of the New York Times:

On Lincoln's Birthday I telephoned to Bellevue Hospital and was informed that visitors would be allowed to see children on that day between 2 and 4 P.M. When I called at the hospital the nurse in charge of Ward 24 told me that callers were allowed to see children only on Saturdays and Sundays and never on holidays.

I spoke to the clerk in the information department of the hospital, and he said that visitors could see children on holidays. To make sure I telephoned to the office of the doctor in charge of Ward 24. The young woman who answered the call stated very positively that it was visitors' day, and that if I reached the hospital before 4 o'clock I would be admitted to Ward 24. I returned to the ward in question and told the nurse about the statements made by the information clerk and the young woman in the ward doctor's office. The nurse, however, insisted that it was not visitors' day, and I was not allowed to enter. Several other persons called with the same result.

It seems rather strange that there should be any confusion in regard to such a simple matter.

J.F. Cullen, Brooklyn, Feb. 13, 1929.

February 26, 1929, page 2 – "1,000 at Bellevue Fail to Get Feb. 15 Wages; City Reorganization Defers \$25,000 Payroll"

Pay checks that were due on Feb. 15 to about 1,000 employes of Bellevue Hospital, many of whom had small savings in the insolvent City Trust Company, have not been delivered to the hospital workers by the city, it was learned yesterday from Dr. M.L. Fleming, superintendent of the institution. Dr. Fleming estimated that the total amount of the deferred payroll was \$25,000

"As to the reason for the delay," Dr. Fleming said, "I know that it is simply because of the large amount of clerical work involved as a result of the establishment on Feb. 1 of the Department of Hospitals. All necessary payrolls have to be transferred to this department and the names of the employes checked and rechecked by the Civil Service Commission and also by the Finance Department."

He explained that the deferred pay affected kitchen workers, clerks and chauffeurs, and not the nurses or physicians. The workers are paid twice a month.

February 27, 1929, page 14 – “1,000 Get Delayed City Pay.

Hospital Workers Waited 11 Days – No Salary for Schroeder

Yet.”

The 1,000 employes at Bellevue Hospital received yesterday from the city their semi-monthly pay envelopes, which were due Feb. 15, Commissioner of Hospitals Schroeder announced. The estimated payroll of \$25,000 was delayed by the increased clerical work entailed in the fusion of four city departments in to the Department of Hospitals created Feb. 1.

Dr. Schroeder pointed out that there was no provision in the municipal act creating the city department of hospitals for the payment of the Commissioner. But he is not worried, he said.

January 22, 1930, page 25 – “Faulty Estimates Arouse the Mayor.

He Criticizes Request for an Added \$1,092,126 to Finish Bellevue

Pavilion. Original Cost Doubles. Rebukes Architect in Other

Cases – Action Deferred Pending an Inquiry.”

Mayor Walker declared yesterday that he is rapidly losing patience with city departments, architects and engineers whose original estimates of the cost of constructing public buildings have to be doubled before the work is completed.

The Mayor had summoned to the meeting [of the whole of the Board of Estimate] Charles B. Meyers, architect of the structure [the new psychopathic pavilion of Bellevue Hospital] and Dr. Menas Gregory, Bellevue alienist. From them he demanded an explanation of why this building, the original cost of which was estimated by Mr. Meyers at \$3,000,000, is now expected to cost the city about \$6,000,000.

The architect explained that the \$3,000,000 original estimate was based simply on a building of a certain cubical content without regard to the detailed needs of a modern psychopathic institute. The Mayor pointed out that immediately after the original \$3,000,000 authorization had been made, a request came in for an additional \$975,000 for excavation and about \$1,000,000 was also expended for the real estate needed. The architect's fee on the structure is \$266,927.

March 5, 1930, page 7 – “\$1,092,127 More Voted for Bellevue Unit. But McKee Warns Action on Psychopathic Pavilion Must Not Be Taken as a Precedent.”

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate, after having deferred action for a month, voted yesterday to favor an increased appropriation of \$1,092,127 over the original appropriation of \$3,975,500 for construction of the new Psychopathic Pavilion of Bellevue Hospital.

It now appears that the ultimate cost of the Psychopathic Pavilion will exceed the original estimates by about \$2,000,000.

August 30, 1930, page 14 – “Ask Clothes for Discharged Patients”

An appeal for clothing, with which to outfit discharged patients, was issued yesterday by the Bellevue Hospital General Welfare Committee, of which Mrs. Charles Morgan is the chairman.

The appeal requests that contributions be sent to Miss Amelia J. Massopust, director Bellevue Social Service, First Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street.

January 7, 1931, page 32 – “16,482 Patients Fill City’s 26 Hospitals. Greeff asks Superintendents to Send Home All Who Can Be Discharged Without Harm. Orders Repairs Stopped. Wants Bed Capacity Preserved – Bellevue Sets a New Record With 300 Admissions in a Day.”

Bellevue Hospital, which has a capacity for 2,200 patients, broke its record for a single day’s admissions on Monday when 300 patients applied for treatment. The previous record was 280 in one day.

“During this period, and for the next four months, from all

indications, our hospitals will be crowded to capacity at all times," Dr. Greeff's letter to the superintendents said. "I am very anxious that you go through your wards, and wherever possible, without injuring the health of patients or interfering with the treatment of the physicians and surgeons, discharge patients who may be cared for at home with the help, if necessary, of the Social Service. Any work on the wards that will decrease bed capacity of the hospital should not be carried out."

The department's social service divisions would visit the homes and report on the conditions of the patients so that they could have additional treatment from the hospitals if it were needed.

January 8, 1936, page 24 – "Butler's Ball to Aid Bellevue

Hospital. Debutantes Under Direction of Nancy Whitney Assist With Plans for Annual Event."

Debutants, under the direction of Miss Nancy Whitney, are assisting with plans for the annual Butlers Ball which will take place next Wednesday at the Commodore.

The ball will benefit the Bellevue Hospital Social Service.

July 27, 1936, page 15 – "Goldwater Alarmed by Rise in Drinking.

Cites Bellevue Cases to Show That Alcoholism Is Increasing by 'Leaps and Bounds.'"

In 1934, he [Dr. S.S. Goldwater, Commissioner of Hospitals] said, Bellevue admitted 7,649 cases of acute alcoholism; 9,139 cases were admitted during 1935, and in the first six months of 1936 alcoholic admissions were at the rate of 12,378 for the year.

He said the most serious situation in connection with alcoholic cases arose from the number of alcoholics who fall down and receive head injuries.

Dr. Goldwater declared that the alcoholic service had been combined with psychiatry because the services of a psychiatrist were considered essential to the proper classification and disposition of cases involving mental disturbances.

August 18, 1936, page 20 – “Flees Typhoid Ward. Patient Hunted by Police After Leaving Bellevue.”

Bellevue Hospital asked the Missing Persons Bureau yesterday to search for John Santini, 29 years old, of 547 West 147th Street. Santini, a patient in the typhoid ward, left without authorization at 9 A.M., the hospital reported, adding that he might be a carrier of a contagious disease.

The patient was admitted to the hospital from Harlem Hospital on July 27. How he obtained the clothing in which he left the ward was not known.

August 19, 1936, page 23 – “Not a Typhoid Carrier. Hospital Patient Cleared by Test, Search for Him Dropped.”

At the request of Bellevue Hospital officials, the Missing Persons Bureau of the Police Department cancelled yesterday its search for John Santini, 29 years old, of 547 West 147th Street, who disappeared Monday morning from the hospital's typhoid ward.

The hospital authorities explained that Health Department tests had shown that Santini was not a typhoid carrier, as has been suspected, and that when he heard through unofficial channels of this finding he had left, without waiting for his official release, in clothing which a friend had brought for him.

October 15, 1936, page 26 – “Bellevue Patients Need Clothing”

[Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Many of your readers at this season will be looking over last Winter's clothing. If there is anything to be discarded which is still warm and serviceable, we beg them to remember the Auxiliary to the Tuberculosis Service at Bellevue Hospital. Many patients leave the wards still weak and run down, and need warm garments. Ward and clinic patients transferred to sanatoria in the northern part of the State are required to bring complete outfits of warm clothing which we are often called upon to provide.

Men's suits and overcoats and woolen coats and dresses for women are constantly in demand. Garments may be sent to Miss Sarah E. Shaw, Bellevue Hospital, 419 East Twenty-sixth Street, or if notice is sent to Miss Shaw, bundles of clothing will be called for.

Elizabeth M. Crocker, Chairman Clinic Committee. New York, Oct. 8, 1936

October 18, 1936, page 14 – “Hospital Inquiry Urged Upon Mayor. Waldman Demands Charges of Neglect in Harlem, Be Thoroughly Sifted.”

At Bellevue Hospital one nurse attends to twelve to twenty male pneumonia patients, the [Association of Hospital and Medical Professionals, Local 20, American Federation of Labor] said. In Bellevue's operating rooms, it charged that only one nurse was available for three operating rooms running simultaneously. The association said Bellevue conditions were such that thirteen nurses were now tuberculosis patients in the nurses' infirmary.

October 22, 1936, page 3 – “Bellevue Charges Denied. Goldwater Brands Statements on Budget as False.”

Hospital Commissioner Goldwater yesterday branded as “grossly misleading” statements recently made at a budget hearing before the Board of Estimate that patients and nurses in Bellevue Hospital suffer from lack of proper care. The statements are false, Dr. Goldwater asserted.

He denied that from twelve to twenty pneumonia patients in the hospital are cared for by one nurse, and that only one nurse is available for every three operating rooms. As to the latter charge, he said that four nurses are in attendance in each operating room. A charge that thirteen nurses are in Bellevue infirmary ill of tuberculosis was also denied. The fact is, Dr. Goldwater said, that there are no tuberculosis patients now in the infirmary, although two graduate nurses and one student nurse suffering from the disease are patients in the hospital proper.

October 31, 1936, page 8 – “Hospital Investigator Indicted”

Frank Hennessey, 37 years old, of 157 West 228th Street, an investigator in the Hospitals Department of the Public Works Administration, was indicted by a grand jury yesterday on a charge of accepting \$62 from Miss Pauline Bopko, of 260 Seaman Avenue. Miss Bopko charged that Hennessey threatened to have her 6-year-old niece, a patient at Bellevue Hospital, removed from that institution as a “non-resident” unless the money was paid.

March 28, 1937, V, page 1 – “16,000 Thrilled by Skating Show; Schafer is Hailed. Austrian Captivates Capacity Throng in the Garden With Gay Dancing Number. Miss Vinson Makes Hit. Misses Brunner and Peppe Are Among Others Who Delight Crowd at Charity Event. Lavish Setting Provided. Toronto Pair ‘Stops Show’ – Ottawa Skaters Present Coronation Scene.”

By LINCOLN A. WERDEN

Staged with the lavishness of a Broadway production, the first performance of the 1937 international figure skating carnival was presented last night before a gathering of 16,000 that jammed Madison Square Garden.

These shows for the benefit of the Bellevue Hospital Social Service and the Carroll Club have been elaborate in past years, but the new one exceeds its predecessors by far from the standpoints of artistic setting and perfection of detail.

April 25, 1937, II, page 1 – “Circus Goes to Bellevue Again With Annual Cargo of Thrills. Clowns and Acrobats, Aerial Artists and Performing Animals Take Party in Spirited Open-Air Program for 3,000 Old and Young Patients”

The corridors of Bellevue Hospital were deserted yesterday. Medicinal odors were evident, but there were no patients hobbling along on crutches or being pushed in wheel chairs.

It was circus day, and every shut-in – young And old alike – who was able to get about was on the East River campus, watching the clowns, acrobats, aerial artists and animals go through their stunts.

In plaster casts and hospital cots, some 3,000 persons thrilled to the antics of the star performers of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which made its annual pilgrimage to brighten up the other wise dull days of the patients.

From balconies, “ringside” seats and even from the day camp boat anchored in the river the crippled, diseased or otherwise disabled residents enthusiastically cheered the acts directed by Fred Bardna, a veteran of the “big top.”

Only one incident interrupted the show. A circus van, with many important performers, lost its way to the hospital and there was a pause while circus officials frantically tried to locate it. But as the spectators looked around to see what was holding up the entertainment, a small colored lad, Jimmie Tiegel, aged 7, decided to see what he could do to hold the interest of the audience.

Jimmie stepped right up in full view of the patients, doctors, nurses and internes and, with the clowns providing the rhythm by clapping hands and stomping their feet, put on an exhibition of the Harlem dance, “Truckin’,” to the delight of the spectators.

The sun, the absence of which last year caused the circus at Bellevue to be postponed several times, beamed down in full force all through the show.

“The circus always has a distinctly beneficial effect upon the patients,” he [Nathan Mandell, lay superintendent of the hospital] declared, adding that “it isn’t often that our people have a chance to see such a galaxy of fun-making artists.”

October 15, 1937, page 19 – “Hospital Children Thrilled by

Rodeo. 3,000 at Bellevue Roar Their Joy Over Antics of Riders

and Trick Performers. Trained Horses Cheered. Sneering Mule

and Clowns Also Show Their Skill Before an Admiring Throng.”

The majority of the cast of the twelfth annual world championship rodeo played “medicine man” yesterday morning to one of their most appreciative audiences, as they again performed before the 3,000 inmates of Bellevue Hospital’s children wards. As in former years the setting was the campuslike area facing the waterfront at Twenty-ninth Street and the news of the rodeo’s arrival had the youngsters assembling as early as 9 A.M.

December 18, 1937, page 37 – “Bellevue Building to Cost

\$3,000,000. Plans for the New Ten-Story Administration Offices

Filed by Architects. Quarters for Internes. Hospital Unit Also to

Have Recreation Rooms – Other Projects in the City”

McKim, Mead & White, architects, filed yesterday with the Building Department plans for the new administration building for Bellevue Hospital, the cost of which they estimated at \$3,000,000. The proposed building, a ten-story structure to contain offices, recreation rooms and quarters for internes, will occupy a plot 175 by 213.4 feet on the hospital grounds in the block bounded by Twenty-sixth to Twenty-ninth Streets, First Avenue to the East River.

December 20, 1937, page 44 – “Dance to Pay Losses of Burglar

Forays. Bellevue Internes Devise New Method to Offset Thefts

Spread Over 2-Year Period.”

A dance will be held tomorrow night by the Bellevue Hospital Internes Association at Webster Hall to recompense internes and other hospital attaches who have suffered losses through the depredations of a “phantom burglar” who has been operating in the hospital for the last two years, it was learned yesterday.

While hospital authorities deplore publicity given to the affair, members of the association pointed out that all other attempts to obtain payment for the losses have met with failure. The entire proceeds of the dance, it was said, will go for this purpose.

For the last two years, a spokesman for the association said, a mysterious burglar has been entering the rooms of hospital employes and removing everything “that was not nailed down.” Some of the loot has been recovered later in pawnshops.

Police aid was enlisted, but the thefts continued, it was said. The association tried to obtain burglary insurance, but no company would give a blanket policy to the group. Claims for losses presented to the city have never been adjusted, it was said.

Last Wednesday placards were placed about the hospital announcing the dance. They were immediately removed by order of the authorities as reflecting unfavorably upon the institution. The internes point out that the \$30 a month they receive is insufficient to cover the losses.

January 21, 1938, page 2 – “Council Payrolls Certified by Clerk.

Tudor and Cashmore Checks to be Withheld, However, Pending

Final Status. 25 Dewey Aides Unpaid. Civil Service Action

Holds Up Process Servers’ Money – 200 Others Collect”

Another payroll snarl developed among the lower-paid Bellevue Hospital employes who have not received the checks due last Saturday. The employes are not in the Civil Service classifications. Some are carried on the general payroll while other are listed on the psychiatric division payroll. Controller McGoldrick said the payrolls had not been received from the hospitals in time for the payment on Jan 15. Some of the payrolls went through yesterday morning and the checks for them were sent out last night.

March 3, 1938, page 23 – “Urges Bellevue Changes. State

Report Asks Relief of Overcrowded Conditions.”

ALBANY, March 2. – John L. Schoenfeld of the State Commission of Correction recommended in a report today that “more satisfactory arrangements” be made in the prison wards of Bellevue Hospital to relieve overcrowded conditions.

His report showed that ninety-two prisoner patients were in the hospital when it was inspected last month. Regular facilities provide for sixty-three.

“If this overcrowded condition continues, it is recommended that more satisfactory arrangements be made at the hospital to care for those sent there and the use of cots in the corridors be discontinued,” the report said.

April 23, 1938, page 14 – “Clothing Needed Now” [Letter to the Editor]

We need, now, warm clothing for the tuberculosis clinic patients at Bellevue Hospital next Winter. We appeal for any discarded garments for men, women and children, especially for men’s suits and overcoats. Please remember us when you are discarding Winter clothing and send bundles to Miss Sara E. Shaw, Tuberculosis Clinic, Bellevue Hospital, Twenty-sixth Street at East River, New York.

Bundles will be called for within limits of Greater New York if you will telephone Miss Shaw, Caledonia 5-1133.

Ruth B. Bell
Secretary Auxiliary to the Tuberculosis Division of Bellevue Hospital.
New York, April 20, 1938.

July 26, 1938, page 22 – “Crippled Children See Movie”

Six boys and six girls from the children’s infantile paralysis ward of Bellevue Hospital were taken to see Shirley Temple’s “Little Miss Broadway” at the Roxy Theatre yesterday afternoon. Miss Undine Roberts, an instructor in the ward, was in charge, and the children entered through the theatre’s executive entrance.

November 21, 1938, page 20 – “Escape of 30 Boys Foiled at Bellevue. Ropes Made of Sheets Found Hanging from Fifth Floor”

Thirty boys in the psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital were carefully watched yesterday after they had been foiled in an attempt at a mass escape from their fifth-floor quarters by means of a rope made of sheets.

At about 7:30 P.M. Saturday, when it was raining, a male nurse entered the ward and saw the boys, all between 10 and 12 years of age, huddled at a window. One of them quickly untied the end of a sheet from the window-sill and let it drop. Nine beds in the room were unmade. Hospital authorities later found a rope made of knotted sheets on a three-story extension of the Thirtieth Street side of the hospital.

Most of the boys had been sent to the hospital by Children's Courts to undergo psychiatric treatment. Their plans to escape were believed due to the influence of an 11-year-old boy who escaped from an exercise yard on Saturday, but was brought back by his father. The boy had escaped from institutions eighteen times.

March 25, 1939, page 9 – “International Cast Wins Applause of 14,000 at Opening of Ice Skating Show. Varied Program Skated at Garden. Daphne Walker and Tomlins, Young English Stars, Give Delightful Performances. Miss Hulten Does Tango. Acclaimed for Dancing on Ice at Benefit Carnival – Four From Toronto Popular” By LINCOLN A. WERDEN

A gathering of 14,000 attended the first performance of the charity figure skating carnival at Madison Square Garden last night. The show, which will be given three more nights, is being presented as a benefit for the Bellevue Hospital Social Service and the Carroll Club.

March 26, 1939, V, page 5 – “16,000 in Garden See Charity Ice Carnival. Crowd Watches Performances by a Brilliant Cast”

The charity figure-skating carnival of the Skating Club of New York was presented again last night at Madison Square Garden before a crowd of 16,000.

Although the advance sale has been good, tickets may still be obtained for the last two performances. The Bellevue Hospital Social Service and the Carroll Club are sharing in the proceeds of the carnival.

March 28, 1939, page 27 – “13,000 at Garden See Figure Skating Show. Miss Walker Again Stars at Benefit Carnival”

The Skating Club of New York’s charity ice carnival attracted 13,000 persons to Madison Square Garden last night. This was the third performance of the show, which will make its fourth and final appearance tomorrow night.

Close to 45,000 persons have seen the three performances given as benefits for the Bellevue Hospital Social Service and the Carroll Club. Tickets for the final show are still available.

March 30, 1939, page 27 – “Skating Club Show Ends Before 15,000. Four Garden Performances Drew between 58,000 and 60,000”

The fourth and final performance of the sixth annual charity figure skating carnival of the Skating Club of New York was presented last night at Madison Square Garden before a gathering of 15,000. The total attendance for the performances was unofficially estimated as between 58,000 and 60,000.

This season’s show was regarded as one of the finest staged by the club and was noted for its excellent skating.

April 22, 1939, page 34 – “3,500 at Bellevue See Circus Stunts. Patients, Young and Old, Whoop With Glee at Colorful, Ever-Changing Scene. Lions Roar by Proxy. Cross-Cut Saws Provide Sound Effect for Show – Elephants Balk at Sixth Ave. Planks”

The circus made its annual pilgrimage to Bellevue Hospital yesterday and 3,500 patients, doctors, nurses and even neighborhood boys, who feigned injury to gain admittance, were thrilled by its wonders as the dull routine of hospital life temporarily was put aside.

The twenty-fourth annual Bellevue performance as staged by the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus was full of surprises; gleeful clowns, always the favorites, outdid themselves to cheer up the unfortunates, gyrating in sheer abandon about the huge ring set up on the hospital's East River campus, while a dozen gloom-devastating acts set a mad and mirth-provoking pace.

So who cared if the roar of lions was represented by the medley of sounds made by industrious men at work on the hospital's new administration building behind the campus? Not a soul – not even Manuel Roman, 4½-year-old Puerto Rican boy who has spent all but one of his years in Bellevue, a victim of infantile paralysis.

