

Houston, Texas.
Jan. 25, 1929.

Honorable J. S. Cullinan,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 21st in answer to mine of January 15th, was received on January 22d. Your letter was read with great interest and I appreciate your answer very much. The length of your letter, as well as its contents is concrete evidence of your great interest in the Houston Negro Hospital and my race.

I do not mean to take up your valuable time further, in discussing things that I covered in my first letter, I merely want to call your attention, and that of the new Board of Directors, to the difficulties that I have in getting the poor people whom I treat into the Houston Negro Hospital--because of the high prices they are compelled to pay, 95% of my patients could be properly registered in a charity hospital as indigent patients.

I am only going to cite two instances--for what is true of these two cases is true of the majority of the patients that I treat: I gave Mrs. Harris a major operation on January 15th and was forced to take her home on January 17th--just two days after I had given her the operation. She was a widow, had been sick in bed for two or three weeks and had an income from her sick blank of \$5.00 a week and she had to pay her room rent and eat out of it. I told her if she would try to borrow \$15.00, I would take her to the Houston Negro Hospital and remove a large tumor that had made her unable to do much work for many years--so she borrowed the \$15.00 and I loaned her \$5.00 so that she would have \$12.50 to pay for the operating room and \$7.50 to pay for three days in the hospital.

In addition to loaning her \$5.00, I had to pay my assistants and anesthetist \$5.00 each--making \$15.00 it cost me to get her operated on. Now the patient that I have for operation on January 31st has a husband and one sick blank--She will receive \$5.00 from her sick blank next Tuesday. Her husband has a job that brings him just enough to pay house rent and feed them, for his wife has not been able to work for several years.

He is going to soak a suit of clothes in order to raise \$10.00 to make up the \$15.00 on the hospital expenses. Hence I have agreed to pay the balance and trust Providence to get it back.

This situation is at least interesting--when I say, in truth, that I need the money that I advance to meet my monthly obligations.

By Sauer ✓

#2 J. S. C. 1-25-29.

Mr. Strauss said to us one day in a talk to members of the Board of Directors and some of the physicians--"What we want is not money from the patients, but want you to fill the hospital with patients--the money to run the hospital will come."

I believe that if the ward fees were reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.00 a day like Prairie View hospital and the private rooms from \$4.00 to \$3.00 and the Obstetric ward reduced from \$3.00 a day to \$1.00 like the Flint Goodricks, the colored hospital at New Orleans, we would have a good chance to carry our medical, surgical and obstetrical cases there and fill the hospital with a daily average of twenty-five or thirty patients.

However I am very hopeful and I believe that this year will be our Banner year at the Houston Negro Hospital.

Please excuse this lengthy letter. I remain

Gratefully yours,

W M Drake M.D.

W. M. Drake, M. D.
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WMD:LBS.