

Many seamen died during the first Flu. epidemic, Many died before they could be carried upstairs. One young man when I was sponging and caring for him said. "Dont waste time on me, Help some one that has a chance". Others were sure they could not die. One man an officer that had been overseas told his parents by his bed "I wont die, Ill get a grip on life and pull through". But like the majority. he could not pull through.

All through this epidemic the victims turned black right after death, and we had to be very careful to distinguish them from the colored men. At one time the morgue was so crowded, they died so fast that we could not get undertakers and had to stand the bodies up in rows as had no room to lay them out.

After the war we had many men that were blind or had parts of their bodies removed. The volunteers under Mrs Lavender sang, wrote letters, took them out in cars for picnics and rides. The red cross sent sweaters, candy and cigarettes and Ice cream twice a week and through meeting and etc. gave me money to give to boys that had nothing when they left us.

Every nationality had workers to give time and and everyone was so helpful, mostly ladies living on Staten Island of course, that had been organized and directed by Mrs Lavender.

The original Hospital at Stapleton is very old. The white house where the attendants slept is over 100 years old. I had a cot in my office for relatives or I would let mothers have my bed. We all worked together and everyone was most helpful.

One morning early I went into the ward that contained twenty-five insane men and found that an orderly had not yet reported for duty, It was time for breakfast so I told the orderly in charge to go on and take the patients upstairs for their meal, but to first give me his keys. I went to the telephone and felt something cold against back of neck. I looked around- A huge insane negro stood there. said "Keys-Keys". Just at that moment I saw the big garbage man, so I slapped the big negro against the wall. He then saw the man too and turned and sneaked upstairs. He had sneaked down in his stocking feet and thought that with the keys he could free himself, the garbage man could have been of no help to me, but the negro had not thought of that. I went upstairs and said "to punish him he cannot have his breakfast". He stood up. I said "Sit down and stay down " He did and the episode was over but needless to say I was frightened and after leaving the ward was trembling all over though ordinarily I am never frightened. and would chat and write letters for these men and was always sorry for them.

After the war a woman with a six month old baby came to this country and was sent to the hospital. The wife of an Officer came to see the baby and appealed for the womans release. Got the woman landed, Adopted the baby whose father was her husband, and the woman married the husbands brother. She was a nice little thing and there were many such occurrences that did not turn out so happily.