Black eyes sparkling, this youngster symbolized the spirit of youth to which the circus never grows old. Although he witnessed the show yesterday for the third time, it could be seen that he was living again in ecstasy, and that some part of his dreams was being fulfilled.

“Best of all I like the elephants,” he declared, “and then, I guess, the clowns.”

Eighteen-month-old Walter Strauss, his tiny head swathed in flannel because of inflammation of the ears, was perhaps the only spectator not screaming his delight at one time or another. Walter contemplated the whole proceeding gravely and in silence.

After what seemed to be only a few minutes the show was over, and strains of “Auld Lang Syne,” played by the band, was the signal for nurses to wheel the patients back into their wards.

September 18, 1939, page 7 – “Doctors, Nurses Here in

Emergency Corps. Hospital Group Volunteers to Aid in Disaster Work”

Establishment of an emergency corps of doctors and nurses to act in the vent of a major disaster here was made known last night by an announcement that Bellevue Hospital had formed a voluntary group to represent the hospital in a city-wide organization.

This organization, it was said, is being established under a general order issued last week by the Department of Hospitals.

The Bellevue group, known as the home defense corps of the hospital, consists of thirty-seven physicians and several hundred nurses who have volunteered for service. A special room at the hospital has been stocked with emergency supplies and equipment.

October 18, 1939, page 27 – “Bellevue Shut-Ins Thrilled By Rodeo. 3,000 Cheer as Performers Pay Their Annual Visit to the Hospital”

Yesterday was Rodeo Day for the shut-ins at Bellevue Hospital. Each year the Wild West in all its glory goes down to the hospital from Madison Square Garden to lend a bit of cheer to the drab lives of the patients.

The breath-taking feats of riding and roping and the antics of the clowns and mules did as much to better the general mental condition of the shut-ins as a barrel of medicine each, according to Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of the hospital. Later Ray Whitley and his singers visited the children’s orthopedic wards for those unable to see the show and gave some special numbers for them.

February 10, 1940, page 17 – “Nurse is Suspended in Bellevue Death. Police and Hospital Heads Start Inquiry into Refusal to Admit Sick Employee. Victim Died in a Taxicab. Woman Attendant’s Story of the Case is ‘Plausible,’ Says Dr. Goldwater”

Pending further investigation, a night nurse of the psychopathic division of Bellevue Hospital was suspended yesterday as a result of the hospital’s refusal early in the morning to admit, without an attending policeman, John Siegel, one of its own orderlies, who died shortly afterward in a taxicab in front of the West Thirty-fifth Street station.

Mr. Siegel, who was 58 years old, lived at 117 West Seventy-ninth Street. Shortly before midnight Thursday he hailed a taxicab at Ninety-sixth Street and First Avenue and told the driver, John A. Forney of 445 Fort Washington Avenue, to rush him to Bellevue Hospital.

The driver said he took Mr. Siegel by request to the psychopathic division and was told that the patient could not be admitted unless accompanied by a policeman.

Mr. Forney declared that he then appealed to a policeman whom he found near by, but that the policeman pleaded he was on special duty that he could not abandon. The driver then took Mr. Siegel to the police station, where he was pronounced dead by Dr. Rickert of Bellevue, responding to an ambulance call.

February 15, 1940, page 8 – “No Laxity Is Found in Bellevue Death. Goldwater’s Report Ascribes Tragedy of Psychiatry Aide to ‘Unfortunate Series’”

After he had received a report yesterday from Commissioner of Hospitals S.S. Goldwater on the death of Joseph Siegel, 58-year-old attendant in Bellevue Hospital’s psychiatric division, early last Friday morning, Mayor La Guardia said the tragedy was the result of “a series of moist unfortunate incidents.”

“In the first place,” the Mayor said yesterday, “Siegel was an employe of Bellevue and he worked in the psychiatric division. When he became sick, he called a cab and gave the address of the psychiatric division. Meanwhile, he collapsed. The driver very intelligently then entered the admitting door at the psychiatric division and said:

“‘I have a patient here – a very sick man.’

“For years it has been a rule in the psychiatric division that no one can be admitted there unless accompanied by a relative for purposes of identification, or by a police officer. The reason for that is obvious – it is not uncommon for drunks to be brought there by cab drivers when they get mussy, or for persons to be brought there by others who just want to get rid of them. For the protection of the individual as well as for the city’s protection, certain formalities are required.

“Had the driver gone directly to the emergency ward there would

have been no trouble and the man would have been admitted immediately. The nurse in the psychiatric division is experienced and has served fifteen years. She simply followed the routine, which was unfortunate in this instant.

“There was no one to say that this was an emergency case, and seemingly the cab driver didn’t know. He went to look for a policeman, which was not necessary, but no one is to blame for that. When the doctor finally came the man was dead. Bellevue is not a callous institution. In the last six years more than a million admissions and emergency treatments have been made there without a single known serious error. Of course, there must be no more Siegel cases if it can be prevented.”

The identity of the nurse at the psychiatric division who refused to accept the sick man without a policeman has not been disclosed.

February 16, 1940, page 21 – “Bellevue Death Brings New Rules. Goldwater Acts to Prevent a Repetition of Case”

As an aftermath of the death of Joseph Siegel last Friday morning, Hospital Commissioner S. S. Goldwater said yesterday that he had issued instructions that would assure competent medical inspection of every applicant for aid at a city hospital.

Dr. Goldwater still declined to make public the name of the nurse at the psychiatric division who refused Siegel’s admission, though the names of the policemen and other who figured in the death have been printed. He said the mixup was caused primarily by Siegel’s desire to go to the place where he was employed, rather than to the emergency ward, three blocks south.

Dr. Goldwater said the nurse, who had fifteen years’ experience, was still under suspension and that her case would be considered by the departmental nursing division.

February 25, 1940, page 4 – “Nurse at Bellevue Wins Reinstatement. Suspended After Death of Man Refused Admittance.”

Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Commissioner of Hospitals, announced yesterday the reinstatement of the Bellevue Hospital nurse who was suspended after the death, early in the morning of Feb. 9, of Joseph Siegel, who was brought to the psychiatric division in a taxicab, dying, but was refused admission because of a hospital rule that no one is admitted to that division unless accompanied by a relative or policeman. The nurse's name has not been made public.

Although the nurse will be restored to hospital duty, it is probable, Dr. Goldwater said, that she will get another assignment.

April 17, 1940, page 48 – “Helped 2,045 in Bellevue”

The social service department of the Free Synagogue, 40 West Sixty-eighth Street, ministered to 2,045 Jewish patients in the wards of Bellevue Hospital in the first quarter of the year, it was reported yesterday by Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, director of the department. The department's committee at Bellevue comprises eight workers, headed by Mrs. May B. Fisher.

June 23, 1940, IX, page 7 – “In The Realm of Art: New Murals and Local Activities” By EDWARD ALDEN JEWELL

Contrast again is provided by the mural upon which David Margolis is at work in the main waiting room of the tuberculosis department of Bellevue Hospital. This is a large semi-circular room, potentially pleasant, though now, with its paw-like seats and dreadful lighting, a place that cannot be called otherwise than dreary in the extreme.

There are to be nine mural panels, some of which are finished; smaller ones separating the windows and longer ones at both ends, where the semi-circle debouches into a broad corridor (the screen partition is eventually to be removed).

September 12, 1940, page 30 – “Bellevue Building Dedicated By City. \$3,250,000 Unit Hailed as Part of ‘Finest Hospital in the World.’ Fear is Seen Overcome. Goldwater, Tracing History of 204 Years, Marks Change in Public's Attitude”

Bellevue Hospital has been transformed from an institution that patients feared to enter to one of the finest hospitals in the world, Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Hospitals Commissioner, declared yesterday as he presided at the dedication of a new \$3,250,000 administration building at First Avenue and East Twenty-Seventh Street.

“There was a time,” Dr. Goldwater said, “when persons feared the evil reputation of Bellevue, as they feared the reputation of all city hospitals. In those days the care of the sick was little understood and there were no high ideals or standards. But the attitude of fear has changed now, and today Bellevue stands as an institution that can compare favorably with any in the world.”

Dr. Goldwater reviewed the history of the hospital for 204 years, beginning with its establishment as a six-bed ward in an old city almshouse. It now consists of eighteen major buildings with accommodations for 2,500 patients and is established as a center for teaching of medicine and nursing.

Colonel E. W. Clark, Commissioner of Public Works for the Federal Works Agency, said the Federal Government had contributed about \$1,500,000 toward the cost of the new building.

Newbold Morris, President of the City Council, said the new building represented the “stop-and-go” theory of previous administrations. He recalled that it had been conceived thirty-four years ago and had taken all that time to materialize.

September 19, 1940, page 25 – “Old Tom, Beloved at Bellevue, is Dead. Handyman and Shakespearean Scholar Served 35 Years”

Old Tom Delaney – “Old Tom” purely from affection, since he was only 62 – died before noon yesterday in Bellevue Hospital, where he had served thirty-five years as lamplighter, messenger and late-trick receptionist. He had put in more years of service than any member of the hospital staff.

Old Tom came to Bellevue one night in Spring, in 1905, a tattered fellow from the Municipal Lodging House in First Avenue.

Why, or how, he drifted to the Municipal Lodging House was his secret. It died with him.

He was a cheerful little man. In the old days he made the rounds of

the yard after dusk, touching off the gas lamps. He scurried cricket-like across the enshadowed courts with charts and entry cards. In driving rain he gallantly escorted nurses to their dormitories under his old umbrella. Old Tom – Young Tom then – was ever kindly. Generous, too: always a dime or quarter for departing unfortunates.

Two generations of internes worshiped Old Tom. He chided them for their indiscretions in classic Latin or Greek. He quoted Shakespeare with astonishing aptness. On slow nights, when the ambulances stayed in the yard, Old Tom would sit at the auditorium piano, dreamily strumming away the hour, nurses and internes all silent around him. He played only the classics.

In recent years Old Tom was receptionist. He sat by the front door in the quiet hours after midnight, dispensing information to pinch-faced and grief-stricken callers. He spoke with the softest of brogues. “Bellevue would not be Bellevue,” the hospital year book once said, “were it not for this little man.”

Two nights ago Old Tom hobbled in, his white head bowed, his white mustache sunk deep on his chest. Gently the nurses got him to the ward. Alcoholic gastritis. Old Tom loved good whiskey. He took no great pains to hide this. All Bellevue knew.

Old Tom will be buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery, in Yonkers.

September 23, 1940, page 14 – “Synagogue at Bellevue. First Jewish Place of Worship at Hospital is Dedicated”

A new synagogue, furnished and equipped through the cooperation of the Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations, was dedicated yesterday afternoon in the new administration building of Bellevue Hospital. Situated on the first floor of the new nine-story structure and adjoining the Protestant and Catholic chapels, this is the hospital’s first Jewish place of worship. To complete its interior, 330 affiliates of the federation presented gifts.

September 30, 1940, page 20 – “Manning Dedicates Chapel at Bellevue Hospital. Bishop Sees Good Omen in Three Faiths Side by Side”

Dedicating the new Protestant Chapel of Christ the Consoler at Bellevue Hospital, adjacent to the Catholic and Jewish places of worship at the hospital, the Right Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York, declared yesterday that the existence of these three faiths side by side reminds us how thankful we ought to be to live in a land where men are free to worship God according to their consciences.”

The new chapel, erected by the city with the aid of Federal funds at a cost of \$20,000, replaces the three-story chapel building that the society used prior to 1937, when it was razed to make way for the hospital’s new administration building.

October 26, 1940, page 36 – “Hospital Chapel is Consecrated Here. Alter Service at Bellevue Is Conducted by Bishop Donahue.”

The Right Rev. Stephen J. Donahue, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, assisted by eleven priests in vestments sent from Rome, consecrated yesterday the alter of the Roman Catholic Chapel in the newly completed administration building of Bellevue Hospital.

The ceremony brought to Bellevue the distinction of being the first hospital in the world to have separate houses of worship for each of the three major faiths and realized a long cherished wish of Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of the institution.

Formal dedication of the chapel, to be known as the Chapel of Our Lady Helper of the Sick, will take place at 8 A.M. on Nov. 3 with Archbishop Francis J. Spellman officiating.

November 4, 1940, page 38 – “Spellman Blesses Bellevue Chapel. Catholic Place of Worship is on Same Floor With Those of Two Other Faiths. Its Organ Not Yet Ready. Instrument in the Jewish Synagogue Next Door Used at Dedication Mass”

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York,

dedicated a Catholic chapel, located in the Administration Building of Bellevue Hospital, Twenty-eighth Street and First Avenue, at services there yesterday morning. The chapel, dedicated to Our Lady Helper of the Sick, is on the second floor of the Administration Building and is the third of a group of chapels for Christians and Jews, all located on the same corridor.

The organ which was used throughout the ceremonies was the organ of the Jewish synagogue next door and the use of it was lent by Rabbi Henry A. Schorr, Jewish chaplain of the hospital, until its own organ now under construction is completed.

The present Catholic chapel replaces one erected in the early Eighteen Nineties by the late Countess Leary and a group of Catholic women in cooperation with Archbishop Corrigan, on the side of the present building. The use of the site had been given for the purpose by the city.

April 29, 1942, page 42 – “Bellevue Physician Seized After Attack. Dr. Carl Comstock Injured Junior Interne in Fight, Police Say.”

Dr. Carl Comstock, 28 years old, house physician at Bellevue Hospital, was taken into custody by the State Police late yesterday at the request of District Attorney Frank S. Hogan in connection with an alleged assault upon Dr. Morris Miller, 26-year-old junior interne at Bellevue, who is reported in critical condition at the hospital, suffering from cerebral hemorrhages.

The two doctors quarreled, it was reported, as a result of Dr. Comstock having left Dr. Miller on duty alone Sunday night while the house physician went to a party. During the night, Dr. Miller needed help and called in an outside doctor. Dr. Comstock later accused Dr. Miller of getting him into difficulties with hospital authorities.

April 30, 1942, page 21 – “‘Tattling’ Blamed in Doctors’ Row. District Attorney Says Clash Was Over Absence of Woman Physician.”

Because he was suspected of having “tattled” that the senior women

interne in his division had left her post to go to a party last Saturday night on Long Island, Dr. Morris Miller, 26 years old, a junior interne, was struck in the face in the hospital last Monday, Assistant District Attorney Paul Reilly charged yesterday.

The prosecutor made the charge in Felony Court when Dr. Carl Comstock, 28, a suspended house physician at the hospital, was arraigned before Magistrate Ramsgate and released in \$1,000 bail for a hearing May 13 on suspicion of having made the attack. Dr. Miller's nose was broken and he suffered a brain concussion when his head struck a steam radiator.

Dr. Comstock entered a formal denial of the conditional charge brought by the prosecutor pending the appearance in court of Dr. Miller, who is still a patient at Bellevue.

Mr. Reilly, who questioned Dr. Comstock, said that there had been numerous clashes between Dr. Miller and Dr. Comstock over their duties in Ward B-2.

Dr. Comstock invited several members of the medical staff to a party in his home on the Holden estates at Westbury, L.I., last Saturday night. Dr. Patricia Donovan, the senior interne in Ward B-2, and Dr. Miller, Mr. Reilly said, were to remain on duty in the ward that night, but Dr. Donovan, the prosecutor continued, decided to join the party, leaving Dr. Miller alone on duty.

At 4 o'clock in the morning an infantile paralysis case was brought into the ward, and Dr. Miller, it was said, had to summon additional aid in caring for the patient. This led to a complaint being lodged against Dr. Donovan when she returned to the hospital from the party at 6 o'clock that morning, Mr. Reilly said, and the clash the following night resulted between Dr. Comstock and Dr. Miller.

September 12, 1942, page 11 – “Bellevue Oversea Unit Blessed at Holiday Service at Hospital. 56 Doctors and 105 Nurses, Soon to Go Abroad, Receive Benediction – High Officials Predict Doom of Axis”

Rosh ha-Shanah messages from Governor Lehman, Mayor La Guardia and Attorney General John J. Bennett Jr., Democratic nominee for Governor, expressing confidence that the Axis would be defeated and

democratic principles of freedom and justice to all would dominate the world once peace was won, were read today at a ceremony in the Bellevue Hospital Synagogue.

Held under the direction of Rabbi Henry A. Schorr, Jewish chaplain at the hospital for seventeen years, blessings were bestowed upon the Bellevue Hospital Overseas Medical Unit, composed of fifty-six doctors and 105 nurses, which will leave here shortly for active duty..

The service was attended by 100 persons, including patients at the institution, members of the medical staff and nurses, as well as municipal, State, and national officials.

Rabbi Schorr said that under the leadership of President Roosevelt and “our faithful Allies” the nation was fighting a war “between Hitler and God; between ‘Mein Kampf’ and the Bible; between Nazi tyranny and the Ten Commandments; between totalitarian paganism and the Sermon on the Mount.”

September 29, 1942, page 25 – “Bellevue Unit Honored.

Reception Given for Bellevue Overseas Group.”

Members of the First General Hospital, Bellevue overseas unit, were honored at a reception given last night under the joint auspices of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish chaplains of Bellevue Hospital in the medical board room of the institution. The unit, headed by Lieut. Col. John H. Mulholland, director, and Lieutenant Thelma J. Ryan, Army Nurse Corps, in charge of nurses, is scheduled to leave soon for overseas service.

Speakers at the event included Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of Bellevue; the Rev. William Shepherd, Protestant chaplain; the Rev. John McGrath, former Catholic chaplain of Bellevue and now chaplain of the unit; Colonel Mulholland and Lieutenant Ryan.

Colonel Mulholland, who declared the unit was mobilized and ready for service “immediately when called,” said it was composed of fifty-six doctors, 105 nurses, three dietitians and 500 enlisted men who would serve as orderlies, technicians and ambulance drivers.

Dr. Arthur M. Wright, director of the Bellevue overseas unit of the first World War, gave a brief history of the 1917 group, which was known in France as Base Hospital 1.

August 23, 1943, page 17 – “50 Poisoned at Bellevue. Isolated After Outbreak Linked to Meal in Hospital”

Fifty employees of Bellevue Hospital had been admitted to that institution as patients up to midnight last night in connection with food poisoning, believed to have resulted from a meal eaten in the employees' restaurant last Wednesday night. In addition, four food handlers were being isolated, although they were not ill, but because they handled the food.

Those admitted to the hospital as patients include thirty-nine student nurses, seven graduate nurses, two doctors and two employees.

Hospital authorities said that in no case had the illness been serious.

August 24, 1943, page 8 – “Dysentery Cases Rise. 54 Bellevue Hospital Employees Now Undergoing Treatment”

As the number of Bellevue Hospital employees suffering from dysentery rose to fifty-four yesterday, Dr. William F. Jacobs, superintendent of the hospital, said that “the direct cause of the outbreak is still a mystery.” Dr. Jacobs said the sufferers were isolated and none would be discharged until definite laboratory reports had been obtained on their cases.

In an analysis of the cases, Dr. Jacobs said that forty-nine complained of upset stomachs, with slight indications of dysentery after having eaten in the hospital dining room on Wednesday when deviled eggs were served. Fifteen of the fifty-four, however, did not eat deviled eggs, Dr. Jacobs said, and four or five did not eat in the hospital dining room at all on Wednesday, yet suffered from the same condition. He added that 800 others on the hospital staff ate deviled eggs and were not affected.

September 19, 1943, page 19 – “Bellevue Defended by Bernecker, Jacobs. Officials Deny That Insanitary Conditions Caused Infection”

Bellevue Hospital was defended yesterday by Dr. Edward M.

Bernecker, City Hospitals Commissioner, and Dr. William F. Jacobs, superintendent of the institution, against charges by some of its employes of unsanitary conditions that caused a dysentery epidemic among workers there a month ago. The two officials escorted a large delegation of reporters and photographers through the hospital to prove their points.

Members of the State, County and Municipal Workers, CIO, who are employed at Bellevue complained last week that uncleanliness was caused largely by insufficient help in the kitchens and among the maintenance force. These conditions were responsible for bacillary dysentery that made 112 employes and staff members at the hospital ill last month, Mac Levitt, organizer for the union, said.

Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, Health Commissioner, said the epidemic lasted from Aug. 16 to 19. Among the 112 persons affected forty showed positive clinical symptoms. Four of the sick were food handlers, but eight others had not eaten the hospital the day the infection was spread. Dr. Stebbins said that dysentery was not necessarily the result of unsanitary conditions in kitchens and dining rooms, while Dr. Bernecker and Dr. Jacobs insisted it was not.

Dr. Bernecker admitted 508 vacancies among the employes, and a drastic shortage of nurses because of the war. The tour revealed clean wards and corridors. The kitchens and dining rooms, even in the old building, were tidy and wells scrubbed. In the new buildings everything was spic and span.

October 6, 1943, page 25 – “Prisoners Will Aid Bellevue Hospital. 30 Shifted from Rikers Island to Work in Institution”

Thirty prisoners from Rikers Island who are serving terms of thirty days to six months for disorderly conduct, possession of policy slips, petit larceny and pother offenses, were installed yesterday at Bellevue Hospital to work out their terms at tasks there

The prisoners, some of whom are qualified in trades, will work as painters, carpenters, handymen, orderlies, etc. While at the hospital they will receive pay of \$1 a day and three meals. Pay will be issued at the end of their terms.

If the prisoners have a record of good behavior at the hospital, an official said, they may keep their jobs after their sentences have been served. They will eat at the hospital in the same dining room as student and graduate nurses and attendants.

