DUDLEY MEMORIAL, LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL
Southeast corner of Amity and Henry Streets
1902, William C. Hough

This elegant and modestly scaled building, originally a nurses' residence, is of stone-trimmed red brick and is festooned with notable console brackets and garlands. Note especially the garland-framed second-floor bay in the center over the entrance. The style is French Renaissance of the Henri IV period, late-sixteenth and early-seventeenth centuries. It is a particularly appropriate style for a hospital, since it was the style of the Hôpital Saint-Louis in Paris, built by Henri IV in 1607–11. A Brooklyn building of similar mien is Babb, Cook & Willard's house at 45 Montgomery Place (1898–99) in Park Slope, which recalls Henri IV's Place des Vosges. This is another example of Brooklyn architects going in a different direction at the turn of the century. William C. Hough was the onetime partner of Halstead Parker Fowler. Together they designed such buildings as the Throop Avenue Presbyterian Church (1889–90) and the 23rd Regiment Armory (1891–95), works in the rich Romanesque Revival vein mined so successfully by Brooklyn architects of the 1880s and early 1890s. Hough's building for Long Island College Hospital shows his turn to the classical, one taken by countless Brooklyn architects in the wake of the Columbian Exposition. This is but one of many nearby buildings of Long Island College
Hospital, which was founded by German immigrants in 1857. It is today the sixth largest hospital in Brooklyn and is a major employer in Cobble Hill; the hospital’s modern buildings dominate this northwestern part of the neighborhood. Examples are the buildings to the north of the Dudley Memorial, along the east side of Hicks Street between Amity Street and Atlantic Avenue (the E. M. Fuller Pavilion, 1974, at the northeast corner of Hicks Street and Atlantic Avenue, and, to the south, the Polak Pavilion, 1984 with a 1988 addition), and, one block to the east of the Dudley Memorial, at the northeast corner of Henry and Amity Streets (the Prospect Heights Pavilion, 1963, named following Long Island College Hospital’s merger that year with Prospect Heights Hospital). In his Guide to the Architecture of Paris, architect Norval White, in discussing a 1980s annex to the Hôpital Saint-Louis, asks, “Why are most hospitals usually so afflicted with mediocre architecture and then divorced from the urban design of the surrounding city? This is particularly galling at a site where the parent building is a seventeenth-century gem of both architecture and urbanism.” Granted that the Dudley Memorial is no Hôpital Saint-Louis, a similar question might be asked of the hospital here as well as of many others in New York.

At the southeast corner of Pacific and Henry Streets once stood the Hoagland Laboratory of Long Island College Hospital. Cornelius Hoagland, founder of Royal Baking Powder and resident of Clinton Avenue, funded this pioneering bacteriological research laboratory. John Mumford designed its 1888 building in the Romanesque Revival style. The building burned down some years ago. The “Necrology” in the third edition of the AIA Guide said, “Its early Art Nouveau copper signs were glorious.” Besides the Dudley Memorial, probably the best of the hospital’s remaining buildings is the Polhemus Pavilion (1897) at the southwest corner of Henry and Amity Streets. M. L. Emery, who designed it, later designed the chapel (1911–12) of St. George’s Episcopal Church at Stuyvesant Square in Manhattan.