

Origin, objects & progress of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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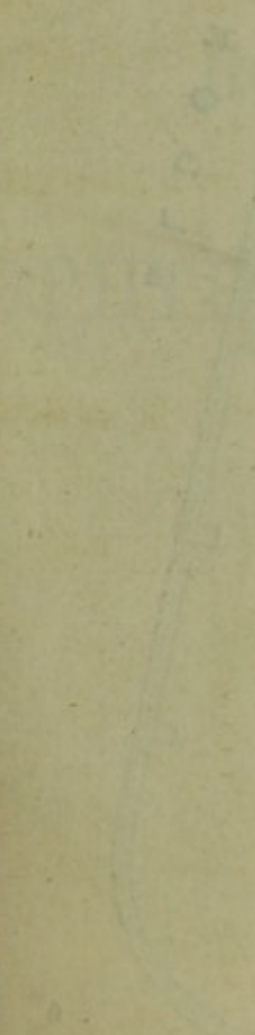
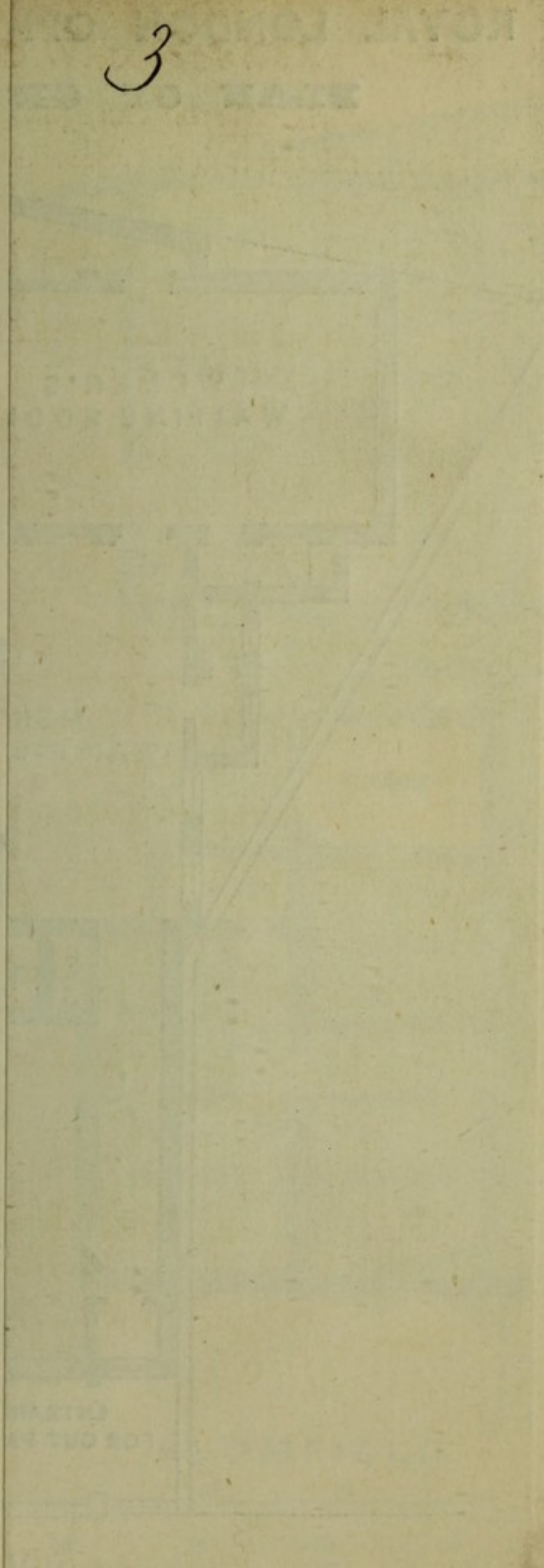