December 14, 1943, page 29 – “Respiratory Ills Spread in Nation. Thousands Kept From School or Job – Epidemic, Variouslly Diagnosed, is Fairly Mild. Not Like 1918 Outbreak. Doctors Not Alarmed, Though They Admit It is Extensive – Many Cases Here”

Bellevue’s already curtailed staff, its medical services and wards, have been taxed by grippe and influenza cases and extras beds have been added in many wards.

December 15, 1943, page 29 – “Ill Workers Here Increase Sharply. Absences Due to Respiratory Causes Double in Few Days – Stebbins Not Alarmed. ‘Epidemic’ State Denied. City Hospitals Do Not View ‘Flu Wave’ as Such – Many Other Areas Affected”

He [Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, New York City Health Commissioner] took occasion to deny that Bellevue Hospital was greatly overcrowded, saying there were only two patients over the normal capacity in each of the thirteen wards.

“As far as an epidemic is concerned,” he said, “the hospital census does not show it. Of course, most people with a cold stay at home and don’t go to a hospital.”

May 2, 1944, page 21 – “Big Contingent From Circus Visits Bellevue To Delight a Record Audience of 5,000”

For the forty-second consecutive year the Big Show went to Bellevue Hospital yesterday morning. It was seventy minutes of unbridled joy for a record-breaking assemblage of 5,000 patients, doctors, nurses and, of course, the usual quota of hookey players. All agreed that this year’s visit was something long to remember.

The morning was perfect. The warm sunshine was sufficient blanket for the sick – young and old – who had filled the 3,000-seat grandstand in the rectangular plot facing the East River two hours before Merle Evans and his thirty-six-piece ensemble blared the opening cornet salvo. Another 2,000 crowding the balconies of the surrounding buildings cheered just as loudly.

Felix Adler and his pet pig ran riot over the grandstands.

Nine-year-old Richard Tartaglia, both legs broken, could only say: “We and the guys have been waiting for days for this. Gee!” Three-year-old Cecilia Fernandez, a patient since she was born with club feet, could only stare with brown eyes and say: “O-o.”

Nobody was forgotten. Word came in the mist of the performance that sixty youngsters quarantined with measles were an unhappy lot. Roland Butler, general director for the occasion, hastily dispatched [Emmett Leo] Kelly, Adler, McBride and a contingent of clowns to a secluded area to do a special act. The sixty peeped hard through windows, laughed and applauded.

Mr. Butler said: “We enjoy it [the show] as much as you people do.”

So did 12-year-old Gerald Gavan, his sister, Genevieve, 4, and brother Billy, 4. Gerald decided that his school could do without him for one morning and took Billy and Genevieve by hand. “Nothing to it,” said Gerald. Gerald and family even shred in the distribution of several thousand boxes of popcorn by Jerry Vogel, music publisher.

June 30, 1944, page 10 – “Cripples at Bellevue Receive

Diplomas. Girl Gets Gold Pin and Letter of Praise From Mayor”

Six crippled children of Bellevue Hospital in cots and wheelchairs received high-school and eighth-grade diplomas yesterday afternoon at commencement exercises in the medical board room there.

Miss Jeanne Kelly, 17 years old, who completed the last year of her Jamaica High School course in the hospital, under the tutelage of Miss Selma Goldsand, public home-instruction teacher, received both diploma and gold scholarship pin from Dr. Charles H. Vosburgh, principal of the high school. Miss Kelly, who has a spinal ailment, has been accepted by Queens College and plans to be a teacher.

Declaring that the message applied to all the graduates of the

Bellevue Branch of Manhattan Public School 401, Dr. Vosburgh read a letter from Mayor La Guardia praising her “high courage” and “intrepid spirit” and observing that “true courage is like a kite – a contrary wind raises it higher.”

After Mrs. Mary F. King, principal of P.S. 401, had presented an eighth-grade diploma to 15-year-old William Seaton who lay in a cast, the boy, without turning his head, said that this was a “very important day” in his life and that when he finished school, he hoped to design airplanes.

Others who received eighth-grade diplomas were Antoinette Veith, 13; Herbert Bailey, 15; Thomas Sullivan, 14, and Isabella Hughes, 15. Nicholas Tatasciore, 16, transferred to a convalescent home, was granted his in absentia.

October 14, 1944, page 23 – “Rodeo Brings an Enchanted Tour Into the Lives of 6,000 Shut-Ins at Bellevue”

The shut-ins turned out en masse yesterday as the rodeo with its horses, steers, mules, trick ropers and cowboys carried them off to the “Wild West” for one and a half thrilled packed hours, during which they gaped, cheered, laughed and forgot the red brick walls of Bellevue that surrounded them.

Six thousand youngsters, with a generous sprinkling of doctors, nurses and attendants, filled the arena behind the hospital on the East River Drive at Twenty-eighth Street. They sat under a warm sun in specially constructed stands, stretched out on the ground or propped up by pillows in beds and wheelchairs moved out into the open for the gala occasion.

They saw Jack Andres put his trained bull through a series of sets; Chester Byers and the McLaughlin Brothers twirl their lassos, and Ken Boen fall off his “old gray mare.” They saw many other acts, too, but the real “oohs” and “ahs” came when Roy Rogers and his horse, Trigger, rode into the arena. Rogers delighted them with his songs and put Trigger through a series of tricks.

Little 3-year-old Cecilia Fernandez, hospitalized because of a club foot, probably was the most envied person at the show. She had a chance to sit astride Trigger.

Later Mr. Rogers and the 3 Riders of the purple Sage sang for some of the children in the tuberculosis ward.

October 27, 1944, page 25 – “Medical Center Planned by N. Y. U. Development in Bellevue Area After the War Outlined by Dr. Harry W. Chase. City’s Advantage Hailed. Chancellor Cites Opportunity as Scientists Flock Here – Two of Faculty Honored”

Comprehensive post-war plans for the development of a great medical-center in the Bellevue area by the New York University College of Medicine in cooperation with the City of New York and Bellevue Hospital were announced last night at a dinner in the Hotel Roosevelt by Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, chancellor of the university.

“The devastating effects of the last two wars have shifted the mecca of medicine front the Old to the New World,” Dr. Chase asserted. “Doctors from South America, Europe and Asia are flowing to America to gain the newest knowledge which medical science can offer. New York will obviously become the greatest post-graduate medical center of the future.”

“The interest of the Mayor and his Commissioner of Hospitals has been deep and unremitting,” Dr. Chase said.

Commissioner Bernecker stressed the long cooperative relationship between the N.Y.U. College of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital and foresaw the rise of a great medical center as a consequence of the city’s previously announced \$20,000,000 post-war reconstruction plans disclosed last night by Chancellor Chase.

November 23, 1944, page 25 – “Bellevue Thanksgiving. 200

Attend Fifth Interfaith Service at the Hospital”

The fifth annual Inter-faith Thanksgiving service of Bellevue Hospital was held last evening in the Protestant Episcopal Chapel of Christ the Consoler at the hospital, with 200 persons, most of them patients, in attendance. A number of the patients were in wheelchairs or on stretchers. The Rev. Dr. Alan R. Bragg, Protestant Episcopal chaplain of the hospital, welcomed the guests. Rabbi Henry A. Schor, the Jewish chaplain, delivered the sermon.

December 26, 1944, page 10 – “2,471 Veneral Cases Treated”

From April 30 through Nov. 30, Bellevue Hospital's new rapid treatment center for venereal diseases, opened in April, has treated and discharged 2,471 patients, Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of the hospital, announced yesterday. Of those 1,333 were treated for syphilis.

January 27, 1945, page 8 – “Disney Film Pleases Children”

A tropical profusion of color together with a super-animated view of Latin-American flora and fauna enthralled 350 children at Bellevue Hospital yesterday afternoon as they witnessed a preview of Walt Disney's feature-length Donald Duck film “The Three Caballeros.” The children crowded the auditorium of the Psychiatric Building to capacity, some lining the foot of the stage in wheeled-in beds.

January 30, 1945, page 23 – “New N. Y. U. Medical Unit. Division of Physical Therapy Set Up With Baruch Grant”

In cooperation with Bellevue Hospital and the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled, 400 First Avenue, a Division of Physical Medicine has been established by New York University College of Medicine with the grant of \$250,000 made last spring by the Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine, it was announced yesterday.

May 12, 1945, page 26 – “Circus brings Joy to Bellevue's Sick.

5,000 Happy Youngsters Thrill to Annual Performance on Lawn of the Hospital”

By blazing-red truck, elephant and taxicab, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Bellevue Hospital yesterday morning for the forty-third consecutive year. There was brilliant sunshine that gave an extra glow to the 5,000 happy youngsters – not to mention the generous assortment of adults who packed the stands surrounding the rectangular plot of Twenty-eighth Street facing the East River.

There was one who peered a little harder than the other isolated patients. He was Charley Fortuna, once a star pantomime and acrobatic clown with the circus. He has been a patient at Bellevue since March 17,

suffering from a paralytic stroke and partial blindness. Felix Adler, the Big Show's star clown, paid Charley a special visit. Charley, tears flowing freely, applauded Felix.

Merle Evans and his band almost blasted the walls down with the traditional circus music. Announcer [Beverley] Kelley said at the conclusion of the performance:

“Circus people – who know a thing or two about courage – admire the courage of you sick. Seeing you, you who are fighting personal battles, inspires us. We salute that courage.”

May 15, 1945, page 21 – “Hospital Patient Slain. Woman, in Straight Jacket, Strangled – Another Accused”

Mrs. Gilda Abbamonte, 28 years old, of 37-13 102nd Street, Corona, Queens, was strangled to death last night while she and another woman patient were alone in a sound-proof room used for the treatment of disturbed patients in the psychopathic ward of Bellevue Hospital, according to the police.

The police said that Mrs. Abbamonte and Miss Natalie Walker, 32, of 118 Perry Street had been placed in the room, known as the “tub room,” in straight jackets. Later, when Evelyn Dowleyne, a hospital attendant, entered the room she found Mrs. Abbamonte dead, with a piece of gauze wrapped around her neck and Miss Walker free of her straight jacket, she told the police. Vincent J. Dermody, assistant district attorney, went to the hospital to conduct an investigation. Miss Walker was booked at the East Thirty-fifth Street police station on a homicide charge and a police man was assigned to guard her.

May 16, 1945, page 21 – “Strangling an ‘Accident.’ Bernecker Lays Bellevue Death to Shortage of Attendants”

Dr. Edward M. Bernecker, Hospital Commissioner, described yesterday the strangling of a mental patient in Bellevue Hospital Monday night as “an unfortunate accident which could not be provided” because of a large influx of patients in the last three months, with consequent over straining of a war-depleted staff.

A manic-depressive, according to Commissioner Bernecker, Miss

[Natalie] Walker was in an isolation room yesterday, undergoing examination by psychiatrists whose findings will be forwarded to the Commissioner. Supreme Court proceedings designed to have her committed to a mental institution are scheduled for Friday.

May 24, 1945, page 21 – “Ward in Bellevue Visited by Jurors.

But Scene of Killing May 14 Found Being Converted Into a

‘Comparative Paradise’”

Charges that Ward 7 of the psychiatric division of Bellevue Hospital was in a “disgraceful condition” on the night of May 14, when Mrs. Gilda Abbamonte, a dementia praecox patient, was strangled by another straitjacket patient, Miss Natalie Walker, a writer, led yesterday to an unannounced visit to the ward by a quorum of the New York County grand jury.

The sixteen jurors, headed by the foreman, Charles A. Richards, accompanied by Jacob Grumet, assistant district attorney, entered the ward at 11 A. M. They found, however, that all the patients had been shifted to another women’s ward on the third floor and that workmen were busily painting and repairing the scene of the killing into what was described as a “comparative paradise.” The full grand jury will convene today to discuss developments in the visit of one hour and a half to the ward.

The grand jurors began their investigation of the killing last Thursday. The ten witnesses included psychiatrists, physicians, nurses and other attendants in the hospital; Dr. Edward Bernecker, Commissioner of Hospitals; Dr. Perry M. Lichtenstein, medical adviser to District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, and George Blue, a photographer in the District Attorney’s office.

Dr. Lichtenstein, Mr. Blue and Vincent J. Dermody, assistant district attorney, had visited the ward on the night of the killing. Following a report the next day by Dr. Lichtenstein to Mr. Hogan, he ordered Mr. Grumet, who is head of the Homicide Bureau, to investigate the strangling and its surroundings and lay the evidence before the grand jury.

Dr. Lichtenstein in the report charged that Ward 7 on May 14 not alone was in a “disgraceful condition,” but was overcrowded with forty-five women patients and had an extremely gloomy appearance for want of painting. He added that the ventilation was “wretched,” with the

thermometer in the room at 90 degrees, because the grimy windows virtually were sealed.

The report was accompanied by Mr. Blue's pictures of the ward. One showed a corner of the ceiling with several large blocks of plaster sagging several inches because of water seepage from an operating room above. The pictures revealed also large cracks and fingerprint smears on all the walls.

Mr. Dermody found that the ward was so understaffed that the nurses and other attendants had to work "excessively long hours" every day. This brought the comment yesterday from the District Attorney's office that the hospital aides were "actual heroes."

Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of the hospital, declared that redecoration of the ward had been "premeditated" before the death of Mrs. Abbamonte.

Dr. Bernecker in a statement charged that Dr. Lichtenstein had said employes in the ward worked fifteen to nineteen hours daily. Dr. Lichtenstein, however, denied that he had made any public statement on his visit to the hospital.

"Never in the memory of anyone connected with the Department of Hospitals – and my personal knowledge goes back some thirty years," Dr. Bernecker said, "have the municipal hospitals worked under greater difficulties and handicaps than today. The department has made every effort humanly possible to augment its staff with both trained and auxiliary personnel. Since Jan. 1, 1942, over \$7,000,000 has been spent in salary adjustments and increases in the department. With the added adjustments to take place on July 1 next, this total will exceed \$10,000,000."

July 20, 1945, page 21 – "Bellevue Patient's Papers Cause Spy Scare; Scrutiny Proves Them Worthless Documents"

An intriguing tale of a brief case filled with supposedly highly secret documents of the Office of Strategic Services and other war agencies, found in the possession of a woman committed to Bellevue Hospital for observation, came to light yesterday when the United States Attorney's office obtained a Supreme Court order for the return of the papers to the Federal authorities.

Unfortunately for lovers of melodrama, but much to the relief of

Government officials, the highly secret documents turned out, when the Government regained possession of them, to consist of old newspaper clippings and publicity releases, according to Richard J. Burke, in charge of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's office.

The mystery began May 15, when Miss Ann Hutchinson, 35 years old, of 49 West Fifty-second Street, was taken to Bellevue for observation. On June 4 she was adjudged incompetent in a Supreme Court proceeding, and committed to a mental institution. Meanwhile the Bellevue Hospital authorities had examined her brief case and informed OSS that its contents were apparently Government documents.

[Supreme Court] Justice [Bernard] Botein duly granted the order [directing the hospital to turn over the papers to OSS], and the brief case was turned over to the Government. Later in the day, Mr. Burke spoiled a promising story by saying that subsequent examination showed the papers were valueless.

July 22, 1945, page 25 – “Prisoner Escapes From Bellevue”

A city-wide alarm was sent out yesterday for Raymond Taylor, 30-year-old Negro, convicted of burglary, after he had escaped at 9:30 A.M. from the third-floor prison ward at Bellevue Hospital, where he was awaiting transfer to the Matteawan State Hospital for the criminally insane.

September 21, 1945, page 38 – “Praises Bellevue Unit. Gen.

Hawley Says Hospital Can Be Proud of Work Overseas”

Bellevue Hospital's unit serving overseas as the first general hospital in the European theatre of operations was commended for “splendid service” by Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley, chief surgeon in that area, in a letter made public yesterday by Hospital Commissioner Edward M. Bernecker.

Bellevue Hospital “can be very proud” of the unit, one of the largest serving overseas,, General Hawley said, adding: “It has rendered outstanding service to our country.”

Made up of 600 doctors, nurses, and enlisted personnel serving as medical corpsmen, technicians and assistants, the unit, which has been cited for meritorious service, went overseas Dec. 27, 1943.

March 26, 1946, page 31 – “City is Called Lax on Race Problem. Committee on Harlem Charges Authorities Do Not Know Where Job Starts. School Board Criticized. Health Department Is Asked to Realize It Has Duty to Train More Negro Physicians”

Because of the “dearth” of facilities to train Negro physicians, she [Mrs. Edith M. Alexander of the Mayor’s Committee on Unity] asked that the Health Department be persuaded to see that “part of their duty lies in the direction of deliberately going out to train more Negro Physicians than they now have on their staff.” She asked a change in the general policy of Lincoln and Bellevue hospitals to allow for the appointment of “qualified Negro physicians to various hospitals staffs.”

March 27, 1946, page 29 – “Two Flee Bellevue, One With Ward Keys”

Two persons escaped from the observation ward of Bellevue Hospital yesterday, one during the day and the second between 5 and 9 P.M. in the evening. As far as is known to the hospital authorities, they were the first escapes ever made from the psychiatric division there.

The first fugitive, according to the police, took with him the keys to the ward. Varying accounts of just how he made his escape were offered by hospital authorities and the police, but preliminary reports that he was a “dangerous maniac” were denied.

April 25, 1946, page 17 – “City is Sued for \$100,000”

The City of New York was defendant in a suit for \$100,000 damages filed by the estate of Mrs. Gilda Abbamonte, 28-year-old mother of three children, who was strangled in the Psychopathic Ward of Bellevue Hospital. She was attacked last May 14 by Natalie Walker, 32, a writer, who later was committed to the Matteawan State Hospital as criminally insane.

November 20, 1946, page 33 – “Bellevue Patient Marks 100th Birthday; Second 100 Years Will be Easy, He Says”

To the accompaniment of a huge steak dinner, which he put away easily, John Powers, a veteran of the Civil and Spanish American Wars, celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday at Bellevue Hospital, where he is the oldest patient.

The party was given for Mr. Powers by Dr. William F. Jacobs, medical superintendent of Bellevue and a half-dozen ward nurses who acclaimed him as their favorite patient. Other oldsters in the ward looked on enviously as he polished off the full-course meal and bit into the one-candle birthday cake.

Mr. Powers said he was born in a farming neighborhood in the vicinity of what is now Lexington Avenue and Fiftieth Street, the son of immigrants from County Cork, Ireland. He reminisced that Lexington Avenue was then a cow path, and Park Avenue a swampy area where he used to skate in winter.

Up to the time he entered Bellevue twelve days ago to be treated for general debility, he worked as a florist in East Rutherford, N.J., and lived in Wallington, N.J.

November 21, 1946, page 30 – “The Cheerful Centenarian”

In this time of many troubles it was pleasant to learn that the doctors and nurses at Bellevue had paused to give a birthday party for their favorite patient, John Powers, 100, who is forced to interrupt his trade as florist by a spot of illness. “I start the year 1,” said Mr. Powers, in great good humor. “The second hundred years will be easy.”

He was born in what was in 1846 a farming neighborhood, at Lexington Avenue and Fiftieth Street. Lexington Avenue had been created by legislation, as a matter of fact, only fourteen years earlier, and it was nearly two years after he was born that it was opened from Forty-second to Sixty-sixth Street. As late as 1879 the graves of British soldiers were being dug up in it. As a boy of 12 John Powers could have gone skating in nearby Central Park for the first time, for work has been under way for a year to turn that wilderness north of Fifty-ninth Street into a parkland. The site was then suburban, and among the nuisances to be uprooted were numerous swill-milk and hog-feeding establishments.

One John Randal Jr. was talking, in 1846, of building an elevated railway on Broadway, but an Aldermanic committee feared it would drive the citizens away from the street. In a match game of baseball that year, a New York player was fined six cents for swearing. Elias Howe’s sewing machine was patented. Niblo’s Garden, on Broadway near Prince, which

featured among other things an annual cattle show, was destroyed by fire. President Polk proclaimed a state of war with Mexico. A magnetic telegraph line between New York and Washington was being completed. Edgar Allan Poe was writing critical essays for Godey's on the New York literati. Conditions were bad in tenement houses. A watchman was stationed in the cupola of City Hall to ring a big bell whenever he detected a fore on the horizon. The release of a runaway slave by order of a New York judge created such wild excitement in Nassau Street that it was being asked, "How long will the North and South remain a united people?" At 16 Mr. Powers enlisted in the Union Army, and was later to serve under a lieutenant named Arthur MacArthur.

We hope that Mr. Powers will soon be back with his flowers in Jersey's East Rutherford, where he "works hard and gets plenty of fresh air and sunshine."

January 4, 1947, page 30 – "Beloved Patient, 100, Returns to Bellevue"

John Powers, who celebrated his 100th birthday last Nov. 19 in Bellevue Hospital, was back in the institution last night for a physical check-up and a rest.

The centenarian, who was a favorite patient of the nursing and medical staff when he was ill in the hospital during a spell of illness last fall, asked for hospitalization yesterday afternoon at the East Sixty-seventh Street Police Station. He said he had been wandering the streets, had aching legs and was "very tired."

Mr. Powers, a florist and landscape gardener, as his father had been, said his home was in Wallington, N.J. He was vague as to why and when he left his home to come to New York. Police thought it was homesickness that brought him here.

