25c

BLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET No. 187

T'S YOUR HOSPITAL AND YOUR LIFE!

Y LUCY FREEMAN



Generated on 2021-05-10 23:21 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

IT'S YOUR HOSPITAL AND YOUR LIFE!, by Lucy Freeman, fills a long-felt need for a booklet which would create a picture of the modern American Hospital and set it down in its proper perspective in the community. Miss Freeman has drawn that picture realistically and perceptively.

She has described the complexity of hospital operation, the diversity of its activities, the spiritual motivation of its interests and the progressiveness of its continuing development. Anyone who reads this pamphlet will, I believe, appreciate that through his hospital he is able to reap the benefits of the amazing accomplishments of medical science and that, indeed, it is these accomplishments that have brought about the lengthened life span of our people.

"IT'S YOUR HOSPITAL AND YOUR LIFE!" will do a great deal to interpret the need for, the function and the place of the Hospital in community life.

Anthony J. J. Rourke, M.D.
President
American Hospital Association

The Public Affairs Committee

MARK STARR, *Chairman*
ERLING M. HUNT, *Vice Chairman*
MAXWELL S. STEWART, *Secretary*
BEULAH AMIDON, *Treasurer*
THEODORE ABEL
ETHEL J. ALPENFELS
ELEANOR C. ANDERSON
FRANCIS J. BROWN
STUART W. COOK
C. WARD CRAMPTON
ROBERT E. CUSHMAN
HUBERT T. DELANY
THOMAS D. DUBLIN
SAMUEL H. FLOWERMAN
ROMA GANS
SIDONIE M. GRUENBERG
GEORGE T. GUERNSEY
HOWARD HENDERSON
WILLIAM L. HOLLAND
F. ERNEST JOHNSON
HARRY W. LAIDLER
ALFRED MCCLUNG LEE
KAY W. LEVIN
EDWARD S. LEWIS
EDWIN J. LUKAS
ROBERT M. MACIVER
ROBERT MCDEVITT
JOHN GODFREY MORRIS
ERNEST G. OSBORNE
ROBERT H. REID
TELFORD TAYLOR

MAXWELL S. STEWART, *Editor*
MABEL C. MOUNT, *Associate Editor*
DALLAS JOHNSON, *Educational Director*

The Public Affairs Committee is a nonprofit educational organization. All pamphlets in the series are available at the lowest possible cost. Our quantity rates and subscription prices are listed on the back cover.

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:21 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

362
F871
cop. 3

IT'S *YOUR* HOSPITAL AND *YOUR* LIFE!

By LUCY FREEMAN

THE sudden screech of brakes blasts the quiet of early morning. It is followed by the shattering of glass and a woman's scream of agony.

Police whistles cut through the air and a few minutes later there sounds the low, warning siren of an ambulance. A man and woman are pried out of the wreckage that is car and tree. The two injured persons are carried carefully to the ambulance.

At the hospital doctors and nurses prepare quickly and efficiently for operations. The man is injured internally. The woman's legs are broken.

The clock says 2 A.M. Four hours later the two accident victims are out of the operating room, sleeping in hospital beds. Their lives have been saved by a small group of men and women who, not caring what the hour, have given of their skill and compassion so that others might survive.

