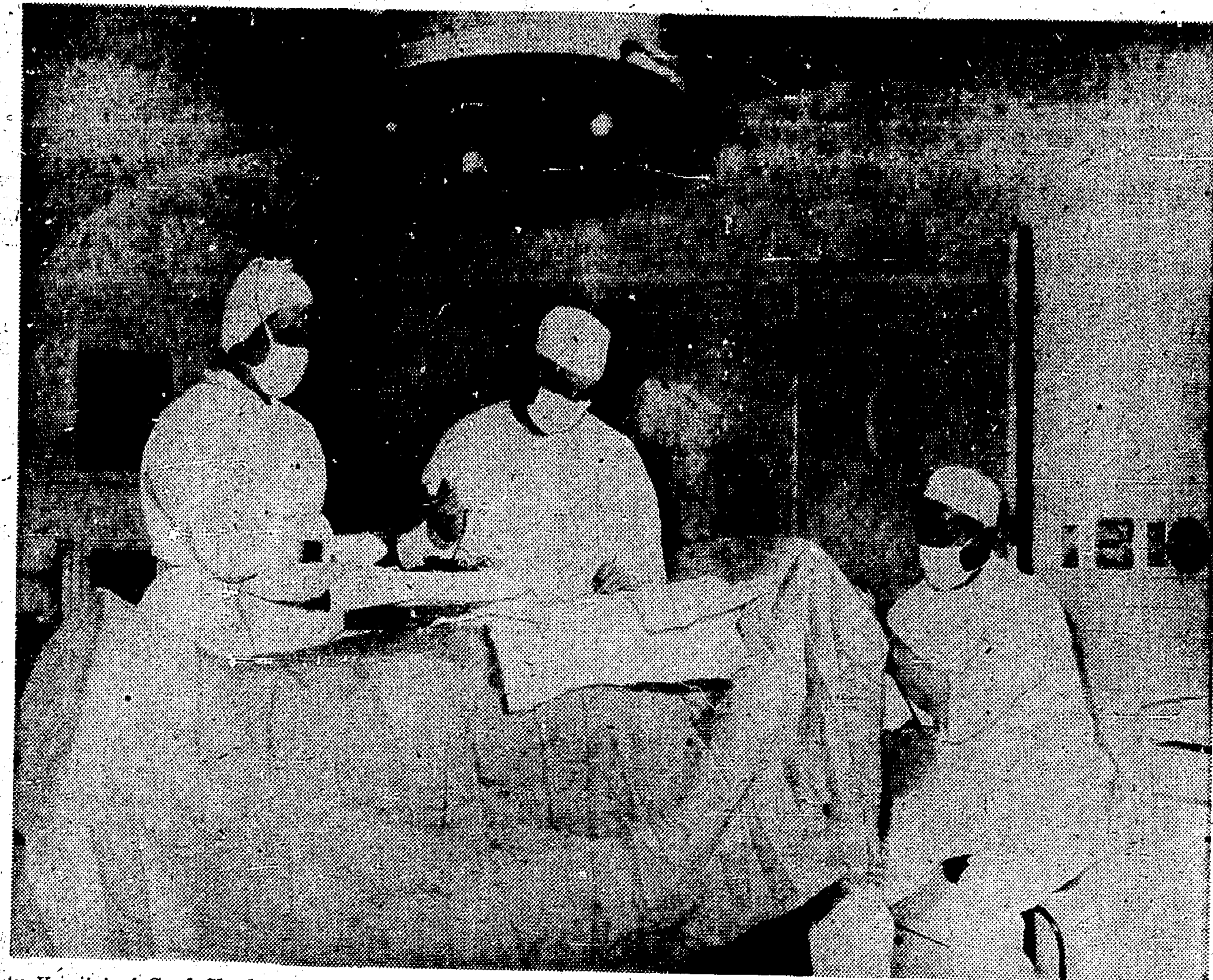


# The Changing Face of Syracuse

**HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES MAKE RAPID STRIDES**



Nurses prepare patient for an operation under gas lights at the House of Good Shepherd in 1897. The uniform for nurses has changed in fashion over the years. Today's attire has no resemblance to bonnets and bulky uniforms of the 1890s.



