

Inaugural address delivered at the opening of the Medical School of St. Thomas's Hospital, October 2nd, 1871 / by Frederick Le Gros Clark.

Contributors

Clark, Frederick Le Gros, 1811-1892.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

London : J. & A. Churchill, 1871.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ve935vj6>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

13 *For* *B*
INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING

OF

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

OF

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,

OCTOBER 2ND, 1871.



BY

FREDERICK LE GROS CLARK,

SENIOR SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL.

LONDON:

J. & A. CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

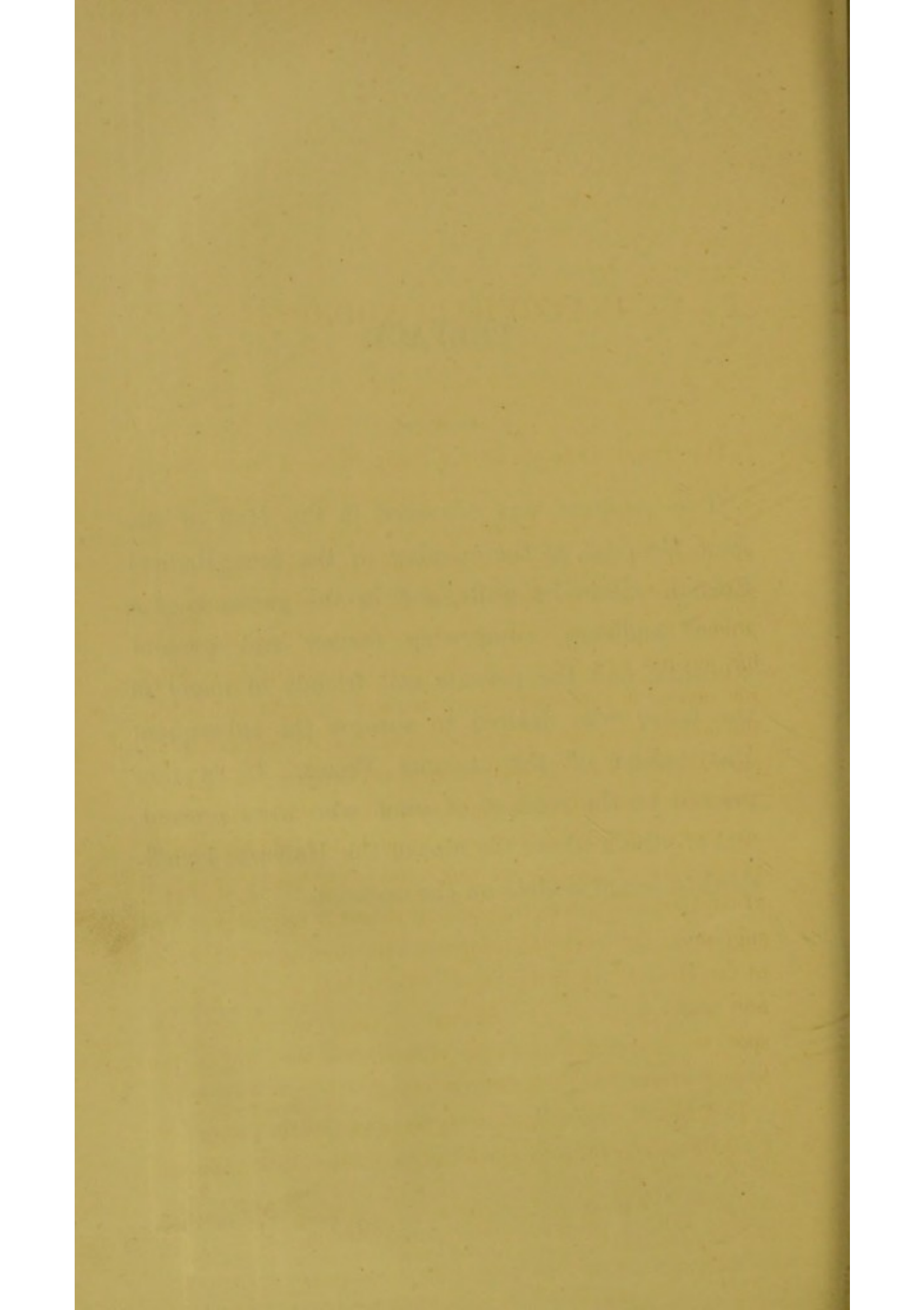
1871.