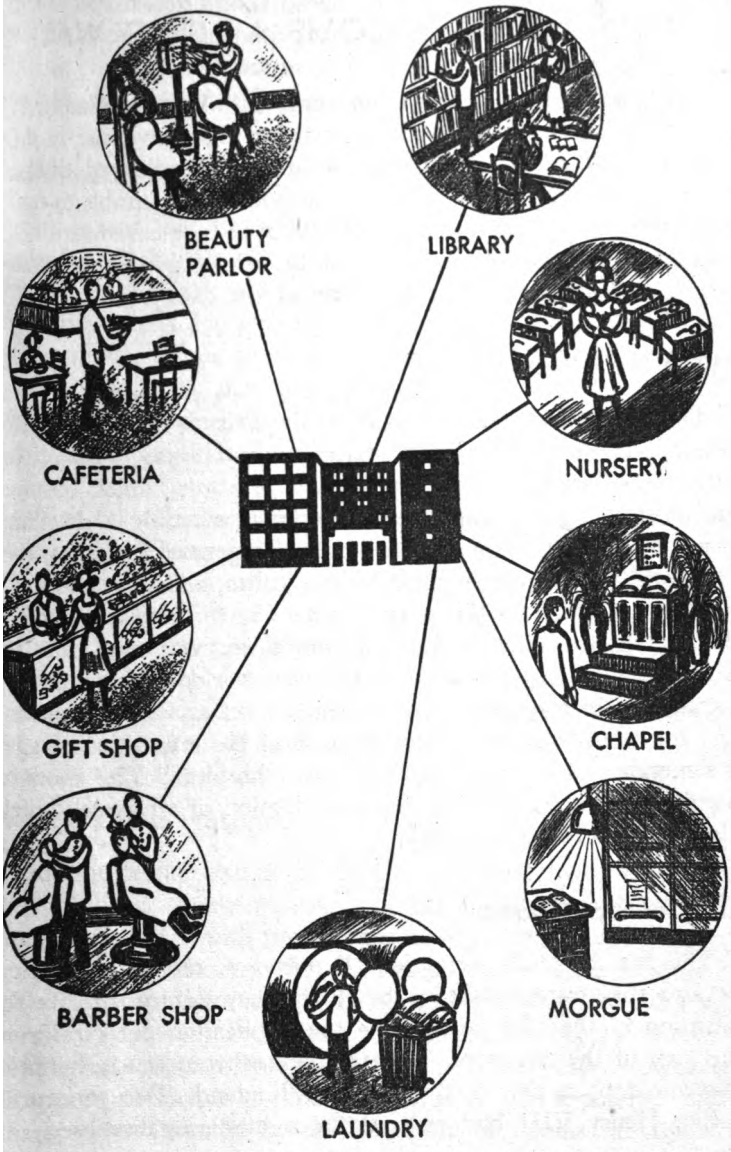
Lucy Freeman, the author of this pamphlet, is a reporter on *The New York Times* specializing in news of welfare, psychiatry, and social work. She is author of a recent book, *Fight Against Fears,* and of the Public Affairs Pamphlet, *Children Who Never Had a Chance.*

First Edition, October, 1952.

Copyright, 1952, by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization located at 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:21 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

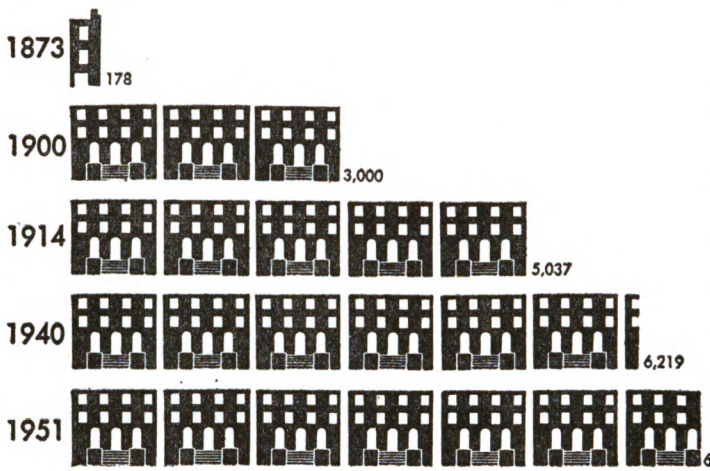
A CITY HOSPITAL IS LIKE MAIN STREET



PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION, FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, INC.

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:21 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

GROWTH OF U.S. HOSPITALS



PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, INC

approved on May 11, 1751. Thus came into being this nation's first regularly established hospital, the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Certain other hospitals existed at the time as almshouses, poor houses or workhouses, such as Philadelphia General, founded in 1731, the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, founded in 1736 and Bellevue Hospital, New York, founded in the same year. But it was not until after 1751 that these institutions were converted to hospitals as we know them.

Not only did Franklin and his friends start the first hospital but they created a new pattern for the voluntary hospital, one in complete harmony with the democratic ideals on which this country was founded. It was their idea that a hospital be started and supported by public subscription rather than by the charity of one man or one special group.

The second general hospital to be organized was the New York Hospital in New York City in 1771. The growth in numbers proceeded slowly after that. In 1873, 122 years after the

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:22 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

founding of the Pennsylvania Hospital, the first list of hospitals was published. Only 178 institutions for the bed-care of the sick were listed. Today there are 6,832 hospitals with 1,521,959 beds.