January 5, 1947, page 1 – "Hunt for 7 in Break Pushed as Prisoner Escapes Bellevue. Two, Back in Cells, Tell Police How Easy It Was to Get Out of Brooklyn Jail" by WILLIAM R. CONKLIN

In another escape yesterday morning, William Pamaro, a 31-year-old

robbery suspect, broke away from Probationary Patrolman Richard Gaffney in the Bellevue Hospital psychiatric building and vanished into the sub-basement of the hospital. Six bullets were fired by the policeman in a running chase but all missed the fugitive. Pamaro, who was being taken to Bellevue for examination, was still at liberty last night despite an intensive search for him.

January 5, 1947, page 7 – “Prisoner Escapes in Bellevue Lobby.

Disappears Into Labyrinthine Maze of Cellars as Escort Fires Six Shots at Him”

A 31-year-old prisoner made a spectacular escape from his escorting officer in the crowded lobby of Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital yesterday and disappeared into the labyrinthine maze of sub-cellars that provide an underground link to the vast hospital plant.

Bolting from his police escort, William Pamaro, the fugitive, veered through a near-by door, sprinted through an open courtyard as Patrolman Richard Gaffney of the Empire Boulevard precinct fired six shots at him, and vanished through an open window to the hospital cellar after climbing over a gaping excavation in the playground at the rear of the hospital.

Patrolman Gaffney and Pamaro, who was not handcuffed, stood in the west wing of the building waiting for an elevator to descend to the main floor. When the elevator arrived at approximately 10:45 A.M., a crowd began moving into the lobby. As the visitors milled around them, Pamaro dashed suddenly to the left, ran about seven feet and through a door leading to the courtyard. Patrolman Gaffney followed, opening fire as he cleared the door into the yard.

Pamaro ran west for a short distance to skirt a brick wall that separates a parking area from a driveway on East Twenty-ninth Street and turned west toward a large open field at the rear of the hospital. He turned north and then west, clambered over an excavation about seven feet wide and vanished through an open window leading to the subcellar.

January 6, 1947, page 10 – “Doctors Criticize Care of Alcoholics.

‘Shocking Indifference’ and ‘Dearth of Facilities’ Found in Hospitals Here”

A “shocking Indifference” and a “dearth of facilities” characterize the treatment generally available for alcoholics in New York City, according to a survey made by the committee on public health relations of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Since Jan. 1, 1945, all municipal hospitals have received alcoholics. In that year there were 11,467 admissions, with 7,157 at Bellevue, 1,998 at Kings County and 509 at Harlem Hospitals topping the list. The committee made forty-hour visits to Bellevue and Kings County Hospitals and a shorter one to Harlem.

At Bellevue it was found that the alcoholic ward had facilities for twenty-eight male patients and that female patients are sent to the general wards. Physicians and internes in the general admitting room did not appear to be particularly interested in alcoholic patients, “but despite the unfriendly attitude on the part of the internes, the alcoholic patients, if physically ill, are given good care.”

The report added that “the nurses on the emergency and admission services, although efficient in their handling of alcoholic patients, likewise regard them as a nuisance” and that “the ward nurses and ward attendants give them adequate attention.”

An investigator was told that at Bellevue the admitting physicians “are not prone to accept patients who are not in a stupor or psychotic” and that “those anxious to place patients in the alcoholic ward sometimes resort to getting them drunk in order to get them admitted.”

Restrictions against smoking and walking about the alcoholic ward cause some patients to leave shortly after admission. Alcoholic patients, except those sent to the psychiatric division, may leave any time they sign a release.

“Although nutritional vitamin and other therapies are available at Bellevue,” the report said, “few patients remain long enough to get the benefit of them. Consequently, treatment largely consists of sedation and a bed in which to sleep.”

The number of “recidivists” among alcoholic patients at Bellevue was reported to be high. The investigator was told that “the average ‘common drunk’ leaves the hospital, panhandles enough to buy a bottle of wine, puts in some aspirin, drinks it and curls up over some warm ventilator,” going back to Bellevue or the Municipal Lodging House late in the afternoon.

January 12, 1947, page 14 – “Police Recapture Thug in Brooklyn.

Fugitive From Bellevue Suggests a Drink for Detective – 9 of 14

Felons Still at Large”

With the capture yesterday in Brooklyn of Vito Pamaro, who had broken away from a policeman while waiting for an elevator in the psychiatric building at Bellevue Hospital on Jan. 4, the police raised to five the number of recaptures among fourteen prisoners who had escaped in recent jail breaks.

Police records show that Pamaro, 38, was sentenced to twenty-five years to life on a homicide charge, but was released when the conviction was reversed. He has since been arrested for rape, assault, and grand larceny.

October 14, 1949, page 29 – “Mayor Backs New Clinic. Plans to

Extend Out-Patient System, He Says After Bellevue Visit”

After inspecting recently established facilities at Bellevue Hospital for out-patient care, Mayor O’Dwyer said yesterday that he would seek to extend the plan to other city hospitals. The out-patient clinic, set up in space formerly used as living quarters by members of the Bellevue staff, permits adequate treatment of sufferers from chronic ailments, and makes more hospital beds available for acute cases, the Mayor said.

He was accompanied by Controller Lazarus Joseph and Vincent R. Impellitteri, President of the City Council.

December 11, 1949, II, page 6 – “Scenes of the Crime. Bellevue

Doubles as Movie Set for Film About Hospital Murder Mystery.”

A small man, eyes wide with excitement, darted out of the basement of L Building in Bellevue Hospital and clambered up the fire-escape to the roof nine stories above, hotly pursued by a grim-visaged detective with a gun in hand. This was the climax to a tense manhunt, wagged with unremitting perseverance by an undercover policeman who had roamed the hospital for weeks disguised as an interne to solve the murder of a young doctor who was found dead on an East River pier directly opposite the hospital.

Roughly 80 per cent of the action in “Confidential Squad” takes

place within the boundaries of Bellevue as [Richard] Conte tracks down the killer, played by Richard Taber. Having permitted the film people to work in the hospital, Dr. William Jacobs, superintendent of Bellevue, has been unstinting in cooperating to assure complete authenticity of hospital routine, according to the director [George Sherman].

Richard Conte made a big hit with the nurses, which was to be expected, and he won a lot of new friends, too, among ward patients whom he visited regularly, especially a group of tubercular children. The most rewarding experience Mr. Sherman has had was a conversation with Dr. Jacobs, who told him that patients in wards near where filming was taking place were improving more rapidly. A nurse, who obviously could qualify as a press agent's dream girl, referred to the new therapeutic agent at Bellevue as "moviecillin."

December 28, 1949, page 3 – “Two Fires at Bellevue, Small Blazes in Basement Are Seen Work of Arsonist”

Two small basement fires were discovered within ten minutes of each other early today at Bellevue Hospital, where several small and mysterious blazes have occurred recently. The Fire Department listed today's fires as suspicious, and hospital officials said they suspected that a skilled arsonist might have been at work in the institution.

January 12, 1950, page 24 – “Clerk at Bellevue Admits Setting Fire”

A 42-year-old Bellevue Hospital clerk, who admitted setting and then putting out a small fire in a record file in the hospitals' out-patient clinic Tuesday night, was arraigned in Felony Court yesterday on an arson charge.

The clerk, Arthur T. Quinlan of 62 Montague Street, Brooklyn, who had been employed at the institution for twenty-five years, said that he had set the fire on an "impulse." According to Martin Scott, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, the defendant denied knowledge of six recent fires of suspicious origin at the hospital.

When arraigned before Magistrate Ambrose J. Haddock, Quinlan pleaded not guilty. Assistant District Attorney Paul F. Reilly requested that he be sent to the hospital for mental observation. The court complied.

For the last two weeks detectives and representatives of the fire marshal's office have been investigating a series of suspicious fires in the hospital.

April 6, 1950, page 28 – “Conditions at Bellevue” [Letter to the Editor]

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Recently I have been visiting a patient in one of the medical wards of Bellevue Hospital and if the people of New York are not cognizant of conditions there I should like to tell them. It is hard to believe that the largest city in the world cannot do a better job of caring for its sick.

There is one nurse at night for 150 patients, out of which forty or more are critically, desperately ill. During the day the condition improves – one nurse for thirty-five to fifty patients. The wards are so crowded that patients are lying in cots on the corridors. Tuberculosis patients are thrown with medical patients, using the same sinks and toilets. The wards cannot possibly be aired out or kept clean, and God help those people if a fire should occur.

After my feeling of horror subsided, I did some inquiring. I spoke to nurses and doctors. From the nurses I gathered that if they did any complaining about the load they had to carry they were told they could quit. They left the hospital each day with a feeling of frustration. They worried about the orders they failed to carry out, the mistakes that were bound to occur because their load is too heavy.

From the doctors I gathered that the fault lies with admitting regulations. Bums from the Bowery, malingerers who want lodging, clutter up the medical wards.

Surely our city can cope with this situation and give our sick adequate medical and nursing care. Why not a separate ward or building for alcoholics? Why can't the admitting office screen out those who are obviously faking from those who are in need of medical attention? At the present time they must accept everyone who asks for admission. And why not a larger appropriation for nurses in Bellevue?

Ruth K. Heyman

New York, March 24, 1950

**April 6, 1950, page 56 – “Bellevue Nurses Irked by Crowding. 47
Said to Have Threatened to Quit – Kogel Tells of Steps to
Remedy Situation”**

Commenting on reports that forty-seven registered nurses at Bellevue have threatened to resign if overcrowded ward conditions were not improved, Dr. Marcus D. Kogel, Commissioner of Hospitals, declared yesterday that “everything humanly possible is being done to alleviate congestion in the municipal institutions.”

The nurses, whose walk-out threat was said to have been made in February in a petition to Dr. Kogel, are employed in the Medical Service Building, one of nine patient buildings at Bellevue. The entire nursing staff at the hospital consists of 527 registered and eighty-eight practical nurses, assisted by 1,069 attendants.

[Dr. Kogel] admitted that conditions at Bellevue were bad, but contended that they were better than last year and “certainly better” than those at Harlem, Fordham, Morrisania, Lincoln, Queens General and King’s County Hospitals.

Concerning the nurses’ petition, Dr. Kogel said his department had been receiving similar walk-out threats from Bellevue nurses for the last three years.

“We’d hate to lose those nurses,” he [Dr. Kogel] continued. “But if they feel they have to resign, that’s all right with us. I’m tired of being threatened by this group, which is led by a small nucleus. We ought to send these nurses copies of the oaths they took when they became nurses.”

June 11, 1950, page 77 – “Fire at Bellevue Routs 50 Patients.

Minor Blaze In Oil Separator Spreads Smoke Through

Psychopathic Wards”

Fifty patients were led from their wards in corridors late last night when fire of undetermined origin in an oil separator in the psychopathic building at Bellevue Hospital, Thirtieth Street and First Avenue, sent smoke through three floors of the institution.

One alarm was sounded at 11:45 P.M. Smoke was carried through a ventilating system to the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, on which were 150 patients. Nurses and attendants led forty patients to the corridors from the fourth floor and ten from the two other floors of the eight-story structure. There was little excitement.

The blaze was brought under control in twenty minutes. The patients were returned to their wards at 12:45 A.M. today.

June 27, 1950, page 31 – “Children’s Clinic Opens at Bellevue.

Mayor Calls for Expansion of Out-patient Facilities to Save Hospital Space”

A solution to the critical overcrowding in municipal hospitals was seen yesterday by Mayor O’Dwyer in the expansion and modernization of clinical facilities at these institutions.

The Mayor expressed this view at the opening of new quarters for the pediatric out-patient clinic at Bellevue Hospital.

“From 25 to 40 per cent of our hospital bed space,” he said, “can be saved for patients who vitally need to remain in the hospitals if we have adequate out-patient facilities to treat persons who require that type of treatment.”

The new quarters opened on the sixth floor of the Out-Patient Department Building at Bellevue will provide improved facilities for the treatment of 25,000 children a year, according to the pediatric clinic’s director, Dr. L. Emmett Holt Jr.

Dr. Holt explained that the fifty-four separate examining, waiting and treatment rooms would enable the sixty doctors on a part-time basis at the clinic to work much more efficiently.

“Under the old set-up with everyone crowded into big rooms,” he said, “a doctor could hardly listen to a heart beat what with all the brawling and squalling.”

The staff of the clinic also will include six graduate nurses and, in the peak winter season, from sixteen to eighteen student doctors. It is expected that the unit will be able to handle up to 200 children a day.

May 23, 1961, page 42 – “Bellevue Scored on Mental Care. State Psychiatrist Terms It Worse Than Kings County”

By EMMA HARRISON

Conditions in the Bellevue psychiatric division are worse than those in Kings County Hospital, the head of a special committee studying psychiatric services in municipal hospitals said yesterday.

Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb, director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute made the observation at the annual awards reception of the Manhattan Society for Mental Health. Dr. Kolb was appointed by Commissioner of Hospitals Ray E. Trussell to make the study after newspaper articles on conditions at Kings County had appeared in The New York World-Telegram and The Sun.

Bellevue also was listed as one of the “perennial problems” of the city in the annual report of the society, which was released at the meeting at the Cosmopolitan Club. It said that “highly distressing conditions continue there without prospect of change.”

Dr. Donald M. Carmichael, director of the state aftercare program in New York City, reported on the relapse rate of patients discharged from state mental hospitals. He said the relapse rate was about 35 per cent in the city and 50 per cent in outlying areas where there were no aftercare programs.

June 4, 1961, page 40 – “Mayor Inspects, Scores Bellevue. Finds Psychiatric Wards Too Crowded – Orders Reforms”

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

Mayor Wagner inspected the Bellevue Hospital Psychiatric Division yesterday and reported it overcrowded and badly in need of repairs.

Mr. Wagner spent an hour touring the wards in the nine-story psychiatric division at First Avenue and Thirtieth Street. Dr. Arthur Zitrin, director of psychiatric services at Bellevue, and other administrators of the division accompanied him on the inspection.

The Mayor saw patients in their cells, in hospital beds, in recreation rooms and rest areas. He was grim throughout the visit.

At the end of his visit, Mr. Wagner said he found “bad conditions of overcrowding.”

“The principal problem here is overcrowding,” he said. “But I also found peeling paint, broken light fixtures, and ceilings with cinder blocks missing.”

Dr. [Ray E.] Trussell, who expressed agreement with the Mayor about conditions at Bellevue, said the psychiatric division now had 710 patients, although its maximum rated capacity was about 600.

Commissioner Trussell said he hoped that a more permanent solution to the problem of psychiatric patient care would be provided by the projected new \$68,000,000 Bellevue Hospital, which will replace the old buildings at an as yet undecided date.

March 31, 1964, page 32 – “Mayor Approves Budget Revisions.

Capital Outlay for Year Set at \$829.9 Million”

By CLAYTON KNOWLES

City Hall announced yesterday that Mayor Wagner had approved a capital budget of \$828,949,835.98 for the fiscal year that will begin July 1.

In the original budget, funds for construction at Bellevue Hospital had been reduced by both chambers [the City Council and Board of Estimate], but by different amounts. The Mayor accepted the \$1.8 million cut made by the board rather than the \$2.3 million voted by the City Council. The latter would have cut the total to \$49.8 million.

The smaller reduction was justified, the Mayor said in a veto message, because it equaled “a saving occasioned by a low bid received for foundation contract work.”

September 12, 1964, page 14 – “Acid-Blast Scare Alerts

Bellevue. One Building Cleared While Chemical is Removed”

Fear of an acid explosion in a laboratory caused the evacuation of a Bellevue Hospital building yesterday afternoon.

The scare came shortly after 1 P.M. when a technician working in the

top floor laboratory of the seven-story “G” Building found a pint of chlorosulphonic acid with its top broken.

The chemical, according to Dr. Randolph A. Wyman, administrative superintendent of the hospital, can be highly explosive if moisture reaches it.

Apprehensive because of the high humidity, the hospital called the police bomb squad and Fire Department.

Two hundred persons – 150 patients and 50 visitors and employees – were transferred to an adjoining building through a connecting corridor.

December 2, 1965, page 43 – “Bellevue Notes Rise in LSD Cases.

Upsurge Is Laid to Increase in Illegal Use of Drug -

Hallucinations Vary”

By HAROLD M. SCHMECK JR.

A sudden upsurge has been reported in the number of patients admitted to Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital because of bad reactions to LSD, a drug that produces powerful hallucinations and is being used experimentally in the treatment of mental illness.

The report, in the Dec. 2 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, cited 27 hospital admissions for reactions to LSD in the four-month period ending June 30.

Previously, there had been only a few sporadic cases at Bellevue.

A psychiatrist said he thought similar problems were arising in other major cities, but a spot check failed to disclose any such increase.

January 11, 1967, page 1 – “Thaler Says Poor in City Hospitals

are ‘Guinea Pigs.’ In State Senate Speech He Tells of

Experiments on Patients Without Consent” By RONALD MAIORANA

Albany, Jan. 10 – Senator Seymour R. Thaler charged on the floor of the Senate today that municipal and state hospitals in New York City were

performing medical experiments on indigent patients without their consent.

Senator Thaler, who said “he had searched his soul and conscience,” made the following charges in an angry hour-long speech:

¶Willowbrook State Hospital on Staten Island took 500 mentally retarded children, 3 to 9 years old, and injected them with a live hepatitis virus because officials wanted to start a hepatitis research program.

¶A 23-year-old woman at Harlem Hospital recently underwent a hysterectomy without her consent to demonstrate the operative procedure to internes and residents.

¶Harlem Hospital provides therapy for youngsters with congenitally deformed limbs “except when internes and residents are being taught surgical procedures – then the children are sent to surgery for removal of the limbs.”

¶Five out of 1,000 alcoholics and derelicts taken to Bellevue Hospital died after the hospital took liver biopsies for its research program.

An experimental hepatitis program is now underway at Willowbrook under a grant from the Army.

Dr. Louis Thomas, dean of the New York University School of Medicine and chief of the medical division of N.Y.U. at Bellevue, said of the Thaler charges: “I’m sore about this. In the last five years, according to records of the pathology department at Bellevue, not one death has occurred in a patient with alcoholism as a result of needle biopsies of the liver.”

In the case of the young woman who underwent a hysterectomy at Harlem Hospital, the Senator said he had been given the information by Dr. Clarence Hogans, whom he said was on the hospital’s staff. Dr. Hogans could not be reached for comment.

January 15, 1967, page 71 – “Bellevue Policy Eases Crowding.

Selective Admissions, Faster Processing Are Credited”

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital has eased its chronic overcrowding by initiating a more selective admissions policy, processing cases faster and cooperating more closely with state hospitals.

The begrimed, red-brick hospital has a capacity of 582 beds but has averaged more than 700 patients in recent years. A concerted effort to ease the overcrowding has reduced the patient population by 100 in the recent weeks although some of the 600 patients still sleep in corridors and in overcrowded wards.

Nurses report that for the first time in memory there are enough toothbrushes and toilet paper for the patients, but they report continuing shortages of combs, towels and pillow cases.

Previously, patients were examined for as briefly as 10 to 15 minutes to determine whether they should be sent home (two-thirds were), or transferred to a state mental hospital (one-third was).

The new procedures were initiated last fall after a report in The New York Times described overcrowding and understaffing, but the results have only recently been felt.

Another physician explained:

“It used to be that residents admitted almost everyone who came. They were afraid to turn people away. Now they’ve been encouraged to refuse admission to those they think don’t have to be admitted and to consult senior psychiatrists when they’re in doubt.”

The prison ward’s population has been reduced from an average of about 90 to 65 last week, with several days reduced from the average length of stay.

January 16, 1967, page 1 – “City Hospital Chief Admits

Unapproved Experiments” By JOHN KIFNER

The Commissioner of Hospitals conceded yesterday that some unauthorized experiments had been carried out on patients in city hospitals without his knowledge or that of the hospitals’ medical boards.

“With a big system like this there’s bound to be irregularities,” the Commissioner [Joseph V. Terenzio] said. “Sometimes people just don’t think of it, and just haven’t bothered to comply with the directives.”

Senator [Seymour R.] Thaler, who charged last week that there was widespread experimentation on patients without their consent, continued his criticism yesterday, but said he was worried that he was destroying patients’ “faith in what is second-class medicine, but is better than no medicine.”

The Hospital Department issued a memorandum recently repeating a standing order that the Commissioner be informed of all research activities.

January 18, 1967, page 39 – “Liver Tests Made Without Consent. Terenzio Admits Patients Did Not Authorize Biopsies”

Hospital Commissioner Joseph V. Terenzio admitted yesterday that multiple biopsies had been performed in Bellevue Hospital on patients without their consent.

He said that they first were done on Bowery derelicts for diagnostic purposes and then “as a follow up to see what effect the treatment had.” He also said that the results of the biopsies were used in cirrhosis research.

January 18, 1967, page 39 – “Thaler Introduces Bill”

ALBANY, Jan. 17 – A bill that requires written “voluntary informed consent” before a patient is entered into a medical research program and that prohibits research on children was introduced today by Senator Seymour R. Thaler.

The bill, cosponsored by Senator Norman F. Lent, a Nassau County Republican, would amend the state’s civil rights law.

April 29, 1967, page 25 – “Infant at Bellevue Responds To an Open-Heart Operation”

Open-heart surgery has been successfully performed at Bellevue Hospital on a 5-week-old boy, the youngest patient ever to undergo this type of surgery at the 2,500-bed municipal institution.

