

Proceedings at the opening of the new surgical hospital of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, on Tuesday, 21st May, 1861.

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Professor Fleming
Cooper
PROCEEDINGS

AT THE OPENING OF THE

NEW SURGICAL HOSPITAL

OF THE

GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY,

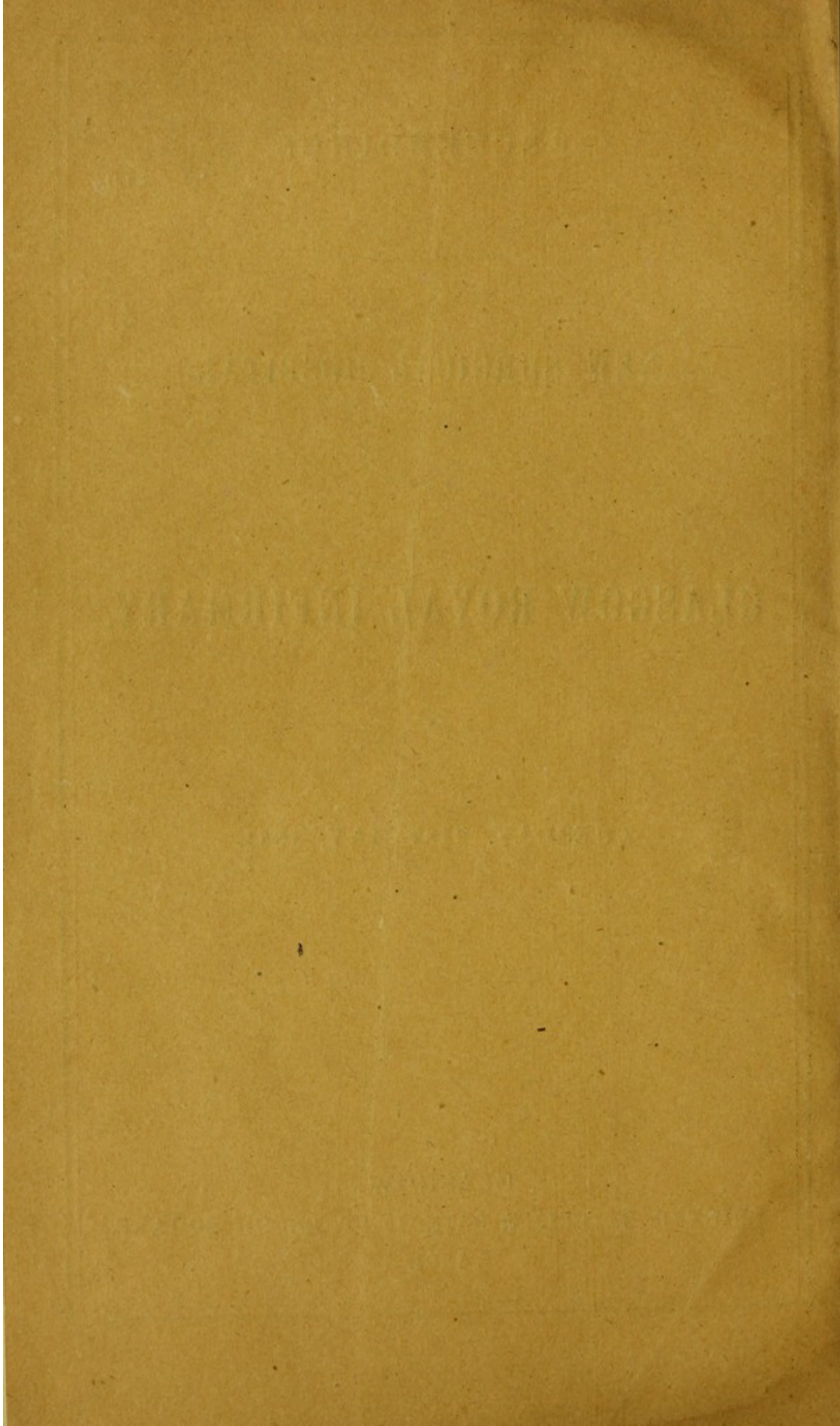
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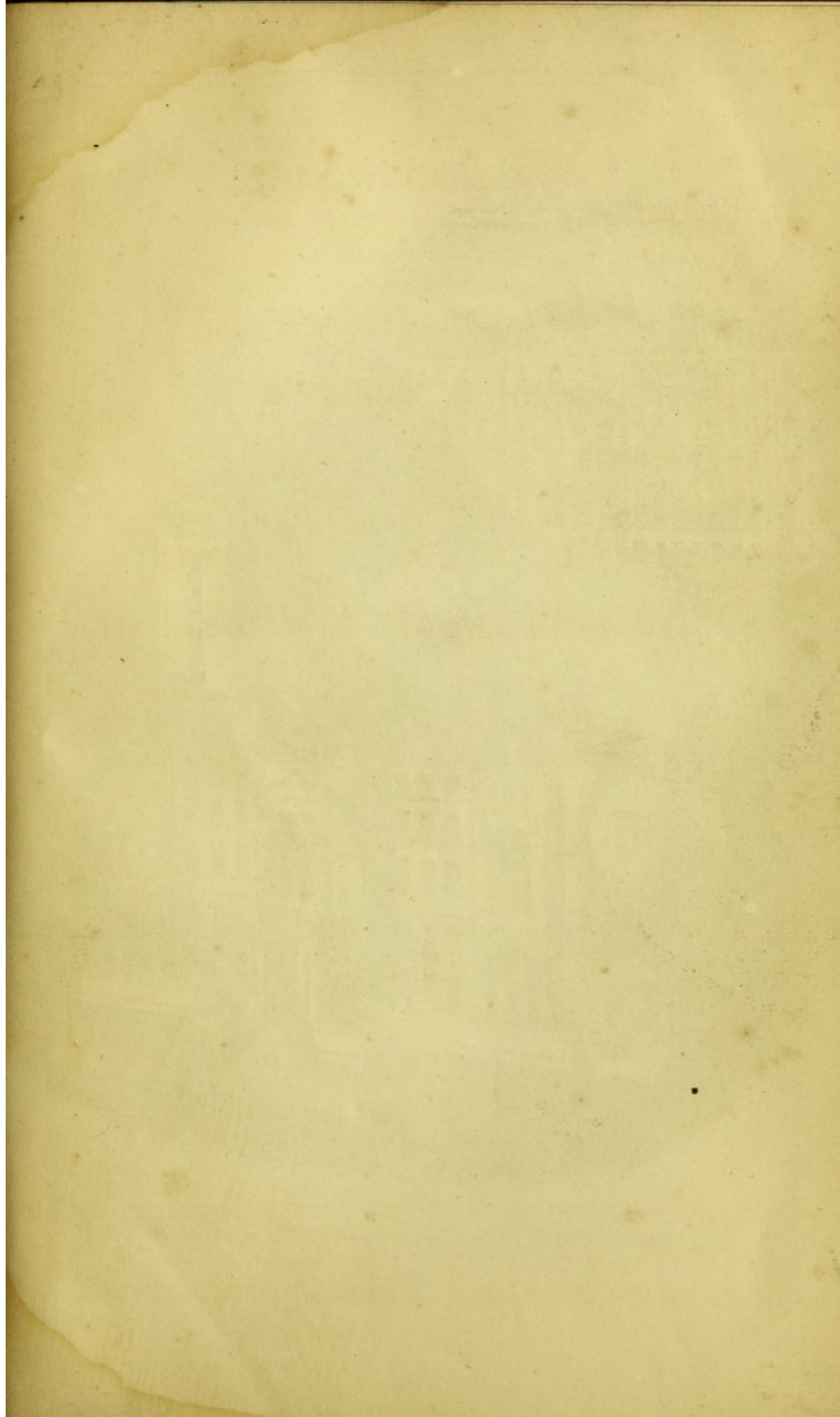
TUESDAY, 21ST MAY, 1861.

