Unique Building to Join Queensboro Bri

Will Serve Both as Patients' Entrance to Blackwell's Island and Storage Warehouse for Many City Institutions Located There

The City of New York is about to witness the completion of Blackwell's Island, connecting with the Queensboro Bridge, and expects thereby to effect a saving of nearly $1,000,000 a year in public expense in the operation of the charitable institutions.

For years the handling of patients, visitors, and the enormous quantity of supplies has been a great problem in the various charitable institutions on Blackwell's Island. Early in the present administration it became manifest that the present accommodations were inadequate to handle the necessary supplies. Indeed, the condition of Blackwell's Island and the adjacent General Dispensary located on Bellevue Hospital grounds are serious both in the need of enlargement in capacity and the improvement of existing methods of storage and distribution.

Lack of sufficient storage and manufacturing room has resulted in an inability to purchase materials and supplies in an economical manner, and at the same time has made it impossible, due to improper refrigeration and the lack of other necessary accommodations, to handle food and other perishables in the most economical manner.

Transportation to Blackwell's Island for many years past has been by means of boats from Twenty-ninth, Fifty-third, and Seventy-ninth Streets, Manhattan. This method has meant consider- able inconveniences to doctors, nurses, and visitors, and more especially to hospital patients who are subject to these transfers from ambulance to boat and boat to ambulance.

Several elevator schemes have been put forward from time to time with the idea of connecting the institutions with Blackwell's Island property, but all have been abandoned because they threatened to block the bridge traffic, and also because of the high cost. The disadvantages of the scheme previously put forth, however, have been eliminated in thestorehouse elevator idea which the Commissioners of Charities, John A. Kingsbury, has worked out with the aid of Architect Berard Wo. Leidy.

The Board of Estimate and Appraisal has approved the plans and specifications of a building to be projected, amounting to over the cost of the ten-story building, which will be placed adjacent to the Queensboro Bridge in the centre of Blackwell's Island, its roof being on a level with the floor of the bridge.

The top of the building will be made into a concourse and a connection effected between bridge and building by means of a revolving stairway. The building, which will be considerably higher than the present hospital, will be equipped with a number of elevators, both freight and passenger. It is the design of the builders to provide freight elevators capable of carrying to any floor of the building, or to the ground below, all kinds of vehicles, including five-ton automobile trucks loaded with merchandise, ambulances with patients, fire apparatus, ordinary wagons, and passenger automobiles.

The building will also be provided with a large number of passenger elevators to give an adequate means of transportation to the thousands of people who visit the institutions on Blackwell's Island.

The present boat service costs the city something like $120,000 per annum for operation, so there will be a considerable degree of economy effected by substituting the elevators. The building will not only reduce the number of people entering and leaving the island, but will also efficiently carry the supplies to the various institutions.

The building is now being erected, and will be ready for use in a few months. It will be a great improvement in the city's provisions for the care of the sick and injured.

Interesting Facts from Many Lands

Details of the regulations fixing the price of flour and bread to the principal cities of Australia are given in an article in The Melbourne Age. The price of flour is fixed at $5.43 per ton, except in Western Australia, where it is $5.68. The price of bread in Sydney other than Western Australia is fixed at 13.2 cents for a four-pound block sold over the counter, and 14.2 cents in Western Australia. A portion of four pounds purchased at a price of four pounds is to be charged.

In spite of additional expenses due to the war, the street railways of Vienna, owned by the City, paid into the Vienna treasury during the first year of the war, the sum of $60,000. The report for the fiscal year in question shows that, whereas the city-owned street railways employed in normal peace-time 12,308 horses, they lost 5,700 immediately to the army and 1,704 later, and were obliged to fill the vacancies largely with women. Not only did the service continue, however, without interruption, but a large assortment of food and medical supplies were sent to the transportation of wounded soldiers by special train and the forwarding of all sorts of freight.

For the first time in the history of the Hongkong rice trade a shipment of polished rice has been made to the United States. This first shipment consisted of 100 tons, shipped to San Francisco.

Commissioner Kingsbury hopes that many eminent men of both the medical and surgical professions will be attracted to the island by reason of the easy method of reaching the hospitals and the consequent reduction in the time required. Many of these busy men now find it practically impossible to visit these hospitals because of the long time required in making the trip.

Plans for the new building have been filed and ground will be broken at once. Deputy Commissioner of Charities George G. Thomson said yesterday that it would be hard to estimate the advantages and economies effected by the new building, work on which will be rushed with all possible speed. Within a year the handi- caps under which the department is working with respect to its transportation, storage, and manufacturing facilities should be eliminated.