Courtesy of University Hospital of Good Shepherd

Today's modern operating room, like Onondaga General Hospital's, is surgically-clean. Operating surgeons besides rubber gloves wear sterilized face masks. A large overhead light affords more illumination.

## By Paul Peffers and Fred Heyman

Medical treatment has advanced in Syracuse in the past 89 years from an operation on a well-scrubbed kitchen table to the surgically clean, efficient hospitals and modern equipment of today.

Syracuse, in 1869, was a city backward in medical facilities. Operations took place in a patient's home or a doctor's office under flickering gas lights. Babies were born at home. There was no hospital, and only one private nurse for the entire city.

If you were seriously ill then, you went to bed, called the doctor, rechecked your will and waited. You were lucky, or you weren't.

Lack of a centralized place to heal the sick was a matter of great concern to the sisters of the Third Franciscan Order of St. Anthony's Convent in 1869. They became determined to do something about it.

Soon, the sight of a robed Franciscan sister seeking donations for a hospital became a familiar sight. And, on April 12, 1869, an old saloon and dance hall on Prospect Hill was bought. It became Syracuse's first hospital — St. Joseph's.

Opened in 1869, the buildings were remodeled, and a brick structure was built to connect them. Partitions were added to make rooms and wards, and the hospital was opened May 7, 1869. It had 123 patients the first year.

Its charter read, in part: "Healing of the sick irrespective of creed, race or color."

The House of Good Shepherd was opened by the Protestant Episcopal Church Jan. 23, 1873, at 99 E. Fayette Street as a place of "temporary refuge, nursing and care for needy persons who are sick, suffering from accidents or otherwise homeless or unsheltered."

Soon, it needed more space. In the spring of 1873, it was moved to a rented house on Hawley Street. It now had room for seven patients at one time.

A smallpox epidemic struck the city in 1874. Fear followed in its wake. Houses were plas-

tered with red warning signs of smallpox. The city established a "pest" house far out in the county where patients were taken. It was the beginning of the City Hospital for communicable diseases.

Meanwhile, Judge George F. Comstock donated a site on Madison Street for a new home for the House of Good Shepherd. The social season was in its whirl, and fairs, fancy balls and parties were held for funds for the new institution. It was dedicated Dec. 9, 1875. A total of 400 patients were treated the first year.

Expansion in 1881. In 1882, St. Joseph's Hospital on Prospect Hill was enlarged by an addition.

On Jan. 30, 1881 the Syracuse Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary was established at 52½ S. Warren St., and moved later to 312 S. Warren St.

But still lacking in the city was a hospital for maternity cases and care for newly-born babies. Neither St. Joseph's nor the House of Good Shepherd had facilities. In 1887, this lack became a matter of concern.

A group, called the Syracuse Women's Hospital and Training School for Nurses, was incorporated April 25, 1887. A small house was located at S. Geddes and Elliott Sts., then in the suburbs, and the hospital was opened Nov. 23, 1887.

Its first patients were three small infants brought to the hospital in a carriage wheeled by Mrs. James Crouse.

The year of 1888 resulted in many advancements. A new addition was built at St. Joseph's Hospital. A training school for nurses was in progress at the House of Good Shepherd. The Syracuse Women's Hospital moved to larger quarters in the old Frissalle residence at James and Sedgwick Streets, and a free dispensary for "needy families" was set up in the old Remington Block.

Visiting Nurses. In 1890, the Inasmuch Circle of Kings Daughters supervised the beginning of the Syracuse

Visiting Nurse Association with quarters at 208 S. Warren St. Later, the group moved to 407 S. Warren St.

Officials of the Syracuse Women's Hospital purchased the Bronson house on W. Genesee Street for \$8,700, and constructed the Silver Cross cottage for children care. Disaster came Dec. 13, 1893, when fire swept through the hospital, burning it to the ground. The cottage was saved.

A new hospital was constructed on the former W. Genesee Street site. The new hospital was opened Dec. 1, 1896, at a cost of \$95,000.

Plans for another hospital were on the way, and on Jan. 2, 1897, a homoeopathic hospital — later to become Syracuse General Hospital — was opened at Seymour and S. West Streets.

School For Nurses. A training school for nurses was opened at the new homoeopathic hospital March 13, 1899. A clinic and free dispensary for pulmonary diseases was established in Syracuse. It was said to be the first such clinic in the world.