Kinds of Hospitals

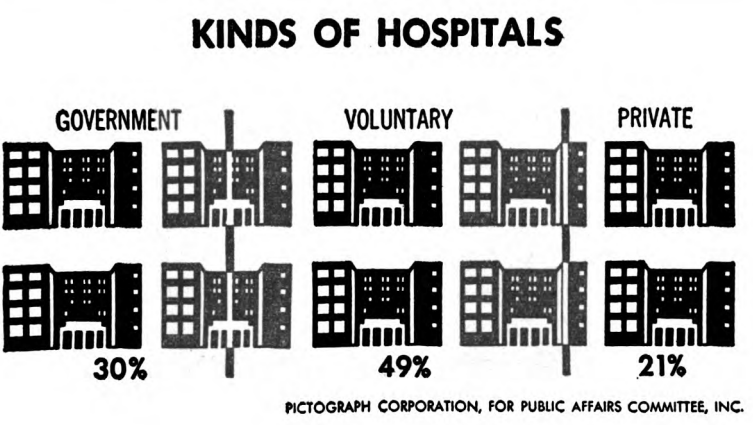
There are three kinds of hospitals:

(1) The voluntary nonprofit hospital is dependent upon income from patients and private charity. It is generally governed by a board of directors who represent the community.

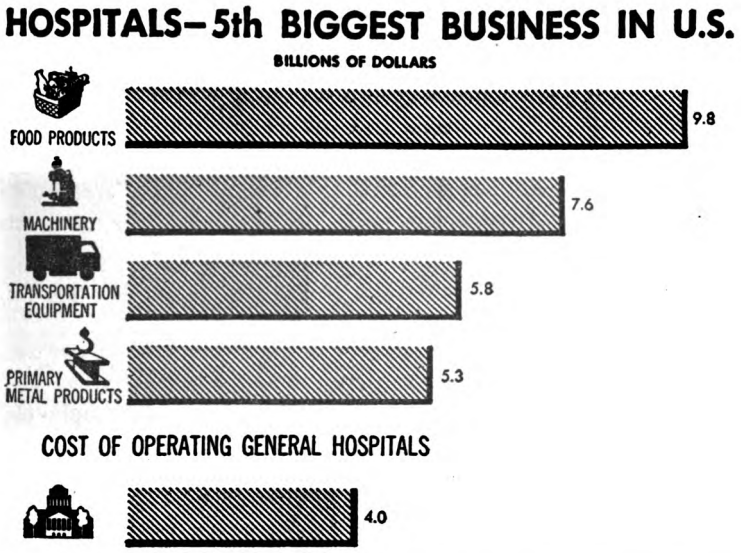
(2) The government hospital is supported by tax funds and operated under the direction of federal, state, city or county government.

(3) The proprietary hospital is usually operated by a doctor, group of doctors or by private citizens, often for profit. It is usually run for specific purposes—such as a sanatorium for chronic illness, or a maternity hospital.

During 1951, almost 19,000,000 persons, or more than 10 per cent of the population were admitted to these three types of hospitals. However, by far the greatest number of patients—more than 12 millions—were admitted to voluntary hospitals. Of the remainder 1¾ million were admitted to private hospitals and 5 millions to government hospitals and other institutions.



Generated on 2021-05-10 23:22 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



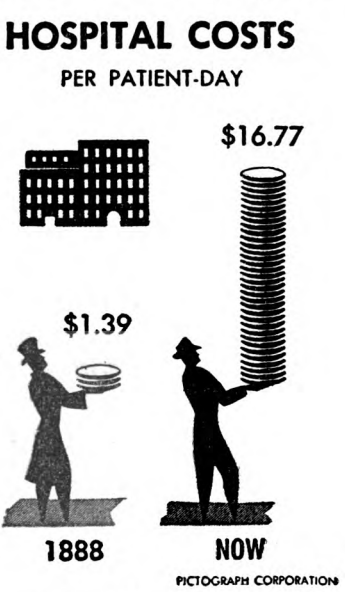
Hospitals Are Big Business

Any group of institutions that can house 1,500,000 patients at a time and take care of one-tenth of the population of the United States annually, represents a large investment and costs a lot of money to operate. Hospitals are the fifth largest industry in the country from the standpoint of plant assets, expenditures and number of persons employed. Nearly $8,250,000,000 is invested in all our hospitals. The cost of operating all hospitals reached $4,000,000,000 in 1951, an increase of 6.6 per cent over 1950 and double that of 1946. Investment per bed and cost of operation per day is highest in the general hospital, lowest in the mental hospital. Investment in the voluntary hospital is three times as much as in governmental hospitals and operating costs are three-fold.

