

**An introductory address on the future of St. Thomas's Hospital : delivered at the Hospital in the Surrey Gardens, on the occasion of the opening of the session of its Medical and Surgical College, October 1st, 1862 / by John Syer Bristowe.**

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# INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

ON THE

## FUTURE OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

DELIVERED AT

THE HOSPITAL IN THE SURREY GARDENS,

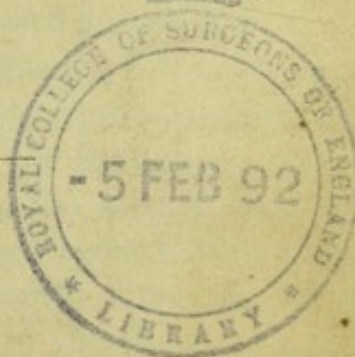
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE SESSION OF ITS  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL COLLEGE,

OCTOBER 1st, 1862.

BY

JOHN SYER BRISTOWE, M.D., LOND.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN TO, AND LECTURER ON MATERIA MEDICA,  
AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.



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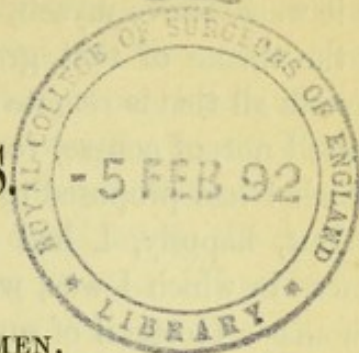
OCTOBER 1918

CHICAGO, ILL.

1918



## ADDRESS.



MR. TREASURER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I passed, this morning, by our old Hospital, and saw it deserted, dismantled and in ruins. I felt a deep pang as I watched the work of demolition going on, in that place, with which so many years of my life have been intimately associated, and which has for me so many bright memories.

For there, seventeen years ago this day, I commenced those studies which were to make me a physician ; and there, for seventeen years continuously, I have pursued them. That was the scene of my early struggles, my defeats, my successes. There, the ambitious yearnings, of my younger days, began to take definite form ; and there, too, have seen their imperfect, but not to me I hope disappointing, fulfilment. There, above all, I have made many true friends, have met kind hearts, pure spirits, rare intellects, whose intercourse has made my career pleasant to me, whose influence over me has, I believe, been powerful for good. There, too, four years since, I had the honour of addressing the pupils of this school, on a similar occasion to the present.

I recollect, how then, for the first time, I stood an orator in that grand old Hall ; in which, from the period of my pupilage, I had listened, year by year, to words of greeting from the lips of teachers, now my friends and colleagues ; in which, I was encompassed by the memorials of the innumerable benefactors of the institution ; and in which, I was mysteriously overshadowed by the mighty dead, my predecessors, whose wisdom, shadowy and vast, seemed still a living influence. I recollect, how then, I stood amidst buildings, which had been hallowed by the bounty of kings, by the charity of nameless generations, by the prayers and thanksgivings of the tens of thousands who had partaken of the benefits of the Hospital ; by buildings, in which Cheselden, and Akenside and Fordyce, in which Cline, and Travers and Tyrrel had taught and laboured. And I



recollect, how, influenced by the sanctity of the place, I strove to rise, as it were, above myself, and in my uttered thoughts to pay homage at the shrine of that grandeur, with which the mind unconsciously invests all that is remote and dim and shadowy, in space and in time. I need not, of course, recal how infinitely I fell short of the standard which I had proposed to myself.

But, happily, I had no thought then that the time-honoured place, in which I was, would soon be sold to strangers; that the St. Thomas's Hospital of my fathers, and of my own early days, was ere long to be levelled with the ground; and that the place thereof should soon know it no more.

It is fascinating to dwell on the past, even when the retrospect brings with it regrets and sorrows; but it is weakness and folly to indulge immoderately in such feelings. Man was made for the future. Having paid, therefore, one tribute of affection to the memory of my old Alma Mater, having bestowed one fond lingering look on the waning features of the dear old Hospital, in which I, and so many around me, have been educated, and have worked; I turn resolutely away, and give myself up, wholly, to the practical duties which are before me.

I beg then, ladies and gentlemen, to welcome you to this pleasant garden, in which St. Thomas's Hospital and School have taken up their temporary abode. This garden also, in addition to its obvious charms, has its reminiscences. It would be ungracious in me not to recal them. Here, when I was child, Flora and Fauna (if this parvenue have any right to take her position among the Goddesses), held divided sway. To the dens of wild beasts, succeeded ere long a magnificent hall, dedicated to the worship of the muses, especially her of the many twinkling feet. Within it, subsequently, Thackeray uttered hard judgments on our Hanoverian Georges, and Spurgeon thundered denunciations against the sins and follies and gaities of a degenerate age. But a nobler destiny was yet in store for the Gardens and for the Hall,—nobler, by so much as practical benevolence and good deeds surpass all the selfish enjoyments, all the talking, all the preaching in the world. And that which was once devoted to amusement, and for a time to the worship of the Almighty, has become a refuge and an asylum for God's suffering creatures.

