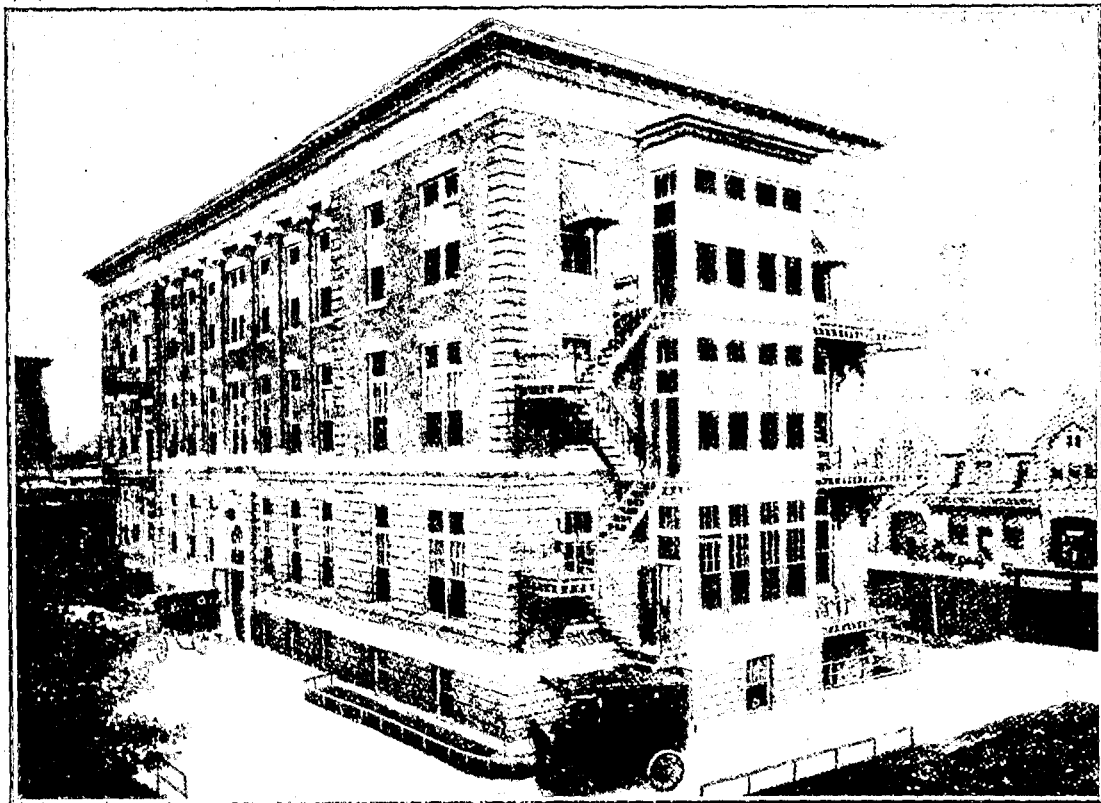


### Ambulance Work in Boston.

Nothing struck us more forcibly when visiting the United States than the efficiency of the hospital ambulance service. In London, while it is true that the Metropolitan Asylums Board has a well-organised ambulance service for the removal of infectious cases to its hospitals, no similar arrangement is made by the general and special hospitals, and in this enlightened city patients with fractured femurs, and other injuries, are at present liable to be jolted to the nearest hospital in a four-wheeled cab. Combination on the part of the hospitals is required to organise a service which shall have its headquarters

generally captured an express wagon, truck team, or any near-by conveyance, and carried injured persons to the nearest hospital. Each of the hospital ambulances did little else than carry patients who were very ill to its own wards. It was said at that time that the hospital could only be expected to take care of the patients after they arrived, and the friends of patients must find conveyance. It was recognised, however, that there were occasionally persons very ill, and it was for that purpose that in the beginning one ambulance was maintained at each hospital. At that time the police signal service was very limited and inefficient and could not be relied upon as a system.



BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL RELIEF STATION.

in a central position in telephonic communication with all the combining hospitals.

It will be interesting to our readers to know how the ambulance work of the great city of Boston, U.S.A., is carried out.

Dr. George Rowe, Superintendent at the City Hospital, states in the *National Hospital Record* that—

In 1878 there were only two ambulances within the limits of the city, one at the Massachusetts General Hospital and one at the Boston City Hospital. At that time the majority of the street accidents were taken care of by the police, who

Now the Boston City Hospital has fifteen ambulances, the Massachusetts General Hospital three, the Police Department ten, the Homeopathic Hospital 1, and various other public departments nine.

The general types of the ambulances in nearly all the departments is the same.

The aim of the authorities of the Boston City Hospital is to have an ambulance as light as is consistent with the character of the roads, and sufficiently strong to carry four average adult persons. It has a body long enough to receive a stretcher 6 ft. 6 in. long, placed upon a rubber-covered mat-

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