Rides to the hospitals in those days were nothing like the smooth trip in the modern Eastern Ambulances of today. Then, it was in a horse-drawn wagon over cobblestone streets, and, if you weren't unconscious, you wished you were.

In 1903, the old Mann House at S. State and E. Castle Sts. was purchased for \$10,000, and the homoeopathic hospital was moved to this location in 1906-1907. It was formally opened Feb. 6, 1908, and the name was changed to Syracuse General Hospital.

A new pavilion was built at Syracuse Women's Hospital in 1905 after more land had been acquired. St. Joseph's Training School for Nurses was incorporated in 1904. The Syracuse Free Dispensary moved again to 506 S. Warren St. (now site of Hotel Syracuse) that year, and the Municipal Tuberculosis Clinic and Dispensary was established at 508 E. Fayette St. Feb. 27, 1908.

A diphtheria epidemic raged through Syracuse in 1906-1907. The City Hospital, which had been left sitting as far away from the city as possible, now was moved to 416 Teall Ave. and a four-room cottage was built for diphtheria patients. During the epidemic, 46 patients were cared for with only one death.

Another Hospital. Another hospital was on its way. Ground was purchased in 1910 on S. Crouse Avenue, and the first building containing 20 beds was opened May 7, 1912. Its training school for nurses was opened Aug. 18, 1913, and its dispensary, March 16, 1914.

At first, Crouse-Irving was a private hospital. In 1913, it was opened as public.

The City Dispensary moved into a new building at 610 E. Fayette St. in 1914.

On April 22, 1914, the House of Good Shepherd was passed to the control of Syracuse University, and it became known as the University Hospital of Good Shepherd. Two pavilions costing \$100,000 each were built in 1917, and they were dedicated Jan. 6, 1918.

The Syracuse Women's Hospital had its name changed to Memorial Hospital May 18, 1918, because of the many gifts, legacies and endowments it had received.

At Crouse-Irving, the Clifford E. Lipe pavilion was built for \$100,000 to double the size of the hospital.

Sanatorium Opened. The Tuberculosis Sanatorium on Onondaga Hill was opened Oct. 2, 1915.

Onondaga General Hospital was opened at Hiscock Homestead, 915 W. Onondaga St., on May 15, 1919.

The city's medical facilities were taxed to the limit in 1918 when the flu epidemic swept the nation. Soldiers training at Camp Syracuse collapsed, families were sick, and doctors worked 20 hours out of 24. Every hospital was crowded.

By 1924, Memorial Hospital had two X-ray machines, and plans were being drawn for a new institution. A fund drive took place in 1928, and \$2,335,937 was collected. On Jan.

8, 1928, the cornerstone for the new building was laid on University Hill.

A new \$300,000 Onondaga General Hospital was constructed and opened Dec. 9, 1928, on W. Onondaga St. It contained 70 beds.

The Irving Wing was added to Crouse-Irving Hospital in 1928.