I do not attempt to conceal my regret, that we have left our Hospital in the Borough; but regarding our departure thence as an accomplished fact, and bearing in mind, that prior to that event, no



provision had been made for the establishment of a permanent Hospital, I cannot refrain from saying, that under the difficult circumstances in which they have latterly been placed, the Governors have, in my opinion, shown a wise discretion, and a proper sense of their obligations to the public, in determining to erect a temporary Hospital, and temporary School-buildings in these grounds. The site, which they have selected, is certainly the best which could, under the circumstances of the case, have been chosen. It may have some drawbacks ; but it has, on the other hand, many and great advantages. It has advantages of position, advantages of space, and advantages of beauty, both natural and acquired. The latter especially are striking, and must approve themselves to everyone who feels any interest in the well-being of the establishment. The Hospital which has risen here, "as from the stroke of the enchanter's wand," though of course, not equal in extent and in accommodation to the one we have had to quit, is still, not only a handsome building, but well adapted for the purposes it is intended to subserve. It is still far superior, in every point of view, to the majority of the London Hospitals. The School-buildings too, which have been erected with so much despatch, are commodious and ample ; and I shall be much surprised, if those pupils, who have migrated hither with us, do not find that their comforts and requirements have been carefully and well and liberally considered.

I have said there may be objections to the place, but it is neither my duty nor my inclination to magnify them, or to make grievances of them. Every institution, every thing under the sun, has defects. But no one, except an enemy, or an injudicious friend, would care to draw attention to them, unless he had, in so doing, the ulterior object of suggesting, or of applying a remedy, or an antidote. In this case, however, the most serious objection of all is so patent, so notorious, that I conceive, by speaking of it here, I am in no degree departing from the spirit of the rule, which I have just enunciated. I refer to the fact, that the arrangements which I have been lauding, are only temporary after all ; and that what the final destination of this great institution is to be, remains still, so far as we know, wholly undetermined.

Uncertainty as to the future has been, for the last year or two, of the most serious detriment to the prosperity and popularity of our School ; and it is scarcely probable that this adverse influence will decrease, during the two or three years to come. The future of the



Hospital is, at the present time, and from a broader point of view than that merely of the Medical School, the most serious and momentous question with which the Governors have to deal ; it is a question to which everyone connected with the Institution has probably devoted at least some thought, and on which he has formed some kind of opinion ; it is a question too, as it seems to me, in reference to which it is scarcely possible that selfish or personal considerations can actuate, in the adoption of views, or in the expression of them, any body of men (I do not say individuals), whether they be the Governors on the one hand, or the Medical Officers on the other, whether they be delegated by the public to act as their trustees, or whether they be appointed by the Governors to carry out the objects of the charity ; and yet, unfortunately, it is a question on which, between those who should have acted in concert, differences of opinion have arisen ; and, I fear, not differences of opinion only. It is a fact, which it would be mere affectation to disguise, that not merely on the present occasion, but for some years back at least, there has not been, between the Medical Officers and the Governors, that cordiality which there ought to be, and which is so conducive to the harmonious, and efficient working of an institution of this kind. I am myself less surprised that differences should exist between them, than that there should be cordial co-operation. When the Governors have tried to obtain the opinions of the medical men on points of importance, and have seemed to obtain from them opinions at variance with one another, or opinions which have been subsequently repudiated, it is not very strange that the Governors should come to regard those, whom they assume to have given them, as capricious and impracticable. When, on the other hand, men have devoted, for years, their best energies to the practical duties of a Hospital, and have consequently been led to form strong opinions on questions of importance, upon which Governors are called to decide, it cannot be cause for surprise that their trust in the Governors should be shaken, when they find their opinions at one time ignored, at another time misunderstood and misapplied. The truth is that the relationship between them is not of a nature to conduce to mutual confidence and appreciation. Individual Governors and individual Medical Officers know one another, and sentiments of personal esteem and good-will exist between them. But the Governors as a body, and the Medical Officers as a body, do *not* know one another. They are rarely brought into contact ; and, even then, the manner of com-



munication is seldom one that can lead to a very satisfactory result. Thus, on points about which it is absolutely necessary that there should be some interchange of opinions; at one time, a desultory epistolary correspondence takes place fruitlessly, where five minutes' conversation would have led to a clear understanding; at another time, a member of the staff, it may be, not delegated by his colleagues, is consulted, and opinions, which may be peculiar to himself, and at variance probably with those of others, are assumed to represent the views of the Medical Officers. On rare occasions, a deputation is formed; and, I make bold to say (so far at least as we are concerned), that the results of this plan of communication are for the most part satisfactory.

It is I believe in a permanent deputation, so to speak, that the true remedy for this state of affairs exists. To be more explicit, it is my entire conviction—a conviction founded, not only on a careful, and I believe impartial, consideration of the question, but also on the experience of the most successful and best of our subscription Hospitals—that the true and efficient cure consists in the admission into the Hospital councils, with liberty to join in discussion, either of the Medical and Surgical staff, or of delegates from that body. I am quite sure, that by an arrangement of this kind, fairly carried out, the Governors would soon learn the real opinions of the Medical Officers, which they do not learn now; and that they would find themselves thereby materially aided in their deliberations, and in the performance of their duties. I am equally sure that feelings of mistrust would gradually cease, that apparently conflicting views would prove less irreconcilable than they seem to be, and that it would soon be discovered that all parties were equally striving, not to advance any personal object, but to enhance the efficiency, the prosperity and the reputation of the Hospital.

