



The
American Invalid
Aid Society.



Incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, February 3, 1893.

HEADQUARTERS, 180 TREMONT STREET, ROOM 19,
BOSTON, MASS.

1893.

(Letter from the Rev. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D.)

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 8, 1893.

GENTLEMEN:

I am very glad to join in the organization of the Invalid Aid Society.

I have felt sure for many years past that a strong organization for this purpose is necessary.

Truly yours,

EDWARD E. HALE.

The American Invalid Aid Society.

ITS AIMS AND PURPOSES.

The prevalence in so many parts of our country of the dreaded disease, consumption, and the terrible mortality resulting therefrom, must be appalling to every thoughtful mind; especially when we recall how slightly is this malady amenable to medical treatment, even under the most favorable conditions, and how desperate is the condition of the victim upon whom it has once laid its grasp.

It is coming, however, to be more and more recognized that a large percentage of the sufferers from this scourge can be restored to health, or at least be greatly benefited, by a timely removal to some more suitable climate.

Certain parts of the South, South-west and North-west have been shown, by experience and careful study of climatology, to possess in a remarkable degree the conditions most favorable for the cure of pulmonary diseases.

It is not strange, therefore, in a humane country like our own, that forces should be set in motion which have finally resulted in the

formation of THE AMERICAN INVALID AID SOCIETY.

This organization has for its primary object the relief of sufferers from consumption.

To accomplish this work in a manner at all adequate, it is necessary that the society shall be a charitable organization. For, although it ministers to wealthy invalids through its special information, yet a large proportion of consumptives, being without sufficient means, find advice alone of no possible benefit.

On the other hand, it hardly seems wise to bestow such aid as a gratuity. It is not productive of the best results individually, and curtails to a large degree the extent of the Society's usefulness.

It was therefore decided that the assistance rendered by the Society should be in the nature of a loan, to be re-paid by the recipient whenever able, in work or money.

To fit itself for such responsible work, the Society must possess choice locations in those sections of the country which are most beneficial in pulmonary troubles. Upon these sites there must be suitable buildings; physicians and competent nurses must be in attendance, and other means provided for supplying the various needs of the patients.

The Society already possesses an estate in a most healthful part of Florida, and lands in different sections of New Mexico. In this latter State, and in others of the rainless regions of the South-west, are found the high, dry and invigorating conditions of climate so especially beneficial in most cases of consumption.

The lands we have secured in these sections are, when irrigated, of wonderful fertility—flowers and fruits growing with amazing luxuriance, and combining with the bright sunshine to make out-of-door life an inexpressible delight.

Our great need must be evident to all. We require ample funds, both for the transportation and the maintenance of needy patients. It is therefore hoped that the benevolent, and those realizing the terrible ravages of consumption, will feel their responsibility for this work, and give a generous response. The Society cannot carry out its plans without liberal financial support.

By the payment of one dollar, the giver becomes eligible to membership in the Society. The gift of five dollars makes the donor an honorary member; and one hundred dollars creates him a life member.

Upon the last page of this pamphlet is a list of the Society's officers and Advisory Board. Enquiries may be made of them, or addressed to the Secretary, W. P. ROBERTS, M. D., at the headquarters, 180 Tremont St., Room 19, Boston.

Any contributions may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. A. B. UPHAM, 201 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.

(Editorial, in "American Climates and Resorts.")

"The Invalid Aid Society of America set on foot in Boston finds new inspiration from a similar organization in France that has been working especially to save the children of tuberculous parents. The Indian government set apart a large grant of land on the slopes of the Himalaya Mountains for a national sanitarium. Here is a precedent, if our national legislators need one, for establishing a national sanitarium for consumptives. But this Aid Society proposes not to wait for government but to collect money and be the Good Samaritan to poor worthy tuberculose cases whose prospects are favorable for recovery. They have asked a grant of land from old Mexico, and doubtless will get it. Cured consumptives make up, it is believed, one-half of the population of several of our States, and we commend this subject for legislative attention. The government could not do a wiser thing than set aside several tracts of land for this purpose in several of the Territories. But until the State or Nation wakes up to the importance of this subject the small membership fee of \$1.00 from a large number of people can be used to save valuable lives. Send to the Secretary for more information concerning this Society."

Some Statistics.

In the United States, more than 100,000 people die annually from consumption.

The State of Michigan lost 35,000 during the last decade.

Massachusetts lost 50,000 during the same period, the city of Boston turning in a quota of 15,000 of this number.

New England loses nearly 15,000 annually, and the city of Brooklyn about 2,000 each year from its ravages.

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