

CHAPTER 22

Hospital Facilities*

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITIES

and (b) *Physical Description and Services*

This chapter will be mainly concerned with general short-term information on tuberculosis hospitals is included wherever and appropriate.¹

The origin of hospitals in the United States dates back to colonial

At first, any efforts to care for the sick were incidental to for the poor and unfortunate through almshouses. Philadelphia General Hospital, considered by some to be the oldest hospital the United States, traces its history back to "Old Blockley"

which was originally established as a public almshouse in The first incorporated hospital in America, known as The Pennsylvania Hospital, was established in Philadelphia in 1751 solely the care of the physically and mentally ill without regard to status, race or creed. Other early hospitals grew out of a to provide a place for clinical practice for medical schools, in

York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. These early hospitals chiefly of voluntary sponsorship, other than church or public.

For the next century, hospital construction progressed slowly.

the first census of hospitals was made by the U.S. Bureau of in 1873, only 178 hospitals were listed. During this period growth, ideas were changing with regard to the place of the in society. It ceased to be considered principally as an ment for the care of the indigent sick and gradually developed a place for the treatment of people of all classes of society. Ideas ving, also, with regard to the requirements for adequate care the sick, as well as the concept of preventive medicine.

In the early years of the 20th century, rising levels of income stimu- local efforts to construct facilities needed to meet broadening

for hospital care. Private fortunes created during the era ial expansion contributed greatly to the building of hospitals.

1909, a hospital census listed 4,359 hospitals. The growth of accelerated steadily through the prosperous decade following War I. The distribution was uneven, however, with over- in some communities and a complete lack of facilities in

*Prepared by Division of Hospital and Medical Facilities, Public Health Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with minor editing by staff.

hospitals please refer to the chapter on Community Mental Health Centers. Chronic is included in the chapter "Long-term Care Facilities."