74



PREFACE.

THIS Address was delivered in the Hall of the New Hospital, at the opening of the first Medical Session within its walls, and in the presence of a mixed audience, comprising former and present students, and the parents and friends of many of the latter who desired to witness the subsequent Distribution of the Annual Prizes. It is now printed at the request of some who were present, and of others whom the size of the Hall was insufficient to accommodate on the occasion.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

MR. TREASURER,—It is now many years—I do not care to say how many—since I exchanged my school-days for an articulated student's life within the walls of our venerable Hospital. I may even then have indulged in the fond anticipation that, at some long distant future, I might realise the promotion which every Hospital apprentice of my time hoped for, but few attained. Yet I knew that unremitting exertion was needed in this competitive race, and I sought with others the mental relaxation and physical bracing which exercise on our river afforded. We used to come to Stangate; and many a time have I tripped, in the lightness of heart which the young and unwarped spirit alone knows, over the long shelving shore at low water, to launch my boat. Even the ready credulity of boyhood would have rejected, as absurdly improbable, the suggestion that each flood-tide was then flowing over the site of the Hospital of future ages. Yet it was even so; and I now stand, with mingled feelings of deep emotion, on this spot to inaugurate the first session of a new era in the history of our old and honoured School.

It would ill become me, on an occasion like the present, to yield to those reflections which naturally claim their influence

over the mind of one who has passed the meridian of his days. It is the penalty of survivors to lament over the graves of those who are gone before ; and how few of the number who began their career with me still remain, whilst all my honoured teachers have departed. How distant the prospect of the future was long years ago, yet how brief in retrospect. It scarcely needs an effort to carry me back to the time and scenes when, with buoyant hope and earnest purpose, I listened to the words which fell from the lips, and watched the hand-skill, of those I revered—ambitious to tread in their footsteps. Their place knows them no more ; and in paying a passing tribute to their memory, I am reminded that I am now the oldest teacher in this School, and the oldest officer or servant of the Institution ; and I am sensible how closely the next generation is pressing on—how soon I must give place to others ; happy if, perchance, I linger still in the memory of some whose early promise I have hailed, and whose future career I shall continue to watch with abiding interest.

I have been led into this train of reflection by a consciousness that lapse of time has gained for me the privilege of addressing you on this interesting occasion. I shall not, however, indulge myself by giving further expression to meditations in which my younger hearers cannot be expected to sympathise. We are met together to celebrate a new birth ; to inaugurate a new era ; to renew our association with the familiar waters of our old river, from whose banks we have been divorced so long. He will not resent our presence ; for though we have encroached upon his bed, he flows by us with increased vigour, and in a purer and more wholesome current

than of yore. All hail to our honoured river, which secures to us immunity from encroachments, and an animated scene and health-giving breezes for our patients.

We have a noble Hospital, and the local habitation of its fitting accompaniment—a great Medical school. To you, Sir Francis, I offer, on behalf of my colleagues, our congratulations on the completion of this great work, which owes so much to your unflagging energy and devotion; and to express, at the same time, our appreciation of the enlightened spirit which has prompted the governors to make such admirable arrangements for the Medical school. I believe, sir—nay, I have no misgiving—that our success will be commensurate with these preparatory advantages, and will leave no room for regret that this impulse has been acted on so liberally.

Although deputed to inaugurate a new era in the history of our Hospital school, I cannot be unmindful that there are many present on this occasion who sympathise with me in the memories of the past; and I may be excused if I devote a few moments to the retrospect. Such indulgence—sentimental if you please so to call it—may not be without its apology, and even its useful application in this utilitarian age.

The dawning history of St. Thomas's Hospital was not such as to promise the vigorous adolescence which it has since attained. It was early in the thirteenth century—viz., in 1207—that an accidental circumstance gave birth to it. The canons of St. Mary Overy were burnt out of house and home, and took refuge in a building, which they erected near at hand, till their monastery was rebuilt; and the subsequent appropriation of this building for charitable purposes is the origin of our Hospital. A few years later, when under the

patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, the ruins of whose palace still survive by the riverside in Southwark, it was scantily endowed by him.

