

been rendered ineffective by a decision of the courts, and the City being unable to enforce it, an appeal was forwarded to the Legislature in 1830, asking it to enact a law that would enable the City to absolutely stop the cultivation of rice within the desired limit. The law was especially desired to reach the Springfield plantation, owned by Mr. Stiles, with whom the City was continually at loggerheads over his dry culture contracts, until finally in 1834 suits against him succeeded in fully establishing the sufficiency of the contracts.

Health conditions generally were more favorable in this period. In 1821 September 15 was set aside as a day of thanksgiving for the unusual health enjoyed. December 12 was also designated as a day of thanksgiving. On July 10, 1823, an ordinance was passed to establish a Board of Health. Under it the Mayor appointed two citizens from each ward to constitute the Board. They were required to inspect all premises and acted in conjunction with the committee on health and cemetery. In 1823 an Act of the Legislature vested the appointment of the health officer in the corporation. Prior to this the governor had the appointment. Dr. Screven, the first health officer under the new method, was elected by Council on January 8, 1824.

Attention has been called to the fact that on November 14, 1809, (Chapter 3) Council signed a petition to the Legislature for the chartering of a poor house and hospital. The next reference to the hospital is found at the close of the war, in 1815, when the medical and surgical supplies provided for the use of the soldiers were ordered given to it by Council.

Under an Act of the Legislature of December 14, 1815, three lotteries were provided for the poor house and hospital, to be managed and drawn publicly under the direction of John Bolton, James Johnston, John P. Williamson, George Anderson, William Gaston, Barney McKinne, A. Richards, Isaac Minis, Lemuel Kollock, Robert Habersham, John Lewis, William Williamson, Josiah Penfield, N. S. Bayard, John Eppinger, James Morrison and Richard Richardson.

The next allusion to the institution in the city records occurred on February 10, 1817, when L. C. Dunning, chairman of the board of managers of the hospital, petitioned for assistance to build a new hospital. Council appropriated \$4,000, to be drawn when in the opinion of the city treasurer the funds of the City would admit of the expenditure. On March 10 the president and manager of the poor house and hospital were authorized by Council to sell lots 33 and 34 in Washington ward and fronting Broughton street, for the purpose of enabling them to add to their funds to erect a new and suitable building. These lots had been granted the hospital by the ordinance of January 12, 1791. On January 12, 1818, the managers petitioned for the gift of certain lots in Brown ward. This was followed on June 8, 1818, by the presentation to Council by

Secretary William R. Waring, of the Georgia Medical Society, of resolutions adopted by that Society, urging Council to appropriate five acres of ground for the poor house and hospital in the vicinity of Fair Lawn, or westward and outside the limits of the city. Aldermen Kimball, Cope and Thomasson were appointed to act with the commissioners of the institution and were directed to select a site for the hospital to be paid for by the City. On June 29 the committee reported that it had fixed on a site south of the jail and negro burying ground and bounded east by the eastern line of the city, west by a line which would be formed by a continuation of Drayton street, and opposite Fair Lawn, and to contain at least five acres, exclusive of an allowance made for streets and lanes if at any future time it should be deemed advisable by Council to lay off that part of the city into building lots, streets, etc. On this site a poor house and hospital was to be built. Two plats of the ground were ordered made, one for the City and the other for the hospital. The committee of Council paid a tribute to the value of the hospital and poor house and anticipated "a period when such beings as beggars should not be seen in our streets." A committee was appointed on November 2, 1818, to draft an ordinance for laying off the ground for this purpose. On May 3, 1819, the commissioners of the poor house and hospital were authorized to convey lot 23, then occupied by them, on condition that the proceeds arising from the sale should be applied as so much reimbursed them for advances on account of the building then being erected. On September 6, 1819, the city treasurer was ordered to pay the commissioners \$500. The sickly state of the new hospital, owing to the too early removal to it, compelled the transfer of the sick back to the old hospital and the great addition to the number of patients rendered relief necessary. By an Act of December 22, 1819, the State appropriated \$5,000 to the institution. On August 24, 1820, the president of the poor house and hospital requested an advance of money by the city to relieve the embarrassment of the institution. One thousand dollars was appropriated and the city not having funds the Mayor was directed to borrow the amount. On March 27, 1822, a letter from President Joseph Cumming was read to Council. It gave a statement of the embarrassed condition of the institution and stated that unless Council afforded relief it would fall through. Mayor Morrison and Aldermen Cumming and Harris were appointed to call a meeting of citizens to secure their sentiments on the subject. No relief appears to have been given, owing to the bad state of the City's finances, and a few months later (December 5, 1822), a letter was received by Council from William Gaston, president of the Planter's Bank, stating that the Savannah Poor House and Hospital was owned by the Marine and Fire Insurance Company and the Planters

