

History of Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia

On Adventure Bound: 1861-1934

By MARY W. GRISCOM, M. D.

Philadelphia, Pa.

“DECEMBER, 1871, at a meeting of the Board, an article from one of the daily papers with the heading “Women in

lution, *with the remarks of the press*, be sent with the volume of reports.”

Thus, in December, 1871, did those hoop-skirted, retiring, non-denominational women of 1861 celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding, by women, of a hospital for women and children.

On April 11, 1861, ten women had met at 627 Arch Street, Philadelphia. This is the first meeting recorded for the purpose of founding a woman's hospital, but there had been other informal times of decision. Action, for this meeting, reports giving thanks to “Joseph Jeanes and others” for their efforts toward getting “a charter” which would be somewhat like preparing the layette for a prospective infant! Only those ladies would have known better how to go about the layette.

How did they ever go about making a hospital! Even having worked in hospitals for forty odd years, I should shiver if told to originate one out of whole cloth, or from the atmosphere, as they did. My respect for that generation grows and grows. They made no remarks until that charter was ready; but they, too, were ready!

The charter, after “be it enacted,” etc., Section 4, says: “That the object of said corporation shall be to establish in the City of Philadelphia a hospital for the treatment of diseases of women and children, and for obstetrical cases; furnishing, at the same time, facilities for clinical instruction to women engaged in the study of medicine; and for the practical



First Home of the Woman's
Hospital of Philadelphia

Russia,” being read, showing the generous provision recently made by the Emperor of Russia for the medical education of women, it was, on motion,

“Resolved, That a bound volume of the Reports of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia be sent to the Emperor of Russia in token of our grateful appreciation of his efforts for the elevation of women and the enlargement of their sphere of action, especially manifested in the provisions recently made for their medical education in Russia.

“On motion, resolved that a copy of the Reso-