The derivation of our name is somewhat obscure. It would appear, however, from the careful researches of Dr. Stone, who has contributed a "Short History of Old St. Thomas's Hospital" to our *Reports*, that the Spital was first dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury, and afterwards, with more orthodoxy, to St. Thomas the Apostle. The annual income of the Hospital towards the close of the fifteenth century was £343; and this was dispensed by a president, a master and brethren, the foundation being limited in its usefulness, and employed as an alms-house for the needy and infirm to die in, rather than as a refuge wherein the sick and wounded could be made whole. Nurtured thus through a prolonged infancy of more than three centuries, the institution was at last claimed by our orthodox and excommunicated King Henry VIII, as church property, and was subsequently adopted and endowed by his youthful son Edward, who, shortly before his death, appointed the Lord Mayor and commonalty of the City for the time being as governors in perpetuity of the four royal foundations of St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew, Bridewell, and the Blue-coat School. Under their sheltering wing our Hospital has flourished and been enriched during the succeeding reigns. The old structure survived the great fire of London in 1666, and likewise a succeeding conflagration, ten years later, in Southwark; but towards the close of that century it was replaced by a new building, nearly £40,000 having been subscribed for that purpose; and the statue of Sir Robert

Clayton, which still graces our grounds, was then erected in commemoration of his liberal benefactions.

My own early memory of our Hospital dates back to a period prior to the erection of the two noble piles of building which flanked the new front square, in the midst of which the beautiful statue of our Sixth Edward stood ; and I used to traverse the old London bridge from my City home, and listen by night, on my return from lecture, to the mysterious music of the waterworks, as the tide rushed through them with deafening noise ; and little, indeed, did we then dream of the possibility that any power could arise, of such influence as to compel our removal to another site.

The interval of our abode in our late temporary refuge has been one of partial suspension of animation, and will, doubtless, ere long be regarded as a blank in our existence, when the life we now renew shall be fully established and developed.

In the chronicles of our Hospital there are recorded many curious and interesting facts and events, as well as the names of both Physicians and Surgeons who were not only famous in their own day, but whose reputation has survived to the present time. Amongst the records—for which I am much indebted to our Medical Secretary, Mr. Whitfield—I find references to some singular customs and circumstances, which mark the changes that time has wrought in us and in our establishments. Thus, towards the close of the sixteenth century, inmates of the Hospital of notoriously bad character were ordered to be punished at the cross erected within its walls, before they were discharged ; and we have an actual recital of punishment by whipping at the said cross being

inflicted, for misdemeanour, in 1567. We also find that, in 1573, the morals of the patients were further cared for, by a hand-mill being provided for them wherein to grind corn, that they might thus "be kept from idleness." In 1698, Mr. Elton, one of the Surgeons, was suspended from his office for assaulting and beating one of his colleagues; and in consequence thereof an order of the Court of Governors was passed—which, I presume, is still in force—that in future, if any officer strike or beat another officer, he should be expelled.

This was certainly a vulgar way of resenting an offence, and is suggestive of the hybrid character of the barber-chirurgian of that epoch. But it is recorded traditionally that the more polished Physician, whose status in society permitted him to carry a rapier by his side, was also guilty of Professional squabbling, ending in deadly feud; for Mr. Whitfield has in his possession a gold-headed cane which was presented by one of our Medical staff to his grandfather, in recognition of his services in arresting a mortal combat across his table by two Physicians of this establishment.

I find the practice of specialities is recognised in the register of events of 1638, when £20 a year was voted to a Surgeon—I suppose the Wilson of his time—for the special care and cure of scald-head. But the governors of that period showed a wise discretion in another allied act. It is well known that, before the great Cheselden lived, and adorned alike the Profession and our Hospital, one of the most terrible diseases to which the human frame is subject was rarely cured, because of the ignorance and incapacity of those who undertook the only means of affording effectual relief by

operation. Now, it appears that in the year 1700 a certain Dr. Cypriano, a native of Amsterdam and educated at Utrecht, had acquired a reputation for lithotomy; and the General Court of the Hospital, prompted by a humane feeling, and careful also of the honour of their officers, requested the President to treat with this gentleman, with the view to his instructing two of their Surgeons in his special operation. It is recorded that on several occasions he performed the operation in question at our Hospital with great success, and without fee or reward; but we do not learn whether his instructions were serviceable to his two pupils. I should think it doubtful; for little is learned in a complex operation, almost every step of which is out of sight, and in which an appreciation of all the attendant difficulties can be acquired only from an accurate acquaintance with the anatomy of the parts concerned. But anatomy was not then studied as it now is; and the benevolent object of the governors would have been more effectually attained had they rescinded an order of the Court issued a short time previously, that "no dead corpse should be dismembered."