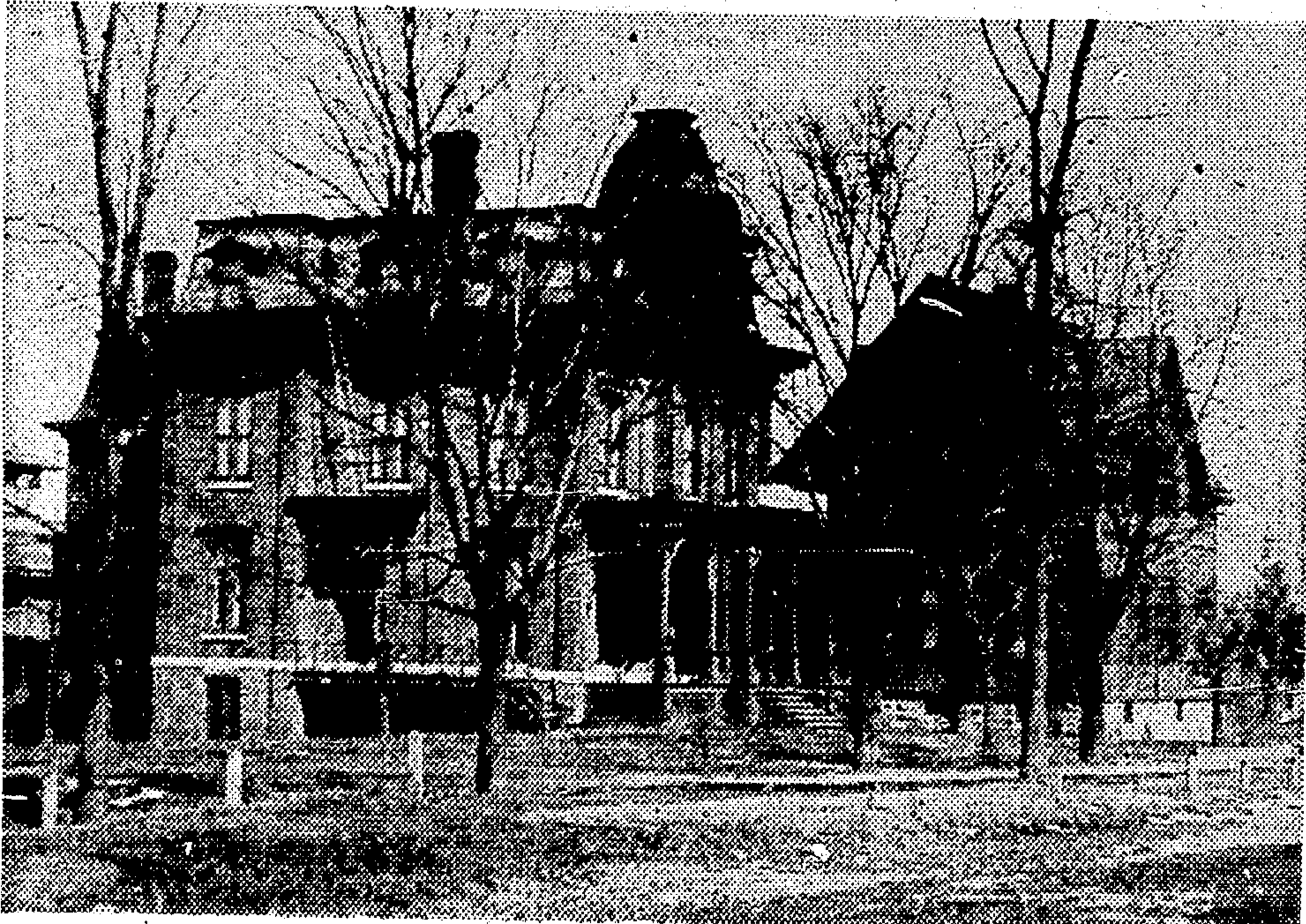
County Hospital. Onondaga County Hospital on Onondaga Hill was opened in 1930. St. Mary's Maternity Hospital and Children's Home had been operating for many years at 1601 Court St. The Wieting-Johnson Hospital for rheumatic fever victims was opened Oct. 26, 1945.

In July, 1942, the Lyman pavilion was added to Syracuse General Hospital. A five-story wing was built at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1950. Also on that year the Syracuse University's College of Medicine became part of the State University, and the University Hospital of Good Shepherd was taken over by the state.

Syracuse's newest hospital is the Veterans Administration at University place and Irving avenue. It cost \$10 million and was dedicated June 14, 1953.

Syracuse's hospitals have improved year after year. Today, there is a Community Hospital Fund drive for \$8,500,000 under way. Its purpose is to build a 300-bed hospital, a nurses school and new nursing facilities at St. Joseph's Hospital. So far, more than \$2,000,000 has been pledged.

The city's hospitals are a far cry from their small beginnings in rented homes. Today, they are glistening, modern equipment, antiseptic operating rooms and crisp bedding, and a trained staff working 24 hours a day.



Above is view of the former Syracuse Memorial Hospital on W. Genesee Street. It was purchased for \$8,700 in 1890, but fire destroyed the building Dec. 13, 1893. A new building was constructed at cost of \$95,000 on same site.

