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**"Heart of Birmingham" Helps the Sick**



**MRS. CAROL PLUMSTEAD EXAMINES EQUIPMENT**  
 Hospital bed and adjustable table, recent Rebekah gifts.

By **ALICE E. MORGAN**

When we think of the Community House, we nearly always conjure up visions of good times. We think of the dances and parties held there. We think of the Ranch Room and youth activities. We think of musical programs, toy meetings, adult education classes. We think of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. We think of club luncheons and dinners.

All these things are familiar to Birmingham. The established resident takes them as a matter of course. The new resident learns about them quickly and seldom is aware of how much a part of his or her life the Community House has become in so short a time. Old or new, there are persons who are not aware of another side of the "Heart of Birmingham." They do not know the Community House stands ready to help them in times of family sickness.

Through the Sickroom Supply Cupboard many families are aided each year. They are supplied items to aid the ill or injured in their home at no expense.

**HOSPITAL BEDS** and wheel chairs are at a premium. They are available, like everything else, without charge—when there are any in stock. The great demand for them keeps the Cupboard bare most of the time, as far as these two items are concerned.

There is no time limit on the actual use of these things. Crutches also are in great demand. The Cupboard may supply crutches of all sizes, some adjustable.

During the past year there have been 98 calls for assistance from the Cupboard. Hospital beds were sent out 23 times; the adult walker once; crutches 52 and wheel chairs, 124. There are now five wheel chairs and 10 hospital beds in the Cupboard.

**THERE ARE** really few things needed in a sick room which cannot be obtained from the Cupboard. In addition to the beds, crutches and chairs, there is the large walker for paralytics, bedding, including pillows, hospital gowns, invalid bed rest, ice packs, bed side tables, a brace for a broken back and many other items.

For the most part these items have been given to the Community House, many coming from organizations in the city.

The idea for this service to the community came back in the depression days.

**MRS. R. H. MANN**, 611 Greenwood, and **Mrs. E. G. Hatch**, 488 Wilkins, had been in Washington, D. C., for a Red Cross convention. On the way home they visited friends in Scotland, Pa., a coal mining town, and learned of the family aid plan used in emergencies which are a part of mining communities.

It struck the ladies as an excellent idea for Birmingham. Why not help the families here who were facing illness?

The idea met immediate acceptance. Several parties and get-togethers were planned to finance the beginning of the Cupboard.

"IT WAS ONLY a small start," Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Hatch said. "We had nothing like they have now. Our supplies were mostly bedding, hospital gowns, sick room utensils, thermometers and the like."

"The other things have been

**Egbert to Study Possible Paving Of Chesterfield**

The city commission has asked City Manager Donald C. Egbert to make a study and report on the possibility of paving Chesterfield avenue from Maple to Oak, and also to study a design which will provide the maximum safety for Quarten school children.

The city has been asked to improve the area on Chesterfield in front of Quarten school, where children are let out of cars. About the only permanent solution is to construct a pavement.

Before a pavement is placed on Chesterfield however, some of the trees must be removed. Egbert has recommended that the engineering department determine the proper width of pavement and proper placement of trees.

need for additional supplies. Hospital beds and wheel chairs are nearly always all out. The need for the latter, especially in the newer, light-weight models which can be folded for easy carrying is especially great.

"WE TRY TO answer every call," Mrs. Plumstead said, "but when the supplies are exhausted, we can only take the name and promise service at the earliest possible date."

"Since we are constantly getting additions from unexpected sources, we somehow manage to almost keep supply and demand on an equal basis."

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