To return to the subject, from which I have allowed myself to digress—the future of St. Thomas's Hospital. The fate of this noble institution, so far at least as I know, is still undecided. Whether it is to take root in the soil to which it has been temporarily transplanted, or whether it is to be again removed to some other locality, and if so to what locality, are matters concerning which the Governors have hitherto not declared themselves. It is, therefore, not out of place for me to offer here some remarks, on the questions now at issue; premising that I have no intention of treating these questions exhaustively, and that, in what I have to say, I



shall chiefly limit myself to those among them which have a special interest.

There is no doubt that the primary object of a Hospital is the relief of the sufferings of the sick and injured poor. No sentimental platitudes can make this truth stronger than it is, no unfeeling comments (even if anyone were disposed to indulge in them) could avail to diminish its force. It is obvious, however, on comparing the Hospital accommodation of London, with the population, and with the numbers of sick and ailing poor, that a small proportion only, of these latter, can be admitted as patients into the Hospital-wards, and that the great bulk of them must rest content with such relief as the out-patient department provides, or become recipients of charity from other sources. It is clear that some selection must be made. The logic of necessity has determined for us the principle on which this selection has to be based. The principle of choice is *that*, which recognises a higher claim to admission in the victim of some accident or acute disease, than in the starving, or in him that labours under some chronic malady; it is *that*, which considers specially the wants of that class of patients whose cases are amenable to treatment, and demand for their successful issue those advantages of skill, and of hygiene, which a Hospital alone can adequately supply: it is *that*, which aims at *curing* A., B., and C., who are suddenly prostrated by sickness, in place of *providing an asylum* for D., who is sinking under the effects of some lingering, incurable complaint; it is *that*, which has for its object the effecting of the greatest possible amount of good, to the greatest possible number of sick persons. In short, a Hospital is, and ought to be, and is acknowledged to be, specially a place for the care and cure of the emergencies of disease and accident.

The secondary object of a Hospital is the education of medical men; but though secondary in some sense, it is certainly not the less important object. For, the immediate benefits of such an institution are conferred only on a limited and easily-calculable number of individuals; while on the good education of the younger members of our profession depend, in no small degree, the health and the lives of the population at large. But on this view of the question I need not dwell; for the Governors have generally shown great interest in the welfare and progress of the pupils of this Hospital, and a fair sense of the responsibilities which attach to them in connection with the school. Yet, let me point out, that, in the intimate association, in



the interweaving, as it were, of these two objects, a Hospital, as a place for the relief of sickness, attains its highest degree of usefulness, and a Medical School, as a place of education, reaches its highest phase of development. For, it is by the pupils, acting under the directions of the physicians and surgeons, that the patients are kept under constant and vigilant supervision; and by the performance of this duty that the pupils themselves acquire practical knowledge of their profession. It is by those young men, who, like my friend Mr. Hicks (the winner, lately, of such high, and well-deserved distinction in the examinations of the University of London), who, like him, have completed their term of nominal pupilage, that the minor responsible offices of the Hospital are so well filled; and, by the holding of such offices, that these young men themselves become competent to undertake higher professional responsibilities still. It is, in no small degree also, by the stimulus of the prying curiosity and criticism of the students, who accompany them, that the members of the staff are kept vigilant in the performance of their duties, and are prevented from lapsing into indifference and routine; and by their obligation to teach, that their own advance in knowledge is secured. Let me add that, in other respects than the mere medical attention to patients, to others besides the Medical Officers, a healthy stimulus is imparted, by the publicity, which the existence of a School of Medicine entails.

In what I have just said, my intention has been to express my belief, that the Hospital is equally a place for the tending of the sick, and for the instruction of the medical profession; but it has been also my intention to acknowledge, that the treatment of the sick is the essential fact, to which the School of Medicine is the appendage, that the treatment of the sick is the mould, so to speak, in which the school must be cast, the gauge to which the school must be accommodated; that if any conflict of interests occur (not, mark me, as interpreted by this person or by that, but real conflict), the possibility of which I doubt, the school must adapt itself to the requirements of the sick, and will secure its best interests in adopting such a course. With this conviction, in considering the best means of accomplishing the objects of a Hospital, I shall speak little, and only incidentally, of the school as apart from the infirmary.

The choice of locality for a Hospital is, doubtless, a question for serious consideration. A sufficiently healthy site is imperative. It would be quite unjustifiable, if selection be possible, to erect a



Hospital in a malarious or otherwise unhealthy spot. It would be worse than folly to add, knowingly, to the risks of those whose lives are already trembling in the balance. But, a great deal of stuff has been uttered and written, by medical men and others, about pure air.

