

Address to the governors & subscribers of the Charing Cross Hospital, on some extraordinary proceedings that have lately taken place at that institution, and on the management of the Hospital in general / by T.J. Pettigrew.

Contributors

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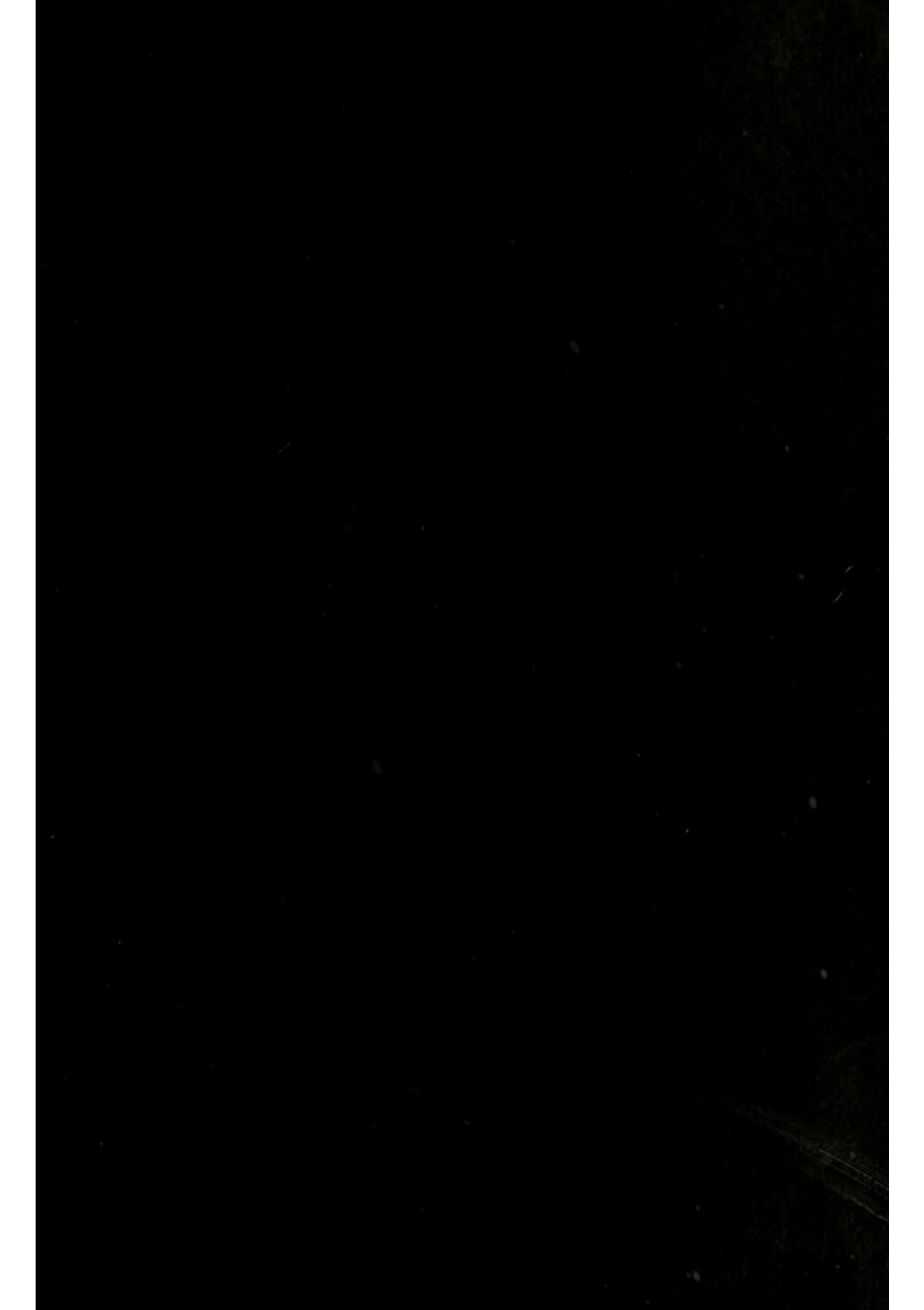
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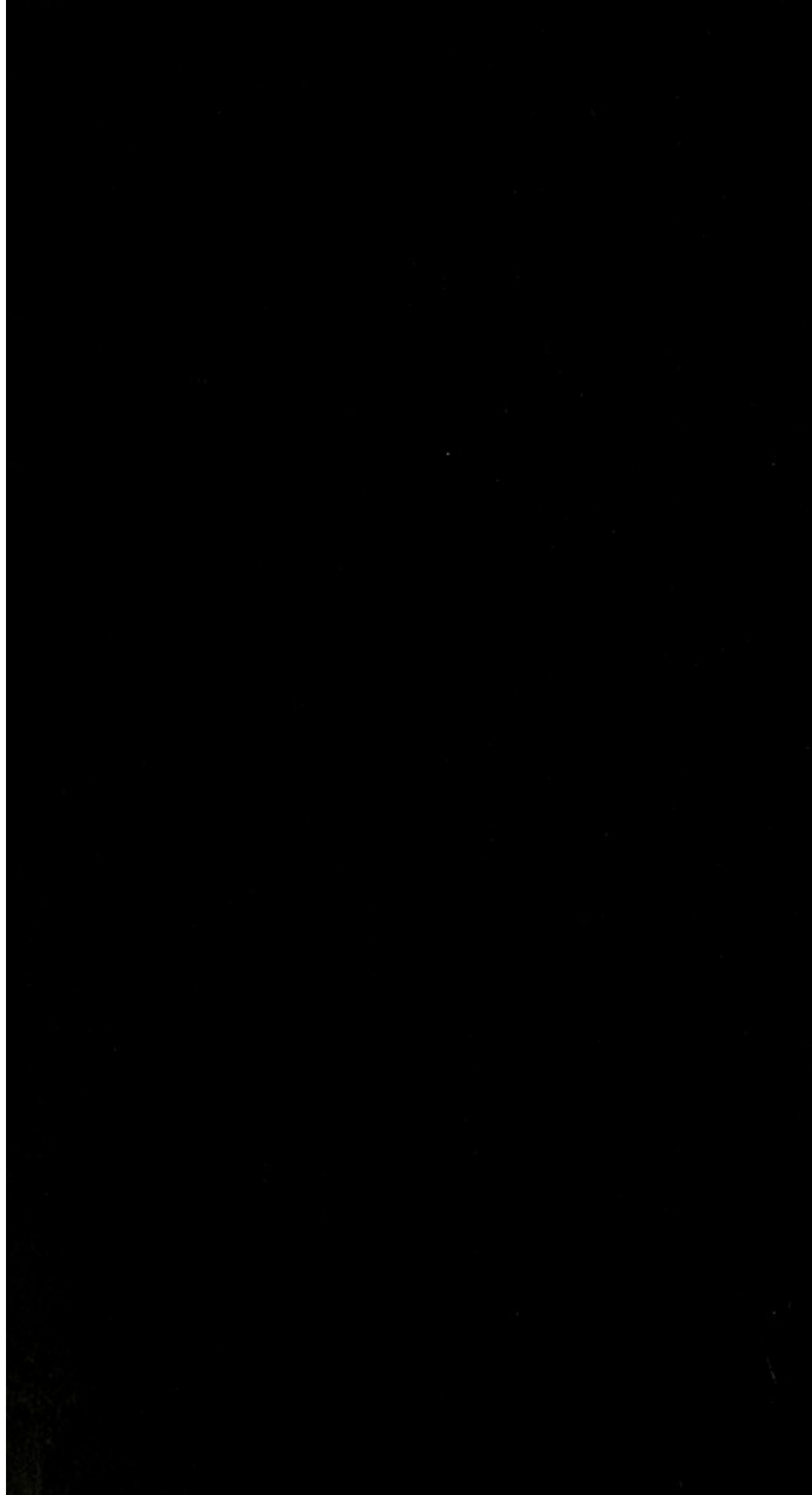
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ADDRESS