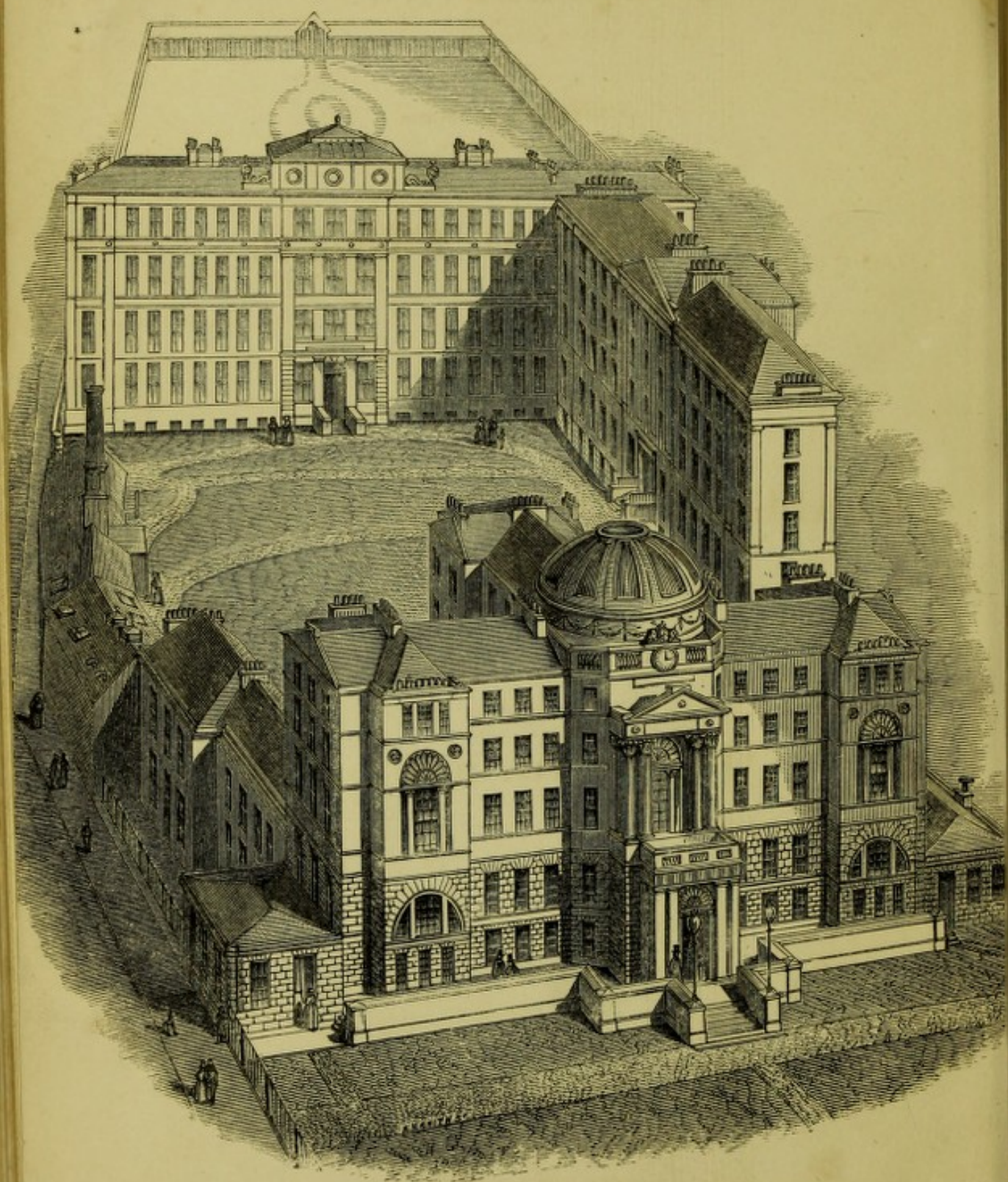
GLASGOW:

PRINTED BY BELL & BAIN, 15 ST. ENOCH SQUARE.

1861.







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ROYAL LIBRARY

OF THE NEW SPANISH MUSEUM

NEW SPANISH MUSEUM

GLASGOW ROYAL LIBRARY

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ROYAL INFIRMARY.

OPENING OF THE NEW SURGICAL HOSPITAL.

THE new Surgical Hospital, in connection with the Royal Infirmary, was formally opened on Tuesday, 21st May, at One o'Clock, in presence of the Directors and a considerable number of gentlemen, supporters of the Institution. Among those present were,—the Lord Provost, Robert Dalglish, Esq., M.P., Bailies Brown, Couper, Whyte, Blackie; Sheriff Bell, Rev. Dr. Robertson, Rev. Dr. Boyd, Messrs. David Smith, A. Galbraith, John Jamieson, John Gilmour, James Craig, Wm. Euing, Dr. Strang, The Deacon Convener, The Dean of Guild, Provost Pollock (of Paisley), Dr. Andrew Buchanan, Dr. Fleming, Dr. Lyon, Dr. George H. B. M'Leod, Dr. Ritchie, Dr. M'Ghie, Rt. M'Cowan, Esq., Dr. Mathie Hamilton, Dr. George Buchanan, Jos. A. Wright, Esq., W. M'Lean, jun., Esq., John Morrison, Esq., Henry Bruce, Esq., Peter Mackenzie, Esq., Wm. Kerr, Esq., John Wilson, Esq., Dr. Eben. Watson, Dr. Tannahill, Professor Lister, George Watt, Esq., &c.