If the overworked citizen falls into ill-health, he is recommended, indeed he takes on himself the responsibility of seeking, pure air; if his wife and children are ailing, he packs them off in search of pure air; if one of his family is convalescent from some acute or serious illness, or is threatened with phthisis, or some such dreaded disease, pure air again is sure to be prescribed. And away, according to circumstances, they fly—to the east, to the west, to the north, to the south, to the top of a hill, or to the bosom of a valley, to inland fields, or to the ocean's marge. They do right. In the majority of cases, no doubt, the result is satisfactory; the ailing becomes strong, the convalescent speeds to health, the victim of consumption gets his lease of life renewed. But, what is it that produces such beneficial effects in all these various cases? Is it, think you, in some electrical condition, which belongs to the air of the selected locality, that the healing virtue lies? Is it in the presence of ozone, which now seems to be the fashionable curative agent? Is it the diffusion of traces of iodine or other special elements? Is it in the absence of the unhealthy vapours which towns are supposed to yield? Is it in some occult influence which the eye of faith alone is capable of discerning? *Credat Judæus!* Mark me; I don't mean to assert that pure air is nothing, that there is no such thing as foul and poisoned air, that there is no such thing as resultant ill-health and death. I know that ague-poison charges the atmosphere here, that the lethal miasm of yellow-fever saturates it there; I know that when houses stand like bell-glasses over cesspools and such abominations, that when workmen labour in the noxious fumes of arsenic, of mercury, of lead, and of numberless other substances, sickness and, it may be, death, are the natural results. I know, too, that in the teeming tenements of the poor, aye, and at times in the wards of a Hospital, the air reeks with the poison of infectious diseases. But I know that most of these sources of ill-health exist only in the premises which breed them, that some are adventitious, that few are inherent in the soil. I know that almost all of them are remediable by measures within our reach; and I know that London, yes, and even that portion of it south of the Thames, in which we are, does not,



apart from accidental and controllable conditions, merit the stigma of insalubrity which people are so fond of affixing to it.

We are apt to forget that change of air involves numberless other changes. The overworn and anxious citizen, whom I have cited, goes to the seaside; he throws off all his cares, he eats, he drinks, he sleeps, he lies fallow. The little urchin, bursting with suppressed spirits, pining for exercise, eteolated by confinement, gives, in the country, full play to all his teeming functions. The invalid passes out of his monotonous and sickly chamber, and wakes to new life among the fresh and ever-changing beauties of nature, revels in the exercise of long-dormant powers, and strengthens them by their exercise. Think you that "long rest and blissful ease," early hours, plentiful sleep, wholesome and wholesomely-consumed food, and outdoor amusement and exercise according to one's taste or needs, are not sufficient to bring back health? Unquestionably they are; and, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, it is to these, and not to any peculiarity of atmosphere, that the restoration to health and to vigour is due.

Still, there are a few cases in which the air must be really, to some extent, credited with the amelioration of the patient's health. But the cases are mostly special. Thus, there are certain constitutions and certain diseases which are benefited by an atmosphere peculiarly dry; others thrive best where moisture is the predominant quality; some natures are best suited by warmth, others by cold, and others again by uniformity of temperature; there are even those—some asthmatics to wit—whom the much-maligned air of London better suits than that of the country. But the old fable of the man and his ass warns us of the impossibility of satisfying everyone's requirements; and clearly, unless we propose to treat within its walls only certain forms of disease, a Hospital ought not to be erected, in satisfaction of some fanciful theory, upon any site presenting extreme peculiarities.

It may still be objected to my arguments:—"Oh! it is a recognised fact that patients in rural Hospitals, especially after operations, recover much more quickly, and altogether more favourably, than patients do in the Hospitals of the Metropolis;" and, I know, many persons believe, that all patients would get well more speedily in the atmosphere of the country than in that of London. Such statements are easier made and believed (partly because they fall in with our prejudices) than they are proved or refuted. But allowing, for argument's sake, that



patients in country Hospitals do better, on the whole, than patients in London Hospitals, are we thence justified in concluding that the difference of result depends on atmospheric differences? No, certainly. If we compare rural Hospitals with Metropolitan ones, we shall find differences between them, quite apart from these, of a very important kind, and of themselves amply sufficient to account for the different issues of the cases, admitted respectively into each. Into the London Hospitals are received, chiefly, the denizens of the town, men working at unhealthy trades and in unhealthy rooms, overtasked and labouring far into the night, deteriorated in constitution in a hundred ways; the country Hospitals accommodate, for the most part, farm-labourers and others, whose mental toil is slight, and whose daily avocations promote health in place of affecting it injuriously. Is it surprising that the enfeebled frames, which claim admission into the former, do less satisfactorily than the healthy constitutions which find a refuge in the latter? Again, the cases admitted into the London Hospitals are both more serious and more acute. And we all know, that where infectious diseases are accumulated, the very accumulation breeds mischief; and we all know that, where accidents and operations are numerous, there is a greater tendency for erysipelas and pyæmia, and such-like diseases, to arise spontaneously and to spread, than where only one or two such cases lie promiscuously among many patients in less serious plight.

The truth of the matter lies in a nut-shell. Good, pure air is of infinite service to patients suffering from any kind of disorder, and impure air is highly detrimental to them. But the purity, which is wanted, is not the poetical purity of breezy-hills and balmy valleys, and the impurity, which is dangerous, is not (except in very rare cases indeed) the impurity of the atmosphere surrounding the Hospital, but the impurity of the atmosphere originating within the Hospital-walls. If a Hospital is to be made healthy, it is not by carrying it, at the sacrifice of the very objects of the charity, to some fancy site, to which some scarcely perceptible advantage in the death-rate has given a perhaps fallacious pre-eminence; but, by constructing suitable buildings, and by attending strictly to their internal arrangements. Just as moral purity (at least in its highest form) is not to be acquired by isolation from the world, but by accepting one's lot in life, and by fighting manfully with the temptations which beset it.