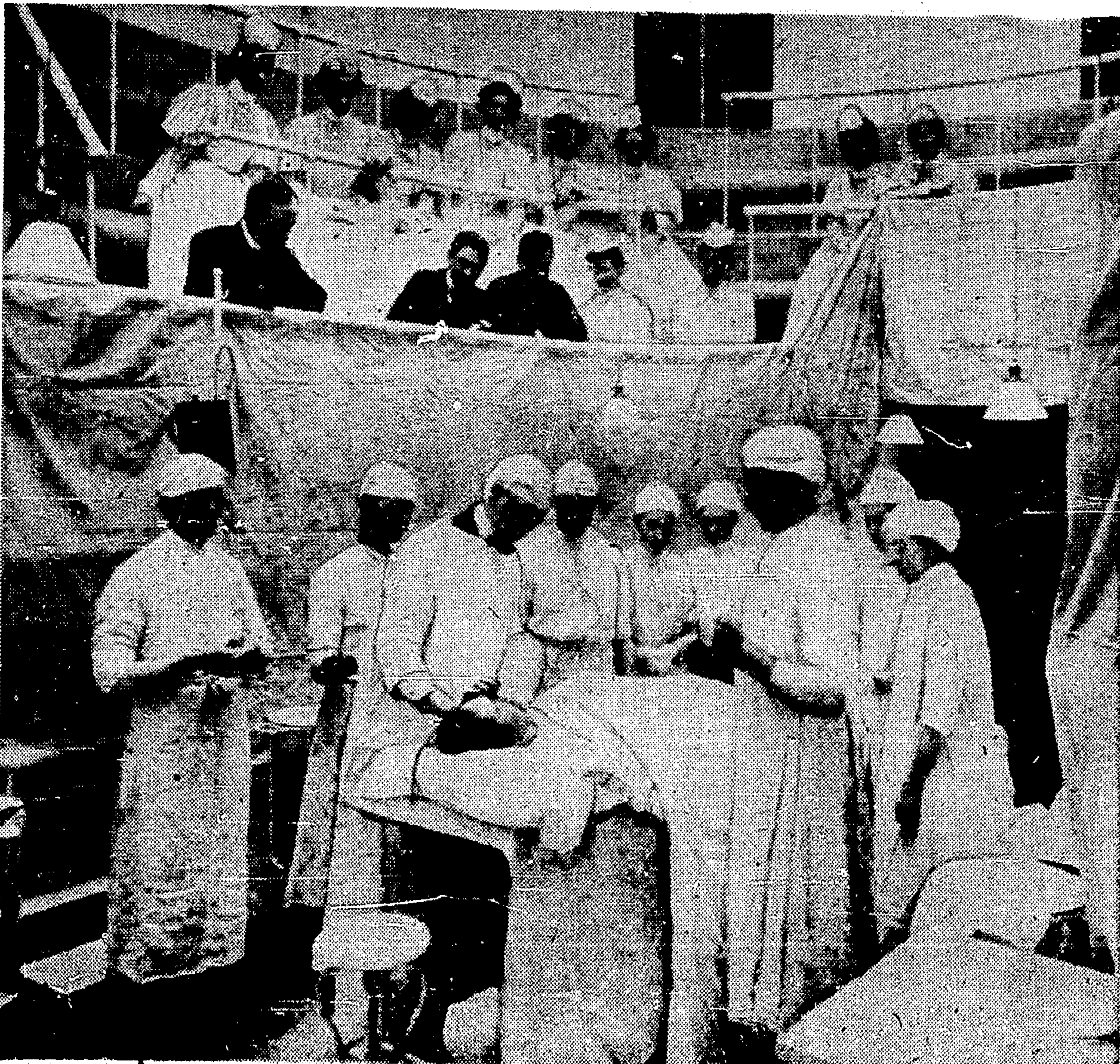


St. Mary's Maternity Hospital stood on Spring Street

## NEXT WEEK—THE 'MAGIC' VOICE OF RADIO APPEARS IN THE EARLY TWENTIES



An ambulance ride in the early hospital days in Syracuse was an experience in horse-drawn St. Joseph's Hospital ambulance. A sick person was jolted over cobblestone streets on hard-rubber wheels.



Courtesy of University Hospital of Good Shepherd

A step in surgical progress was observed in 1907 in the operating amphitheater at Hospital of Good Shepherd. Operating surgeons began wearing rubber gloves. The hospital was second to be opened in city. St. Joseph's Hospital started in 1869 and Good Shepherd in 1873. Lighting was bad and equipment left much to be desired.