

FINAL SETTLEMENT

Take notice that on the 8th day of March, 1948, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Committee of the estate of June Dobbins in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens County, at 10 o'clock a.m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Committee.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on or before that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven, or be forever barred.

(MRS.) CORDELLA DOBBINS,
Goldville, S. C.
February 7, 1948.—4-4ew.

Laurens County Eligible For Federal Hospital Funds

Is Rated With Counties Which Have 50 to 60 Per Cent of Needs Met.

Columbia, Feb. 17.—(Special to The Chronicle)—Laurens county has 30th ranking place in priority for expanding its hospital facilities under the Hill-Burton act, which provides federal funds for an integrated program of hospital construction in South Carolina, the hospital division of the State Board of Health announced in a report this week. The county has a D-1 priority to obtain funds for greater hospital facilities. The group "D" priority concerns counties which have from 50 to 60 per cent of their hospital needs met. Six counties are in this priority classification, including Laurens, which the division declared has 51.3 per cent of its hospital needs fulfilled.

Under the hospitalization plan, by population, Laurens county would be entitled to federal funds sufficient to pay one-third the cost of providing hospital facilities for 103 beds, 76 of which the county has at present in the Laurens County Hospital and Hays hospital in Clinton. In addition, the county has been allotted an additional 45 beds from the state pool of surplus beds over the allocation by population. The county may therefore obtain federal funds for one-third of the cost of constructing a total of 72 beds.

If the county does not choose to expand its hospital facilities in any one year, its priority will remain good through the five years for which the bill is effective. Or if it chooses to provide fewer hospital beds than have been allocated to it, one-third of the necessary funds will be advanced for such an addition, and the county will be assigned a lower priority number since part of its needs will have been fulfilled. Later, if reached on the priority list, it may draw funds again for constructing hospital facilities within its bed allocation.

Laurens is designated as one of the "rural area" counties by the hospital division. Counties so designated are located in a district with a larger hospital to which patients may be referred for specialized treatment or additional facilities which the smaller hospitals would not possess. Such hospitals are now serving, in fact, as district hospitals for smaller hospitals in other counties as well as serving the population in the county in which they are situated. The Hill-Burton act would supply federal money to enlarge the present facilities in these hospitals if they so desired.

The larger hospitals have been divided into two classifications, base and intermediate, in proportion to the population of their area. Three are in base areas, where the population is at least 100,000, and the other five selected are in the intermediate areas, where the population is at least 25,000. Laurens and two other counties are in the Greenville region, where the Gaston, Coleman, Greenville General, St. Francis, Working Benevolent Society, and Maternity Shelter hospitals serve the district.

The hospital division determined the population of Laurens county by a combination of the 1940 federal census, an unofficial 1943 census based on ration books, and the estimated population for the state in 1947. Conversion of these three figures into one gave a total population for Laurens county of 41,071 persons, which, with the ratio of 2.5 beds per 1,000 in rural areas, brings Laurens county's basic quota of hospital beds to 103. Since the state as a whole is entitled to 8,474 general hospital beds, and since the total allocation of these beds to the counties is 6,186, a "state pool" of 2,288 surplus beds remains. These surplus beds have been distributed among the counties in relation to their buying power, and this percentage times the total number of surplus beds gives the county 45 more beds than its allocation by population, or a total of 72 beds, deducting those already available.

The hospital division stated that buying power was chosen as the basis for allocating "state pool" hospital beds because investigation indicated the need for, hospital beds depends on the amount of money available to purchase hospital service. Continuing, the hospital division report added, "it is realized that several of the smaller counties may not be able to build and support a hospital of a size and character consistent with efficient and economical operation. Consequently, they may wish to join with one or more counties to build and operate a central hospital serving the entire area of combined counties. Otherwise they may decide to build a community clinic containing diagnostic facilities and equipping to care for normal obstetrics, certain types of medical cases, emergency care of accident cases, et cetera, and closely affiliate this clinic with some hospital to which patients may be referred for services not available in the community clinic."

And, concluding its reference to general hospital areas, the report states, "since the area, or county, must pay two-thirds of the cost of construction and the entire cost of

operation of its hospital the state agency feels that each county should, after investigating its needs and resources to meet those needs, decide what action to take. The state agency proposes to furnish all possible assistance to each county in arriving at a decision that will best serve the people of that county and ultimately lead to adequate hospital facilities for the entire population of the state."

German Soldier Writes

The following letter was received by W. B. Owens, city clerk, from a former prisoner of war in South Carolina now residing in Germany:

Dear Sir!
As I worked as a prisoner of war in South Carolina, I wish to ask the town of Clinton to help me. I am from Czechoslovakia and this is the reason why I cannot return any more into my old country. I am deprived of everything and, which is worst of all, I have no clothes, no underwear and no shoes left. The clothes that I have brought along with me from my captivity are now going to pieces.

I do not know what I can do about it and so I am addressing myself to you, the town of Clinton, with the request to help me. If you would know what it means to fight against the forces of winter, I feel sure you could not be silent and reply with cold heart: I am sorry, I regret we cannot help. In the name of humanity, in the name of all that is dear to us, I beg of you who have a wife and children yourself to consider what it means to see how wife and children are getting more and more deeply into misery without being able to help. That is why I beg to ask you to help me, please. Maybe it is possible that you could give my address also to other people who would be prepared to help gladly so that we can get over this state of misery. I would be so very grateful to you for some clothing or food-stuffs that you may be able to send me. In order to give you an idea of the size of clothes required, I am 6 feet 1 inch tall, and the size of my shoes is 9-9 1/2 D.

Please answer to this letter at your earliest convenience. I do not know whether I can already tender you my best thanks in advance for

the trouble you are taking in this matter.

I am, sincerely yours,
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CREDITORS' NOTICE

All persons having claims against the estate of Dr. W. J. Prince, deceased, are hereby notified to file the same, duly verified, with the undersigned, and those indebted to said

estate will please make payment likewise.

HAROLD ADDISON,
Administrator,
Goldville, S. C.
February 2, 1948.—19-3p.

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