The first impulse in the right direction, in the performance of the operation referred to, was given by a French priest, Frère Jacques, in 1697, who acquired an European fame. But it remained for Cheselden to place it on the sure foundation which I have indicated; and it is much to say of our great Surgeon, that his work on the subject, published in 1723, deserves to be a text-book still; and that in every essential particular this operation remains what he left it a century and a half ago. What worthier subject, then, could be found for the sculptor's chisel, or to be held in cherished

remembrance by the old St. Thomas's students? And beautiful, as a work of art, is the marble effigy of this fine old English Surgeon which now graces our entrance-hall—the gift of those who delight to honour the great and good associated with their Hospital and School.

At this period of our history a regular registry of the Surgical pupils was kept by the Apothecary, and the useful order of Dressers existed. It may not be uninteresting to the gentlemen now holding that responsible office to learn that they were then called “Cubbs” in our establishment.

I have said that we can boast of many names of celebrity in the annals of our Hospital. Thus, one of our Physicians, Sir Francis Prujean, received special marks of honour at the Court of Charles II, whose queen he attended in a severe attack of fever.

Dr. Richard Mead, whose courtly bust (also the gift of our old students) presents an interesting contrast to the artless and almost rude attire of his great Surgical colleague, was an accomplished Physician and a man of letters; and whilst an officer of our Hospital he condescended to read lectures on Anatomy to the Company of Barber-Surgeons. Engaged in a large and lucrative practice, the Medical attendant of Queen Anne in her last illness, and the Court Physician of George II, we learn that he was “highly respected, and as the patron and friend of the learned universally admired.”

It is recorded that Cheselden gave lectures on Anatomy and Surgery at the Hospital, but it was not until later—viz., in 1768, that Joseph Else, one of the Surgeons, was officially appointed to lecture; and it may be said of him that he was

the founder of the systematic teaching of Anatomy in St. Thomas's Hospital.

Dr. Mark Akenside was likewise an accomplished Physician; and, in addition to being one of the officers of our Hospital, held the highest Court appointment at the commencement of the reign of George III. But his reputation as a poet has survived his Professional fame, and there is much of elegance and rhythm in his verses, and his language is choice and classical; but few can read his "Pleasures of Imagination" without some sense of weariness at the pompous and somewhat pedantic diction in which his really beautiful imagery is clothed.

In 1770, Dr. Fordyce, whose portrait we possess, set us an example of diligence which I think few of my colleagues would be disposed to follow. He used to lecture daily on three subjects, viz., Chemistry, Materia Medica, and the Practice of Physic; and these lectures, given at his own house, were delivered in three successive hours, commencing at seven o'clock in the morning.

The names of the first Lister (whose aged, benevolent face I can just recall) and of Wells (the author of the elegant and conclusive monograph on the "Formation of Dew"), of Currey, Chandler, and the Clines, bring me to the period of my own personal recollections, when my honoured master, Mr. Travers, with Mr. Green and Mr. Tyrrell, were the Surgeons, and Dr. Williams, Dr. Elliotson, and Dr. Roots were the Physicians of our Hospital. They are all gone, and I can but record the great esteem in which they were held by all who knew them, as men of high scientific attainments, whose teaching and example have left their

impress on the minds of many scattered throughout the length and breadth of this land. Of my own more immediate contemporaries, some are gone and some still survive, though they have withdrawn from amongst us. The grave has scarcely closed over one; and many will have learned with grief, but scarcely with surprise, of the death, one short week since, of Samuel Solly. I have known him since my boyhood, and we have been allies and colleagues throughout life; and I cannot recall a single hour during which the harmony of our intercourse has been interrupted. His compulsory retirement from Professional duties, in consequence of ill-health, occasioned our premature loss of his services here; and he carried with him the sympathy and kindly feeling of all his colleagues.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to express the excusable pride I feel in having now associated with me many of my former pupils, who have already made a name for themselves in the world of science. In the rising generation, St. Thomas's has no need to be ashamed of her children; and we both hope and expect she will rear many worthy successors to those I have named.