The experience of our London Hospitals goes far to confirm the truth of the views which I have just expressed. The accounts,



handed down to us, of the ravages of hospital-gangrene, and of other epidemic and endemic scourges, are appalling. When do we meet with such occurrences now? True, pyæmia and erysipelas occasionally infect our wards; but, their progress is almost invariably limited to the ward in which they have originated, and depends, as clearly as anything can do, on influences peculiar to the ward, and wholly independent of the circumambient atmosphere. Such occurrences, too, have always been most frequent, in our oldest, most crowded, worst-ventilated wards. The experience of the country, again, confirms the truth of these views. The superior natural health of the countryman is a fact, but the greater salubrity of his dwellings, is a myth. The poison of typhoid fever, and other malarious influences, cling to villages which have been planted in situations, designed by nature to be instinct with health. Carelessness and filth engender diseases there, which in London are dying out under the influence of sanitary improvements. The pure air of Heaven around them does not in many cases avail to maintain their standard of health, at a level with that even of the dens of St. Giles's.

I repeat the conclusion, at which I have arrived. Provided drainage be perfect, provided a Hospital be built and constructed on sound hygienic principles; it will be found as healthy, and as suitable for patients, in the centre of the most crowded district of London, as it would be if erected in a registrar-general's paradise.

Next, as regards the space of ground which a Hospital should occupy. On this head, I have no hesitation of course in admitting that, for many reasons, the more space one can obtain the better. But, I am far from thinking that a very large surface is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the patients. What is space wanted for? Essentially, I presume, for the erection of Hospital-buildings, and for the recreation and exercise of patients. Now, first, in reference to the Hospital-buildings: I, for one, think that they should stand on just so much ground as a compact, convenient, and ample Hospital, according to the number of beds, would seem to require. This statement of opinion sounds vague enough, I dare say; but what I mean to convey by it is, that there is no necessity in the world why a Hospital should be built on a straggling plan, or, to use a variolous expression, *discretely*. There is no reason of health, for example, why a Hospital should consist of a dozen detached or semi-detached groundfloors, any more than why the same dozen floors should be built in single file, one above the other, up



to the clouds. The cure of patients is no more likely to be effected expeditiously in scattered huts, then in a lofty pile. Thus, looking to our old Hospital, no one I suppose would venture to maintain that Elizabeth's ward, the lowest in the now dismantled north wing, was less salubrious because Mary's and Ann's wards were above it, or that Ann's, the highest, suffered from the fact that Mary's and Elizabeth's were below it, or that the condition of either of the three wards would have been influenced unfavourably by the superposition of fifty other similar wards. Startling schemes are not always to be commended. Second, as regards airing grounds for patients; there is no doubt that these are desirable, but they are far more important for a sanatorium, or convalescent institution, than for a general Hospital; because, for the most part, in the case of these latter, it generally happens, that when that stage has been reached, at which out-of-door exercise or air is desirable, the patients have to be discharged to make room for more pressing cases of disease. I repeat, airing grounds are necessary, and no Hospital can be complete without them; but they may be ample, without being extensive. Understand me, I by no means wish to imply, that it is unimportant to obtain as large an area as possible for the erection of a Hospital; but I mean to assert, that excess of space is a luxury, rather than a necessity; and that, in determining the site of a Hospital, the acquisition of redundancy of room should not be insisted on, to the sacrifice, or serious injury, of other important requirements.

Among other matters, on which the welfare of patients depends, are the nature and arrangement of the Hospital buildings, medical attendance, nursing, diet, and so on. Although all of these subjects are of the very highest importance, they have, none of them, at the present moment, that special interest, which the questions, I have already passed in review, possess. And I shall dismiss them, therefore, with a remark or two only. The immense importance of having properly constructed and arranged buildings, I have shown, in the course of my address, that I appreciate to the full; by placing this consideration, as I have done, far above mere questions of site, and mere questions of gardens. I have the less need to dilate on this subject, because it is one on which in the abstract, I have no doubt, both Governors and Medical Officers are fully agreed. I have little doubt, too, that the new Hospital, wherever it may be erected, will in itself be an excellent building. Nevertheless, I hope, in the interests of the institution, that before the Governors finally determine on any plan, they will



at least take into their consultations some one or two of my colleagues, whose opinions on such points are of the highest value, and who have devoted more time and thought to questions of this kind, than probably any of those with whom the ultimate decision lies. In reference to diet and nursing, I take this opportunity of remarking, that both have been much improved during the last few years; greatly to the comfort and advantage of the patients, and greatly also to the credit of the Hospital. I cannot, in connection with the system of nursing, forbear here to pay my tribute of regard to the excellent matron of the institution, Mrs. Wardroper, under whose zealous and able management, the improvements, to which I have referred, have been effected—improvements, in virtue of which the Sairy Gamps and Betsy Prigs, of bye-gone days, have been replaced by cleanly, well-conducted, trustworthy servants.