While hospital business is big business, it is big business "plus," as Raymond P. Sloan, editor of the magazine, *The Modern*

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:22 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Back in 1888, the average patient-day cost, as shown by figures collated from fourteen selected American hospitals, was $1.39. In 1948 those same hospitals showed an average patient-day cost of $14.61. (The average patient-day cost all over the country for short-term general hospitals was $16.77.)



For the fourteen hospitals surveyed, the costs in 1888 ranged from eighty cents to $1.92, while in 1948 the costs ranged from $10.03 to $21.61.

Yet, today, even though you are often paying more than ten times as much, you have less reason to complain about the high cost than your grandfather. His hospitalization actually cost more, in real wages, than you pay for yours. Hospital costs seem to have risen sharply during the past sixty years—that is, until some very important factors are considered.

What Is Different?

Costs today are higher than ever before in hospitals as everywhere else. Patient income in 1951 fell short of meeting expenses by $241,000,000 according to Dr. Anthony J. J. Rourke, president of the American Hospital Association and executive director of the Hospital Council of Greater New York. Inflation, higher salaries for personnel, decrease in endowments, scarcity of essential materials, all help to raise the cost of taking care of sick people.

When grandfather went to a hospital he probably had to stay there much longer for the same disease than he would today. This longer stay not only ran up the 1888 hospital bill but also

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:22 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

meant a greater loss in his income because he was away from his job for more days.

The average length of stay in voluntary hospitals is decreasing steadily. In 1929 it was 15 days. By 1937 it was reduced to 12.6 days and today is only 8 days. So, despite today's comparatively high costs, today's patients are actually paying less, in real wages, than they would have paid sixty years ago. The mere increase in patient-day costs is not the real indication of increased total cost to the patient.

It can truly be said that the patient day "isn't what it used to be." For instance, each day's care for the pneumonia patient packs twice the punch it used to. Much more treatment, much more prevention of pain and suffering, and much greater chance for survival face the patient.

Every person receives a great deal more care with the help of better trained personnel in fewer days and with far better results, so that comparison of patient-day costs with previous years is not valid. But even the patient who may owe his very



Generated on 2021-05-10 23:22 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

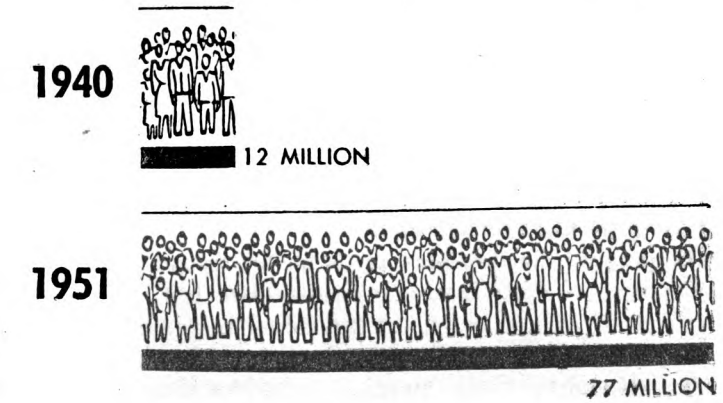
HOW TODAY'S HOSPITAL FIGHTS DISEASE



Generated on 2021-05-10 23:23 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

77,000,000 Americans Can't Be Wrong

In addition to aiding individuals to meet the costs of illness, the Blue Cross program has done much to help the hospitals financially. This prepayment principle got its start in Baylor University, Dallas, Texas, more than twenty years ago, when a hospital administrator made an agreement with a group of teachers. The teachers paid the hospital $3 a semester and in return the hospital agreed to furnish up to 21 days of hospital care if



needed. The idea caught on and today there are 87 approved Blue Cross plans in this country and Canada with an enrollment of more than 42,000,000 persons. The seal of approval is a Blue Cross containing the official insignia of the American Hospital Association which has set standards for the program and grants approval on the basis of these standards.

According to a study of accident and health coverage in the United States, conducted in 1951 by the Survey Committee of the Health Insurance Council, there are 77,000,000 persons with some form of hospital expense protection including Blue Cross.