September 26, 1967, page 1 – “City Weighs Renting Bellevue to N.Y.U.” By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Bellevue Hospital, the city’s oldest, proudest and most investigated

municipal hospital, would become a private institution under a 50-year lease being informally negotiated between New York University Medical School and city officials.

“It’s just a question of what the terms will be,” Dr. George Armstrong, director of the New York University Medical Center said yesterday. He added, however, that no formal negotiations had taken place. The proposal was discussed at a medical school faculty meeting, according to other sources.

The proposed lease was denounced yesterday by State Senator Seymour R. Thaler, a Queens Democrat and ranking member of the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Health and Medicare.

“Without public hearings or public awareness, the city apparently has decided to go out of the hospital business,” Mr. Thaler said. “Through all the long, lean years, we sustained a municipal hospital system, but now, with Medicare and Medicaid paying most of the bills, we’re getting rid of our hospitals.”

Dr. Howard J. Brown, the city’s Health Services Administrator, was unavailable for comment, but a press spokesman, Milton Levenson, said, “There are no plans to lease Bellevue to N.Y.U. in any manner similar to the Ewing [hospital] lease.”

The Joint Legislative Committee on Public Health and Medicare closely questioned Dr. Brown and Joseph V. Terenzio, Hospitals Commissioner, on the Ewing lease, which still must be approved by the Board of Estimate.

“Does the city plan to lease or sell any other hospitals?” Mr. Thaler asked both Dr. Brown and Mr. Terenzio at the hearing.

“There are no other active negotiations,” Dr. Brown replied.

One year ago New York University threatened to sever its 125-year association with Bellevue, unless efforts were made to end chronic overcrowding and shortages of staff and equipment. This was a factor in the present \$4.1 million renovation of the old Bellevue.

Bellevue was Manhattan’s principal charity hospital until Medicare and Medicaid ended medical indigency by providing for semi-private care for the poor and elderly.

September 27, 1967, page 49 – “Union Head Warns Of Strike If

Bellevue Is Leased to N.Y.U.”

A leader of a union representing 21,000 employees in 21 municipal hospitals here said yesterday that members would walk off their jobs and “close down the entire city hospital system” if the city leased Bellevue Hospital to New York University.

“We would walk off our jobs – it’s that simple,” said Victor Gotbaum, executive director of the union, “and I think that other unions would honor our [picket] lines.”

In his statement, Mr. Gotbaum said:

“To turn [Bellevue] over now to a teaching institution, with its emphasis on the needs of students rather than the sick poor, would be a crime against the ghettoized millions who must rely on Bellevue and similar institutions,” which have “a tradition of taking care of the sick poor.”

“N.Y.U. is in the business for research and teaching, not helping the poor,” he added.

September 28, 1967, page 52 – “Hearings Slated On City

Hospitals. Brown Says They Will Seek Operating Alternatives”

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Public hearings will be held on various methods of operating the 21 municipal hospitals, Dr. Howard J. Brown, the city’s Health Services Administrator, said yesterday.

The hearings will concern seven alternative proposals contained in a two-volume report published by the City Administrator’s office. The proposals include leasing or selling all municipal hospitals to voluntary hospitals, turning over municipal hospitals to the state, placing all voluntary hospitals under city control on the theory that government pays 70 per cent of the bills, and creating a hospital authority.

The report noted city government had not been able to run its own hospitals, it might not be able to run all hospitals.

The report also noted: “Many people within the medical profession itself state that the teaching hospitals consider their first obligation is to

teaching, and that there is discrimination by voluntaries as to the type of cases [patients]. There have also been charges of discrimination against members of minority and lower economic groups.”

The final alternative to be considered is the creation of a hospital authority. The report said that “it should be noted that in forming a public authority, the desire is to achieve the efficiency of business and the public interest of government,” but warned:” The danger is that one may achieve the inefficiency of government and the private interest of business.”

October 28, 1967, page 19 – “Mayor and Cabinet Meet With N.Y.U.”

Mayor Lindsay led a retinue of assistants, deputies, department heads and Commissioners from City Hall to Vanderbilt Hall of New York University for the first of a series of cabinet meetings to be held on college campuses.

By using the city as a “laboratory,” he said, academic research will be channeled toward the solution of concrete problems.

While the deans of several graduate schools were explaining how they might help unravel some of the city’s difficulties, however, the city was challenged to solve one of the university’s toughest problems – the “standing ruin” of Bellevue Hospital, the headquarters of the School of Medicine and the city’s oldest municipal hospital.

Dr. Lewis Thomas, the school’s dean, called on the city to bring Bellevue “into the 20th century as an equipped and functioning hospital.”

“We would like immensely to see it operated as a great modern hospital should be operated,” he declared, “with all the decisions about its operation being made from its own administrative offices rather than from distant offices in the other, unfindable parts of the city.”

Bellevue, Dr. Thomas asserted, “shows the old marks and scars of virtually every kind of government folly imaginable. It is a living museum of bureaucratic Byzan-...”

In an interview later in the day, Dr. Thomas said his speech was, in effect, a restatement of his proposal for creation of a public or quasi-public corporation, “which would assume total operational control of the hospital.”

“Every single thing that needs to be done to operate a hospital from

within its own walls would be the responsibility of the corporation. The total operating budget would be under the control of the corporation.”

February 1, 1970, page 54 – “Environment Is Put First in City’s Capital Budget”

The Mayor urged \$26.5-million additional to complete construction of the new Bellevue Hospital, which was originally scheduled to be completed nearly a decade ago.

April 7, 1970, page 47 – “Building Delays Still Plague Bellevue”

By JOHN SIBLEY

To passing motorists on the East River Drive, the new 22-story Bellevue Hospital building on 26th Street and the drive appears almost ready for its first patients.

But the current prediction (the forecasts have been revised periodically since 1957) is that the long-awaited opening will not take place until late 1972 or 1973. Floors 18 and above – for the mentally ill – are to be ready some time in 1975.

The architect, Joseph Blumenkranz, who drew the original plans for the new Bellevue insists that the building could have been completed in 1961.

New Concepts

Why wasn’t it? There is no shortage of explanations.

Tight city budgets dictated a drastic scaling-down of the hospital that was first envisioned. After construction finally got under way, Medicare and Medicaid were enacted, which mandated more major design changes.

More slowdowns were caused by the development of new concepts in the treatment of psychiatric patients. Meanwhile, construction contracts were beginning to expire as deadlines were pushed ahead by months, then by years. And, as John W. Hornsey Jr., first deputy commissioner of Public Works, observed:

“You just can’t build a hospital or laboratory that isn’t obsolete by the time it’s completed. Technology moves faster than we can build. We can’t change plans continually or we’d never finish.”

Most members of the hospital’s professional staff, as well as an organization of concerned citizens called the Better Bellevue Association, cite the history of the project as a classic case of bureaucratic bungling. Mr. Blumenkranz says he plans to write a book about it.

The need to replace Bellevue’s decaying physical plant was recognized even before World War II. Though the hospital still basked in world renown for its long history of medical discoveries and precedent-setting procedures, its buildings were hopelessly outmoded even in the early nineteen-forties.

In 1943 architects’ sketches were prepared for a building that would have meant demolishing most of the existing structures. But the project was abandoned amid the war emergency and was not revived until Mr. Blumenkranz drew his first plans in 1957.

The original 1957 plans called for a 30-story building with 2,300 beds, to be built at a cost of \$75-million. Bellevue has held as many as 2,400 patients. It now can accommodate about 1,800.

In 1959 Mr. Blumenkranz was told that his building would be too costly. He was sent back to the drawing board with instructions to design a 25-story building with 1,600 beds, to cost \$55-million. Morris A. Jacobs, then Commissioner of Hospitals, predicted that the building would be completed by 1963.

But a year later – in August, 1960 – Dr. Jacobs went before the City Planning Commission to announce that the redesigned building would cost \$74.5-million.

At groundbreaking ceremonies in the fall of 1963, Mayor Robert F. Wagner Jr. promised that the building would be completed within five years.

In 1964 piles were driven for the foundations. In 1965 work was started on the steel framework, and the city officials guaranteed completion by 1970.

But 1966 brought a fresh complication: Medicaid was enacted. Most of the new building’s patient rooms had been designed for six beds, but the Medicaid law states that no hospital built after its enactment may be reimbursed if it has more than four patients in a room. Further, the rooms

designed for three patients lacked sufficient floor area to meet Medicaid requirements.

After lengthy cogitation, it was decided not to alter the partitions – a decision that will ultimately benefit the patients. Four patients will occupy rooms originally intended for six, and two will stay in those designed for three.

Plans for the mental-health floors were discarded about the same time. Originally, the mentally ill were to be treated as bed patients. Under the new plans, the emphasis will be on ambulatory care. Some patients will spend their days at the hospital and go home for the night; others will spend their days on the outside.

One day recently, when Mr. Blumenkranz walked through the building, about 165 men were at work. According to Richard Cass, the project manager, a full work force would consist of 400 to 600 men, depending upon the stage of construction. The city's man on the scene is Charles Regan, an engineer who shares offices with Mr. Cass.

Mr. Cass's company, the Meridian Engineering Company, was retained by the city's Public Works Department last fall to revive the project after a year and half in which there was virtually no building progress. During that time, most of the construction contracts expired.

"The four prime contractors are now set," Mr. Cass said, "but many of the subcontractors are not. We expect to have a full work force in 60 to 90 days."

The many building projects in the city must compete for local skilled manpower. For example, the World Trade Center, under construction on Manhattan's lower West Side, is using hundred of highly skilled workers.

The total project cost of the new Bellevue is listed in the city's capital budget for 1970-71 as \$135,185,364. According to Lloyd H. Siegel, the architect who heads the planning office in the Health Services Administration, the annual cost of a new hospital is one-third to one-half its construction cost.

Mr. Siegel, commenting recently on the design changes required by the new legislation, said, "These things should have been done in any case – even without the legal requirements."

And annoyance at the repeated delays has spread to the construction workers themselves. One of them recently voiced such a complaint to a writer for *The Bellevuer*, a publication of the *Better Bellevue*

Association:

“They’re building this hospital like a two-story schoolhouse. There should be 100 men on every floor to get the job done. I live in this neighborhood, and I’d come here if I got sick. I think it should be built.”

June 28, 1970, page 53 – “Court Gets Pleas In Mental Cases.

Patients Ask Release From Bellevue at Hearings”

By ROBERT E. TOMASSON

Hearings Twice a Week

Every Tuesday and Thursday, a room at the hospital measuring about 25 feet by 15 feet overlooking the East River becomes a courtroom of the State Supreme Court, with judge, court officers, clerk, stenographer, lawyers and other sides present. It is a courtroom, however, where no law is discussed nor legal precedents cited.

The absolute right to a habeas corpus hearing of any person being kept against his will by the authorities is emphasized by the state. It is the only legal proceeding in which a judge can be held personally liable to a \$1,000 fine if he incorrectly denies a hearing, although, as far as is known, the fine has never been levied against a judge.

One by one, patients who have requested hearings are led into the room, some in police custody, others by a hospital aide and, yet of them, though only a few of them accompanied by a lawyer. All come to challenge one of the most potent powers of the state – the authority to confine those it considers mentally ill and a potential danger either to themselves or to others. The hearings are only necessary when the hospital believes a patient should not be released.

There are two categories of patients who come before the justices, who rotate the Bellevue assignment weekly: Those who have been charged with a crime and those who have not been accused. Those charged with a crime had been sent to the Bellevue prison ward, usually by a Criminal Court judge.

The justice holding the habeas corpus hearing does not have the authority to order the release of prisoners. He can only direct their discharge from the hospital and have them sent to jail to await trial on the charges for which they had been originally arrested.

For those not charged, the judge, in addition to listening to a report by a staff psychiatrist, relies on individual reports by the Mental Health Information Service.

The service was established in 1965 as an adjunct to the State Supreme Court to supply judges, in part, with results of impartial investigations of patients. These reports are supplementary to the medical reports of psychiatrists.

February 27, 1972, page 35 – “Mentor of Bellevue Pupil-Patients to Retire” By LAURIE JOHNSTON

Retiring on Wednesday

In a strong warm voice Mrs. [Wanda] Wright compliments one here and consoles another there for “a bad break,” pausing to stroke hair and hold faces in her hands as she moves among 70 students in the cheerfully painted, art-filled room.

Mrs. Wright retires next Wednesday, after 37 years as head of the Bellevue school and its faculty of 19. She has dealt with more schizophrenic children than maybe anyone in the country, perhaps the world, because a fourth of the 30,000 Bellevue children in her time have been diagnosed as such.

Most of the others have described as having neurotic behavior or character disorders.

“We get the most-disturbed children in the city, because everything else has failed,” she said, “but all of them are in school five hours a day while they’re here.” Others continue to come as day students and out-patients.

Mrs. Wright, a Brooklyn College graduate, was a substitute teacher when Dr. Laretta Bender, senior psychiatrist at Bellevue, organized the children’s ward in 1934 and badgered the Board of Education into setting up the first such special classes in the country.

March 5, 1972, page 62 – “A Friendly Phone Call for a Shut-In”

Lynn Braswell, a stewardess, flew in from Beirut, took a taxi to her apartment on West 72nd Street, read her mail and then picked up the

telephone. The first person she called was Mrs. Evelyn Bennet, a home-bound patient of Bellevue Hospital.

Miss Braswell, along with 17 other stewardesses from various airlines, are volunteers in the hospital's "Person-to-Person" program. They make calls about once a week, when they're in town, to talk with home-bound patients, and often send postcards when they're away.

The program began a year ago, growing from a need of patients, who, though mentally alert, are socially isolated because of chronic illness or physical handicaps. Most of these patients are over 65.

Mrs. Marion Ebner, Bellevue's director of Home Care Services, explained that despite the nursing, social work and medical coverage provided by the hospital, "patients need someone to talk to them about something besides their diet, besides their pills, and without having a vested interest in their health such as we have. What they need is a friend."

Mrs. Luise Davidson, director of Volunteer Services, said she felt the stewardesses would be perfect for Person-to Person duty because of their youth and vivaciousness. She added that "stewardesses are themselves often lonely because they are far away from home, knowing few people. Person-to-Person lets them use their time constructively, and they get to know the city."

July 31, 1972, page 36 – "Windfall to Help City's Hospitals. End Of Attrition Policy Laid to Increased Productivity"

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

A fiscal windfall derived from increased productivity will enable the 19 municipal hospitals to end their attrition policy shortly and hire much needed nurses, therapists, aides, clerks and other personnel to replace those who have left the system, top hospital officials said yesterday.

In a four-page letter to Mayor Lindsay, [Martin E. Segal, senior vice president of Wertheim & Co. and chairman of the Health and Hospitals Corporation finance committee] said that in addition to lifting attrition, the Hospital Corporation also scheduled openings of several new facilities that had been postponed as long as attrition continued. These included:

¶The new Gouverneur Hospital, both in-patient and out-patient, to \

open in September.

¶Seaview Hospital Public Home Infirmity Care, to open in September.

¶Morrisania and Mott Haven neighborhood family care centers, to open in December.

¶Metropolitan Hospital psychiatric facility, to open January, 1973.

¶New Bellevue Hospital, to open September 1974.

A total of 1,300 of the 40,000 hospitals' jobs were lost through attrition. The attrition policy was initiated by Dr. [Joseph T.] English [president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation] last fall after the corporation had exceeded its budget by \$40-million. The resulting debt has since been repaid.

October 3, 1972, page 34 – “Internes and Residents Demand Pay Raises at 5 Hospitals Here”

Municipal hospital internes and residents have demanded salary increases ranging from \$2,200 a year for internes to \$5,900 for sixth-year residents.

In contract negotiations that open this week they are seeking a base pay ranging from \$14,500 for internes to \$23,700 a year for sixth-year residents. Under the three-year contract that expired Sept. 30, internes got \$12,300 a year and sixth-year residents \$17,800.

The negotiations will cover internes and residents in Bellevue, Kings County, Bronx Municipal, Metropolitan and Harlem Hospitals because they are on the corporate payroll. Internes and residents in the 14 other municipal hospitals are on the payrolls of affiliated nonmunicipal hospitals.

December 12, 1972, page 94 – “Hospital Unit Says Provisionals Are Down in ‘Total Percentage’”

Dr. Joseph T. English, president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, testified yesterday before a City Council committee that “the total percentage” of provisional employes in the corporation had been

“significantly reduced” from that of two-and-a-half years ago, under the Department of Hospitals.

His statement drew expressions of skepticism from members of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, which has been investigating the hiring and promotion of provisional city employees amid charges that the practice of circumventing the Civil Service list was being used for political purposes.

Dr. English said that there were 3,000 provisionals among 37,000 full-time employees when the corporation came into being on July 1, 1970.

Those provisionals have been diminished by 2,200 through the use of examinations, he said, but at the same time other provisionals have been added to the corporation’s payroll. This was done through the creation of new job titles to fill a wide variety of administrative functions that fell to the new corporation.

August 11, 1974, page 1 – “City Disputes State on Mental Facilities” By MURRAY SCHUMACH

The city’s top health officials and the heads of psychiatry at leading hospitals here have clashed with the State Department of Mental Hygiene over state plans to reduce drastically the number of beds planned for the new Bellevue psychiatric center.

At a secret meeting, which was quite bitter as times, according to some participants, the city’s officials and psychiatrists told one of the most important executives of the state agency that they considered the state’s position unwarranted and even dangerous.

The immediate cause of the dispute was the new Bellevue center, which was supposed to occupy the top four floors of the new \$150-million, 21-story building at the East River between 26th and 28th Streets. It was to have opened next month – many of the other departments of the hospital are already functioning.

However, the state has forced repeated cutbacks in the number of beds planned for the center. Originally, more than 300 beds were planned for psychiatric patients. This was cut to 222, and now the state’s latest demand is that the capacity be 134.

After the latest demand, city health officials and psychiatrists

decided that it was time to fight the state agency. In the meantime, the four floors are empty and, according to Bellevue officials, may not be ready for at least two years.

The state agency can exert power because its money is financing a large part of the Bellevue center.

August 13, 1974, page 57 – “Beame Asks Wilson to Reverse Limit On Bellevue Psychiatric Center Beds”

By MURRAY SCHUMACH

Mayor Beame has asked Governor Wilson, by telephone and by letter, to reverse that State Department of Mental Hygiene in a bitter controversy between the state agency and the city's top mental-health officials over the facilities at the new Bellevue psychiatric center.

The city's experts contend that the new Bellevue psychiatric center needs a minimum of 222 beds. Originally Bellevue sought 325 beds. The state, which has financed a considerable portion of the new hospital, has insisted that the new psychiatric center have no more than 134 beds.

The argument between the city and state has delayed indefinitely the opening of the psychiatric center, which was to have opened next month, according to Dr. Alexander Thomas, director of Bellevue's psychiatric division.

Because the new center was to have opened next month, the city made no improvements in the admittedly antiquated 410-bed in the present Bellevue psychiatric center.

September 22, 1974, page 1 – “Bellevue Project Is Limited as State Holds to '65 Costs” By MURRAY SCHUMACH

The state has told the city that if it wants the psychiatric facilities planned more than a decade ago for the new \$150-million Bellevue Hospital, it must abide by a constriction budget set in pre-inflationary 1965.

City mental-health experts retort that this is impossible and that the four top floors at the hospital that was supposed to have opened this

month as a desperately needed psychiatric center here would remain empty indefinitely.

“At this point,” Dr. [Anthony] Spellman [Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene] wrote on Aug. 23, “I do not feel that there is anything to be gained by going into the minutia of justification of bed needs. I will therefore approve, for state-aid purposes, your proceeding with the design for use of the space allocated to mental health at Bellevue with the following strictures.”

The first of these “strictures” was that “the total budget must not exceed \$18,160,000.”

City mental-health experts say that costs have escalated so much since the figure was set in 1965 that it would now cost more than \$20-million – possibly as much as \$25-million – to convert the four empty floors into the desired psychiatric center.

City and private health experts have stressed repeatedly that the state’s patient-release program is one reason that the city is in need of psychiatric facilities.

The State Department of Mental Hygiene has been releasing thousands of patients from state mental institutions on the assumption that rehabilitation would be more feasible in community facilities.

However, the investigation by The Times has shown that a lack of such community facilities has caused a large percentage of these patients to receive little or no care. As a result, many live in sleazy hotels or in proprietary hotels that have virtually no programs for psychiatric care.

October 2, 1974, page 51 – “State Is Assailed On Bellevue Unit.

**Legislators and City Officials Join Attack Over Blocking of
Psychiatric Center” By MURRAY SCHUMACH**

The State Department of Mental Hygiene was assailed yesterday by city officials, state legislators and mental-health experts for having blocked construction of a psychiatric center in the new 21-story Bellevue Hospital Center.

“Gibberish,” “idiocy,” “scandal,” “disgrace” were among the words used to attack that state agency at a news conference called in the old

Bellevue building by the New York Urban Coalition and the Bellevue Hospital Center Community Board.

The dispute between the city and state revolves around the insistence of the city that the new center should have 222 beds. The state wants the center limited to 134 beds. Then, most recently, that state said the city could go ahead, but would be limited to the 1965 estimated costs of \$18.1-million.

Dr. June J. Christmas, Commissioner of Mental Health and Retardation, said that because of delays caused by the state the costs had now risen to more than \$34-million for the center, which will include a prison ward. The state's share of the construction cost, she said, would be \$11.5-million.