The last few words I have spoken remind me of the change which has come over the guiding principle of election to the offices of this Hospital, since I was an articled student. Then an apprenticeship to one of the Surgeons was deemed a necessary first step towards obtaining the appointment of Surgeon to the Hospital; and I have, naturally, a vivid recollection of all my contemporaries, who were competitors for the coveted promotion. Just as on the racecourse, one by one fell away from various causes, and speculation as to

the future was often falsified by unredeemed promise or inability to stay. He who had the good fortune, as it was mine, to get an early start might hope to win; but the necessary exertion was arduous and unremitting, for since the age of twenty I have not ceased to take part in the teaching, though not the less a learner, in our Hospital school. I mention this circumstance to exemplify the trying nature of the long probation and deferred promotion which attended this arrangement.

The principle of free choice which now prevails, partly the cause, and in part the consequence, of the comparatively obsolete usage of apprenticeship, carries its own recommendation with it; yet I am free to admit that my conservatism does not allow me to dismiss this custom of other days without a word of apology for it. If we may judge by results, certainly the fame of my immediate predecessors and teachers, and of their contemporaries at the sister Hospital, where the same usage prevailed, is some justification of that system. The training of the young men, who claimed their privileges from an apprenticeship of six years at the Hospital, was such as to constitute a special preparation for their future duties, if they were naturally qualified to avail themselves of their peculiar advantages. Living for a lengthened period in the dissecting-room and wards of the Hospital, they could not fail to acquire that familiarity with their after-engagements which no other training could so well supply. Indeed, the change in the practical working of the old system of apprenticeship is not, to my mind, an unmixed advantage. When Practitioners in the country conscientiously performed their duty towards their apprentices, during their more protracted

sojourn with them, our students used to come to London already in possession of preliminary information, and what I may term conventional details, in their Profession, which are not so well acquired in our schools.

But times are changed, and with them the rising generation ; and I neither expect nor desire to see a recurrence to the bygone system to which I have referred. Yet I would venture to plead on behalf of the students whom we educate at our school ;—other things being equal, their prior claim to preferment is just and natural, and should never be ignored. In reputation, a Hospital and its school are essentially linked together. The indirect advantages to the public derived from the latter are scarcely subordinate to the benefits directly flowing from the former ; and the fame of a Hospital must ever be commensurate with the reputation of its officers, as trustworthy teachers of the scientific practice of their Profession.

But both teachers and pupils have their special responsibilities, and by their reciprocal fulfilment only can successful teaching be secured. I believe that the public generally have but a very imperfect appreciation of the complex and extended course of instruction which medical education now embraces ; and it is this increasing complexity which continually enhances the difficulty of the problem, that is presented by the necessity of having some definite limit to the acquirements which a qualification to practise demands. It is not given even to the most gifted to become proficient in all the required subjects within the limit of time which is assigned to study ; and, therefore, it is obvious that a standard must be adopted which shall supply a numerical

sufficiency of qualified Practitioners. Whilst it is my sincere conviction that the College of Surgeons has honestly and faithfully fulfilled its functions, I have hailed with satisfaction, as I have sought to forward by my feeble influence, that scheme of conjoint examination which offers to the candidate one common portal by which he may enter the Profession with a qualification to practise, whilst it leaves to our English colleges and universities the special privilege of conferring honorary degrees, after having exacted proof of more advanced attainments.

I said that teachers have their responsibilities; and, without presuming to dogmatise on this subject, I will briefly indicate the method which my own experience has taught me to regard as the most profitable, if not the most acceptable, mode of imparting professional knowledge. Teaching may be either exhaustive or suggestive. The former method, even if well and fully accomplished, can but instruct the student in facts, and supply him with reasons—good or bad—for the conclusions from these facts. But this is not education, which consists less in supplying the learner with thoughts than in stimulating him to think for himself; for

“ — Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.”

Bishop Butler has remarked that the best writer—and *à fortiori*, I should say the best *vivâ voce* teacher—is he who simply states his premisses, and leaves his readers to work out the conclusions for themselves. It is true that much of our teaching relates to facts; but these facts are, or ought to be, associated with principles, and the business of the teacher

should be, in my apprehension, to exercise the mind of his pupil to work out for himself the relation between a principle enunciated and the facts by which it is supported. Trituration and digestion are as essential to healthy assimilation by the brain as by the stomach; and I am disposed fully to concur with an apologist of Coleridge's disjointed style of writing, when he eulogises its highly suggestive character, as contrasted with such exhaustive teaching as alone will satisfy him "who thinks that the epithets *teres atque rotundus* are the highest that can be applied to a scientific work, or who expects an author to furnish him with a complete system, which he can carry away in his memory, and, after it has received a few improvements from himself, may be hawked about to the public or to a set of admiring disciples."

