

THE HOME JOURNAL

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EARLE B. OTTLEY Editor
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Saturday, December 20, 1952

Hospital Fees

Governor de Castro has submitted to the Municipal Council an ordinance to authorize the establishment of fees for medical care in the municipality, and has urged immediate enactment of this legislation.

The bill would authorize the Governor, with the advice of the Commissioner of Health, to establish a schedule of fees for medical treatment, surgical operations, and dental and hospital services. All persons, except those who are indigent, would be required to pay the fees. Hardship cases, that is, patients who seek free medical services on the ground that they cannot afford to pay, would be reviewed by a special Committee on Hospital Fees, which would be composed of seven members, including four government officials and three other individuals.

The ordinance further provides that if any person neglects or refuses to pay any fees for medical care within ninety days the Sheriff shall have authority to collect the same by the attachment and sale of personal property of the debtor.

Under the proposal, doctors, dentists and nurses would be authorized to charge professional service fees to private patients in the hospital, "provided that if municipal supplies are used, their annual cost shall be

billed monthly by the municipal hospital and paid for by the private practitioner monthly. Municipal physicians, dentists and nurses may charge for fees for services rendered outside of their regular duties."

Another important provision in the ordinance is the one that requires persons who require medical care to pay a deposit prior to receiving such care, except in cases where adjustment of the hospital bill will be required.

The Governor and other officials are urging enactment of this ordinance within the next few days. No doubt, there is need for speed since the new hospital will go into operation within a few months. But that does not mean that the proposal should not be subjected to the most careful

Sheriff's Sale

It is hereby brought to Public Notice that, in compliance with an Order of Execution issued by the District Court of the Virgin Islands, (Civil No. 275-1952) the Sheriff has seized the following vessel in an action for Debt:

Six ton British Sloop 'Centaur' The above named vessel will be offered for sale at a Public Auction to be held in the vicinity of the Villa Olga where it is presently moored, at 10 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 1952, and sold to the highest bidder.

Earle H. Charles
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
December 18, 1952

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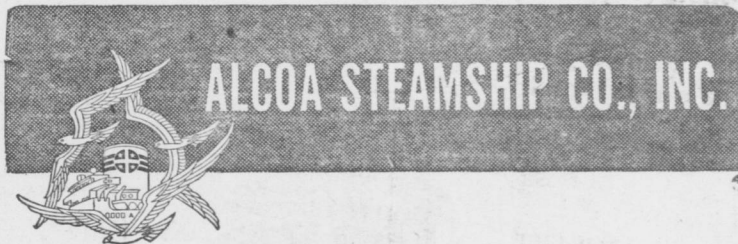
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scrutiny. For one thing we are opposed to the suggested make-up of the Committee on Hospital Fees, with government officials comprising the majority. Other amendments which would make sure that our good

intentions are actually translated into law are necessary. We are too familiar with the previous hard-boiled attitude of the officials who will enforce the law to give them a blank check.



SAILINGS FROM BALTIMORE & NEW YORK

Sails Baltimore N. Y. Due St. Thomas

Alcoa Runner [via P.R.]	Dec. 15th	Dec. 19th	Dec. 26th
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Alcoa Ranger	Jan. 12th	Jan. 16th	Jan. 23rd

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SAILINGS TO NEW YORK

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