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TO THE

GOVERNORS & SUBSCRIBERS

OF THE

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL,

ON SOME

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS THAT HAVE LATELY TAKEN
PLACE AT THAT INSTITUTION,

AND ON THE

MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL

IN GENERAL.

—

BY T. J. PETTIGREW, F. R. S., F. S. A., F. L. S.,

Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY P. P. THOMS, 12, WARWICK SQUARE.

1836.

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ADDRESS.

The occurrence of a most extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Members of a Special Committee, appointed by the Board of Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital, on the 1st of August last, compels me to address the Governors and Subscribers of the Institution, to demonstrate to them the system of management that has hitherto been pursued, and to point out the serious consequences that must ensue unless the entire direction of the Hospital be changed.

The Hospital has now been in operation for two years and a half; and, making all proper allowances for the difficulties that naturally arise in the carrying out of a new undertaking, it will still be admitted to be a sufficiently long period to have all relating to the care of the patients in proper order, and means established for the due protection and welfare of the sick and hurt inmates.

As there are no institutions which afford so many opportunities for the exercise of true charity as the Hospitals, so ought the relief extended to be generously and promptly given. Poverty carries along with it at all times great suffering; but when sickness becomes super-added to it, it is impossible to conceive a state of more absolute wretchedness. Of such a description are the objects committed to the care of the professional officers of the Hospitals, and such has been the character of those entrusted to my attention. I believe it will not be asserted by anyone that I have been neglectful of my duties either in a professional or a humane point of view; if it should be, I desire only that the Governors and Subscribers of the Hospital will go round the wards and make enquiries of the patients and the nurses. In short, I fear that some, and that no little portion, of the animosity which has been evinced towards me has arisen from the expressions of gratitude which it has been my happiness to receive from my patients in the Hospital. This, however, is by no means the sole cause of the displeasure of the Director and his friends—another will be found in my desire, in common with that of my respected colleague, Dr. Sigmond, to unite the Hospital with the School of Medicine at the King's College, by which a vast accession of

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strength would be derived to the Hospital, a considerable increase of its funds produced, a connection of the highest respectability established, and a source of deserved emolument opened to the various professional officers of the Institution. But this Dr. GOLDING, the DIRECTOR, feels would take from his hands a portion of that control and authority which he and his friend Mr. ROBERTSON, the HONORARY SECRETARY, have for so long a time entirely possessed. Reference to the committee-book of the Hospital will show that rarely more than *two* or *three* members, often only *one*, attended besides the Director and the Honorary Secretary, and all the measures for the regulation of the Institution, its Medical School, &c., have originated from these few individuals.

Now, let us see the manner in which the duties of the Director (an officer, be it remembered, not to be found in any other Hospital of the Metropolis, and in this instance filled by one of the medical officers) are performed as it respects the patients, and then let the Governors and Subscribers say whether it is proper that their charity should be dispensed by one so deaf to humanity, and so tyrannous in his conduct. These are heavy accusations to lay at the door of any man, and particularly so to one who has been the chief instrument in erecting the Hospital in which his functions are to be exercised. But the fact is that that man, who as he proceeds along the wards of the Hospital ought to be greeted by the blessings of the poor, now only receives their execrations and their curses. His manners are revolting. His mode of address rude, abrupt, and cruel; rarely does a kind word escape his lips—all is harshness and severity. If a patient has been but a few weeks in the Hospital, his anxiety manifests itself to put him out. But the dismissal rests with the Professional Officer under whose charge the patient may happen to be, and not with the Director; and should the poor creature unfortunately be upon full diet, or his calamity such as to need the daily addition of a little porter, the enquiries repeatedly made to such patients as to when they are going out, the length of time they have been in, &c., are unbounded. I will give an instance. It occurred to a patient of the name of Moffat, admitted under my care for one of the very worst ulcers of the leg I ever saw. This was an exceedingly well-behaved man, labouring under great poverty, and thus his disease was greatly aggravated. I took him into the Hospital, attended to his general health, and the improvement of his limb was most extraordinary. It was a matter of great instruction to the pupils, as showing what proper rest and food might do under apparently the most unfavourable circumstances, and a limb was thus saved to the individual. I found this man, in the course of my rounds, often very much agitated;

and I at length (but not without much urgency) obtained from him an avowal that, upon Dr. Golding visiting the wards, he was always spoken to in such an unkind and harsh manner as to the length of time he had been there, the time when he was to go out, &c., that he could not endure it. He even wished me to discharge him; but I represented to him that, as he would speedily be quite recovered, I wished him to remain until that should take place, and that, if Dr. Golding spoke to him again upon the subject, to refer him to me as the officer having the charge of the case, and to whom, and not to the patient, certainly the application should have been made. Suddenly, however, one night, goaded by Dr. G.'s conduct, the man in a state of distraction quitted the Hospital; he was seen by one of the house pupils at three o'clock in the morning, wandering about the streets without a place to shelter him, and without a sixpence in his pocket. God knows what has become of the poor fellow!