For half an hour after the visitors assembled, they inspected the various wards of the Hospital, which is a large and elegant building, situated at some distance behind the original or front building of the Infirmary. Between the old and the new building there is a space of about an acre and a-half of ground. In its leading features the building is in accordance with the most approved modern theories of hospital architecture—two pavilions or wings being placed end to end, and branch-

ing off in a straight line from a central staircase; and the wards, of which there are four flats, occupying the whole breadth of the building, with windows on both sides, and the nurses' rooms, sculleries, side rooms, bath-rooms, water-closets, and hoists for the purpose of raising and lowering patients, at the extremities of the wards. The building is 190 feet long. Each ward is 60 feet long, 28 feet wide within the walls, and the height from floor to ceiling is 14 feet, being higher by 2 feet, longer by 10, and broader by $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, than the wards in the Fever and Front House. There are fourteen windows in each ward—seven on each side—and the window space bears a ratio to the whole area of the side-walls of one to three. The new Hospital is constructed to contain 200 patients, but the wards are fitted up at present to receive only 16 patients each. The old building, with its back projection, accommodates 230 patients, the Fever Hospital, 200, making, with the increased amount furnished by the new Hospital, a total accommodation for 630 patients. In the new building there are twelve private rooms, which could be used in an emergency, and would accommodate 40 more. There is also a sunk flat, containing about twenty rooms, intended to be employed chiefly as nurses' bedrooms, and the like, but, in case of a pressure upon the hospital space, could be made to receive 40 patients. The managers, however, have no expectation that for some time the ordinary space for 630 patients will be fully required. During the last four months, when the number of inmates has been higher than the average of several years past, the patients have at no time exceeded 400; and it is the desire of the managers to give increased space and area to all the patients, so that none shall have less than from 1,000 to 1,500 cubic feet of air. They hope to be able to keep the Fever House always in

reserve for any violent outbreak of epidemic disease. Fortunately, for some years past this form of disease has been limited, fever and small-pox ranging at about from thirty to sixty cases at a time.

In 1847 sheds of brick and wood were erected for fever patients, and were capable of containing about 150 patients; but as they had become unfit for occupation, no patients have been kept in them for several years.

In deciding on the plans, the Committee has been furnished with many valuable suggestions by Dr. M'Ghie, the superintendent of the Infirmary, in reference to the ventilation, heating, &c., which his great experience in hospital management well qualified him to give.

In a paper by Dr. M'Ghie, which appeared in, and has been reprinted from, the *Glasgow Medical Journal* of January last, "On the Site and Construction of Hospitals, with reference to the new Surgical Hospital of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary," he says,—“The heating is to be effected by open fires, placed as near as possible in the centre of the ward,—two fires in each ward, placed back to back, each radiating heat in opposite directions towards the extremities of the ward. Various positions in the side and end walls were suggested and considered; but the Committee unanimously concluded in favour of the central situation. In order to carry out this arrangement for heating, and to combine with it an efficient means for the removal of vitiated air, and to secure a separate ventilation for each floor, an oblong shaft is to be carried up through all the wards, of sufficient dimensions (10 feet by 5 feet) to contain two smoke flues and one ventilating flue for each ward, except the top flat, which is to be ventilated by four circular openings in the ceiling. By this arrangement the ventilating shafts, being placed between the smoke vents and fire-places, will be sufficiently heated to

cause a powerful extractive force on the air of the wards. The openings from the wards into these ventilating flues are placed near the ceiling on each side, and afford a ready exit to the heated and vitiated air of the wards. At each extremity, and also near the ceiling, there are openings into the smoke vents, provided with an apparatus which, while it admits the vitiated air from the wards, prevents the exit of smoke. Thus, on each of the four sides there is provided a means of outlet for foul air from the upper strata, and in the position most favourable for its removal. For the lower strata of air the fires afford a ready and effectual means of ventilation. At first it was contemplated to construct the grates in such a form as to admit of an auxiliary heating apparatus, consisting of a heated chamber at the back of the fires, into which fresh air, admitted from the outside, might pass into the wards in a more or less heated condition. One of the wards will be fitted with this apparatus, which will test its capability of utilizing the fire for the greatest possible amount of heating power."