I cannot help lamenting that there is much in the present method of teaching which is subversive of this suggestive principle for which I plead. Circumstances have, no doubt, conduced to this result, and chiefly the multitude of subjects crowding upon the attention of the student, which create a demand for the supply of information in such a form that it can be appropriated by an exercise of memory, without the invigorating effort which suggestive teaching stimulates. The results of such mechanical learning are not satisfactory, and the stereotyped acquirements of our students have induced the examining bodies wisely to modify their examinations, by rendering them as practical as possible, in order that the possession and exercise of a retentive memory may not be the chief qualification on which a student can rely for obtaining his diploma.

If, then, it be the duty of the teacher to stimulate the

student to think for himself, it is no less incumbent on the latter to cultivate a spirit of self-reliance in learning his Profession. He must, in short, educate himself, with the assistance and direction he will obtain from his teachers ; and he will find that an infusion of enthusiasm into his work will impart a pleasurable life and activity to the laborious details of his scientific pursuits, and render attractive that which would be otherwise irksome or repulsive in his studies.

I would now address a few words to those especially who are about to commence their Hospital career. Your sojourn amongst us is fraught with momentous consequences to you, both moral and intellectual. The new life you enter upon and the new scenes you become conversant with must leave their lasting impress on you for good or evil. Familiarity with suffering and death, in all their varieties and forms, constitutes a school of moral training which cannot fail to refine or to debase the moral sense, to strengthen or to enervate the character. Your future career will afford ample opportunity for applying the lessons of sympathy here inculcated, and of patient forbearance and gentleness in your relation with the sick and sorrowing, with whom so much of your life will necessarily be spent. These are grave responsibilities which will be yours, the importance of which you cannot too soon realise ; confidence of the most sacred character entrusted to your keeping, and opportunities for good beside and beyond your mere Professional duties ; from availing yourselves of which, no false humility, no mistaken apprehension, should tempt you to shrink ; and which you cannot evade without a compromise of truth, if you indulge the restless hope of restored health or prolonged life when you know that hope

is vain. It is unnecessary I should pursue this subject further. If you obey the promptings of your better nature, and speak the truth with gentleness and candour, you will have your reward in peace of conscience ; whilst it is beyond your ability to estimate the consequences to the dying sufferer who hangs upon your lips.

If I have paused to point out these as some of the moral lessons to be studied here, it is scarcely requisite that I should dwell on the necessity of improving every opportunity of mental culture now placed within your reach. The book of nature is spread out before you in the dissecting-room, the laboratory, the wards, the museum ; its pages are to be supplemented—not superseded—by the teaching and recorded opinions of other interpreters of the great original. Drink deeply at the fountain-head, and gradually each new phenomenon or insulated fact will assume its true relation to others, as you view them, blending harmoniously, and acting under laws alike grand in their conception and simple and uniform in their operation, and thus bearing the impress of the Infinite intelligence and goodness which planned them. It is thus, I venture to believe, that you will best cultivate the self-reliance and freedom from the slavery of authority, which are such essential qualifications for philosophical inquiry, and which are quite consistent with—indeed, ought to be the offspring of—true humility : for that independence of character which has taught its possessor to scorn servile imitation, and to bow obsequiously to no man's dictum, should prompt him likewise to follow meekly the steady light of Truth, and to be the ever-ready servant and interpreter of nature. I do not say your path is easy ; but you may make it pleasant by

opening wide your heart in sympathy with your fellow-men, and by cultivating your Profession in an enlarged and philosophic spirit, instead of resting satisfied with the minimum of knowledge as your trading capital, acquired only for the pecuniary return it promises. You owe this to the noble calling you are about to follow; for, though I am aware that it has been said—and, I fear, with some truth in its application to the present time—that the “age of chivalry is gone, and that of sophisters, economists, and calculators has succeeded,” yet is my faith unshaken in the elevating tone and influence of scientific pursuits, and in the full though long delayed recognition of their claims, at length forced on the promoters of public education; unshaken, also, in the manly sentiment and independent principle which pervade the mass of my Profession.