I will cite another case. It is that of a poor German, recommended to the Hospital by Mr. Stulz, who generously gave me one hundred guineas for the Institution. This was a very intelligent and well-conducted man, and of most quiet manners. He had a disease of the hip joint, for which caustic issues were necessary, and a long confinement to bed. At length he was sufficiently recovered to walk, and I recommended his getting into the Sea-Bathing Infirmary. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent liberally granted the man a letter, and he was received into the Institution. At his departure he left the following letter for me, and another of a similar description, but of greater severity of expression, for Dr. Sigmond, who had attended the case with me:—

“Charing Cross Hospital, 13th July, 1836.”

“SIR, I return you my sincere and grateful thanks for the very great kindness and humanity I received from you while under your care, and for the interest you felt for my admission into the Margate Infirmary.

“I feel your kindness the more when I consider the harsh behaviour of Dr. Golding, who ought to have treated me with more kindness, according to the general hospitality of his country, when he considered I was an afflicted foreigner, and a friendless stranger in London.

“I am, Sir,
Your most obedient
Humble Servant,
GEORGE SWEMMER.”

“Mr. Pettigrew.”

I could mention other cases, but these are sufficient for the present purpose.

I must now direct your attention to the most injudicious parsimony that was ever introduced into any Establishment. The

crutches are purchased for the Hospital at 2s. per pair; and, as it was found that some of the patients after being permitted to take them out with them (being unable from the effects of their accidents to walk without such assistance), did not return them, the Director ordered that all patients going out with crutches should leave a deposit of a *shilling*. Now, look at the effect of this. I will give it in a case: A poor man, a labourer, met with an accident in the course of his employ, and fractured his leg. He remained seven or eight weeks in the Hospital. The union of the broken bones being perfect, I recommended to him to return to his family. The sister of the ward asked "what he was to do about the crutches?" I was ignorant of the order that had been given, and replied, "Why take them to be sure; and, when he is able to get about without them, let them be brought back to the Hospital for some other afflicted person."—"Sir, Dr. Golding says that a shilling deposit must be left, and the poor man has it not." He had not a shilling in the world. I paid the deposit, and bade the man not care about the crutches. Here is a poor creature, in the exercise of his calling, meeting with a serious injury that incapacitates him from getting his bread and supporting his family—with a wife and family thrown perhaps upon the parish or casual benevolence for assistance during his confinement—upon going to his home anticipating with delight the happiness of again having his partner and his children assembled around him, once more enjoying their society and their embraces, stopped at the threshold of a CHARITABLE ESTABLISHMENT for a shilling deposit for his crutches! Oh! would it not have been more generous and more satisfactory to have given the poor fellow a shilling to get a dinner, and regale and celebrate his recovery and his return to his family, than thus to damp his spirit and check his joy. What are likely to be the feelings of the poor patients who are thus treated, and in what way are they likely to speak of the Hospital? Then, as Governors of an Institution in which it is incumbent upon all to look to the finances and to suppress unnecessary expenditure, what are you to say to this conduct? Is it not more economical to risk the return of the crutches, by the aid of which the man can leave the Hospital—can by a change of air, also, improve his general health—than to remain a week or two longer to be fed and supported at the expense of the Establishment?

It has unfortunately occurred to me, during my connection with the Hospital, to witness the wretched supply of the necessary instruments and bandages. Finding that verbal messages given to the sisters of the wards and to the house-pupils were of no avail, I have latterly given written orders, and from dating them have succeeded in obtaining a rather better supply; but I

have found it necessary to give the same order more than once, and I had an instance of an omnibus-driver (whose name I forget), who had a fracture of the thigh, kept, unnecessarily kept, in his bed at least ten days longer than he might have been, from the inability to obtain crutches for him. When a man has been obliged to be confined to one position for seven or eight weeks, it is a dreadful cruelty to retain him one day beyond the time absolutely necessary for his recovery. Another man being taller than ordinary, a man with a fracture of the neck of the thigh bone, was unable for many days to obtain the proper-sized crutches, and he ventured to use a shorter pair than were adapted to his height. He fell, and was in consequence kept to his bed for some days from the shock he had sustained. I have heard of a case of Mr. Howship, a child with a fractured thigh being dismissed the Hospital with a very crooked limb from the want of splints. The want of these, of bandages, &c., has been truly distressing—every fracture that has to be adjusted is delayed by the necessity of making the proper pads, &c., at the time. I was called upon only a few days ago to tap a patient of Dr. Shearman's labouring under ovarian dropsy; and, upon asking for a flannel roller, there was not such a thing in the Hospital! There are nothing but ordinary rollers, and those scanty in number—no eighteen-tailed bandage—no complicated bandages required for particular injuries; and will it be believed that to this day there is not a proper operating table! The operations are obliged to be performed upon a table by far too broad for the purpose, and one which is used at the lectures. There are no pulleys for the reduction of dislocations, nor a bolt even placed for the use of them. I might enumerate many other things, but I am sure these are sufficient to show that the management of the Hospital, under the guidance of the Director, has been very defective, and that the accidents liable to occur are very ill provided for. All this results from a parsimony that is quite unnecessary, not to say injudicious; for the funds are by the Report of the Committee to the last General Meeting declared to be adequate, and the Hospital is not in debt. It is "free from debt and incumbrance of any kind." Yet, if a patient is to be visited after dark, not a candle is to be had to examine him, but at the expense of the sister of the ward, the lights of the Hospital being restricted to the jets of gas in the apartments. These are all matters for the Director's attention. It has been in vain to apply to him, and the Special Committee designate them "frivolous;" the Governors at large will, I flatter myself, entertain a different opinion, else farewell to the objects of these Charitable Institutions.