Next in point of importance to the welfare of the admitted patients, are the questions as to the convenience of applicants, and the means of securing the admission of suitable cases. A Hospital, place it where you will, can never be at a loss for applicants, deserving of charity; and, if the grand purpose of a Hospital be merely that of supplying food, and raiment, and lodging to a certain number of persons, the purpose is one of very easy accomplishment. But, I repeat, the acknowledged essential duty of a Hospital, is not to provide a home for the starving, the decrepid, the malingering, for whom the workhouse is the appropriate refuge; not even to furnish an asylum for the convalescent and the incurable, much as they are deserving of our sympathy and our benevolence; but to succour, as far as possible, the victims of acute, and curable diseases, and of accidents, who need prompt and skilful treatment to rescue them from imminent death, and to restore them to their families and friends. How shall the wants of such claimants as these be best consulted? By placing the Hospital, intended for their reception, in the midst of green pastures? Surely not! I have already shown, I believe, that no sufficient advantages of health can be adduced in favour of such a plan. Further, the statistics of the places of abode of the in- and out-patients of this Hospital, for the last year, show conclusively that two-thirds of the total number of cases, admitted for treatment, came from within a circle, around the Hospital, of two miles radius, and that of acute cases and accidents a still larger proportion was furnished by the same area. But it hardly needed statistics to prove that convenience of access must be, with the suffering poor, and especially



with those that are severely ill, the great determining point in their selection of a Hospital; and that, hence, of necessity, in moving from the centre to the circumference, from the denser to the sparser population, from the more accessible site to the less accessible, a Hospital must lose proportionately in influence, and general usefulness, and become finally, if still a Hospital, a merely local institution. If then, we would consult the convenience of the poor, and their emergencies, if we would wish the Hospital to continue a place of cure for cases of acute sickness, and of sudden injury; it seems to me manifest, that we must place it in the centre of some populous district, and near to leading lines of traffic; and, now too, that the poor of neighbouring counties avail themselves so largely of the facilities which railways afford, in close proximity, if possible, to one or more railway termini.

Among the rumours which are afloat, in reference to the future of the Hospital, there is one to the effect that the question of the division of the Hospital into two Hospitals has been entertained. The plan, to which I refer, is that of making a Receiving-House, or Hospital for urgent cases in London, and a second Hospital, for those who are convalescent, and for chronic cases, in the country. I sincerely hope that no such scheme may be carried into effect. I have endeavoured to show, and, I think, I have shown, that for the indoor recipients of the bounty of general Hospitals, well-ventilated, clean, uncrowded rooms are everything, country air little better than a delusion. There is, therefore, no sufficient sanitary need for this fissiparous process, and on sanitary grounds only, as it seems to me, could such a scheme have been proposed. The effect of it would be, to split up our noble Institution into two second- or third-rate Hospitals, one of which would probably at length fulfil in an imperfect degree the functions of the old St. Thomas's, while the other would gradually be appropriated to objects of another kind. If it should appear that the present Hospital accommodation of London is superabundant, and that a portion of it could be devoted, advantageously for the public, to the purposes of a sanatorium, or convalescent institution or asylum; then, even though the glory of St. Thomas's should thereby wane, the utility of the object to be gained by its division might be a sufficient argument in favour of the sacrifice. But, in fact, the Hospital accommodation of the Metropolis is not sufficient to satisfy the demands upon it: it has not even increased in anything like proportion to the growth of population. Hence, it seems to me,



that if a division of the Hospital should appear advisable at all, it would be infinitely preferable, in relation to the wants of the poor, to split it into two Metropolitan Hospitals for two distinct crowded districts, than to do with the one-half what would have the effect of diverting the benefits which it now bestows into other channels. The effect of such a dividing of the Hospital, on the Hospital as a Medical School, would be disastrous. I don't say that no instruction could then be gained within its walls, I don't say that no instruction would be sought there, but I do say that as a place for complete medical education each half would fail, and that St. Thomas's Medical School could never regain that high reputation which it once enjoyed, nor maintain that excellence as a place of education which it now possesses. It would never assume the rank which by right belongs to it.

The above arguments are directed against any plan which has for its object the disintegration of the Hospital; but not, if funds should ultimately permit, against the building of a sanatorium in addition, or against any other scheme which should seem likely to enlarge the usefulness of the charity. There are two such schemes which, I think, are deserving of consideration, and which, in quite different ways, would be found conducive to the interests of the public. The first of these is the formation of a sanatorium; the second is the institution of out-lying dispensaries. The importance of sanatoria has long been recognised. No one, who has become officially connected with a Hospital, can fail to have the necessity of such institutions forced on him. There are numbers of poor patients, who, after they have been cured of their maladies, remain for a lengthened period in enfeebled health; there are numbers of cases of chronic diseases, in which the sufferers require for their cure, little or no skilled medical treatment, and no Hospital supervision, but good diet, rest, the open air, and patience; there are numbers of persons, again, labouring under permanent ill-health, or from incurable disease, in whom careful attention to hygiene, and to special precautions of various kinds, may avail to prolong life, or to render existence supportable. What is to be done with them? Shall we admit them habitually into Hospitals, knowing that Hospitals are not the places appropriate for them? or, having found an asylum for them there, shall we retain them in it, when the sudden railway-smash claims, for its mutilated victims, the beds thus occupied? when the typhus-case is waiting for admission? when the victim of cholera is dying on the threshold? There is here a want, and that want has hitherto been very inadequately sup-