However, during the news conference, [State] Senator [Roy M.] Goodman called the years of delay in constructing the psychiatric center "one of the most appalling cases of strangulation by red tape that I have ever seen."

October 5, 1974, page 35 – "State and City Agree on Steps To End Bellevue Center Impasse" By MURRAY SCHUMACH

ALBANY, Oct. 4 – The heads of the state and city mental health agencies agreed today on steps that they felt would end the long deadlock in the construction of a psychiatric center on the top four floors of the new 21-story Bellevue Hospital in New York.

After a four-hour meeting in his office with Dr. June J. Christmas, Commissioner of the city's Department of Mental Health and Retardation, Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, said he would no longer limit the cost of construction of this psychiatric center to \$18.1-million.

At the close of the meeting today the city and state officials said a new design would be prepared by the city for the facility along the East River from 26th to 28th Street. The four floors are now vacant.

Commissioner Christmas said that after the plan was approved it would take about two years to construct the center.

May 23, 1978, page B9 – “An Undercover ‘Patient’ In an Ambulance Inquiry Leads to Theft Suspect”

Because some patients taken by ambulance to Bellevue Hospital were arriving there with their pockets empty, the New York City Investigations Commissioner said yesterday, an undercover agent was assigned to play the role of an out-of-town businessman taken ill at a midtown hotel. As a result, Commissioner Stanley L. Lupkin said, Rowland Howard, a 28-year-old ambulance technician, was arrested on charges of grand larceny.

“Mr. Howard allegedly went through the pockets of the undercover decoy and removed and counted as total of \$200 in marked bills,” Mr. Lupkin said.

In a hint that other ambulance aides might be suspected of the same sort of thing, Mr. Lupkin announced that he would continue the investigation, which was conducted with the assistance of Albert Jackson, inspector general of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, and Donald Rowan, its vice president for emergency medical service.

August 7, 1978, page 1 – “New York Hospitals Learning Economic Lessons” By RONALD SULLIVAN

Dr. Saul Farber, chairman of the Department of Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine and at Bellevue, said a similar forum had been established at his institutions. “No one can buy anything anymore,” he said, “without arguing his case before a committee.”

N.Y.U.’s special relationship with Bellevue, an arrangement that goes back to the last century, represents the city’s closest tie between a medical school and a municipal hospital.

December 14, 1978, page II4 – “City Hospitals Trace Origin To 1736 Ward” By ROBERT McG. THOMAS JR.

Designed as a medical refuge of last resort for the city’s destitute, Bellevue, which moved to its present East River site in 1816, remained the city’s lone public hospital for decades.

Despite the advantages of unification and a record of growth and improvement under the Department of Hospital, consolidation did not put an end to the problem of providing increasingly [sic] medical care to an expanding population at public expense.

December 31, 1978, page IV5 – “Bellevue Becomes A Test

Case” By MICHAEL WRIGHT AND ALVIN DAVIS

In a one-year experiment described last week as “a laboratory for a national health insurance program,” the faculty of New York University’s Medical School will provide 4,500 members of a municipal union and their families with complete, prepaid health care. Bellevue Hospital will set aside a special wing for the service, and the \$600,000 premium will be paid by the city.

January 6, 1979, page 21 – “City Considering Giving Hospital to

Archdiocese” By RONALD SULLIVAN

Officials at City Hall are exploring the possibility of giving the Metropolitan Hospital Center, at First Avenue and 97th Street, to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, which would operate it as a church-sponsored medical center.

By giving away Metropolitan, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation – the semi-autonomous city agency that operates the 17 municipal hospitals – would free itself of the high cost of operating an under utilized hospital. Metropolitan cost the city \$25 million in tax-levy funds last year to balance the hospital’s \$72.5 million 1978 budget.

It would also relieve the pressure that the hospital places on two other financially stressed city institutions – Harlem and Bellevue Hospitals.

January 15, 1979, page B3 – “Doctors Set 25-Hour Strike At

Ten Municipal Hospitals” By PETER KIHSS

Interns and resident physicians yesterday named 10 municipal hospitals against which they plan a 25-hour strike, starting at 7 A.M. Wednesday, to protest potential hospital closings and cutbacks.

The 10 hospitals listed were Metropolitan, Harlem, Bronx, Lincoln, North Central Bronx, Kings County, Coney Island, Coler, Bellevue, and Elmhurst.

The physicians' committee contended the hospital closings would cost lives. City hospitals, it argued, actually bring in money with 70 percent of their budget financed by insurance or Medicaid payments.

January 16, 1979, page B7 – “Interns and Residents Set to Strike At 9 of City’s Hospitals Tomorrow” By RONALD SULLIVAN

A committee representing hospital interns and residents said that it would defy a court restraining order and that there would be a one-day strike tomorrow at nine municipal hospitals, beginning at 7 A.M.

The nine hospitals were listed as Metropolitan, Harlem, Bellevue, Bronx Municipal, North Central Bronx, Lincoln, Coler, Coney Island and Kings County. The remaining eight municipal hospitals do not employ their own house staff.

At a news conference at City Hall yesterday [Mayor Koch] said the move was “absolutely outrageous.” He also took an angry swipe at the physicians for saying that their paramount concern was for the welfare of patients.

Noting that he expected to be around for 11 more years, Mr. Koch said: “Are they committed to serving in the ghettos of this city? Or are they going to flee to Connecticut?”

“They train here then disappear,” added Deputy Mayor Herman Badillo, who was standing near Mr. Koch.

Dr. Jonathan House, a resident at the Metropolitan Hospital Center on the Upper East Side who is the committee’s strike leader, said: “We won’t be intimidated.” He said that staff physicians, as residents and interns are called, “are mad, fighting mad, at conditions in municipal hospitals.”

April 22, 1979, page VI40 – “A Healing Hand in Harlem”

By GEORGE DAVIS

Dr. [May Edward] Chinn has had her hand in medicine for 53 years, and her heart in Harlem even longer. She was the first black woman graduate of Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

**June 9, 1979, page 29 – “Doctors Restore Student’s Hand,
Severed by Train. Operation Called Success – Girl Moves
Fingers” By LINDA CHARLTON**

Renee Katz, the 17-year-old flutist and soprano whose right hand was severed Thursday ... was reported in good condition at Bellevue Hospital yesterday after an intricate 16½-hour operation successfully reattached her hand.

Dr. William Shaw, 37 years old, was the surgeon who headed the operating team of 12.

Police Commissioner Robert J. McGuire paid an unannounced visit to Dr. Shaw’s news briefing. The Commissioner had come to the hospital to visit Police Officer Michael Mullick, whose left leg was reattached by the same surgical team last week. He introduced himself to Dr. Shaw and said: “Doctor, if you ever get a ticket, just let me know. I’ll take care of it.”

June 12, 1979, page C1 – “How Delicate Surgery Saved a Hand”

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN, M.D.

The doctors, microsurgions who practice in a frontier area of medicine, had worked with microscopes and high-powered bifocal glasses called magnifying loupes to put in hundreds of sutures so thin that they could pass through a human hair.

They rely on a process that takes months of daily practice.

The key questions were: Could the operation be done? And would it be justifiable in terms of cost and manpower?

In the past, the latter question was rarely asked. Now doctors are forced to answer it because of pressures from cost-conscious politicians who influence the public monies that pay the medical bills for many people.

In Miss Katz’s case, the answer was clearer than it might be in other

situations. She was not someone who was elderly, retired, and able to get along with a mechanical device. Miss Katz was a healthy teen-ager, whose hands were crucial to her musical career and future life.

June 13, 1979, page B1 – “Bellevue Surgeons Working to Save Severed Hand of a Jersey Man, 44”

Surgeons at Bellevue Hospital who last week reattached the severed right hand of a 17-year-old music student worked yesterday to try to save the nearly severed hand of a 44-year-old New Jersey man.

The week before last, the same surgical team reattached the nearly severed leg of a New York City police officer, Michael Mullick, who lost it in an accident while on duty.

June 14, 1979, page B5 – “Hand Reattachment Believed a Success”

A 15-hour operation to reattach the nearly severed hand of a New Jersey chemical-plant employee, Thomas Kowalig, was apparently successful, surgeons at Bellevue Hospital reported.

It was the third emergency reattachment operation in less than two weeks by Dr. Robert Shaw and his microsurgery team.

June 29, 1979, page B4 – “Teacher Honored”

Also honored [by the Police Department for “distinguished acts of public service”] was Dr. William Shaw, the surgeon who led the Bellevue Hospital microsurgery team that reattached the severed right hand of Renee Katz....

July 14, 1979, page 43 – “Renee Katz Goes Home”

After five weeks in Bellevue Hospital, Renee Katz went home to Flushing, Queens, yesterday.

September 2, 1979, page 40 – “Second-Opinion Procedures for Surgery Criticized” By E. J. DIONNE Jr.

A program designed to prevent unnecessary surgery in New York City’s municipal hospitals is not working, State Comptroller Edward V. Regan has charged, because doctors asked to give second opinions on whether elective surgery should be performed almost always say yes.

New York City’s second-opinion program was established to reduce unnecessary surgery, and thereby save the Medicaid program money. But in studying both Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan and Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn, Mr. Regan found that second opinions came out against surgery in only 2 percent and 1 percent of the cases, respectively.

In the Blue Cross and Civil Service programs, on the other hand, where the second view comes from “a private, fee-for-service practitioner,” second opinions opposed surgery in 27 percent of the cases, the report found.

September 24, 1979, page B2 – “10 Injured as Car Crashes Into Nathan’s at Coney I.” By ROBERT McG. THOMAS Jr.

An out-of-control car crashed into Nathan’s Famous restaurant at Coney Island yesterday afternoon, severing the arm of a 30-year-old woman, who was immediately flown to Bellevue Hospital where surgeons were trying to reattach the arm early this morning.

A hospital spokesman said the surgeons, working in relays, has succeeded in reattaching the bone and major veins and arteries of the arm by midnight, and had turned to the long, delicate process of rejoining nerve endings.

Describing Dr. [William] Shaw [co-director of the hospital’s microsurgery-implantation unit] as “most optimistic,” the spokesman said the operation, which began at 8 P.M., was expected to last until 10 A.M. or later.

September 25, 1979, page B3 – “Arm Reattached After Coney I. Crash”

A 30-year-old Brooklyn woman whose left arm was severed in a freakish car accident at Nathan's Coney Island was described in good spirits after an 11-hour 40-minute operation to reattach her limb.

October 31, 1979, page B3 – “Surgeons and a Resolute Woman

Honored” By RONALD SULLIVAN

The microsurgery team and ambulance corpsmen who saved a police officer's severed leg ... were among those honored yesterday by the Police Department for public service.

Dr. William Shaw, the head of microsurgery at Bellevue Hospital, and four ambulance corpsmen from St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center received individual citations for saving the left leg of Officer Michael Mullick.

November 20, 1979, page B4 – “Bellevue Doctors Battle

Handicaps”

The other night at the New York City's Bellevue Hospital, where 1,000 patients come each month for emergency psychiatric care, a man about 35 years old was screaming steadily and incoherently in the waiting area. The doctors suspected he was having a reaction to a hallucinogenic drug.

Another patient, a 16-year-old boy, was talking about being possessed by God and the Devil. A few hours earlier he had thrown his clothing from a window and jumped to the street. Clearly he was psychotic. Reluctantly – and, the psychiatrist said, because of pressures to keep hospital stays as short as possible – a drug was prescribed immediately; instead of after the doctor had been able to observe the boy in the acute care section for a few days.

Like a Precinct Station

Frequently, the doctors say, daily pressures require that they administer more medicine more quickly than they ordinarily would. At any given time about a third of the patients in acute care beds – which cost taxpayers \$300 a day – are sleeping, largely as a result of the side effects of heavy medication. And policemen must remain with people whom they bring to the emergency room until a medical disposition is made.

“There are days when this emergency room looks like a precinct station,” said Peter Micheels, a social worker.

Some of those waiting to be seen in the emergency room on a recent evening were handcuffed to wheelchairs. Those whose symptoms are chronic and serious but who are not a threat to themselves or to other people often are referred to shelters, even monasteries, because of the lack of beds and facilities.

Because of budgetary pressures, overcrowding and the concept that the hospitalization should be short, the average stay at Bellevue is 12 days. Many doctors complain that the turnover rate is too high for them to get to know the patient and to develop the kind of liaison necessary for a long-term professional relationship. Some complain that short-term stays interfere with their efforts to prevent subsequent deterioration of the patients’ mental status.

Compromises are made in determining how extensive a diagnostic and therapeutic evaluation each patient receives.

And the hospital atmosphere itself is threatening. “What happens when you are forced to admit the violent patients is that at any time the wards are ready to blow up,” said Dr. Robert Cancro, head of the hospital’s psychiatry department.

“Because you cannot segregate the violent ones, and you have so many, they incite another group. We pour medication into everyone so we don’t have injuries. We have to protect the weaker ones from the stronger ones.”

March 23, 1980, page 45 – “U.S. Helping to Save Energy In

New York. Statewide Grants for Improvement in Heating Total

\$7.8 Million in Matching Fund Plan” by PETER KIHSS

At Bellevue Hospital in New York City, the investment will be \$605,367 to improve energy systems – and it is expected to save \$387,000 a year in fuel costs.

At Bellevue, pipes are to be insulated to reduce heat loss. Computer controls for heating and cooling are to be upgraded. Brush cleaning will improve air-conditioning. The Federal grant will be \$300,000, a limit set to enable help for as many facilities as possible. The project is expected to

save 11,596 barrels of oil a year.

January 29, 1987, page 1 – “Emergency-Room Rules Stiffened”

By RONALD SULLIVAN

The Emergency Medical Services said yesterday that the 43 hospitals in New York City’s emergency ambulance system would soon be required to have fully trained attending physicians and more nurses and lifesaving equipment in their emergency rooms 24 hours a day.

The Bellevue Hospital Center, a municipal hospital in Manhattan, is believed to be the only hospital in the city that has attending physicians on duty around the clock.

September 10, 1987, page B5 – “Days of Waiting at Bellevue

Emergency Room” By SUZANNE DALEY

Doctors at [Bellevue Hospital Center] said that psychiatric patients routinely spend hours and sometimes days in the [Bellevue Hospital emergency] unit’s small, barren suite of a dozen rooms because of a shortage of beds in hospitals and other long-term facilities for the mentally ill.

Under the Mayor’s plan, the homeless will be sent to the emergency room to be evaluated for 15 days at a new 28-bed facility, also at Bellevue. But critics of the plan say the 28 beds will soon fill up because the doctors will be unable to find beds for these patients in long-term facilities for the mentally ill.

Current Delays

Such a shortage is causing long delays for other mentally ill patients already, doctors at Bellevue said. In the last two weeks, some patients who came voluntarily or were brought by relatives to the emergency room have waited up to three days for a bed, the doctors said.

In the past some have waited as long as six days. If the shortage of beds could be solved, they say, most patients would have to spend no more than three or four hours in the unit.

There are four folding chairs in the unit that turn into beds for

waiting patients. On some days, gurneys and stretchers are also brought in. Meals are also delivered, and the patients take turns eating at then only table.

September 14, 1987, page B1 – “Bellevue Unit to Aid Koch

Homeless Plan. A new 28-bed ward will provide treatment”

By JOSH BARBANEL

At the center of Mayor Koch’s plan to remove severely mentally ill homeless people from the streets of Manhattan is a new psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital Center that will for the first time bring homeless people together for treatment in a single ward.

By setting up a distinct 28-bed unit, city officials said they were hoping to develop a highly motivated staff skilled in treating the homeless and speeding them a bureaucratic maze to long-term care in state hospitals, community residences or other supervised programs.

September 25, 1987, page B3 – “Homeless Man in a Wheelchair,

Found Injured Near Bellevue, Dies” By MARK A. UHLIG

A 57-year-old homeless man died early yesterday after he was discovered badly injured and lying under his wheelchair on the grounds of Bellevue Hospital Center.

The police declined to speculate on the cause of the man’s death, noting that an investigation was under way.

October 8, 1987, page B1 – “Legal Group says Bellevue Abuses

Its Prison Patients” By BRUCE LAMBERT

The Legal Aid Society has charged serious violations of prison and hospital standards in the care of jail inmates at the Bellevue Hospital Center’s psychiatric unit.

“Something is terribly wrong,” the society said.

The society charged, as typical of violations, that inmate patients were not allowed to visit with their children, had no opportunity for outdoor exercise and received no regular clothing for daytime wear – only pajamas.

Some patients received no medical care, the society said, and others complained of psychiatric treatment limited to hallway conversations with doctors averaging five minutes a week.

The society described the Bellevue quarters as dirty, infested with mice, containing potential fire hazards and offering few activities besides watching television.

Correction officers at Bellevue “have engaged in a pattern over a period of time of vicious and brutal misconduct,” the society said.

Patients in ‘Bullpens’

Among the guard practices reported by the society was the placing of suicidal patients in “bullpens,” away from nursing supervision.

“Patients here were suffering – intensively in many cases, unnecessarily in all cases – because they were receiving inadequate treatment,” the society said. It reported checking 16 patients “whose charts reveal a shocking inattentiveness on the part of the psychiatric staff.”

January 20, 1988, page B2 – “Joyce Brown, Hopeful, Savors Her New World” by GEORGE JAMES

Joyce Brown, the first person picked up under a New York City program to remove mentally ill homeless people from the streets, walked out of Bellevue Hospital Center yesterday after being forcibly hospitalized for 84 days.

Later, Miss Brown refused to acknowledge that she had been helped by her hospitalization. She said she had never been insane and was angry at having been forcibly hospitalized.

Miss Brown was released because doctors said they had no reason to keep her in the hospital after a state judge last week barred them from treating her with anti-psychotic drugs against her will.

March 13, 1988, page 46 – “Volunteerism Finds New Adherents

In New York” By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

“Bellevue wanted me,” Mr. [Paul] Rice said. Now, a year later, he spends Thursdays in the ninth floor nursery at Bellevue Hospital Center in a disposable scrub suit, cradling newborns as he waltzes and sings country music to them in a husky baritone.

Bellevue uses 550 volunteers a month, ranging in age from 15 to more than 80, and would take more except for a citywide freeze on hiring salaried staff to train and supervise them, said Joan A. Dumont, director of volunteer services.

“Bellevue is a tough place to work because we turn no patient away and we have the inner city with all its problems,” she said. “But there is a place for almost everybody who wants to volunteer here, and particularly volunteers who bring special talents.”

April 9, 1988, page 30 – “Why Not Work Miracles at Bellevue?”

Until 1983 Hillel Bodek, a New York social worker, ran a useful program in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital.

City judges and prosecutors found him to be an invaluable resource, able to work miracles when it came to finding appropriate placements for young convicts who needed help more than punishment.

Then in 1983 New York University ... terminated the grant that had funded Mr. Bodek’s program, forcing him out of the hospital.

The social worker contends he was ousted for whistle-blowing: he had challenged the Bellevue forensic psychiatry staff by pointing out administrative lapses in the prison ward. His assertions were confirmed by a city inquiry.

His relationship with the head of forensic psychiatry at Bellevue, Dr. Henry C. Weinstein, is so bad that the psychiatrist had to be reprimanded for referring to the social worker’s clients as “scum cases.”

His work saves precious jail space and salvages human lives.

The need for the program is obvious; so are Mr. Bodek’s qualifications. Where are the sensible city officials who can get him honorably reinstated?

April 11, 1988, page 1 – “Hospitalizing the Homeless; Plan Is

Lagging in New York” By JOSH BARBANEL

When Mayor Koch began a program last year to hospitalize severely mentally ill homeless people against their will, many opponents of the plan feared large-scale roundups of the homeless.

Teams of city workers have picked up far fewer people than officials had forecast.

And those who have been picked up are staying in the hospital far longer than had been expected.

Two hospitals have been designated to treat the mentally ill homeless. At Bellevue Hospital Center, a special 28-bed ward for the homeless has long been filled, with the overflow spilling onto regular city psychiatric wards, contributing to overcrowding in the hospital.

But as of last week, after the first five months of the program – including the winter, when homeless people on the street are at greatest risk – 135 patients had been admitted to the Bellevue ward, about 27 each month. They stayed an average of 47 days and occupy 20 beds on other Bellevue wards.

Dr. David Narducci, the psychiatrist who runs the special homeless ward at Bellevue, said that while many troubled homeless people remain on the streets, “in areas where Project Help has been most active, at the ferry terminal, Grand Central and Pennsylvania Station, it has made a certain difference.”

At Bellevue and Creedmoor, extra social workers and other staff have been hired to help people move quickly into community residences, nursing homes and single-room-occupancy hotels.

May 14, 1988, page 30 – “Bellevue’s Prison Ward Requires

Psychiatric Professionals”

To the Editor:

“Why Not Work Miracles at Bellevue?” (editorial, April 9) focuses on Hillel Bodek, a social worker formerly with the psychiatric prison ward at Bellevue Hospital. You suggest that his services are vitally needed there.

This is not correct.

... we wish to state categorically that, contrary to your editorial, Dr. Weinstein never did, nor would he ever, refer to a patient in a derogatory manner. His comment was referring to Mr. Bodek and was in an unofficial and confidential context.

His [Mr. Bodek's] return would not be a "miracle" as you suggest; rather, his demonstrated history of divisive and disruptive behavior could destroy the fabric of our unit and the vital services we provide.