The complaints I have urged on this head and a variety of others have brought down upon me the animosity of the

Director and his two coadjutors, Mr. Robertson and Dr. Shearman, and has given rise to a gross and false accusation, with the intention of inflicting a wound on my reputation, which I shall presently notice in a particular manner. I must here, however, again allude to a proposition made to the officers of the Hospital, through Lord Henley, a very liberal benefactor, communicating a letter from the Bishop of London, suggesting the advantages that would arise to both institutions from a union between this Hospital and the King's College. Upon a proper understanding I believe there cannot honestly be two opinions upon the subject; all will readily see the mutual benefit that may be derived. But, as the propositions made on the part of some of the authorities of the King's College were of such a nature that they could not fairly be entertained, the negotiation was broken off and not again renewed for a considerable time. During this period changes took place in the Medical School of the Hospital; and having received the most ungracious and unjust treatment from the Director and a portion of my colleagues (who go in all things agreeably to his wishes), in being made answerable for certain payments relating to the Dissecting Room, with which I had nothing whatever to do, being the lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at the Hospital (a duty I undertook solely to save the school from sinking), I expressed my dissatisfaction at the conduct exercised towards me, and stated my determination to do every thing in my power to promote the union of the College and Hospital, as advantageous to both Institutions and to all the officers concerned. I communicated this in writing to the Director, and he has the letter; yet the Special Committee ground an accusation against me upon this head, and state that I "did most unfairly carry on with the knowledge of Dr. Sigmond (the only officer unfortunately with whom I could entertain any confidence) a correspondence on the subject of a proposed connection between the two Institutions without the knowledge and authority of the other Medical Officers and Governors* of this Establishment, which the Committee consider was uncandid with regard to those officers, and highly reprehensible in relation to the Governors;† and the Committee consider that he (Mr. P.) should no longer belong to this institution."

It was therefore resolved unanimously "that Mr. Pettigrew's services as a professional officer of this Hospital be forthwith dispensed with, and that he be no longer an officer thereof." And a similar measure of extraordinary kindness has been exhibited to my excellent and enlightened friend and colleague

* I should like to know if the Governors were ever made acquainted with any of the communications until the 2nd of July last?

† Why not censure the Director for this? Why not expel him?

Dr. Sigmond, of which I doubt not he will immediately upon his return to town apprise the Governors. The fact is that there has been nothing uncandid on my part in the business ; for I gave the Director notice in these words, after some observations upon his conduct on another subject : " This, however, relieves me from a delicacy which I have hitherto maintained with regard to the subject of a connection with the King's College, to which my attention is now powerfully directed, and which it is my determination by every means in my power to promote. I do this upon the ground of its being the most advantageous step for the Hospital as well as the present professors of the Medical School, and I have only to request that you will, as Director of the Hospital and its School, appoint an early meeting to take into consideration the propriety of immediately entering into a negociation with the council of the King's College, with a view to a union between the two Institutions." This letter bears date the 10th of February 1836, and preceded any communications whatever held by me with any authority of King's College ; *the assertions therefore of the Special Committee are unfounded and fall to the ground.* And, as to the nature of the communications themselves, why, they amounted merely to a little conversation with the Rev. Dr. D'Oyly and a note or two, all of which I have given in to the Special Committee, and not kept a single copy, deeming them of very little consequence, but in which I was endeavouring, as I therein state, to arrive at something like an understanding, upon which with fairness I could lay the matter before my colleagues, and show to them that their interests as well as those of the Hospital were not to be neglected. There was no negociation whatever going on upon the subject ; it was merely a correspondence to obtain an understanding or basis upon which one might be proceeded in ; and the Member of the Council, Dr. D'Oyly, can be referred to upon the subject.

But the matter, although placed upon this ground, is not to be considered as based solely upon it, for an attack has been made upon my character ; and upon this head, as a matter which I hold dearer than life itself, I trust I shall be pardoned if I prove to be a little prolix.

During the period of twelve years I was the sole Surgeon of the Institution. It was at that time a Dispensary in Villiers Street, and the duties were arduous. I laboured with assiduity, and endeavoured by every means in my power to promote its welfare and contribute to the increase of its finances. I never derived one farthing of emolument for my services. When it was thought proper to build, and the Institution came to assume the character of a Hospital, I suggested to my colleagues, Dr. Golding and Dr. Shearman, that it would be necessary for me to have some one with whom I might consult on the various

operations necessary to be performed, and one who could share with me the responsibility attaching to such onerous duties. It was admitted; and I was told by Dr. Golding, in the presence of Dr. Shearman, that, in consideration of the length of my connection with the Institution and the exertions I had made, I should be permitted to name a person with whom I should like to be associated, and who would be received with the sanction of my colleagues, if an acceptable and proper person. It was further stated that it should be distinctly understood by whoever should be chosen to co-operate with me that he would not be entitled to receive any part of the emoluments derivable from the office for a period (and five years was expressly named by Dr. Golding, the Director), as it was held to be unfair and unjust to place upon an equality any individual who might not have taken any part in the establishment of the Hospital with one who had devoted so many years of labour and contributed so much to its support.

Upon its being known that the appointment of a second Surgeon was thought of, Mr. Howship applied to me upon the subject. He was at this time a stranger to me; we were not in the habit of visiting each other, nor had I ever been in his house. He represented to me that he should be delighted to be connected with me in the Charing Cross Hospital, and that he should consider any assistance rendered him in attaining this object as the greatest of obligations, and never forget it. He urged the particular advantage of his collection of preparations, foolishly eulogizing them as exceeding in value those of St. George's Hospital, and put forward other reasons to induce me to favour him as a colleague. Duly considering the matter, and with a firm determination to do my duty to the Hospital, I weighed well Mr. H.'s pretensions. I regarded him as an experienced and qualified individual of even longer standing in the profession than myself, a Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, the author of some works on surgery, one in the habit of lecturing, furnished with preparations to illustrate a course of lectures on surgery, and, above all, living contiguous to myself, and therefore readily to be obtained to supply my place if absent in any case of emergency that should arise. These were, in my mind, advantages which outweighed those suggested to me by many others who proposed to me on the same matter; and I therefore resolved to communicate to him freely and unreservedly that which had been proposed to me by my colleagues. I stated the offer made to me of naming a person who should be acceptable to them, and their conviction that I was entitled to receive the whole of the emoluments derivable from my department for the period I have named; but I proposed to Mr. Howship, as a private arrange-