Fresh air is admitted by 35 apertures in each ward, not including the doors. There are six openings in the ceiling, communicating with corresponding openings in the walls, three on each side, by channels between the joists; these open at regular intervals on either side of the beam which runs along the centre of the ward. When the upper half of each window is pulled down 2 inches, the air is directed towards the ceiling by means of a channel lined with wood. In like manner, when the lower half of the window is thrown up 2 inches, the air does not enter directly into the ward, but passes down behind the lining of the window recess, and enters on a level with the floor. By this means the angles formed by the walls with the ceiling and the floor—the parts where the air is usually

stagnant—can be readily flushed with fresh air. There is a large opening above each ward door, provided with louvres which can be opened or shut at pleasure. By these means, both for the extraction of foul air and the admission of fresh air, an unusual amount of ventilating power has been provided, which may be used wholly or partially as occasion may require. It may be observed that both the heating and ventilation of each ward is separate from, and independent of that of all the other wards. A supply of hot water has been provided for all the wards by boilers placed in the basement at each end of the building. A separate ventilation is established for the sculleries, bath-rooms, and water-closets. A large and commodious hoist has been erected, by means of which patients may be conveyed to the different floors. A new operating theatre has been constructed on the upper floor of the building, with accommodation for upwards of 200 students.

On each flat of the north wing of the building there is a large day-room, 21 feet long by 14 in breadth, to be used during the day by convalescent patients. It contains three windows, and is furnished with tables and fire-places, while books and other means of amusement will be provided for the patients who are able to make use of it. This room was a device of Mr. David Smith, the chairman of the Building Committee, as it seemed calculated greatly to facilitate recovery, by giving patients an opportunity of getting removed from patients confined to bed in the same ward, and by furnishing them with light and agreeable means of amusement. The walls of one of the wards are adorned with elegant framed engravings, which were presented by a liberal supporter of the institution.

We may state that, from 1st January to this date, there have been 1,913 surgical, and 2,422 medical cases,

in all, 4,335 treated at the Dispensary. Of these nearly one-fourth of the whole number—namely, 562 medical, 563 surgical, in all 1,125—have been under ten years of age. Last year 10,811 persons received gratuitous advice there. This year the number will probably reach from 11,000 to 12,000. The in-door patients admitted last year were 3,752. As far as the present year has gone the proportion is fully greater, being to this date (21st May) 1,767.

The mason work has been done in the very best style by Mr. Brownlie, and also the wright work by Messrs. Lamb and Rankin. The plaster work by Mr. Dairon, has been substantially executed in Portland and Keane's cement. The plumber work, iron work, and other departments, have all been finished in the most substantial manner. The architects, Messrs. Clarke & Bell, have carried out the views of the managers in the most satisfactory manner, and their instructions have been carefully followed out by Mr. Moffat, the clerk of works. The pleasure ground, extending to an acre, to the north of the new house, has been finely laid out, in three terraces, from a design by Mr. Clarke, of the Botanic Gardens; and a verandah has been built at the upper end of the ground, above 150 feet long, and 10 feet broad, for shade and shelter to the convalescent patients.

The company having assembled in the Operating Room of the Hospital, which is of a horse-shoe shape, and is seated for 214 persons, each tier of seats rising 1 foot 10 inches above the lower, the Lord Provost took the chair. After a most impressive and appropriate prayer by the Rev. Dr. Robertson of the High Church, the Lord Provost rose and proposed the health of the Queen. He said—

He would not dwell on the valour of her armies, or the prowess of her navies, on the extent of her dominions and

wide spread commerce; but would, on such an occasion as this, allude to the womanly virtues which so much adorned her high station, and to her support and countenance to every institution erected for the alleviation of human suffering. (Applause.) The toast was duly responded to.