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:23 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLETS — 25¢ ea

1. INCOME AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS
5. CREDIT FOR CONSUMERS
12. THE COOPERATIVES LOOK AHEAD
38. FACING THE FACTS ABOUT CANCER
39. LOAN SHARKS AND THEIR VICTIMS
35. THE RACES OF MANKIND
0. THE AMERICAN WAY
5. THE NEGRO IN AMERICA
8. EPILEPSY
9. GYPS AND SWINDLES
1. THE REFUGEES ARE NOW AMERICANS
3. BUILDING YOUR MARRIAGE
7. YOUR STAKE IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
8. ALCOHOLISM
0. TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH
6. RHEUMATIC FEVER
7. KEEPING UP WITH TEEN-AGERS
1. WHEN YOU GROW OLDER
3. MAKE YOUR TOWN SAFE
5. BROKEN HOMES
6. PLANNING YOUR FAMILY
7. KNOW YOUR HEART
8. GOOD NEWS ABOUT DIABETES
9. LIVE LONG AND LIKE IT
1. ENJOY YOUR CHILD—AGES 1, 2, AND 3
2. POWER, MACHINES, AND PLENTY
4. UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD—FROM 6 TO 12
5. BLOOD—YOUR GIFT OF LIFE
6. WOMEN—AND THEIR MONEY
7. YOUR TEETH—HOW TO SAVE THEM
8. COMICS, RADIO, MOVIES—AND CHILDREN
9. HOW TO TELL YOUR CHILD ABOUT SEX
0. POLIO CAN BE CONQUERED
1. CAN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WORK TOGETHER?
3. RELIGION AND RACE: BARRIERS TO COLLEGE?
154. HOW TO DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN
155. MENTAL HEALTH IS A FAMILY AFFAIR
156. TB—THE KILLER CORNERED
157. MAKING THE GRADE AS DAD
159. AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE
161. SO YOU THINK IT'S LOVE!
162. THIS LAND OF OURS (30¢)
163. 3 TO SIX: YOUR CHILD STARTS TO SCHOO
164. WHAT ABOUT COMMUNISM?
165. GENETICS—THE SCIENCE OF HEREDITY
166. ARTHRITIS—AND THE MIRACLE DRUGS
167. HUMAN RIGHTS—WORLD DECLARATION AND AMERICAN PRACTICE
168. YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE AND ARTERIES
169. HOW CAN WE PAY FOR DEFENSE?
170. IN THESE TEN CITIES (30¢)
171. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE WOMAN POWE
172. WHEN MENTAL ILLNESS STRIKES YOUR FAMILY
173. SO YOU WANT TO ADOPT A BABY
174. MOTHER-IN-LAW AND GRANDMOTHER
175 SOUTH AFRICA TODAY
176. SOMETHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT CHRO ILLNESS
177. WHY SOME WOMEN STAY SINGLE
178. HAVING A BABY
179. LOYALTY IN A DEMOCRACY
180. YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HEALTH IS YOUR BU
181. POLITICS IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
182. GETTING READY TO RETIRE
183. CHILDREN WHO NEVER HAD A CHANCE
184. HOW TO LIVE WITH HEART TROUBLE
185. PREPARING TOMORROW'S NURSES
186. WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THE DRUG ME
187. IT'S YOUR HOSPITAL AND YOUR LIFE!
188. WORKING WIVES AND MOTHERS

QUANTITY RATES
(POSTPAID)

1	to	9	copies Public Affairs Pamphlets, each 25
10	to	99	copies any one pamphlet 18c mixed titl
100	to	249	copies any one pamphlet 16c " "
250	to	499	copies any one pamphlet 15c " "
500	to	1000	copies any one pamphlet 14c " "

Rates on larger quantities and on picture pamphlets Nos. 162 and 170 available on req

☐ Please send me.....copies of.....at above rates. $.....

☐ I also want the following pamphlets from the above list. Order by number.

No..... Quan..... No..... Quan..... No..... Quan..... $.....

No..... Quan..... No..... Quan..... No..... Quan..... $.....

☐ Please enter my subscription for the next 24 Public Affairs Pamphlets for $4.00. $.....

☐ Please enter my subscription for the next 12 Public Affairs Pamphlets for $2.50. $.....

lease bill me ☐. In orders of $1 or under send cash or stamps ☐. Total $.....

lame.....

Organization.....

treet.....

ity and State.....

Generated on 2021-05-10 23:23 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112061174139
Public Domain in the United States, Google-digitized / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd-us-google
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN