

When I came to Ellis the hospital was only the main building on what we call Island #2. Island #1 being the immigration building. They were then two distinct islands made on filled in ground. we went back and forth by a foot path and a narrow board bridge. during the war the army built a rough bridge between the islands. At first we used to swim where Island #3 is now located and I have watched the building up of the building and the filling in between islands until we now have one large island connected by modern covered passage-ways.

I have worked steadily for six weeks at a time without a single day off.

I was only late to work once in my long career. It was shortly after the first subway was built and I of course did not realize how fast it traveled so was carried past the Ferry stop. By the time I had retraced my way I had missed the boat and was an hour late. I quickly slipped into my uniform and into the ward where the Doctor was making his morning rounds. The Night nurse was with him and I dismissed her. The Doctor asked why I was late. I told him his only comment was "Poor Excuse".

Many times 40 or Fifty were sent us late at night. and we always had three or four births a night.

When I was not rushed to death at the hospital I was expected to go to the Immigration building where the immigrants were lined up. Expectant mothers were so anxious to be admitted that they would stand in line until baby would come right there. So we had to watch and try to get them to the hospital in time. But more births by far occurred on way to wards than ever happened in beds.

My first day back after the Stapleton work, with all the dirt left from army and nothing organized and Only myself as a nurse. Five women and their children were sent me to feed and care for.

I have learned a smattering of all languages and dialects. but firmly believe that the universal language is pantomime. If I used my hands everyone seemed to understand.

The first baby born here was a girl and she was named Elsie.

The parting of families was always the hardest to witness.

The only remaining from the time I came are Mr Thiess, and Mary Daly. Miss O'Brian has been here 26 years and Miss O'Connell 22 years

Nurses are not commissioned as are Doctors so are not rated.

Many freaks were allowed in for short periods to appear in circus or side show. Once we had man with three small children who looked and acted like human apes. and we had a great time watching children as they wanted to swing around on pipes and things and would not stay put.