Robert H. Berger, M.D.
Naomi Goldstein, M.D.
Robert J. Chalemian, M.D.
New York, April 14, 1988

June 18, 1988, page 30 – "Hospital Agency Faults N.Y.U.'s

Minority Hiring at Bellevue" By BRUCE LAMBERT

In unusually stern language, top officials of New York City's hospital agency have assailed New York University School of Medicine for what they consider meager results in recruiting minority physicians for Bellevue Medical Center.

The issue arose as the hospitals board was reviewing the multimillion-dollar affiliation contract for the year starting July 1 under which the hospitals agency pays the university to provide medical staff and services at Bellevue, a municipal hospital. In return, the medical school's faculty and students have access to the hospital and its patients.

The university reported that it employs 1,099 people in the jobs of chiefs of service, attending physicians or resident physicians at Bellevue. Blacks account for 21 positions, or about 2 percent; Hispanic workers have 49 positions, or about 4.5 percent; and Asians have 86 positions, or about 8 percent. There are 322 women in these positions, about 30 percent. About half of New York City's population is black, Hispanic or Asian.

Among Bellevue's 26 chiefs of services, there are no black or Hispanic doctors. There are three women and one Asian. Last year, one Hispanic doctor and four women served in such positions.

Among the 269 attending physicians, one is black, 13 are Hispanic, 24 are Asian and 77 are women. That represents decreases of one black and eight women and increases of one Asian and two Hispanic doctors

from 1987. Among the 804 physicians undergoing residency training at Bellevue, 20 are blacks, 36 are Hispanic, 61 are Asian and 242 are women. These figures are an increase of seven black, seven Asian and four Hispanic doctors from 1987. In addition, there are two more women.

“On equal employment, there has been essentially no progress,” said the president of the hospitals corporation, Dr. Jo Ivy Boufford, when she presented the university’s affiliation contract for renewal.

Mr. [John R.] Deats [a spokesman for the university] said the university supports the goal of recruiting qualified minority applicants and is eager to work with the hospital corporation to reach that goal.

October 5, 1988 – “Disabled Girl Wins Millions For Damage Suffered at Birth”

An 8-year-old girl who is blind and suffers from brain damage and cerebral palsy was awarded more than \$7 million in damages yesterday when a jury in Manhattan found that a city hospital was negligent during her birth.

The jury ordered the city’s Health and Hospitals Corporation to pay the money to the child, Shavon Skinner, whose lawyer argued that she and her mother had received inadequate treatment at Bellevue Hospital.

A spokesman for the corporation, Suzanne Halpin, said the agency would explore the possibility of an appeal.

The family’s lawyer, Thomas A. Moore, said that the child’s mother, Ora Stewart, then 29, had been misdiagnosed by the hospital. Ms. Stewart was in labor, but according to Mr. Moore, the hospital’s failure to recognize this compelled the woman to have her baby at home.

After Shavon was born, Mr. Moore said, the baby began having seizures but was untreated for 24 hours after being admitted to Bellevue.

December 6, 1988, page B3 – “New Bellevue Director Quits”

By MICHAEL MARRIOTT

Citing family problems, the executive director of Bellevue Hospital Center resigned yesterday after working two weeks.

“He said he had family problems, and his wife wanted to return to Texas,” the director of public affairs at Bellevue, Jim Walsh, said. “That’s what they are going to do.”

Mr. Walsh said Mr. Durbin met at noon yesterday with senior staff members to announce his resignation from his \$110,000-a-year job. Shortly after, Mr. Durbin was reported to be on his way to an airport to fly back to Houston, Mr. Walsh said.

Mr. Walsh said the departure left the staff, “a little confused, to say the least.” He added that patient care should not be affected.

People close to Bellevue who asked not to be named said Mr. Durbin’s resignation was a matter in which his wife of more than 30 years did not like living in New York. Mr. Durbin had been president and chief executive of the Harris County Hospital District in Houston for nearly the last 13 years.

January 10, 1989, page B1 – “Vagrant Held In Slaying Of

Pathologist. Bellevue Killing Suspect Seized on Wards Island”

By SARAH LYALL

A vagrant who had been living secretly on the 22nd floor of the Bellevue Hospital Center was arrested and charged yesterday with the murder, rape and robbery of a pregnant doctor who was attacked as she worked alone in her office Saturday afternoon.

The suspect, Steven Smith, 23 years old, was seized in the cafeteria of a men’s shelter at Ward’s Island after three homeless men came forward with the slain doctor’s credit cards, asserting that Mr. Smith had been carrying them.

The police said the suspect had been sleeping on a cot at Bellevue, concealing it behind machinery on a floor used for hospital equipment. Occasionally stealing lab coats and workers’ identification cards, Mr. Smith moved freely through the 25-story building, purporting to be a staff member, the police said. He was wearing a doctors’ scrub gown, lab coat and stethoscope when he killed the doctor, they said.

The authorities did not know how long Mr. Smith had been living at Bellevue.

Asked how the suspect could have eluded Bellevue's security, Dr. [Jo Ivey] Boufford [president of the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation] said: "Obviously, we will be looking into it. But this particular area is a machinery area that is not routinely patrolled by security."

"If we have to go back and add more people, we will," she said. "Hospitals are not prisons. They have to be open."

January 12, 1989, page B1 – "Suspect in Slay Was Treated at Bellevue" By JOSH BARNABEL

The homeless man charged in the murder of a pregnant doctor at Bellevue Hospital Center was hospitalized there for nine days last month after he told doctors that he had swallowed rat poison in an attempt to kill himself, according to officials familiar with his case records.

Though the man, Steven Smith, 23 years old, had sporadically been under psychiatric care since 1981 and had exhibited a pattern of mood swings and angry outbursts while a patient in the hospital, he was never treated in the hospital's psychiatric wards, the records show.

According to the medical records, during Mr. Smith's hospitalization at Bellevue he was treated for medical complications stemming from poisoning, although it was not clear what he had taken. His records show that he occasionally disappeared from his bed and wandered about the hospital before returning on his own. On one occasion, a nurse noted that he had plumped up his pillows on his bed so that it appeared that he was still there.

"This case cannot be taken out of the context of a mental health system that is totally overwhelmed and choking on a shortage of beds," he [Luis Marcos, vice president for mental hygiene at the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation] said.

Dr. Marcos, the hospitals agency official, declined to discuss the case, citing the confidentiality of hospital records, but noted that with the psychiatric wards overcrowded and "overwhelmed," only the sickest and most dangerous patients would be admitted.

January 13, 1989, page B1 – "Bellevue Slaying: Gaps in Mental Health" By HOWARD W. FRENCH

The arrest of a homeless man with a history of psychiatric illness in the murder of a pregnant doctor at Bellevue Hospital Center reflects a failure by New York City and State agencies to concentrate mental health services on the most seriously ill, mental health experts say.

Steven Smith, the 23-year-old man accused of killing Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, 33, and then raping her in her Bellevue office Saturday, is cited by many as the latest example of this crisis.

Mr. Smith was not provided long-term care despite repeated visits to emergency rooms, two prior criminal convictions, a long history of serious problems and sporadic care and treatment at Bellevue last month after he said he swallowed rat poison in an attempt to kill himself.

January 15, 1989, page D7 – “General Hospital, New York City Style” By HOWARD W. FRENCH

... the murder last weekend of a pregnant doctor at Bellevue Medical Center focused attention on the particularly deep troubles at the New York City hospitals.

After the Jan. 7 murder and rape of Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, a 33-year-old pathologist who had been working on a scientific presentation in her office at Bellevue, many assumed that the hospital's security was faulty.

But investigations of the homeless man, who was charged with the crime, Steven Smith, produced evidence of much broader failures.

Mr. Smith, 23, tried repeatedly to get help for psychiatric problems. Only last month, he was admitted to Bellevue for nine days after he told doctors he tried to kill himself with rat poison. His hospital records show a pattern of mood swings and angry outbursts. But he was never treated in the psychiatric wards.

[In Bellevue Hospital] many areas and hallways have been given over to the homeless, to drug addicts and to the deranged, instilling fear among staff members, patients and many of the homeless themselves.

Doctors expressed their concern over that climate of insecurity, and its impact on a system in crisis, in a telegram last week to the president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford. “We cannot provide adequate patient care,” without protection for “the lives of our doctors, nurses, patients, and other persons who come through our

hospitals,” said the message from the Society of Urban Physicians, made up of senior medical personnel in the 16 municipal hospitals.

The police and doctors have indicated that Mr. Smith had a highly combustible combination of problems – homelessness, drug abuse and mental illness. In that, he is far from unique.

According to Dr. Sara L. Kellerman, commissioner of the New York City Department of Mental Health, about 25 percent of the thousands of people in homeless shelters “are severely mentally ill.” An additional 40 to 50 percent would be considered moderately to mildly mentally ill, she said, and “a large number of these people either use drugs and alcohol or have used drugs and alcohol.”

April 28, 1989, page B5 – “Bellevue Floor Shut by Fumes”

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mysterious fumes at Bellevue Hospital Center that made workers nauseous forced the closing Wednesday of the first floor, used for pediatric, obstetric and surgery clinics, hospital officials said. Health officials are investigating.

May 20, 1989, page 30 – “A Confessed Killer To Plead Insanity”

The lawyer for Steven Smith said yesterday that his client would plead insanity in the rape and murder of a Bellevue Hospital Center physician he confessed to killing.

November 21, 1989, page B3 – “Slayer of Bellevue Doctor Gets

Maximum Sentence: 50 Years to Life” By RONALD SULLIVAN

Steven Smith, a drifter with a history of psychiatric problems, was sentenced yesterday to 50 years to life in prison for the murder, rape, and robbery of Dr. Kathryn Hinnant at Bellevue Hospital Center.

... in less than two hours, the jury rejected the defendant’s insanity plea and found him guilty of all charges.

The defendant testified he was living in a machinery room on the hospital’s 22nd floor and moved through the hospital freely dressed in surgical clothes and wearing a stethoscope.

April 20, 1990, page 22 – “Bellevue Trauma Unit Deserves Credit”

To the Editor:

The public hospitals in New York City, under the jurisdiction of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, have frequently been criticized for their inadequate quality and for understaffing.

In light of that criticism, it has been a delight to observed, during the last week, the high efficiency and effectiveness of the trauma unit at Bellevue Hospital Center, where a relative of mine has been hospitalized The 24-hour attention of the doctors and nurses to this patient has been remarkable, including their excellent interaction with family members under stressful conditions.

Further, Bellevue Hospital’s non-medical staff has interacted frequently and effectively with the family, and that interaction has included hospital administrators, social workers and clergy.

Hats off to these fine professionals at one of our public hospitals. They deserve much more credit than they receive.

**J. Edward Meyer
New York, April 6, 1990**

October 7, 1990, page 45 – “Suspect Grabs Officer’s Gun And Kills Himself at Bellevue”

A robbery suspect in police custody at Bellevue Hospital Center grabbed a police officer’s gun and menaced the other patients in the emergency room before shooting himself to death yesterday afternoon, the police said.

He waved the weapon at other patients before firing once into his right temple.

October 8, 1990, page B3 – “Robbery Suspect Kills Himself in a Bellevue Unit” By DONATELLA LORCH

A robbery suspect waiting for treatment in Bellevue Hospital Center's emergency room on Saturday grabbed a revolver from his police guard and killed himself after waving the gun at doctors and patients, police said.

He waved the gun and then pointed it at his head and fired a shot, Karen Crowe, a spokeswoman for Bellevue Hospital said.

"It happened very quickly," Ms. Crowe said.

September 7, 1991, page 27 – "Some Patients Diverted After Nurses at Bellevue Call In Sick" By STEVEN LEE MYERS

The emergency room at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan was shut to all but the most critical patients yesterday after an unusually high number of nurses called in sick, apparently to protest scheduling changes and staffing shortages.

The absenteeism hit the hospital's recovery room, where patients recuperate after undergoing surgery. A nurse at the hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said eight of the nine nurses scheduled in that department had called in sick last night.

Another nurse at the hospital, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said last night said that anger had been building among the nursing staff over a number of recent staff changes, and what they saw as a chronic shortage of nurses in many departments.

"Nurses are getting disgusted," the nurse said. "And now they're starting to do something."

September 8, 1991, page 28 – "Absences Used to Protest Conditions at Bellevue" By STEVEN LEE MYERS

The emergency ward at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan began accepting patients again yesterday after two days of diverting all but the most critically ill during what appeared to be an informal "sick out" by nurses protesting staff shortages and budget cuts.

A spokeswoman for the Emergency Medical Service, Lynn

Schulman, said that ambulances rerouted patients to other Manhattan hospitals during the diversion and that the service dispatched additional ambulances in midtown. She said that the diversion had not caused any problems.

Nurses at the hospital said the absences were not a formal job action, but rather a loosely organized cry for attention to the burden that city budget cuts and hospital staffing changes have placed on health-care workers who already feel besieged.

An intensive-care unit nurse who asked not to be identified paused in the middle of a 16-hour shift early yesterday to say the nursing staff was in turmoil – racked by long hours amid staff shortages. A series of resignations by dispirited nurses in recent months worsened the problem, he said.

“I’ve never worked in conditions like this before,” the nurse added.

A full nursing staff at the hospital would number 1,300, she [spokeswoman for the hospital, Karen Crowe] said, but the hospital now has only 1,000.

Several nurses at the hospital, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity, said that the loss of the referral agency, among other changes in staffing and scheduling, had put incredible pressure on the staff.

“It’s only going to get worse,” one said.

October 17, 1991, page B6 – “Doctor Is Accused on Care of Kahane” By RONALD SULLIVAN

Members of the New York City ambulance crew that treated Rabbi Meir Kahane after he was shot last year have accused a doctor of interfering with medical treatment of the rabbi, according to affidavits submitted yesterday by a lawyer for the man accused of killing Ms. Kahane.

The affidavits, which were taken from the crew members, said that the physician, Dr. Steven Stowe, a Bellevue anesthesiologist, acted quite hysterically” and was “out of control” as paramedics tried to treat Ms. Kahane. Paramedics from the Emergency Medical Service said Dr. Stowe had prevented them from placing an airway tube into the victim and that he had mishandled Mr. Kahane’s spine.

Reached by telephone for comment last night, Dr. Stowe said, "I cannot understand why the E.M.S. technicians would question the careful and appropriate medical care that I gave to Rabbi Kahane."

December 20, 1991, page B2 – "Comptroller Criticizes N.Y.U. Over Contract With Bellevue" By LISA BELKIN

An audit released yesterday by New York State Comptroller Edward V. Regan lists a variety of large and small instances in which New York University Medical Center failed to comply with the terms of its \$37 million contract to provide doctors to Bellevue Hospital.

These are some of the problems listed in the audit

¶N.Y.U. never provided Bellevue with a list of doctors who would be working at the hospital during the fiscal year 1991 so that "neither Bellevue or H.H.C. knows who is treating Bellevue patients or whether they have the proper qualifications or experience."

¶The contract requires N.Y.U. to appoint a full-time medical director at Bellevue. Despite the fact that \$153,000 in Medicaid funds have been provided to fill the position since last year, it has remained vacant. The corporation has said that a medical director will begin work on Jan. 1.

¶The chiefs of several departments were serving part time and had no specific work schedule. The contract, the report says, specifies that these positions are to be filled full time; if they are not, N.Y.U. is required to explain it in writing. In none of these cases, the report says, was such an explanation given.

¶The stated procedure for reading X-rays is not being followed, the report says. Policy at Bellevue requires that all emergency room X-rays read initially by a resident must be read again by a supervising radiologist within 24 hours. The audit found that of 23 "re-reads," one-third were done after more than 24 hours. The delays ranged from one to three days. The report notes that 1 to 2 percent of re-reads result in a change of diagnosis.

¶Under the contract with Bellevue, N.Y.U. is required to keep records proving that the 550 doctors and 147 support staff it provides to Bellevue are actually working when and where they are paid to work. The report said that quarterly spot checks done by Bellevue to make sure doctors are actually arriving for work found that of 170 doctors, seven were not found at their scheduled locations.

November 24, 1992, page B1 – “Treating the Sick Can Mean Clothing Them Too. At Bellevue, a Growing Number of Homeless Patients Need More Than Medical Care”

By LISA BELKIN

Last year, Bellevue clothed more than 6,000 people and expects to do the same this year.

Easing a patient’s nonmedical needs is not a new idea for hospitals. When the Bellevue department of social work was founded in 1906, one of its first projects was to supply milk to needy families.

Many of the homeless patients arrive wearing clothes that are lice-infected or beyond repair. Those treated for gunshot and stab wounds often have their clothes cut away from their bodies in the emergency room.

Bellevue has kept donated clothes for such patients for more than 20 years.

May 16, 1993, page 41 – “Man Dies in Leap From Bellevue”

By LYNETTE HOLLOWAY

A 20-year-old man under a suicide watch at Bellevue Hospital Center jumped 12 stories to his death yesterday morning after struggling with three hospital workers who had tried to subdue him, the police and hospital officials said.

Ms. [Vicki] Ciampa [a hospital spokeswoman] said the hospital was conducting an investigation of the incident, but said she was confident that procedures were followed.

“The workers are very distraught because they were unable to safeguard this patient,” she said.

May 5, 1995, page B4 – (Untitled) By NADINE BROZAN

It says a lot about her popularity that an executive who is moving on was worried about including people from the night shift at her farewell party.

[Pamela Brier, the executive director of Bellevue Hospital Center] described one of her tricks to acquaint herself with that many people [4,000 of the 5,000 people at Bellevue]: “Shortly after I got here, I changed the I.D. cards so that the names were bigger and I could see them,” she said.

February 3, 1996, page I28 – “Queens Shelter Is Ordered To Remain Open All Day” By JAMES BARRON

A State Supreme Court judge ordered New York City yesterday to open a homeless shelter in Flushing, Queens, around the clock for the next three weeks.

Since December, the shelter has been open only from early evening to early morning to accommodate the overflow from the homeless shelter at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan. Homeless men who arrived at Bellevue after all the beds there were taken were bused to Flushing in the middle of the night and brought back to Manhattan the next morning.

Mary Brosnahan, the executive director of the coalition [for the Homeless], said that the Flushing shelter was full on Thursday night, and that there were 100 other homeless men at Bellevue who could not be accommodated. They spent the night on the floor, she said.

February 11, 1996, The New York Times Magazine, page 45 – “Bellevue’s Emergency” By KATHERINE EBAN FINKELSTEIN

“We are the readiness center for the unknown and unbelievable,” [said Lewis Goldfrank, 54, who has been director of emergency services for more than 16 years].

Bellevue is better known, however, as a hospital of last resort. From derelicts with runny noses to undocumented immigrants with ingrown toenails, it treats all who can drag themselves through the door, regardless of their ailment or ability to pay. Nearly a third of the 2,100 patients treated daily are uninsured.

It [Dr. Goldfrank’s office door] is most often barricaded by the rows of patients on stretchers who are driving Bellevue into debt – napping derelicts, handcuffed prisoners and junkies with collapsed veins.

As voluntary hospitals and managed care siphon off Medicaid patients, Bellevue winds up with the uninsured that no one else wants to treat – and less and less income to offset the cost.

Budget cuts have created chaos. Lines of patients are everywhere. Homeless families wait in the hall for subway tokens distributed at the Medicaid transportation window. The smell of disease and human waste permeates the air.

About 80 percent of Bellevue's inpatients come via the emergency room, and even some hospital administrators who once defended it as a crucial source of business now ask, "At what price?" "Bellevue is like one giant emergency room," said Tim Tempel, who was the hospital's chief operating officer until January. "A patient is in crisis and we throw all our resources at them, but it costs too much money. We have to change our mentality and the way we do business."

Two-thirds of Bellevue's outpatients are insured by Medicaid, Medicare and other third-party insurers; reimbursement for all Medicaid patients yielded \$353 million last year, 80 percent of Bellevue's \$400 million operating budget. The hospital depends on its Medicaid income to subsidize care for its uninsured patients.

As voluntary hospitals and managed care siphon off Medicaid patients, Bellevue winds up with the uninsured that no one else wants to treat – and less and less income to offset the cost.

Through a city-negotiated contract, Bellevue has 90 nursing supervisors who have no direct responsibility for patients and who are paid \$6.5 million a year to supervise 99 head nurses.

In November, as state Medicaid cuts took effect, 10 South was closed. Devastated, the nurses on 10 South wept openly in the fluorescent hall.

The treatment area, a row of curtained-off cubicles outside the trauma slot, was backed up with the city's most desolate patients.

"We're all feeling nauseous," [Dr. Robert Hessler, assistant director of emergency services] said.

Meanwhile, a year of budget cuts had gutted the staff and left the survivors in a state of manic desperation.

Behind [Dr. Susan] Vassallo, the "choo-choo train of drunks," as staff members call it, had formed a line of more than a dozen men on

stretchers. It was yet another night of financial hemorrhage; so far only one upper-middle-class patient had arrived, a tourist with a heart attack who had walked in through the front entrance. The ambulance teams, who bring derelicts in droves, do not bring white middle class patients to Bellevue unless they have traumatic injuries – a practice Hessler calls street triage.

The city requires Bellevue to treat a large share of its prisoners, mentally ill and homeless and most of its police officers and firemen. The hospital must also finance a large portion of the city's ambulance corps as well as the county morgue.

Since 1736, when Bellevue was founded to care for lunatics and paupers, it has reached deep into the city's slums to find its patients.

Slowly, Kammerman collected herself, then sat forward and addressed the group: "I think we should close the hospital. Because we're not going to be different from any other hospital. Let's close."

It was the first time this idea had been seriously expressed.

"Because the government believes that the sooner you die, the cheaper you are," Goldfrank said calmly. "That's the model they convey. When I pull people's clothes off I see feces and urine. The poverty level is overwhelming."

"We have to decide: can we run a hospital or can we not run a hospital?"

By late December, conditions at Bellevue were so bad it seemed they could not get worse. The hospital was unable to absorb \$20 million of its \$47 million Medicaid cut from 1995.

A new executive director, Gregory Kaladjian, was finally appointed in January. His first day on the job he put the entire senior staff on probation in preparation for firings and quoted Albert Einstein: "The problems we face cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them."

The city remains intent on privatizing the public hospital system.

Whatever path Bellevue takes, it will be unable to sustain its mission without some sort of direct government subsidy. And though politically unpopular, government handouts remain a vital necessity for treating the underinsured. "If the indigent do not get the care, we run the risk of having communicable diseases spreading among the population," Kaladjian says. "Given the types of diseases out there, the health of all New Yorkers is at

stake.”

February 15, 1996, page B3 – Wrongful Death Suit Begins in Slaying of Doctor at Bellevue” By GEORGE JAMES

On Jan. 7, 1989, Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, a pathologist from South Carolina, was in an office in Bellevue Hospital Center, preparing a lecture to medical students, when she was raped and murdered. She was 33 years old and five months pregnant.

The next day, the police arrested Steven Smith, a 23-year-old homeless man with a history of arrests and psychiatric problems who had been living in the hospital, sneaking around dressed as a medical worker. A jury rejected an insanity defense, and he is now serving a 50-year-to-life sentence.

The murder of Dr. Hinnant raised oft-heard concerns about the follow-up treatment of the mentally ill and the adequacy of security at Bellevue and other psychiatric institutions. And yesterday, seven years since the killing, those old questions loomed large once again.

A little later, Mr. [Thomas A.] Moore, [the family lawyer], known for his oratory, thundered, “Steven Smith was running amok in Bellevue Hospital.”

Mr. Moore told the jury that on Dec. 17, 1988, Mr. Smith went to the Bellevue emergency room and told doctors that he tried to kill himself by swallowing rat poison. He was treated for the overdose, his psychological state was monitored and he was released on Dec. 27, escorted from the hospital by two security guards, Mr. Moore said. The lawyer contended that based on his psychiatric background and “significantly violent criminal history,” Mr. Smith should not have been released.

But Mr. [Jeff] Pollack [assistant corporation counsel representing the city], maintained that Mr. Smith’s diagnosis had been a personality disorder, not as psychosis. He was not considered homicidal. “There is nothing in the hospital records to indicate he was a danger to himself or to anyone else,” he said.

Mr. Smith was next seen in the hospital three times on Jan. 1, beginning with a visit to a woman patient at 4 A.M., Mr. Moore said. That evening, he was arrested by security officers on charges that he stole a clock and a hypodermic needle.

He was arraigned on Jan. 3 and released, only to show up again that evening at Bellevue, Mr. Moore said. The next morning, he was discovered in a locked bathroom on the 21st floor, and complained of a sore back, Mr. Moore said. He was seen again on Jan. 6, a day before the murder.

Security “was really a sham,” Mr. Moore said.

But Mr. Pollack countered by saying that Bellevue had taken what were thought to be appropriate security measures.

February 17, 1996, page I2 – “Corrections”

An article on Thursday about a lawsuit by the family of a doctor who was murdered at Bellevue Hospital in 1989 misstated the given name of the assistant corporation counsel representing New York City’s Health and Hospital Corporation, the defendant in the suit. He is Joshua Pollack, not Jeff.

February 27, 1996, page B3 – “Jury Absolves Bellevue of

Negligence in a 1989 Murder” By GEORGE JAMES

A Manhattan jury found yesterday that the city-run Bellevue Hospital Center was not responsible for the death of a pregnant 33-year-old doctor who was raped and strangled in her office seven years ago by a former mental patient at the hospital.

The husband of the slain woman had been seeking \$25 million in the wrongful death suit, and as the trial was drawing to a conclusion, the city had suggested a settlement of \$2 million, which the lawyer for the victim’s family declined to consider.

The victim, Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, a pathologist, was preparing a lecture on Jan. 7, 1989, when she was beaten, raped, sodomized and strangled by Steven Smith, a homeless man with a history of arrests and psychiatric problems. In the week before the murder, he had been seen on numerous occasions wandering through the halls dressed as a medical worker.

“When witness and after witness specifically acknowledged the faults and the negligence,” Mr. Johnson said, “the message seems to be that if you work at Bellevue, you’re on your own.”

“I don’t think there is a juror who isn’t angry about this occurrence, who isn’t very disappointed with Bellevue Hospital” Ms. [Barbara] Green said, but she added that they were unable to find the city’s Health and Hospital Corporation, which oversees Bellevue, “legally liable.”

Assistant Corporation Counsel Joshua Pollack, who represented the city, said he was pleased with the verdict. But he added: “Nobody should be happy. Nobody won this case. This is a case where brilliant doctor lost her life.”

March 6, 1996, page B5 – “Patient Lost Two Months Is in

Custody” By THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEWARK, March 5 – A patient with a violent history who escaped from a New Jersey state psychiatric hospital two months ago was found today at Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, officials said.

“We were confident that we would find him,” said George A. Waters Jr., chief executive of Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Parsippany, from which the patient, Lin Hong, escaped on New Year’s Day. “We were just hoping we would find him earlier than we did.”

Mr. Hong told Bellevue staff members that he previously lived at Greystone, and they notified New Jersey authorities, Mr. Waters said.

Although Mr. Waters said he was glad to know Mr. Hong’s whereabouts, he said he did not want his former patient back, at least for now.

April 11, 1996, page B7 – “Giuliani Opens Unit at Bellevue

Despite Hospitals’ Hazy Future” By ESTHER B. FEIN

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani dedicated a new emergency department at Bellevue Hospital Center yesterday in what may well be one of the last major expansions of the public hospital system.

Standing in the middle of the 65,000-square-foot department that by today would have a steady flow of people with broken bones, trauma victims and children with stomach pains, he said the physical unit now aptly reflected the high level of medical care that Bellevue doctors and nurses had always given. The new department, which cost \$13.5 million to build and stock, was approved under Mayor David N. Dinkins.

When asked, away from the lectern, whether the city would continue to support Bellevue financially or try to turn it over to private hands, the Mayor said: "It doesn't really matter if you call it a public hospital or a private hospital. What matters is the care." Then he added: "All options are open for consideration."

From early in his administration, Mr. Giuliani has talked about dismantling the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation, the agency charged with running the 11 public hospitals that each year provide care for hundreds of thousands of patients, most of them poor. He has sought to sell at least three of the hospitals, calling that a prelude to ridding the city of ownership of all.

An advisory panel he appointed urged last August that the city abolish "the increasingly unmanageable public hospital system," a recommendation that the Mayor's special adviser on health policy, Maria K. Mitchell, heralded as "a framework for the devolution of H.H.C."

The plan hit a major snag last month when Mount Sinai Medical Center, the leading contender to take over the agency's two Queens hospitals, withdrew from the bidding.

November 15, 1996, page B5 – "New York State Success Rate for Cardiac Bypass Surgery Leads Nation, Survey Shows"

By ESTHER B. FEIN

The chance of dying from cardiac bypass surgery in New York State is lower than that reported in any other state and is the lowest since the state began surveying the results of the operation five years ago, state health officials reported yesterday.

The annual survey of bypass operations showed that two hospitals – St. Joseph's in Syracuse and St. Francis in Roslyn, L.I., had significantly better records than the average, and that one hospital, Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, had a mortality rate more than double the average, even when rates were adjusted to account for the age and severity of sickness among patients.

Dr. [Barbara A.] DeBuono [the State Health Commissioner] said a team of cardiologists would be sent to Bellevue Hospital to try to figure out why patients there are faring so poorly, dying at a rate adjusted for risk for 7.05 per 100 patients.

One factor she expects to be significant is the low volume of such operations performed in the hospital, only 93 last year compared with 723 at top-ranked St. Joseph's, whose rate was 0.79, and 1,618 procedures at St. Francis, which has the highest volume and whose rate of 1.54 ranked it second best.

Overall, there were 18,051 coronary bypass operations performed in the states in 1994.

"When you have so few opportunities to perform a procedure, you have less opportunity as an institution to hone your skills," Dr. DeBuono said, noting that the results could not be attributed solely to the surgeon, but were dependent as well on anesthesiologists, clerks, nurses and pump operators and on each hospital's procedures.

She said that after a thorough investigation the state could tell the hospital to increase its volume, to partner with another hospital or to close down the department.

Dr. Luis Marcos, president of the city's public hospitals agency, said that he was not convinced that the state had properly accounted for the fact that as a public hospital, many of Bellevue's patients were in significantly worse health than patients at some of the other hospitals that rated better.

"Can they really compare our patients, many of whom are suffering from AIDS and other complications, with patients at other hospitals?" Dr. Marcos asked.

Nevertheless, Dr. Marcos said the Health and Hospitals Corporation would conduct a full investigation of its own to determine why Bellevue had such poor results.

November 16, 1996, page I27 – "Jury Finds Bellevue Not Liable In a Slaying" By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Manhattan jury cleared Bellevue Hospital Center of liability yesterday in the death of an usher at St. Patrick's Cathedral who was fatally beaten by one of the hospital's former mental patients.

The State Supreme Court jury found that Bellevue's psychiatric staff had not failed "to make a professional judgment founded on careful examination" before dismissing Mr. [Jorge Cuellar] Delgado on April 27,

1988, about five months before the killing.

March 5, 1997, page B8 – “N.Y.U. Medical Center Aiding Bellevue Training”

New York University Medical Center has agreed to pay Bellevue Hospital Center \$250,000 a year to help cover the costs of training medical students, a reflection of the city’s growing efforts to get private medical institutions to be more responsive to the needs of the public hospital system.

The medical school support fee is one element of a three-year, \$144 million contract that also links how much New York University is paid to run Bellevue to how well it meets health-care benchmarks – like the percentage of children fully immunized by their second birthdays and the percentage of women over 51 who have had mammograms.

The Health and Hospitals Corporations, the agency that governs the city’s 11 acute-care public hospitals, has successfully negotiated such productivity standards and greater control over administration into each of its latest contracts with the private medical centers that are paid to staff the city’s public hospitals.

While hospitals are traditionally compensated through Medicare and Medicaid for the cost of training residents, they have not been similarly paid for teaching students still in medical school.

December 28, 1997, The New York Times Magazine, page 32 –

“To Hell and Back. When victims of torture flee, they often end up in New York, the nation’s largest refugee camp. A group of doctors at Bellevue is working to return those survivors to the world of the living.” By TINA ROSENBERG

Today the Bellevue/N.Y.U. Program for Survivors of Torture, which is directed by [Dr. Allen] Keller, has treated about 150 victims of torture or severe political violence along with their families, including young children.

Patients come from 40 countries, roughly a third of them from Africa and many others from Bosnia, Tibet, Bangladesh and China. About five new referrals come every week.

The program received about \$40,000 in financing last year from the United Nations. Most of its staff are psychologists, physicians and a psychiatrist, from Bellevue and N.Y.U., who take a few hours a week to treat clients. Clients have access to all of Bellevue's services, including two social workers who help them find housing and negotiate the city bureaucracy. Only this month has the program been promised its own office.

Every Tuesday at noon, the staff of Bellevue's Program for Survivors of Torture meets in a conference room crammed with old computers and audiovisual equipment to talk about their work.

February 8, 1998, page 33 – “At Bellevue, Luring Back New

Mothers With Luxury,” By ESTHER B. FEIN

Kevin Masaquiza was born last Wednesday in a big double bed, in a room with glorious views of the East River. Flower-flecked paper covered the walls, which were decorated with bright framed pictures. In the corner of the room was a glass-enclosed Jacuzzi, where his mother could have relaxed while she was in labor.

The lavish birthing room hardly squares with the image of Bellevue, the oldest public hospital in the country; Bellevue is better known for providing care to prisoners chained to their beds, police officers injured in the line of duty and all manner of trauma victims.

Luxury and Bellevue might never have appeared in the same sentence, but the new birthing center is gleaming, beautiful and luxurious, and is part of a multimillion-dollar attempt to reverse a trend that is troubling to public hospitals in the city: the defection of low-income, Medicaid-insured pregnant women to private hospitals that once shunned them.

Bellevue officials said they hoped that the new birthing center and remodeled maternity ward would help improve the hospital's image.

“We've got to dispel that ‘Midnight Cowboy’ image of Bellevue,” said Dr. Charles Lockwood, director of obstetrics and gynecology at Bellevue. “People are going to see this center, they're going to stop and say, ‘This is

Bellevue?’ And they’re going to look at the whole hospital in a new way.”

February 15, 1998, page XIV9 – “Board vs. Children’s Shelter”

Built in 1904 by McKim, Mead & White and first used as a city morgue, the R & S Building on the campus of Bellevue Hospital Center has been vacant for nearly two decades. Last year, after Bellevue officials put the word out that it was available, the Administration for Children’s Services decided it would be a good spot for a shelter for abused children.

But Community Board 6 officials say no one told them about this. In December, when members inadvertently learned of the plan, they called the agency to task.

Last Wednesday, the board voted to condemn the city for failing to follow the land-use law and to demand that it do so.

BERNARD STAMLER

March 15, 1998, page XIV-C47 – “To a Boss, Disability Is No

Barrier”

Ask Priscilla Daniels, head of volunteer services at Bellevue Hospital Center, why she hired Sharada Veerubhotla, and she answers without hesitation.

“For her dog,” she says.

“She was open to the idea of working with me and making adjustments,” Ms. Veerubhotla said of Ms. Daniels. “We hit it off from the moment we met.”

A fluent speaker of Telugu, her first language, as well as Hindi and English – both of which she can read and write in Braille - she took secretarial training a few years ago and then sent out “at least 300 resumes,” she said, disclosing her disability in her cover letter.

Ms. Veerubhotla’s main task is to link the hospital staff with the appropriate interpreters for languages varying from Bengali to Polish, and “lots of Chinese and African dialects,” she said.

BERNARD STAMLER

October 11, 1998, Neighborhood Report, page 6 – “Battle on 2 Fronts Over Planned Shelter for Children”

A plan for an emergency children’s shelter in the R & S Building, on Bellevue Hospital Center’s grounds at First Avenue and 31st Street, has existed since last year. And for just as long, it has fueled controversy in Kips Bay, where local officials worry about its proximity to a men’s shelter on First Avenue and 29th Street and claim that the city is illegally circumventing its Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (Ulurp), which requires community input into “site selection for capital projects.”

The community board chairman, Arnold S. Lehman, said that he and other members had not been told enough about the planned shelter to decide if they favored it. But he said, “We believe that a project of such size and scope must use Ulurp.”

Children’s agency spokeswoman, Leonora Wiener, insisted, “The children’s center will proceed anyway.”

BERNARD STAMLER

February 23, 1999, page B3 – “Consolidation Is Planned For Prisoner Health Care. Which of 3 Hospitals to Use is Not

Decided,” By DAVID ROHDE

The city’s Health and Hospitals Corporation is considering consolidating its prison health care program in one hospital instead of three to improve the quality of care and save money, a corporation official said yesterday.

Jane Zimmerman, a vice president and spokeswoman for the corporation, which oversees the prisoner health program, said that the city was planning the consolidation but that officials had not chosen which hospital to use. Prisoners are now sent for acute treatment to Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn, Elmhurst Hospital Center in Queens and Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan.

The official [at the hospitals corporation], who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that it made more sense to center care at Bellevue Hospital, which currently has the largest prison ward. Closing the

Kings county prison ward, the official said, could save up to \$700,000 a year.

April 30, 1999, page B6 – “Jail Failed to Diagnose Inmate’s Cancer” By KATHERINE E. FINKELSTEIN

On April 22, after Mr. [Tony] Fleming [a 35-year-old inmate at Rikers Island] collapsed at the jail, he was sent to Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, where doctors discovered the source of his persistent pains: cancer, which had attacked his spine and had eaten through one of his ribs.

September 5, 1999, page I28 – Frustrations at Bellevue:

Physician, Insure Thyself” By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

Medical residents at Bellevue Hospital Center are accustomed to seeing patients without insurance – they flow through the emergency room doors by the dozens daily. The residents never anticipated that they would be among them.

Yet often for weeks at a time, many of the more than 300 residents who study and practice medicine at the hospital find themselves without medical insurance, apparently because of an administrative problem that residents say they have been begging to have corrected for almost two years.

Bellevue residents, like many young doctors in the city’s hospitals, work outside the hospital where they are officially employed. Bellevue residents spend a significant amount of time at New York University Medical Center, often in weeklong or monthlong stretches.

When they work at Bellevue, they are covered by Group Health Inc., an insurance plan used by many city employees. Once they move over to N.Y.U., they go on that center’s payroll and benefits program and are assigned another insurance program. The problem occurs, residents say, when they return to Bellevue. There, the benefits office is open only a few hours each week, and it takes more than six weeks to reenroll the doctors in the Group Health program. Meanwhile, their N.Y.U. coverage expires, leaving them uncovered.

Repeated requests to administrators to fix the problem at Bellevue

have gone unanswered, residents say.

But a Bellevue spokeswoman, when reached by a reporter, said the hospital would begin to address the problem soon. “We are working collaboratively to fix this problem,” said the spokeswoman, Pam McDonnell. “The long-term plan is to have a discussion with the chief financial officer regarding an automated system, because automation is the problem. We have hired a new person for the human resources department to handle the problem.”

The problem appears to center on the way the benefits office at Bellevue operates. It is open only two days a week, residents say. Because they work long hours and are frequently on call, residents often cannot fit those times and the hour it takes to complete the paperwork – which is not needed at other hospitals – into their schedules. Moreover, there is rarely anyone available by telephone to walk them through their options.

Mark Levy, executive director of the Committee of Interns and Residents, the union that represents 9,000 doctors in training in New York, said that as far as he knew, the problem was limited to Bellevue.

December 12, 1999, page XIV-CY 10 – “Bellevue Neighbors See a Rush to Develop”

Bellevue Hospital Center’s neighbors are denouncing the way the city is calling for ideas to develop part of the center’s campus, including the historic former psychiatric ward.

Last month, the Economic Development Corporation asked for plans to be submitted by Dec. 22 for a 3.5-acre site on the northern edge of the campus. The land, between 28th and 30th Streets and from First Avenue to Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive, includes an 850-bed men’s shelter that was once the psychiatric building.

Some neighbors fear that the city may award a contract without requiring detailed proposals from developers. They say that the Dec. 22 deadline does not give many developers enough time to come up with plans, and leaves no room for opinions from neighboring residents.

The nine-story building [the psychiatric building], built in 1936, is listed as a historic site on state and federal registers, but has received no such city designation. Bellevue moved its psychiatric services into

another building about 15 years ago.

Last year, Mayor Giuliani announced that the men's shelter would be shut down because a children's ward was being built nearby. City officials said it was too early to tell whether the shelter would be closed or where the men would go.

As for the community board's criticisms, Michael Carey, corporation president, said, "This is not a ramrod process by any means."

"I don't see any reason why people can't put together a proposal quickly," he said, adding that he expects to receive six to eight designs.

EDWARD WONG

December 18, 1999, page B3 – "Woman Struck by Brick Leaves

The Hospital" By C. J. CHIVERS

Nicole Barrett, the woman who was struck by a brick while walking in Midtown Manhattan last month, has had a remarkable recovery thus far but will probably have brain damage, her family said yesterday.

Ms. Barrett's parents, Sharon and Arlen, appeared briefly at Bellevue Hospital to share the news of their daughter's discharge yesterday and to thank New Yorkers for their support during the monthlong hospitalization.

December 28, 1999, page F10 – "In Treating Patients for Pain, a

Racial Gap" By GABRIELLE GLASER

Black patients with broken arms or legs were less likely to be given painkillers in an Atlanta emergency room than white patients with similar injuries and complaints of pain, a new study has found.

But Dr. Lewis R. Goldfrank, the director of emergency services at Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, said the results spoke for themselves. "I think it's racism, flat out," he said. "This is a critical issue for emergency medicine and medicine in general. How can we say that we have the best medical care in the world and at the same time not be able to assure everyone – with confidence – that they'll get the same treatment as the next person, regardless of their skin color? This is a wake-up call to our inability to understand the needs of diverse groups of people in our

society.”

December 31, 2000, page I24 – “Trying to Preserve an

Improvised Monument to Sobriety” By BARBARA STEWART

The mosaic dinosaur, the centerpiece of a therapeutic garden in the courtyard next to the hospital’s psychiatric wing on 29th Street, was created over a six-year period by a succession of men struggling to get sober and stay that way. But now it is the center of another kind of struggle.

Members of the local community board, among others, are upset about Bellevue Hospital Center’s plan to destroy the [46-foot-high] sculpture when it paves over the garden near the East River to create an employee parking lot.

For the men at the alcoholism clinic, though, the dinosaur is valuable because it is theirs. They hope that the hospital will relent and move it to a new garden, where it would sit near the commissioned sculpture.

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