

The hospital has a training school for nurses conducted along the usual up-to-date methods. At present, July, 1905, there are six Sisters of Mercy and ten nurses employed. According to the last printed report there were from August 17th, 1900, to August 17th, 1902, 686 patients in the hospital. Of these 317 were Catholics, 354 Protestants of various denominations, 3 Hebrews and 22 without any religion; 362 paid full rates, 229 paid only a part of the regular rates and 95 were cared for free of charge. Since the above report was printed still more patients have been cared for annually, as more room was obtained. In fact, the hospital has been generally crowded to its full capacity and many patients have had to be refused for want of space.

Charity Organization Society.

In the winter of 1892-93 there were rumors of financial panic. Business became somewhat demoralized and many men were thrown out of employment. There was much distress in the city and all benevolent organizations were taxed to their utmost capacity. In February, 1893, a circular was issued asking all persons interested in the organization of all local charitable societies to correspond with the signers, Thomas D. Gilbert and J. W. Rosenthal. Five hundred responses were received expressing interest in the movement. In March a public meeting was held in Powers Opera House, at which a committee consisting of T. D. Gilbert, J. W. Rosenthal, H. J. Hollister, A. O. Crozier and L. S. Provin was appointed to draft a constitution for a society to be known as the Charity Organization Society of Grand Rapids. On April 11 a meeting was held at the Park Street Congregational Church, to which the committee made its report, setting forth the objects of the proposed organization. It was adopted and is as follows:

The objects are:

1. To reduce vagrancy and pauperism and ascertain their true causes.
2. To prevent indiscriminate and duplicate giving.
3. To protect the community against imposition.
4. To see that all deserving cases of destitution are properly relieved.
5. To make employment the basis of relief.
6. To elevate the home life, health and habits of the poor.