

## EAST CAROLINA PROMOTES HOSPITAL FOR NEGROES

Among programs being promoted in the Church's work among colored people today none exhibits more strikingly the far-visioned character of the interest of some of the dioceses than that of the diocese of East Carolina. The most notable growth in that work has taken place during the episcopacies of Bishop Strange and Bishop Darst. From 1865 to 1906 the work grew to just six parishes and missions. Today there are seventeen parishes and missions and five parochial schools in a well-organized convocation of colored Church workers. Every parish and mission is housed in its own building except one. There are four rectories and three parish houses. These buildings have been erected without appealing outside the diocese with the exception of a few small grants from the American Church Building Fund Commission. Three of the properties are valued at \$59,000, \$29,000, and \$21,000 respectively. Other plants vary from \$3,000 to \$10,000. Thus, out of the meager resources of a small semi-rural diocese, substantial foundations have been laid for the prosecution of a work of considerable magnitude among this race which numbers 300,000 in the diocese.

More recently the diocese has been promoting a movement to erect a hospital for colored people, the association for which has been incorporated with the Rev. G. H. Madara, rector of Christ Church, New Bern, as president; E. K. Bishop, senior warden of Christ Church as vice-president; the Rev. R. I. Johnson, rector of St. Cyprian's Church, New Bern, secretary; and the Rev. W. R. Noe of Wilmington, N. C., treasurer. The location of the hospital will be at New Bern. In this city several years ago there was a disastrous fire which made 3,500 people homeless, nine-tenths of whom were colored people. This disaster brought to Church people in East Carolina a forceful realization of the great need of hospitalization among this race. In New Bern at the time of the fire there were two white private hospitals. Today there is only one. They could not cope with the cases which are the usual by-products of such disasters. Outside of New Bern in the diocese there was one little private colored hospital with perhaps a dozen beds. The situation was 300,000 population and twelve beds in strictly colored hospitals. But for the limited service obtainable in some white hospitals the need would have been more critical than it was. Upon further study it was found that there were only 319 beds in colored hospitals in the

whole state of North Carolina with its more than three-quarters of a million colored population and less than 4,000 beds in the whole country in such hospitals for 12,000,000, creating a situation which a high authority in the American Hospital Association states makes the hospital situation for the colored race one of the most acute in the country.

For the urgent local need created by the fire, St. Cyprian's Church was turned into an emergency hospital. For the larger need for such services among the 300,000 in the whole diocese the convention unanimously approved plans for the building of a small hospital to meet the need at least in part. To this end the diocese has received tremendous encouragement from the Duke Endowment of the Carolinas; the Rosenwald Fund of Chicago, and the diocese of Pennsylvania, which has included the project in its Advance Work Program. The cost is to be \$150,000. The Rev. W. R. Noe, treasurer of the diocese and also of the Good Shepherd Hospital and Training School, announces that all of this is in sight except \$15,000 which it is hoped friends will donate early this fall so the work can go forward. This would probably have been raised but for the widespread financial depression, unemployment, and consequent poverty and suffering now prevalent in this area which has created a crisis for the movement when the goal is practically in sight. The sum of \$15,000 to complete the building and equipment fund and \$5,000 toward the first year's expenses will put the hospital into operation and give a year in which to study and organize the resources of the institution and its environment in the interests of its maintenance.

The situation at New Bern is ideal for the development of such an institution as a health center and base. Forward-looking public health officials in the immediate and adjacent counties see just these possibilities and point out the fine opportunities for practical experience for the nurses who will take the training in the nurse training school as well as the great benefits that will result in public health education and improved standards of living. In a portion of the area to be served, in which conditions are slightly better than the ordinary, one out of every five colored children under one year of age died from January to July. Deaths from tuberculosis are three times as large among colored as among whites and five times as great for venereals. This institution will set standards for a third of the population and a third of the area of the State of North Carolina.—*The above is a reprint from The Churchman of August 9th, The Southern Churchman of August 16th, and The Living Church of August 23rd.*