

TO ASSIST THE INJURED.

THE MAYOR HEARS PLANS FOR A CITY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Dr. Axford, Surgeon of the Police Department, Proposes Five Hospitals, Each with a Corps of Skilled Medical Attendants and Wagons for the Conveyance of Wounded Persons—Miss Ada M. Sweet Relates Her Experiences—A Sick Man Taken in a Hears.

Miss Ada M. Sweet and Dr. Axford, the Police Department surgeon, met the Mayor at his office yesterday and talked over the proposed system of emergency hospitals and ambulances. Some time ago the establishment of such a service was suggested to the Mayor, who placed the matter in the hands of Dr. Axford with the request that the doctor formulate a plan and present it to the Mayor as early as possible. Miss Sweet became interested in the matter and lent her assistance to Dr. Axford.

The report was yesterday presented to the Mayor. It provides for five emergency hospitals—two on the South Side, two on the West Side, and one on the North Side. It is proposed that these hospitals be erected by the city and be complete in every particular. It is suggested that a corps of attendants be provided for each hospital, these attendants to be graduates from the medical colleges.

The report suggested that attached to each hospital should be an ambulance. When a call was received for an ambulance one of the physicians should go with it to render immediate aid to the injured person. Many times people bled to death for lack of prompt medical attention; and, again, injuries not promptly looked after often left the persons maimed or crippled for life, whereas if they had received proper medical aid at the outset they might have been cured.

HIS IDEAS TOO EXPENSIVE.

The report said there was great delay in reaching injured persons and taking them to the hospitals by the system now in force, and this slowness on the part of the police was directly responsible for the loss of many lives.

Dr. Axford named the amount in his report that he thought the hospitals would cost, but it was so large that the Mayor was startled. He would like to see the suggestions in the report put into effect, he said, but he was satisfied it could not be done, for the Council would not appropriate the sum mentioned. The Mayor would not make public the amount Dr. Axford named.

The Mayor thought that Dr. Axford's ideas were extremely good but too extravagant.

Then Miss Sweet suggested a cheaper plan. The system of looking after sick and injured persons at present in vogue in Chicago, she said by way of preface to her remarks, was a disgrace to the city. She had some experiences herself with Chicago ambulances, better known as patrol-wagons, and she knew what she was talking about.

"Some time ago," she said, "I had a dear friend who was ill. He could not get well, and he wanted to be taken to his home to die. I looked for days to find something in which to take that sick man to the depot. I never had such a time in all my life. I could find nothing in which that man could be moved. I applied to the city. It had nothing except a patrol-wagon, and I didn't think that this was just the kind of a vehicle to take a dying man away in. He could not be placed in a carriage.

GOT "UNCLE SAM'S" WAGON.

"It was not until I finally secured a permit to use the Marine Hospital ambulance that the poor fellow could be taken to the train. It was against the law for the Federal authorities to loan me the ambulance, and I only got it after I prayed and begged for it and promised never to say anything about using it. Even that was not a fit thing in which to remove the man, for patients with all manner of horrible diseases are carried about in it, and if I had not been satisfied that my friend was going to die I never would have allowed him to be placed in it.

"Here is another case," continued Miss Sweet. "A friend of mine has a boy who, while away from home not long ago, was suddenly taken ill. She tried in vain to find something in which to move that boy. What do you suppose she did? She went out and got a hears. A hears is a fine thing to move a sick boy, isn't it? A great city this, which is too poor to have an ambulance.

USED THE PATROL-WAGON.

"I know of another case. A lady friend of mine was taken ill a few days before she was to move to another part of the city. She was compelled to move, for she had surrendered the lease of her house and the new tenant was waiting to take possession. A search was made for something suitable in which to move her. Nothing could be found except a hears or a patrol-wagon. Of these two beautiful vehicles she was given her choice in which to ride. She chose the patrol-wagon, but consented to be placed in it only on the condition that it call for her at the dead of night. Her wish was obeyed. "Now," went on Miss Sweet, "if we can't have such expensive hospitals as suggested by Dr. Axford, let us have cheaper ones, but let us have good ambulances by all means. Suppose we have five hospitals distributed about the city as Dr. Axford has suggested. They need not be large. Say they have two wards only, one for men and one for women. Suitable buildings can be rented in suitable quarters, and the expense will not be large. Two good attendants to each hospital would be sufficient, I think. I am in favor of Dr. Axford's ideas on rapidly reaching injured persons, and a physician should accompany the ambulance on all of its trips."

The Mayor thought well of Miss Sweet's proposition, but he was unable to say what action he would take. He promised, however, to look into the matter as soon as possible, fully appreciating the necessity of some kind of hospital and ambulance service.

Miss Sweet is inclined to think that the Mayor will suggest the fitting up of wards in police stations that are properly located.