

to creed, race or color, and under such directions as the trustees or directors of said hospitals may prescribe by rules, and any patient received or admitted to said hospital whose financial means at command are not such as to enable said patient to pay for the necessary treatment and care shall be treated and cared for therein without any expense or charge whatsoever."

**NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOAT.**—The new boat, "Riverside," of the Health Department, was successfully launched at Port Richmond, Staten Island, on Jan. 18. Mayor McClellan and other city officials were present, and the christening was performed by Miss Dorothea Darlington, the young daughter of the president of the department. The "Riverside," which is one hundred and thirty feet over all and has twin screws, is to take the place of the old "Franklin Edson," which has been worn out in the service, and is to transfer patients from different parts of the city to the hospital for contagious diseases on North Brother Island, in the East River. Her cost is \$75,000.

### Obituary.

**JAMES ARTHUR MAHON, M.D.**

DR. JAMES ARTHUR MAHON was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Feb. 7, 1865, and died in Boston Sept. 14, 1905. His preliminary education was received in the schools of his native town, in the academy at Pictou, and at Dalhousie College in Halifax. He graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1896. Prior to and after graduation he served as surgical house-officer in the Boston City Hospital, finishing his course there in 1897. He was visiting physician to the Convalescent Home of the Boston City Hospital, to the Salvation Army Rescue Home and the Home for Incurables. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Alumni Association of the Harvard Medical School and of the Boston City Hospital. He was one of the board of trustees of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Mahon was a physician of excellent ability and sterling character. He was painstaking and faithful in every detail of his work. He was conservative, yet never lacking in courage. His strong personality won for him many friends, both among his patients and his brother physicians.

The members of the Clinical Club desire to express their satisfaction as they recall their pleasant associations with him and their feeling of loss as they miss his genial presence. They desire further to extend their sincere sympathy to the family of James Arthur Mahon in their great bereavement.

The committee recommends, therefore, that this minute be placed upon the records of the

Clinical Club and that a copy be sent to the family of Dr. Mahon and to the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

DAVID N. BLAKELY, M.D.  
SAMUEL CROWELL, M.D.  
EDWARD P. STARBIRD, M.D.

### Miscellany.

**TESTIMONIAL TO MR. HENRY H. SPRAGUE.**

THE senior staff of the Boston City Hospital appointed a committee of its three oldest members to prepare a testimonial to Mr. Sprague, for many years a trustee. A letter signed by sixty-nine physicians attached to the hospital, and a silver bowl and platter, appropriately inscribed, were presented on New Year's eve, 1905-06. The letter was as follows:

MR. HENRY H. SPRAGUE:

*Dear Sir,*—We, the physicians of the City Hospital, on the completion of your thirty years' service as trustee, ask your acceptance of a modest keepsake as a visible token of our respect. Thirty years of service in our hospital, unrewarded in money, can have been only partially compensated for by the estimation in which we hold you. A trustee has not even the worldly reward of a physician to a hospital. We have practice, experience, the opportunity to advance our own knowledge. You have only the consciousness of duty done, of the public good insured. In this you do not stand alone; for a long line of trustees, for forty years, have given us much of their lives.

It is not too much to say, however, that you do stand, if not alone, yet pre-eminent, in conscientious service.

*Integer vitae* expresses, in terse Latin, your life in the City Hospital. Untiring in your efforts, you have helped to lay its foundations broad and deep in charity and in honesty. No one could have done more to elevate the standard of our duties, and to make our hospital the foremost municipal hospital in position and in reputation. As your character is inseparable from that virtue which is its own reward, so your reputation rests securely behind the unassailable barrier of useful, honorable and charitable works.

DAVID W. CHEEVER,  
JOHN G. BLAKE,  
OLIVER WADSWORTH,  
and sixty-six others.

JAN. 1, 1906.

### Correspondence.

**A PATIENT'S SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HIP DISEASE.**

Boston, January, 1906.

*Mr. Editor,*—Permit me, through your columns, to call attention to some details which I have found of great importance in the treatment of hip disease. I have been a sufferer for half a century from this dreadful affliction, always on the verge of collapse, and too often over the line, and if I had been earlier acquainted with the following points, life would have been far happier and more useful.

Great care is always necessary. For instance, I have had attacks involving weeks in bed, brought on by reclining baths in too short a tub, by sitting in an armchair too narrow between the arms, by a jar in stepping from a high step, and oftenest by walking too far. There is little pain of the common kind to warn one. Some attacks are heralded by a sensation like a blow on the hip while walking, followed by powerlessness, so that the sufferer has to stand perfectly still for some minutes. Often there is a local nervousness and generally a sore spot