

Hospital Is a City Within a City

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What is Kings County Hospital?

It is a hospital center, a city within a city, a vast, sprawling complex covering an area of more than 22 city blocks.

It is a general hospital first. Then it is a chest disease hospital.

It is a hospital for cancer treatment.

It is a hospital for communicable diseases.

It is a hospital for care of the aged and for the infirm.

It is a rehabilitation center.

And it is a psychiatric hospital.

Funds Lacking.

Kings County Hospital Center at Clarkson and New York Aves., Bklyn., has modern equipment, modern techniques.

But it is handicapped by lack of funds and lack of sufficient personnel. When the time comes for the city to allocate funds for its operation, it is looked upon as a third cousin.

Within its limited means it may do as good a job as any municipally operated hospital in the country. Down through the years it has been condemned more often than it has been praised. The spotlight of criticism has improved its operation.

Ten years ago, conditions at Kings County were labeled disgraceful by the then-director of surgery at the hospital. Overcrowding and shortage of trained personnel were primary causes of that condition.

Dramatic Plea.

A dramatic plea to the Board of Estimate by the surgeon brought action. Nurses' salaries were raised and a probe of city hospital operations was ordered. This resulted in blame being placed on the city's "antiquated and cumbersome administrative policies." Many improvements followed on the heels of the report.

Affiliation with the Downstate Medical Center has brought many other benefits to Kings County Hospital.

The physician-instructors in this state medical college work in the hospital wards with the students, providing not only invaluable on-the-job training for the students but also augmenting the working staff of the hospital.

This affiliation has been described by professional personnel as a firm, agreeable working partnership. And this partnership has focused attention upon lifting the general standards of all divisions of the hospital.

Old Bugaboos.

Many evils have been eliminated through the years, but today—10 years after the sur-



This is Kings County Hospital, a 22-block city within a city. In its maze of clinics, residences and service buildings, some 6000 professional and nonprofessional workers take care of more patients every year than any other hospital in the metropolitan area. The numbered buildings are: 1—Downstate Medical Center; 2—Out-patient building; 3—Nurses' residences; 4—Laboratory building; 5—Main hospital building; 6—Power house; 7—Neurology building; 8—Chest building; 9—Staff house; 10—Psychiatric building.

geon's dramatic appeal—the operation of the hospital center—still is handicapped by bugaboos of the past: overcrowding and a shortage of experienced personnel.

There are some 6000 professionals and nonprofessionals servicing the lame and the halt who depend on Kings County to cure their ills.

Last year in the general, the chest and the psychiatric divisions, the center cared for 57,630 patients for a total of 974,234 patient days. Out-patients who visited clinics totaled 330,683. Births in the hospital reached 6387.

Staggering figures?

Yes, and they're rising each year.

The psychiatric division—which today is operating with 378 beds—suffers the same shortage of personnel and the same overcrowding as the other divisions of the hospital center.

Aid Received.

Last year, the New York City Community Mental Health Board, recognizing Kings County's need for assistance, moved to channel

some \$3,443,000 to the Brooklyn institution.

These funds are earmarked for psychiatric clinics, clinics for the emotionally disturbed, clinics for mentally ill children, diagnostic treatment and consultative services.

It will be some time, observers believe, before a sluggish city government will catch up financially with the needs of the city hospital.