

THE ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Orange County is justly proud of her general hospital that compares favorably with any other institution of the kind in the State. Not so a third of a century ago, when the only habitation for the County's sick was the County jail.

Orange County was segregated from Los Angeles County in 1889. Who cared for the indigent sick during the first eighteen months after County Division no one seems to know. J. P. Boyd, M. D., the first County Physician and Health Officer, was appointed May 4, 1891. Dr. Boyd held office for four years.

The roll of his successors follows:

W. H. Hill, M. D.	1895-1903
R. A. Cushman, M. D.	1903-1904
C. D. Ball, M. D.	1904-1911
John Wehrly, M. D.	1911-1915
A. H. Domann, M. D.	1915-1923

When Dr. Boyd took charge of the Medical Department he was compelled to use the County jail for his emergencies. It must be admitted that this was an undesirable location for an emergency or receiving station, so the Doctor would discharge the milder cases as soon as possible and send the more serious ones to the Los Angeles County Hospital. During Dr. Hill's administration a decided improvement was made. There was a County indigent, a cripple, who lived in a little shack on Third Street. It seems that this individual had a spare bed, possibly two, which the County Physician was permitted to utilize. This domicile was known as the "County Hospital." With Dr. Cushman came another improvement, the "County Hospital" was moved from Third Street to a larger house on the southeast corner of Fifth and Spurgeon Streets. By this change the number of beds was increased from two to six. During these years the seriously sick were cared for in the Los Angeles County Hospital, the local building really being used for a poor-house. Shortly after Dr. Ball became County Physician, arrangements were made with the Santa Ana Hospital for the care of the County patients. The poor-house was still in operation.

But the population and wealth of the County were increasing rapidly. Shortly after Dr. Wehrly came into office, agitation for a new hospital became quite active. In July, 1912, a bond issue for \$60,000.00 was carried for the purpose of purchasing grounds for a poor-farm and the erecting thereon of suitable buildings for an almshouse and hospital.

To carry out the project the Supervisors purchased seventy-two acres of land in West Orange, half a mile west of the Chapman Street bridge, on what is now the State Boulevard. Here was erected the main building of the present hospital. The contractor was Chris McNeal, the architect Fredrick Ely; the plans were drawn under the supervision of Dr. Wehrly. The capacity of the new hospital was forty-five beds. Other buildings for the almshouse, the laundry, the nurses' home and the chapel quickly followed. Between the hospital and the almshouse the number of beds amounted to ninety. With this splendid beginning the fortunes of the hospital steadily improved.

The hospital was opened for patients Sept. 1, 1914, with a staff consisting of Dr. John Wehrly, attending physician; Miss Hazel Swall, superintendent of nurses; four graduate nurses and two orderlies.

H. E. Zaiser, M. D., was appointed superintendent of the hospital, beginning his work Dec. 17, 1914. To Dr. Zaiser much credit is due for the success of the institution.

In January, 1915, Dr. A. H. Domann succeeded Dr. Wehrly as County Physician, Health Officer and visiting physician of the hospital. He served until 1923. Since then Dr. Zaiser has had full charge of both the Health and Hospital Departments of the County.

A psychopathic wing was added to the institution in 1923.

A staff was formed in 1925 with the following members:

Surgery—Drs. H. A. Johnston, J. M. Burlew, D. C. Cowles.

General Medicine—Drs. Dexter Ball, Luther Maroon, Franklyn Gobarr.

Gynecology and Obstetrics—Drs. J. H. Lang, S. A. Marsden, Bessica Raiche.

Neurology—Drs. R. A. Cushman, F. E. Coulter, Thomas S. Blair.

Pediatrics—Drs. Joseph Robinson, Roland P. Yeagle, W. S. Wallace.
 Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat—Drs. Harris D. Newkirk, E. M. Beasley, C. H. Brooks.

Pathologist—Dr. Bessie Martell.

Orthopedic—Drs. Alfred Gallant, Harry Schott of Los Angeles.

Diseases of Chest—Dr. E. W. Hayes of Monrovia.

The hospital is now fully standardized and is accredited by the American College of Surgeons.

The following is Dr. Zaiser's statistical report for 1926 (January 1, 1925, to January 1, 1926) :

Name of Hospital.....	Orange County Hospital
Address.....	Orange, California, R. D. No. 1
Superintendent.....	Harry E. Zaiser, M. D.
Operated by.....	Orange County Municipal
Total bed capacity.....	125
Nursery	5
Number of beds for medicine, 45; gynecology, 6; pediatrics, 12; surgery, 14; urology, 3; infections, 14; obstetrics, 5; eye, ear, nose and throat, 6; tuberculosis, 15.	
Total hospital days	42,075
Average days' stay per patient.....	29
Total deaths	136
Institutional deaths	136
Total laboratory examinations	2,007
X-ray examinations	768
Autopsies	15
Total number of hospital employees.....	48
Graduate nurses	6
Non-graduate sisters	0
Trained Social Worker.....	1
Attendants	3
Internes	2
Nurses in training	26
Nurse maids	0
Dietitians	1
Total number Doctors privileged to practice in hospital....	21
Total number Doctors on appointed staff.....	21

In March, 1915, a training school for nurses was organized. From the beginning it was accredited by the State Board of Health. Mildred Granger was the first graduate; since then nineteen others have received their certificates of graduation. The full list of graduates follows: Mildred Granger, Laura Summers, Mary Stroka, Catherine Pohndorf, Ruth Kohler, Laura Vivian, Vermelle Vivian, Louise Kieslich, Pauline Benjamin, Lenore O'Neil, Mildred Smith, Thelma Latham, Martha Nielson, Alice Dunn, Tenny Dunn, Gay Dage, Edith Mork, May Perdomo, Gladys Buchheim, Lovetta Chaffee.

At present the school is in charge of Miss Cora Mathis, who is assisted by Mrs. Julis Salisbury, a full-time instructress. There are twenty-seven student nurses.

The working force consists of three resident physicians, three orderlies, six graduate nurses, the twenty-seven students and sufficient help to run the kitchen, laundry and farm.

The farm includes about 70 acres, partially covered by hospital, nurses' home, chapel, cottages for the physicians, and other cottages for employees and indigents.

There is an orange orchard of twenty-seven acres, valencias, and a herd of pure-bred Holsteins to furnish the dairy products.