SHERIFF BELL then moved the following resolution:—
 “That the thanks of this meeting be given to the managers of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, for the care and discretion exhibited by them in erecting this very important addition to this great public hospital, so well adapted to aid in the successful treatment of patients, and carrying out the benevolent view of the supporters of the institution.” The learned Sheriff said he had to ask them to couple this resolution specially with the name of the Lord Provost, as Chairman of the Managers. He thought it was impossible for any one who had shared in the gratification which they had all just experienced in going over this great building, now so successfully completed, without feeling that the managers of this, the most important and benevolent institution in the City of Glasgow, had discharged faithfully and well their duty to the community by the erection of so magnificent an addition. (Applause.) He was afraid that in a city like Glasgow there always would be very considerable necessity for hospital accommodation, although he confessed he was not one of those who would wish too much to encourage a demand for such accommodation (hear, hear); for he liked to see a spirit, as much as possible, of self-reliance existing in the community, and he hoped the time would never arrive when they could see in Glasgow, as in Paris, out of 32,000 deaths, no less than 12,000 persons dying in public hospitals, which, according to statistical tables, had occurred in Paris for the last three years. The case was very different here. There was a great amount of self-reliance in our population, and it was unquestionably a favourable symptom of the amount of that self-reliance that for the last six or seven years the number of pauper funerals had greatly decreased in Glasgow. (Applause.) In 1854 there were upwards of 2000 funerals at the public expense in the old city parish of Glasgow; since that time they had declined to 1,300, 900, 700, and last year there were little more than 500 in all. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Of that

number only 130 were adults. But still there was great necessity for a public Infirmary in such a city as Glasgow. There were three classes perpetually existing among us which required relief from such an institution. The first class consisted of those who met unexpectedly with personal accidents. In this immense labouring population there must always be a great amount of innocent accidents occurring, and the average, he understood, was from 500 to 600 per annum. It was of immense importance that the moment such an accident occurred the sufferer could be conveyed to a place where he could be comfortably, skilfully, judiciously, and successfully treated, as patients had always been within these walls. (Applause.) Then there was the class more especially exposed to the outbreak of epidemics and infectious diseases—which took the community to a certain extent by surprise, and ran ahead of the ordinary means of attendance at the houses of the working classes. In such cases of epidemics and infectious diseases, it was of the utmost importance to have accommodation provided by which the infection might be checked, and the epidemic arrested, and the opportunity afforded of removing the parties who were the first stricken down to a healthy locality, where they could be properly attended to. There was a third set of people who were much dependent upon such an institution—the strangers and sojourners among us—who, when overtaken by disease, trusted to the benevolence of this great community to supply them with assistance. It was the will of an all-wise Providence that man should suffer bodily as well as mentally, and it was also His will that we seek by every means in our power to alleviate the sufferings of others, and there was no institution in Glasgow so well calculated to alleviate suffering as this extensive and well-conducted Infirmary. (Applause.) It was a curious thing to look back on the 70 years which had elapsed since the commencement of the Glasgow Infirmary. The foundation-stone was laid in 1792, when a sermon was preached in St. Andrew's Church by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, which was attended by the professors and all the official gentlemen of the day. Mr. Taylor preached from the text in Matthew—"I was sick, and ye visited me." Since 1792, or rather since 1794, when the institution was

first opened to the public, upwards of 170,000 patients had been treated within the walls of the Infirmary, and what was still more delightful to reflect upon, of these 170,000 patients upwards of 125,000 had been dismissed cured (applause), and many others were discharged relieved. This spoke volumes for the prudent and skilful manner in which the institution had been conducted. Its annual funds had been going on increasing, and though its expenditure was necessarily large, to provide, in so admirable a manner, accommodation for the relief of 4,000 patients annually, and to maintain so large a staff of medical gentlemen, surgeons, attendants, apothecaries, clerks, and sixty or seventy nurses; yet he was proud and happy to know that the revenue had been sufficient to meet the expenditure. (Applause.) Such had been the feeling in favour of the institution that, from the great amount obtained by annual subscriptions, donations, and otherwise, the Directors had been enabled to make this important addition to the Infirmary, costing nearly £10,000 (applause), without great detriment to its funds. The building stood upon the site of what was long a conspicuous building in the City of Glasgow, sometimes called the Bishop's Palace, sometimes the Bishop's Castle, for as times were peaceable or stormy, it was treated as the one or the other. (A laugh.) In the year 1715, after it had fallen into comparative decay, it was converted into a prison for 300 men, known by the name of the Highland rebels; but whether they were really rebels it was not for him to say. (Applause and laughter.) Surely, however, it was far better to see the use that this site had been put to;—that that palace, that castle, that prison had disappeared, and upon the ground upon which it stood—a most healthy and salubrious situation—there had been erected a modern institution which had done more for the alleviation of pain and suffering than any other institution in the West of Scotland. (Applause.) He would not detain this meeting except with this additional observation, that among the sources from which the funds came there was a large contribution directly from the working and labouring classes, and this contribution was increasing every year. It was now rapidly approaching the sum of £2,500 per annum, collected in small sums, indicating, in the strongest way, that the parties for whose benefit the institution had been mainly

established felt that it was wisely and humanely managed, and in a way calculated to achieve the object for which it had been erected. (Applause.) He concluded by again moving the resolution, and expressing the obligations the public were under to the managers, and he begged to couple with it, in the most especial manner, the name of the Lord Provost, who was always anxious to promote everything good and praiseworthy among us, and who had taken the warmest interest in the prosperity of this institution. (Applause.)

The LORD PROVOST returned thanks for the honour which had been conferred upon the Directors of the institution and himself. The services to which Sheriff Bell had alluded in such eloquent terms were no common services, but were of a very arduous character, and had been performed with a spirit which had rarely been equalled. He had seen the management of several institutions in this city, and he hesitated not to say that, not to one of them would he yield the palm, for anxiety on the part of the managers to carry forward their own work as managers, and also the grand object of the institution, that the relief of the distressed and the healing of disease might be carried forward as fully and effectually as possible. (Applause.) But he believed it was not the present management who could alone claim this; for they could look back to times gone past, and see that the institution had all along been conducted with prudence and ability. They now saw what the present Committee of Management had done. The erection of this Hospital had for some time been under consideration, and whilst the present management deserved some little credit, he would not detract from those who 70 years ago had selected so healthy a site for an institution so noble in its objects, and so grand in its architectural merits. He appeared before them as *ex officio* chairman of the institution—he did not claim any merit in the getting up of this Hospital. There were gentlemen present most of whom had laboured hard in the getting up of this addition to the Infirmary, and he thought he would best consult the wishes of the meeting if he requested Mr. David Smith, who had exerted every energy in promoting the present erection, to make a few remarks to the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. DAVID SMITH said, that as Chairman of the Building

Committee, he might make a few observations as to the building which they had met to open. That committee had been formed two years ago, and consisted of seven gentlemen—Mr. Jamieson, our esteemed Treasurer, who had cheerfully paid the large sums required for this extensive building, satisfied that we had got good value; Mr. M'Lean, Dr. Pagan, Dr. Allen Thomson, Bailie Whyte, who had been of the most essential service to the committee for his experience as a builder, and Dr. James Watson, from whom he (Mr. Smith) had received a note expressing regret at his absence, and speaking in high terms of the architectural appearance of the building, and its fitness for the object for which it had been erected. The building of this additional accommodation had been a subject of consideration with the Directors for ten or fifteen years. It was a question whether it should be an extension of the accommodation here, or whether there should be a new hospital erected in a different locality. The question had been thoroughly discussed, and this site was considered the best. The Directors had to consider the places from which the patients chiefly came. They found that one-third of all the patients came from the old city districts, that one-third came from the suburbs, and that the remaining third came from distant parts of the country. It was therefore to be regarded, not only as a city hospital and a suburban hospital, but as a great West of Scotland hospital; for patients came to it from Islay, Inverary, and the West Highlands; there were 21 from Airdrie and 52 from Coatbridge. He might mention also, with respect to the accidents, that there were 617 cases of accidents treated in the Hospital last year. It has been argued that we should therefore have several hospitals over the city for the reception of these. But this is what Lord Bacon would call one of the *Idola Fori*,—a popular fallacy. These had come from 500 different places, some from great distances, and it was therefore quite impossible to erect an hospital where the accidents occurred. Practically, it came to this, that when an accident took place, the sufferer was taken to the nearest doctor's shop, the wound bound up, and the patient sent in a cab to the Hospital; and he had to state, to the honour of the profession, that the members of it had never refused to act the part of the good Samaritan, and were always ready to give their aid when the emergency called for it. Again, it

has been said that the temples of Hygeia, the Goddess of Health, were placed on hills. Well, here we are, 130 feet above the Clyde, on one of the loftiest sites in this city. The success of this institution had been greatly owing to the resort of students and to the eminent men who had practised in this house. It had now arisen nearly to the fame of the Edinburgh one (applause), as regards number of students. The fees paid by students had increased, in the course of seven years, from £500 per annum to £1,430 (applause); and his impression was that the very extension of the accommodation at this time would inevitably increase its fame and celebrity. (Applause.) The Managers could honestly, and without the least fear, invite students here who wished to be thoroughly taught their profession, and to be made acquainted with disease in every shape and form. He did not doubt that the public would appreciate the efforts of the managers, who had never been left without money hitherto. (Applause.) He concluded by proposing the health of the Lord Provost and Magistrates, and thanks for their attendance on this interesting occasion, which was warmly responded to.

The LORD PROVOST replied, and declared the new Hospital duly opened. He had now to pray that God might bless the efforts of those who had been instrumental in bringing it to its present state, and that the patients might come out of it healed from their diseases, and relieved from suffering.

Dr. BUCHANAN said that as there were many medical gentlemen present, he would propose a toast which, after the Queen and the Ladies, was always proposed in a meeting of medical men—"Floreat res medica."

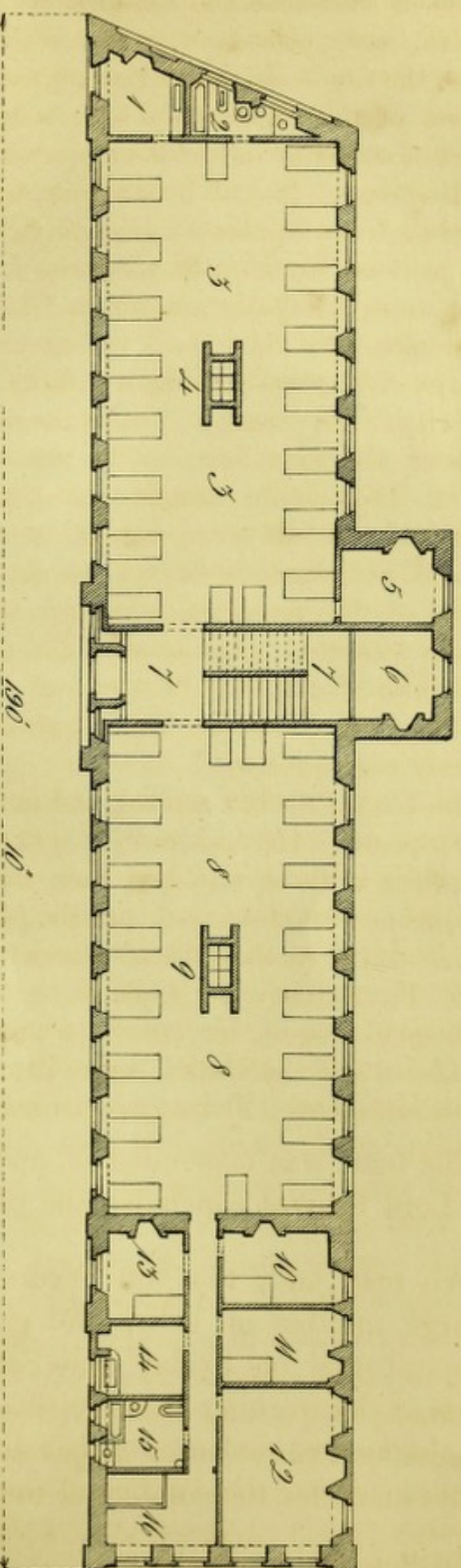
The toast was responded to, and a vote of thanks to the Lord Provost concluded the proceedings.

We may add, that on Wednesday and Thursday a large number of ladies and gentlemen visited the Hospital, and on Friday and Saturday several thousands of the working classes visited, when there was an unanimous expression of satisfaction with the arrangements made for the comfort of the patients.

31st May, 1861.

GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Plan of One of the Floors of the New Surgical Hospital.



- 1 Dressing Room.
- 2 Bath, Water Closet.
- 3 West Ward 59 ft x 28 ft 11 in high, containing 16 full-sized, and 3 Children's Beds.
- 4 Shaft 10 ft x 5 ft having a Fire Place at both ends and Ventilating Flues in Centre.

- 5 Nurses Room.
- 6 Stairs Room.
- 7 Staircase & Landings.
- 8 East Ward 60 ft x 28 ft 11 in high, containing 16 full-sized, and 3 Children's Beds.
- 9 Shaft 10 ft x 5 ft having a Fire Place at both ends, and Ventilating Flues in Centre.

- 10 Private Room for one Patient.
- 11 do do.
- 12 Day and Reading Room.
- 13 Nurses Room.
- 14 Dressing.
- 15 Bath & Water Closet.
- 16 Shaft for Lifting Patients, good, good.