ment between two gentlemen, that instead of my receiving the entire emoluments, he should be entitled to an equal portion upon the consideration of paying to me in lieu of those emoluments the sum of £500. Now this has been made the subject of a charge of having sold my influence to secure the election of Mr. H. to the office of Visiting-Surgeon to the Hospital. In the first place the charge was made of having sold the appointment; then it was changed to the selling of influence to obtain the appointment. It is neither the one nor the other. I did no such thing. It is merely a *composition* for the amount of fees that may be received; and taking into consideration the length of time in which it was proposed I should receive the fees, and the probable amount of them from the progress of the Hospital (under judicious management), it must be admitted to be a very small sum for such advantages. The grounds upon which I made this proposal, and which were communicated in writing to Mr. Howship, and marked *private*, were these: that the duties of the Hospital were more likely to be duly and cheerfully performed and amity maintained by a perfect equality of the officers; that however just it might be felt to be on the part of whoever might become my colleague to refrain from receiving any fees for the time specified, yet that to toil on month after month, and year after year, in the performance of duties, the return for which would be continually appropriated to another's benefit, was likely to lead to a laxity of attention and a diminution of zeal; that by an equality being established each surgical officer would be entitled to lecture on their branch of the profession, and thus to divide the emoluments derivable from their class, and that the pupils might have the advantage of two instructors in the same branch, and benefit by the joint means of illustration of the same. To render these advantages, therefore, to the Hospital, and to make the duties more agreeable to the feelings of the colleague to be chosen, I proposed that, in lieu of receiving the whole of the emoluments, Mr. H. should present me with a sum by way of composition, and thereby become entitled to an equality of position, an equality in lecturing, and an equality of the fees derivable from every source connected with the surgical department. This was an arrangement strictly private in its nature, and in no way interfering with the objects of the Hospital, or any rules laid down by the Governors. That it was private is shown by Mr. H. being called upon to return the letters when the first negotiation (in 1832 I think) broke off; and that he did not then, or at the time of his election (September, 1834), or even after that, consider the transaction as at all unjustifiable is proved by the following fact—that he, shortly after having been appointed Visiting Surgeon by the Board of Governors, did ask me to promise him

my influence in support of his pupil, Mr. Turner, to become Assistant Surgeon when an opportunity presented. I replied that I could make no promise, but that it would certainly give me pleasure to do any thing that might prove agreeable to my colleague. He then added that, if that were effected, he should be able to obtain a portion of the amount he had paid to me. This person now presumes to state that he is not prepared to maintain that such a transaction is justifiable as a general principle; and I therefore leave the Governors and Subscribers to form an estimate of his veracity. I find that at this time he regularly brought Mr. Turner with him to the Hospital, and, if necessary, that gentleman can be examined as to the matter; and he will be able to prove that Mr. H. has been in the habit of proposing to him a variety of things for pecuniary consideration, and even a partnership in his own professional engagements, and a joint property in his museum. Mr. Howship chooses to say that he has been "misled." He has indeed, but not by me. He is the willing tool of designing men to endeavour to blast the character of one who is obnoxious to them from his determination to resist tyranny, and to see the charitable objects of the Governors and Subscribers of the Institution carried into effect. Considering the whole of Mr. H.'s conduct in the business, I would apply to him a remarkable passage in the works of one of the ablest English writers, addressed to a "certain Esquire." "You are wholly out of my danger: the weapons I use will do you no hurt; and to that which would keep nicer men in awe you are insensible. A needle against a stone wall can make no impression. Your faculty lies in making bargains: stick to that." But, to return to the arrangement between Mr. H. and myself, I contend that it is to be looked upon simply as a composition and nothing else; and this is shown by the manner in which I performed my part of the contract, for I desired the Director to pay over to Mr. H. an equal portion with myself, which has been done, from the moment of Mr. H.'s connection with the Hospital. Mr. H. says he was principally governed by the desire of being Surgeon to an Institution which he had reason to believe would one day become one of the most distinguished Hospitals of the metropolis. What his desire was we cannot know, nor does it signify—what he paid the money for is the point; and this, I think, has most clearly been shown to be for the receipt of half the fees from the admission of Pupils to the Hospital, and to an equal participation in the fees derivable from the Lectures; for it must be borne in mind that, without my concurrence, Mr. H., being only the Visiting-Surgeon, could not have been permitted to deliver any part of the Surgical Lectures; as the Senior or rather the only Surgeon of the Hospital, the duty of teaching that branch of study, according to

the Laws of the Hospital, was vested exclusively in me. These, the consequences of his agreement, have been most rigidly fulfilled. That he was actuated by this consideration is also apparent from his stating to me a sum of money paid at another Hospital, and drawing his inferences as to the respective value. He wished to reduce the amount to £300, and I declined the proposal, regarding the probable amount of fees, &c., to be received during five years as being in value far exceeding that sum. This was the cause of the negociation (as he called it, to Dr. Shearman) being broken off; and he, not I, renewed the subject in 1834, and expressed his willingness then to accede to my former proposition. It would have been more advantageous for me to have received the whole of the fees for the five years, rather than compounded as I did; but a variety of circumstances of a private nature rendered the receipt of £500 to me at that moment a matter of personal convenience. Now, I beg of the Governors and Subscribers to remark that I did not disguise this from the Director. He told the Special Committee that he received a letter from me alluding to the same, and that he suspected there was a transaction of the kind going on. He says he communicated the same (though conveyed to him *privately*) to Dr. Shearman and to Mr. Robertson. None of these gentlemen said one word to me on the subject; although I had laboured with them for years, and with great assiduity, they none of them ever said a word to me about it. If they held it wrong, surely they should have noticed it and prevented it; and I am sure that the explanation I have now given would have then satisfied them, whatever may be the case at the present time.* I am persuaded that not a word would have been said on the matter had I not complained of various things in the management of the Hospital and School.

It is curious to find that although this composition for my fees, admission to lectures, &c., is urged as a serious charge, yet the laws of the Hospital recognize pecuniary transactions in this respect; for it is expressly stated that, in the event of any teacher resigning or dying whilst a teacher at the Medical School, he is entitled to receive, if resigning, from his successor, a sum equivalent to the clear receipts resulting from his exertions during the twelve months immediately preceding his resignation; and, if dying, his widow or administrator to a like sum; and if not demanded by either, then the Secretary can claim it after the lapse of three years for the funds of the Charity.

* Dr. Sigmond heard of the transaction, and mentioned it at the time to Dr. Golding; but that gentleman and Dr. Shearman have the most convenient memories for things they choose to recollect, but no further. Dr. Sigmond even states the room in which he had the conversation with Dr. G., but Dr. G. knows nothing about it!

I now submit, most confidently submit, this subject to the consideration of the Governors and Subscribers at large, and I trust that they will not fail to look back and review my character previous to and during the period I have been connected with their Institution. This has been a period of not less than fourteen years, and, during which time, until the Hospital came into operation, I have received no pecuniary emoluments whatever, nor have I been benefitted by any intercourse with the Governors, with whom it has not been my good fortune to hold any communication. Every thing that I could do to promote the welfare of the Hospital I have done—my family have lent their exertions, and I have left nothing undone which it was in my power to do, to promote the prosperity of the Institution. I have uniformly sacrificed personal advantages for the general good. I have supported the Medical School far beyond all my colleagues, by my Collection of Preparations, without which it could not have gone on. And here allow me to contrast my conduct with that of Mr. Howship, and this will also explain how the charge against me of having sold the appointment came to be brought forward. When the preparations were to be arranged in the Museum, I found that Mr. H. had ordered particular locks to be put upon the cases in which his were to be contained. I had, in common with my colleagues, conceived that the whole were to be arranged in an order calculated to give instruction to the pupils, and that they would be used in common by all the teachers of the School. I objected to Mr. H.'s preparations being placed in the Museum, unless agreeably to this feeling; and he, determining on a selfish appropriation, declined to do so, or to permit any body to use them but himself, or at his especial loan—a condition that no gentleman could submit to—notwithstanding I had admitted him to half the Surgical Course. He complained to Dr. Golding upon the subject of my remonstrance, and said he did not consider he was bound to this when he gave me the £500. But I need not say any thing further respecting Mr. H.

Having thus disposed of the Charge preferred against me, I must recapitulate a few points, and next direct attention to the manner in which the subjects under consideration have been proceeded with; and this will point out to the Governors the necessity of looking into the management of the Hospital.

That personal feelings instigated the enquiry I have alluded to is evident from a variety of circumstances. Thus Dr. Golding says he suspected the transaction in 1832, and noticed it to his colleague Dr. Shearman, and to Mr. Robertson. Mr. Howship told Dr. Shearman that the negotiation was broken off. In 1834, it was renewed; and, upon the election of Mr. H. taking place, Dr. G. is desired by me to pay to Mr. H. an equal portion of all receipts belonging to the Surgical Department. Dr. G. and

Dr. S. admit that they gave to me the nomination of the person I should like to be my colleague. They think me entitled to stand in a different position from one who has not spent years in promoting the erection of the building but they cannot recollect (I perfectly can) stating the term of five years. Why else should I have mentioned this period to Mr. H? He admitted the justice of the arrangement, and, after a time, acceded to my proposals. Now, Dr. Golding knew from my letter that it would be to me "a personal convenience;" and will he venture to say that he could otherwise than feel that an arrangement had been made by Mr. H. with me, when I gave up to him immediately upon his election an equality, not only of money derivable from all sources in the Surgical Department, but also an equality of rank in the printed papers of the Hospital, and an equal right to the admission of cases? Could he imagine it likely that I should labour for upwards of twelve years to form the Institution, during which time it was incapable of yielding any emolument, and that when this point had been obtained, and the prospect of a tolerable addition to my income created, I should so entirely forget what was due to my own interests and to the support of my large family, which Dr. G. knew rested entirely upon my own professional exertions, as to forego, voluntarily forego, one half of the amount, without receiving any equivalent? Dr. G. knows too well the value of money, and is too close in all his pecuniary transactions, to have given me or any one else credit for so much disinterested generosity. Then, again, look at his own statement, that he wrote to Dr. Shearman, upon hearing from Mr. H. that he had given to me £500, and this letter is dated, November 2d, 1835. In what way was the matter brought forward? Why, by being put as an abstract question—put *after* dissensions had arisen with respect to the management of the Medical School—put for the opinion of the teachers, to know whether it be justifiable or not, in any officer, to barter away the appointments of the Hospital. I knew that this was an attempt to take an unfair advantage, to be afterwards used for some wicked purpose. I saw to what it pointed, although I could not have suspected that any one could have been guilty of so base a breach of confidence as to have communicated such a transaction as having taken place. I objected to such questions being proposed, and urged that if there was any case of the kind, or grounds to suspect such a case, that the fair and manly way was to state it, and that it should be taken before the Governors at large. This was, however, declined; and will it be believed that Mr. Howship either proposed or seconded (I do not know positively which) a resolution to declare that such a proceeding was improper and unjustifiable? From this time I refused to attend any more meetings of the Medical Committee until the offensive

resolution was expunged. Well, there it stood, and there it stands now; but it is singular to remark the distance of time that was permitted to elapse by Dr. Golding before this matter, so *serious* as it has been styled, was taken into consideration. Dr. G.'s letter to Dr. S. was November 2d, 1835; his proposition to the Medical Committee, May 2d, 1836. It was my intention to bring it myself before the Governors. I told my colleagues I should. I applied to the Secretary to get a meeting. I was at length told I must get six Governors to sign a requisition for the purpose. This is not a very easy matter when it is considered that no person is a Governor who has not paid Forty Guineas,* and that the class of persons subscribing this amount are, of all others, the least likely to interfere in the management of the Hospital, or to mix themselves up with any disputes. I resolved, therefore, as an Annual General Meeting was soon to take place, to leave the matter to that opportunity. This meeting can, most improperly, be held whenever it pleases the Committee, or rather the Director and Honorary Secretary; and it was in this instance most artfully contrived to be held on the 1st of August, when most of the Governors would be away from town.† And now look at the manner in which I was to be prevented bringing forward the matter at the Board. At the end of the Report presented to that meeting was appended a notice expressive of the regret of the Committee that dissensions among the Medical Officers had arisen, and that some circumstances affecting the well-being of the Hospital had occurred; and they recommended (though according to the Laws they possess the power of enquiring into and regulating these matters themselves) a Special Committee to investigate these circumstances and misunderstandings, and I therefore did not urge the subject to the General Meeting. I expressed my dissatisfaction at the manner in which it was proposed to conduct this Committee; but as I was told, and Dr. Sigmond was told likewise, that we should have every opportunity afforded us to bring forward any complaint we thought proper, and as we understood that the subject could afterwards, if deemed necessary, be made a matter of appeal to a Board of Governors, the resolution for a Special Committee was carried; and then, to my astonishment, Dr. Golding delivered in a list of persons to form that Committee. He enquired if I had any name to propose; but that I told him I could not think of doing in a matter which personally concerned myself. He had no such scruples, he had no such delicacy, as I shall now show. The Committee consisted of the Rev. J.

* Or paid twenty guineas prior to 1833, but the lists do not specify the payments so made.

† The original law of the Institution declares that this meeting shall be held in every year during the last week in March, April, May, or June.

W. Worthington, the Rev. W. Lambert, W. Green, Esq., G. Stephen, Esq., E. Downes, Esq., J. Lavies, Esq., J. Wood, Esq., G. Canton, Esq., W. Cawthorn, Esq., N. Clarke, Esq.

First, of the Chairman, the *Rev. J. W. Worthington*.—This gentleman is only an Honorary Governor, and I hold it to be indelicate and improper for any one in this position to take an active part in the internal management; it should be left to those who have paid their money to the support of the Hospital. All the Honorary Governors have been made at the suggestion of Dr. Golding, or the Honorary Secretary, and are therefore, unless free from the usual weaknesses of our nature, liable to be biassed in their opinions upon questions relating to the individual by whom they have been proposed. Mr. W. does not appear to have formed an exception to this general rule, for he exhibited himself a most active partizan. It was so grossly manifested as to call for, on my part and that of Dr. Sigmond, marks of decided disapprobation. We protested against his perpetual interference. In stating the charge against myself, he was most manifestly partial and unjust, and this conduct was only equalled by the pertinacity and obstinacy with which he defended himself. His interruptions were perpetual. His attempts to confuse and explain away any thing likely to operate against Dr. Golding were incessant. This is not the proper conduct of a Chairman; it is inconsistent with the impartiality that ought to characterise him.

2. *The Rev. W. Lambert*.—This gentleman is only a Life-Supporter of the institution, an Honorary distinction given to him for some services rendered, but which position does not entitle him to take part in the proceedings of a General Meeting. How he came, therefore, to be present at one, or to be put upon the list of a Special Committee is unaccountable; and I must say that his presence has vitiated the whole of the proceedings, and cannot be admitted according to the laws of the Institution.

3. *Mr. Green*.—This gentleman is a druggist in Tothill Street, Westminster. He supplies the Hospital with drugs. The quality of these (of which Dr. Sigmond made very just complaint) was to be investigated at this committee, but was not pressed on account of Mr. G.'s presence. He was objected to at the General Meeting, but he was urged to lose all sense of delicacy and insist upon serving. I expressly noticed it to him at the first meeting of the committee; and, although I gave the reason at his own specific request, it had no effect. He has for a very long time been an intimate of Dr. Golding, and he therefore continued to attend and to be present at all the meetings. This is in opposition to a law of the Institution, which states that "no benefactor or governor whilst serving the charity, or who has so recently served it that his bill or account has not

been audited or ordered to be paid, is to be a member of the Committee."

4. *Mr. Stephen* is an Honorary Governor. This gentleman appears only to have attended a part of one of the meetings, and not to have been present when the Committee came to their decision.

5. *Mr. Downes* is a very old supporter of the charity. He attended two meetings only, and was not present at the decision.

6. *Mr. Lavies* is a surgeon and apothecary in Westminster, and a very old intimate of Dr. Golding. He did not attend the first two meetings, at which principally the question relating to Mr. Howship and myself was investigated; yet he appears to have been at the divisions upon the same. It may, perhaps, be contended that the minutes would afford him the necessary information to form his opinion. It is no such thing; they were *mutilated*, and so thoroughly imperfect that a protest of Dr. Sigmond and myself was directed to be entered against them.

7. *Mr. Wood*, a currier in Newport Street, is another intimate and patient of Dr. Golding. He attended all the meetings.

8. *Mr. Canton* is the dentist in St. Martin's Lane, an old and very intimate friend of Dr. Golding. He stands in the list as Dentist of the Institution; if so, he is an officer, and surely therefore ought not to have been a member of such a Committee.

9. *Mr. Cawthorn*.—This gentleman's name does not appear in the printed list of Governors, but I find that he was made an Honorary Governor by the Committee on the 2d July, 1836, when Mr. Everth, also an Honorary Governor, was in the chair, and the other persons present were Mr. Canton, Dr. Golding, and the Honorary Secretary. He is said to have assisted much at the late Musical Festival, and therefore made a Life-Governor. Not one month, it will be seen, had elapsed from his being made a Governor; and at the very first meeting he could attend he is named to be a member of a Special Committee, when he must of necessity be quite ignorant of the affairs or condition of the Hospital, and certainly most indecently thrust forward to enquire into the character or conduct of its officers.

10. *Mr. Clarke is the brother-in-law of Dr. Golding.*

Here then is the Committee, and these gentlemen all named by Dr. Golding and Mr. Robertson to sit in judgment upon the dissensions among the Medical Officers, to determine the characters of them, the management of the Hospital, and the condition of the drugs and the establishment altogether. It is a **PACKED COMMITTEE**, and a disgrace to those who nominated them. Well indeed might Dr. Sigmond and myself complain of their partiality and their partizanship; but they have carried it too far, the Governors at large can never submit to such a proceeding. It cannot be matter of astonishment that any decision to which

they have arrived should be protested against, and it will be seen that they have not confined themselves to the subjects they were to embrace. They have held that the words so artfully introduced appoint them not only to take into consideration the dissensions among the officers and some circumstances affecting the well-being of the Hospital, but also give to them *full power to decide thereon*, entitle them to go the length they have done, and dispense with the services of two of the Professional Officers of the Hospital, and this too without appeal to the Board of Governors. I hereby solemnly protest against this gross tyranny and usurpation worthy only of the most despotic times. According to the laws (which have been most religiously kept in manuscript and never been printed for the information of the Governors), the General Court has paramount jurisdiction and authority over every thing connected with its laws, rules, &c. It is directed to be held on all important occasions for the consideration of *weighty matters*, election of officers, &c. The dismissal of any officer I contend is a weighty matter and must of necessity rest with the elective body—the Governors at large; and I am sure no body of independent Governors would for one moment think of vesting any such power in the hands of a few, nor would any few of proper feeling ever think of exercising such a power. Had a properly-constituted and unprejudiced Committee felt the circumstances brought under their notice to be such as to call for censure or any measure of severity, they would of course have represented to a Board the feelings that impressed them upon the enquiry, and have left to that Board the inflicting of any punishment, or at least have afforded to those who are destined to be the subjects of it a proper source of appeal. The proceeding is too gross and monstrous, and destroys itself. Here are the services of two gentlemen standing high as professional men and as teachers—one for a period of fourteen years, and the other of not much less—to be set aside by *eight* individuals (for that was the number present at the decision), relatives and intimates of parties concerned, *Honorary* Governors, &c. &c.,—their decision to be paramount to all other jurisdiction. Is this to be borne? Certainly not. *And I therefore call upon the Governors and the Subscribers, for they too must raise their voices to assist me in unmasking this infamous job, and placing the Charity upon the only true and honest basis on which it can stand, if it is to do justice to the intentions of its supporters and the demands of the public. I will incessantly labour until this be accomplished; and I beg therefore of all who read this Address to forward to me their names, if they feel disposed to co-operate in any way with me in effecting this good and essential work.*

The enquiry made by the Committee into the gross misman-

agement of Dr. Golding and the Honorary Secretary has been most imperfectly gone into—not a nurse of the Wards, or a Pupil, or a Patient has been examined to verify or disprove the statements brought forward by Dr. Sigmond and myself. We have fully shown, and we can bring a host of credible witnesses to prove the facts alleged, and to show a mismanagement far beyond what it is possible to conceive could really exist. The want of bandages, splints, tourniquets, and other instruments, I have already noticed. The arrangement and appointment of servants in the building are not less to be censured. There is at this time a cook who does not understand the dressing of meat, and who was brought into the hospital for a cut throat inflicted by herself. We have had drunken nurses, an epileptic patient even made a nurse, though by an Act of Parliament that is a disease not permitted to be admitted into any Hospital. And, in short, look to whatever department you will, abundant matter for correction will present itself.

The HONORARY SECRETARY—and this Officer is a downright curse to all Institutions; for when a man performs his duty he ought to be paid, and we are able to pay a Secretary, and then he would be always at his post to reply to enquiries; whereas the present one is a clerk in a public office, and therefore unable to be present except after certain hours, when persons are least likely to apply at the Hospital for information. And this Honorary Secretary I find is really, according to a vote of the Committee, though I do not perceive that it has received the sanction of a General Court, nor is he printed in such a capacity, but he is, according to a vote of the Committee, the SUB-TREASURER,* and is empowered to sign all cheques as such. Mr. Drummond consented to take upon himself the office of Treasurer, but wished not to take an active part in the duties of signing cheques, and the Rev. Dr. Richards, the other Treasurer, has removed from the neighbourhood, and unfortunately, from age and infirmities, unable to give his assistance in the proceedings, or be present at any of the meetings; so that this duty of signing the cheques devolves upon the Honorary Secretary. This resolution emanated from a Committee, at which only two members were present besides Dr. Golding and the Honorary Secretary himself.†

* *Query.*—What General Court created such an Officer?

† The following is a statement of attendances at the Committee Meetings for one year:—

Oct. 25, 1834,	Two Members present, besides Dr. Golding and the Hon. Sec.
Dec. 28, ,	Two Members, Dr. Golding, the Hon. Sec., and Dr. Shearman.
Jan. 31, 1835,	One Member, Dr. Golding, the Sec. and Dr. Shearman.
April 25, ,	Ditto, Dr. Golding, Dr. Shearman, and the Sec.
July 25, ,	Two Members, Dr. Golding and Dr. Shearman.

Making an attendance of eight Members (but only five individuals) of the Committee in the year, and this year the first of its operation as a Hospital!

Now I contend that all these matters, and a multiplicity of others I could name, do need the interference of the Governors, and the establishment of a Board to conduct the proceedings of the Hospital. For this Board, to meet weekly, Dr. Sigmond and myself have most fruitlessly contended ; and it was not until the last General Meeting, when, knowing from our repeated communications that we intended to urge it, it was introduced as a recommendation in the Report. I congratulated the Meeting upon it, as a means of correcting abuses that had existed, and I trusted to its sparing me the unpleasant detail I have made ; but I soon saw, from the opposition with which a proposition I made was met, that this hope was without foundation. I proposed that the Board should not be restricted to the members of the Committee (twelve in number), inviting only the Patrons and Vice-Patrons—persons who, from their situation in life and their other duties, could not possibly be expected to attend at such meetings, to look to the articles of diet (all of which are now ordered by Dr. Golding, and not contracted for by a Committee as in all other Institutions,) to examine the wards of the Hospital, to see into the condition of the patients, to admit and to dismiss them, to ascertain how far they were satisfied with their treatment whilst within its walls, &c. &c. ; and I proposed that it should be open to every annual Subscriber of Four Guineas, which entitles to the admission of In-patients. No ; I could not carry this. Will it be credited that at the General Meeting there was not even an individual to second it ? For Dr. Sigmond, having become an officer of the Hospital at a period posterior to myself, is by a law deprived of the right of becoming a Governor, whatever may be the amount he may please to subscribe. However, I did obtain an assent that any Life-Governor might be present ; but this is too great a restriction for the purposes of the charity. If its influence is to be increased, if the number of its supporters is to be augmented, the Board must be thrown open to the Subscribers. The exertions of active members will thus be obtained, and their exertions are paramount to all pecuniary consideration.

I shall here close this Address ; and I trust that I have fully shown that the Charing Cross Hospital has been subjected to exceedingly bad management, and that there are many abuses to correct. I trust I have also successfully vindicated my own character, and that I may safely defy the slander of the world and the machinations of artful and wicked men, who have attempted to cast a stain upon my honour, to promote their own base and tyrannical views. I rely with the greatest confidence on the opinion which shall be formed by the Governors, and the Subscribers, and the Members of my own Profession, upon the perusal of this hastily written address, which has been hurried to

a degree quite painful to my feelings, as being injurious to its full and proper effect ; but I could not lose a moment in endeavouring to remove any suspicion or imputation that might be supposed to rest upon my character.

T. J. PETTIGREW.

Saville Row, August 22d, 1836.

P. S.—I deem it needless to notice the various personal annoyances to which I have been subjected, or the means resorted to, to check my desire to comply with the regulations of the Royal College of Surgeons. There has never been any thing like the complement of patients required since the recognition of the Hospital was obtained. Future opportunities will doubtless offer for considering this matter.

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