plied. I don't know that public charity could be now much better bestowed than in the relief of the class of invalids of whom I am speaking; I don't know that surplus funds, supposing a Hospital to have them, could well be expended in a more holy cause; and, undoubtedly, I should be pleased to see established, in connection with St. Thomas's, some plan for the fulfilment of this great object—but established, mark me, as an appendage, as an extension of it, as a crown to it, if you will; but not *out of it*, not at the expense and to the injury of the benefits which the Hospital now dispenses. I have purposely made use of the word plan; because, although I am inclined to believe that an erection in the country, or at the seaside, would be the best, as it would be the most striking and popular form, which this plan could assume; I can see, that without going to the expense of building at all, much, if not all, of the required good might be effected, by granting a weekly stipend to those whom we might wish to relieve, and by thus enabling them to enjoy peace of mind, bodily rest, country air, and sufficient nourishment, in perfect freedom and in their own way—by extending, in fact, the operations of our present Samaritan Institution.

The second scheme is of a totally different kind. It is that of making outlying dispensaries, in connection with the Hospital. The out-patient department of a Hospital is, though less important than the in-patient department, still extremely useful. It is useful too, in more ways than one. It provides substantial relief and comfort for a large number of poor persons who, though out of health, and, it may be, very seriously ill, still do not need, or do not wish, to be admitted into the wards. It forms, if well-managed, the best possible medium for insuring the admission of suitable cases—a kind of filter, which separates the malingering, the starving, and those in other respects unfit, from the acutely-ill and the curable. It provides, also, though this may be thought a less valuable use, a training institution, in which the younger members of the staff qualify themselves for the yet more important duties connected with the treatment of the indoor patients. The plan I here advocate is an extension of the out-patient department. It consists in the establishment, in connection with the central Hospital, of several—say three or four—dispensaries, each to be placed in the midst of some poor, populous neighbourhood; each to be administered by its own staff of officers appointed by the Hospital; and each to be supplied with ambulances, or proper facilities for the immediate and safe conveyance, night and day, of



serious cases (accidents or otherwise) to the central institution. The advantages of such an arrangement would be numerous :—1st. It would greatly extend the out-patient department ; 2nd. It might be made the means, to the great advantage of the poor themselves, of feeding the Hospital with the class of cases that most need Hospital care ; 3rd. It would provide, what has long been sadly needed, suitable means of transit for cases of emergency ; 4th. The medical appointments, being in the gift of the Hospital, might be made, in some degree, rewards, and thus subservient to the interests of those who have been meritorious pupils in the school ; and, lastly, these appointments might be made subservient to the interests of the Hospital itself ; for, valuable in themselves, and not necessarily leading to anything beyond, they would retain the better pupils in some kind of connection with their Alma Mater, and give to the Governors, in the filling up of Hospital appointments, a far better opportunity for selection than now exists. The expense of carrying out such a system would not be very great, and would, I am convinced, be more than counterbalanced by the benefits that would accrue from it.

I pass, almost naturally, from the subject of outlying dispensaries to that of special Hospitals, and the relation in which they stand to our own, and other general Hospitals. Special Hospitals are certainly liable to abuse, and have been very greatly abused. They have been established in many cases, not to supply a public want, but to bring fees into the promoters' pockets ; not to rescue from neglect some obscure or forgotten nook, so to speak, of medicine or surgery, but to give to those attached to them a spurious reputation ; not in the interests of charity and truth, but in the cause of selfishness and charlatanism. There is reasonable ground for the protest, against this abuse, made some little time since by many members of our profession, and for Sir Benjamin Brodie's letter on the subject. Still, no one can deny but that some of these special Hospitals have done great things. Eye-diseases, skin-diseases, deformities, and some other affections, have all emerged from the darkness of ignorance into daylight, under their auspices. Where shall we draw the line between those special Hospitals which are to be approved of, and those which are to be condemned ? To the question, in this form, I confess I see no practical answer. Special Hospitals have become a fact, and are now a necessity ; they have done good, and are capable of doing much harm. It is allowed that we cannot, if we would, hold back the commingled stream of good and evil. How shall we for-



cibly dissociate the impure flood from the pure waters through which it is diffused? Better, it seems to me, to let the stream flow on, and to counteract, as they arise, the evils which it bears with it, and if possible to utilize them. The world is a progressive one, and, generally, we do more real good in it, not by taking our stand on certain abstract principles, but by adapting ourselves to the changing circumstances of the times, and by recognising and seizing the vein of good that is in them. The kind of opposition which, I conceive, should be made to special Hospitals, consists not in opposing ourselves vainly to the principle of them, not in condescending to attack this or that particular institution which we, arbitrarily perhaps, assume to be mischievous, but in accepting the principle as a necessity of the times, and in instituting in our general Hospitals, and more especially in connection with the out-patient departments, special departments for the study and treatment of those forms of disease which special institutions have now in great measure made their own. The result, I believe, would be, not that special Hospitals would be eclipsed, but that trumpery and quackish institutions of the kind would find comparatively little room for their development, and would not, as they do now, divert to themselves those charitable gifts, of which the established subscription Hospitals are so greatly in need. The system of making special departments has already been carried out to some extent in our own and other Hospitals, but not, I think, with sufficient pains or system, and certainly not with anything like completeness.