Bank, it having been bought by them on July 8, last, the former being interested in it to the amount of \$12,428.59, and the latter \$9,490.93, making a total of \$21,919.52. Mr. Gaston offered the City the poor house and hospital, so far as the Planters Bank was concerned, for \$9,490.93, the City to pay the bank by adding the amount to the debt due by it to the bank at the rate of six per cent. per annum. He further stated that the sum of \$21,919.52 included the hospital furniture, negroes, etc. The communication was referred to a special committee, Aldermen Habersham, Davies and Daniell, to ascertain the value of the buildings and personal property, and the situation of the title to the lots, and to confer with the owners as to the terms on which they would be willing to convey the same, with all rights, to the City. The hospital, it appeared, had been sold at marshal's sale under foreclosure proceedings. The committee reported back that President Gaston proposed to relinquish the claim of the Planters Bank for \$3,990.94, with interest from July 8. Council (Feb. 20, 1823) called a meeting of citizens to take into consideration the propriety of making an appropriation for the support of the poor house and hospital. On April 10 the president notified the Council that the institution would close its doors on May 1. On February 3, 1825, the recorder, to whom the matter had been referred, rendered an opinion that the "legal and equitable right and title to the ground on which the buildings of the poor house and hospital" stood still remained in the City. On March 31, 1825, Geo. W. Anderson, president of the Planters Bank, and J. P. Henry, president of the Marine and Fire Insurance Company, offered the poor house and hospital property to the City for \$7,000, payment to be on convenient and easy terms. Aldermen Waring, Cumming and Morrison were appointed to conduct the negotiations, and they reported on April 14 that \$7,000 was the minimum price, payable in or within ten years, at 6 per cent. semi-annually. The committee expressed the opinion that the building was worth the amount, and that it should become the property of the City. They accordingly recommended its purchase. Their report was adopted, and on June 16, 1825, an ordinance was passed devising the mode of payment. A certificate of stock was issued for the purchase amount. In March, 1826, the hospital was leased to Drs. Daniell and Screven for \$150 for a year. On January 5, 1827, a committee was appointed to examine the building and report on its condition, the amount required for its repair, and the best measures for leasing it when the existing contract expired. The repairs necessary were found insignificant. The committee reported on July 5 that there was a strong disposition on the part of citizens to place the poor house and hospital upon its original footing, and although the means for carrying into effect the benevolent object were not as abundant as in times past, the committee entertained no doubt that it was

quite practicable to do much toward accomplishing so desirable a purpose. "Already a considerable sum has been subscribed for meeting the expenses of the establishment, and the subscribers have appointed a board of managers to superintend the same. Under all the circumstances your committee are decidedly of the opinion that if all which is desirable for the relief of poverty and disease in the present state of things cannot be done, yet much may be accomplished towards effecting their relief." They therefore recommended the adoption of the following:

"Resolved, That it is not advisable to renew the lease of the poor house and hospital, but that it be placed at the disposal and under the management of the subscribers composing an association for opening and supporting the same, for the purpose of enabling them to carry into effect their benevolent intentions, giving to them the entire control and superintendence for that purpose, provided that the City Council may, whenever it thinks proper to do so, assume the power of controlling said establishment for the purpose of making any other disposition of it."

This report was adopted and the buildings were placed under the direction of the managers referred to. That the City maintained its control of the buildings, though, was shown in 1834. When cholera made its appearance that year in the vicinity of the city Steward Mills of the poor house and hospital was at once notified that the City would require the use of the buildings if the cholera should prevail in the city and its patients would be removed to the barracks. Although the cholera did not invade the city to any extent, the poor house and hospital was taken possession of and made the central cholera hospital. In October the building was returned to the managers and the patients were transferred from the barracks to it again. On July 9, 1835, Council appropriated \$500 to aid in relieving the poor house and hospital from its financial embarrassment. It owed \$2,800, and the county was expected to give it \$1,000. The committee of Council stated that its importance in providing for sick paupers was too great to allow it to be embarrassed in its operations. The institution continued to suffer from lack of funds and in 1838 an act was proposed levying a tax on all cabin and steerage passengers arriving at Savannah for its support. On April 9, 1840, Council appropriated \$1,800 for repairs to the building. Other small expenditures were also made to keep the building in proper condition.

The great fire of 1820 directed attention forcibly to the advisability of requiring the erection of other than frame buildings, at least in the closely built business section. On March 16, 1821, Council asked Recorder John C. Nicoll for an opinion on the right of the City to compel owners to erect brick improvements. In a long opinion