A few words more of personal application I am constrained to speak to my younger hearers, who will bear with me if their triteness deprives them of their relish. Most of you must be aware that your sojourn amongst us entails sacrifices on those who have sent you here—sacrifice in the anxiety consequent on your being thrown alone amid all the temptations, frivolities, and dissipation of this great city, and a pecuniary sacrifice for your best and permanent interest. Confidence is placed in your redeeming the tacit or spoken pledge of honest and upright conduct. Will you abuse and betray that trust? Yet wasted time and misemployed talents, and the indulgence of low tastes and vicious habits, will be such betrayal, and bring grief and disappointment in return for self-denying love.

In fulfilling your obligations I would simply ask you to be

manly ; and I will tell you briefly my interpretation of that comprehensive word. I should be untrue to my own instincts and to the position I occupy as President of the United Hospital Athletic Club, if I did not bid you cultivate manly exercise and sport. I admire the strong arm, the swift foot, and the bold bearing of the athlete ; yet these pastimes must be your recreation, not your occupation. But there is a higher phase of manliness to which I especially refer. It is manly to be severe with yourselves and to deal lightly with the failings of your fellow-men. It is manly to admit rather than to justify either ignorance or error. Self-sacrifice is manly ; but there is no element of manliness in the untruthful, the selfish and the impure mind. It is both gentle and manly to esteem others better than yourselves ; and to claim the respect which is your due, by that courteous consideration for all around you which never fails to characterise the true gentleman. Above and beyond all, if you value your Bible, it is manly to avow it ; and, by patient endurance of contradiction and consistency of conduct, to prove that your faith is a real and living principle, regulating primarily your own deportment, and thus influencing your relations to all with whom you are associated.

“ To thine own self be true,
And it will follow as the night the day,
Thou cans't not then be false to any man.”

But it is time that I bring to a close my brief tribute to the memory of the past, and the vindication of my confident hope in the future, of our ancient and royal foundation.

Once the refuge of a few obscure monks—now re-opened

amid the pomp and glittering pageantry of State officials, and graced by the presence of the noble and gentle in the land, and of our beloved Queen who sympathises in the early interest the good Prince Albert took in our future home ; nurtured erst in poverty, and restricted in usefulness—now possessed of a princely income, and folding within her wide-spread arms the destitute sick and maimed, whose only passport is suffering and want ; yielding formerly her pittance of empirical skill and nursing to the few who sought it—now rich in the memory of so many whose labours within her walls have indelibly allied their names with some of the most enduring achievements of Medical science ; and (shall I not add ?) proud of association with the imperishable name and work of the self-denying and gentle Nightingale.

Such, in brief, is the history of this noble institution, and such are the children she has nurtured, who have repaid her fostering care by shedding a lasting lustre on our Profession.

And what is the moral to be laid to heart from this history and these names ? Shall *we* shrink in timid indolence from sustaining the weight of reputation thus transmitted to us ? Shall we plead, with deprecating humility, that “there were giants in those days,” and sit down in listless indifference beneath the laurels they planted ? Nay ; not so. Let each and every associate in the work, with unselfish and untiring energy, devote himself to his allotted task. Let the substantial token of our affection for our *Alma Mater*, placed within her chapel walls, be the pledge and symbol of that harmony of action for the common weal, which no jarring note of discord shall disturb. Let private advantage and individual preferment ever yield, as in truth and honesty they should, to the fulfilment of

the sacred trust to which every officer of this establishment is pledged when he takes office here. Let this be done earnestly, heartily ;—I speak, Sir, as one who has journeyed through weary years of discouragement, and is permitted, by grace and not by right, to tread a few steps within the boundary of the Promised Land ;—let this, I say, be done earnestly and heartily, and who shall gainsay the confident anticipation which it may be, perchance, my happiness to witness, though not to share in, that our ancient foundation, both Hospital and School, shall emerge from its temporary eclipse, to shine with more than pristine brightness ?

And, standing thus on this border-land, once more beside the old, familiar river, from whose slimy bed this stately edifice has risen as if by magic ; surrounded, too, by my trusted colleagues, and by many familiar faces which remind me of our earlier and happy association as pupil and teacher, —imagination portrays for me, without an effort, the expanding vista of an illustrious future, worthy of such a history and such a habitation.