Before I quit this post, my friends, there are yet two or three circumstances which have marked the interval between my eloquent predecessor's lecture of last year, and this address of mine, to which I should be sorry not to devote a few moments. One of these is the death of our old and esteemed friend, Dr. Waller. I do not desire needlessly to re-open buried griefs. Suffice it, therefore, to say, that, in consequence of an accident, Dr. Waller, some few months ago, passed away from the world, passed from the midst of an active and useful and well-spent life to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." To those who loved him deepest, may peaceful resignation speedily succeed the deep sorrow which must first have prostrated them, and may they find comfort and happiness in that prospect of reunion which the future holds out to them.

You will have seen, for the first time, in the prospectus of the year, the announcement of a prize, with which the name of Mr. Grainger is



associated. The prize originated in a movement, inaugurated a year or two back, by the pupils of the Hospital, to present their teacher with a testimonial. And this testimonial, at the request of that teacher himself, has been made to assume the form of a prize, to be given for work done in connection with that science, of which he has long been so ardent a lover, and so great a master. I am glad, *indeed*, that the name and memory of this good man are thus to be perpetuated in the school, of which, for many years, he was one of the brightest ornaments. But, I hope I detract nothing from the value of this prize, when I assert, that no such monument was necessary to keep Mr. Grainger's memory green in the hearts of us (for he was my master), who have sat at his feet, who have listened to his wise and good and gentle words, and have seen, almost with awe, how uniformly his outward actions, and his inner life, have been governed by that simple, loving faith in which he has lived. Full of years, full of honours, deeply loved, but broken in health, this excellent man has retired from the post which so long kept him among us ; and has given the remainder of his days to the exercise of practical benevolence. May the God, whom he has so well served give him his blessing.

During the same period, within the last few months indeed, an event has happened to another of our colleagues, which is at once honourable to him, honourable to us, and honourable to the friends (among whom must be numbered Mr. Grainger) who interested themselves in his behalf. I refer to the grant, by Government, of a pension to Mr. Rainey. I cannot, I know, utter a name, that will be received with greater respect by the past, and by the present, pupils of St. Thomas's Hospital than that of Mr. Rainey. I can scarcely utter a name to which I myself pay higher reverence. He was the first of my teachers, at this Hospital, with whom I was brought closely into contact. He, more than any other, determined the bent of my mind. Under the guidance of his conscientious labours in the cause of science, I myself in a small way became an inquirer. Through the influence of his strong and truthful intellect, I began to think for myself. And it is, I make bold to say, to his example, to his teaching, and to his moral influence among them, to his strong integrity, to his strict sense of justice, to his deep scorn of everything mean and wrong, that our pupils owe, in no small degree, that healthy tone of morals and of intellect which has I believe so long characterized them. But, I have scarcely said all, in praise of my subject, that he deserves. Years ago, he gave up voluntarily a lucrative occupation, connected with medicine, because the occupa-



tion was one that did not meet with the approval of his conscience. To satisfy a scruple, in which many a man would not share, he threw up his means of livelihood, and became a poor man. I have known him, since that time, for many years; but never yet saw him act otherwise than in accordance with the spirit which dictated this great pecuniary sacrifice; I never yet saw him swerve, in obedience to any selfish instinct, from the strictest principles of duty, of justice, and of truth. I am not apt to be reverential, but I do pay sincere homage to the moral heroism of this man, who has obtained, in the face of great difficulties, such mastery over himself, who ever judges himself more harshly than he judges his neighbour, and who, by first curbing himself, has acquired such strange influence for good over the pupils of this school.

I fear, I should scarcely fulfil my duty, I should certainly not fulfil my wishes, were I to leave this post, without addressing a few words to the students I see around me. I cannot now say much; but I trust that paucity of words will not be mistaken for deficiency of interest in their welfare, or of personal regard for themselves. To the new faces which have come among us, I beg, on the part of my colleagues, and of myself, to offer a hearty welcome, and to assure them that if they strive earnestly to acquire knowledge here, and to do their duty in other respects also (as I have no doubt they will), they will find in us not only teachers, but friends, and friends, I trust, anxious and able to assist them. To those who are now in the midst of their studies, who were with us in the old Hospital, and have accompanied us hither, I beg, also to give a friendly greeting, and to express the hope, that in the changes which have occurred, they will find that their interests have been fully considered, and that our future relations may be as pleasant as the past have been. To those who stand here for the last time, who sever with to-day's ceremony their connection with the Hospital, who go hence to the various spheres of usefulness in which they will have to labour, I beg, while regretting our separation, to offer warm congratulations on their hitherto success, to express the wish that their future careers may be prosperous and happy, and that the friendships which have arisen between us may survive, and form in after years some of those sunny recollections which give such charms to the contemplation of the past.

I beg finally to thank you, Mr. Treasurer, for so kindly presiding on the present occasion; and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the indulgence which you have accorded me.