Historical Subject Files

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Why
Princeton Needs a
New Infirmary

Princeton University now has over 1,800 students.

The Infirmary is also used by the faculty of the University and the students of the Theological Seminary. The present Infirmary building was erected in 1892, when Princeton had barely 1,000 students. Its normal accommodation is only thirty-two patients at one time, including fourteen in the contagious ward. These facilities are now inadequate, and as the number of students increases a danger point will be reached. During the influenza epidemic beds were placed in the corridors, and the Athletic Field House also had to be used.

Princeton has always had a remarkable medical record due to the fact that all ill students report immediately to the Infirmary.

Over 1,500 visits are made to the dispensary every month, as many as seventy patients being frequently treated in one day. The space available for this important preventive work is now inadequate. Installing it in a separate building would mean a duplicate equipment of all instruments and medicines.

A resident physician will be installed as soon as the right man can be found. Quarters for this interne are needed.

Rooms for nurses are also required. They now sleep in another building some distance from the present Infirmary.

The Infirmary is kept spotlessly clean by dint of much painting and extra work. The sum now paid annually for repairs would go far towards meeting the overhead charges of a new, adequate, modern, well equipped building.

During the college year 1918-1919 the Infirmary cared for 610 patients, 552 from the University and 58 from the Aeronautical School.

Of these patients 192 had influenza and 22 pneumonia.

There was not a single death.

Rear Admiral Goodrich, in an address delivered in Princeton last June, at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Isabella McCosh Infirmary, said: . . . "the University achieved a record equaled only by a few small colleges, and surpassed by none, namely, a minimum number of cases of influenza and pneumonia, with not a single death. That Princeton can and does take care of its students ought to be most widely proclaimed as absolutely demonstrated."

The above record might well be a determining influence in the choice of a University for our young men.

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