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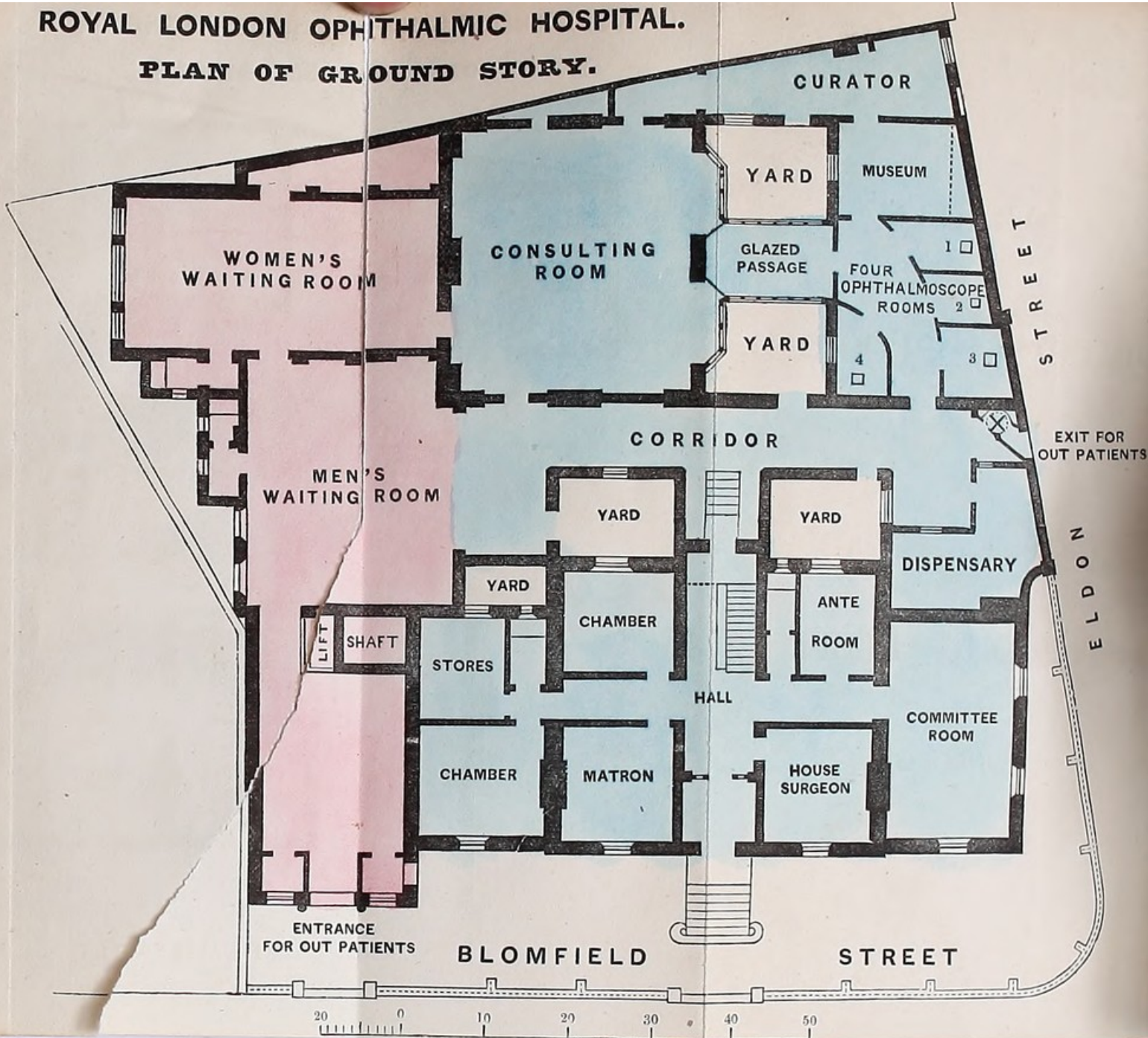
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**ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.
PLAN OF GROUND STORY.**

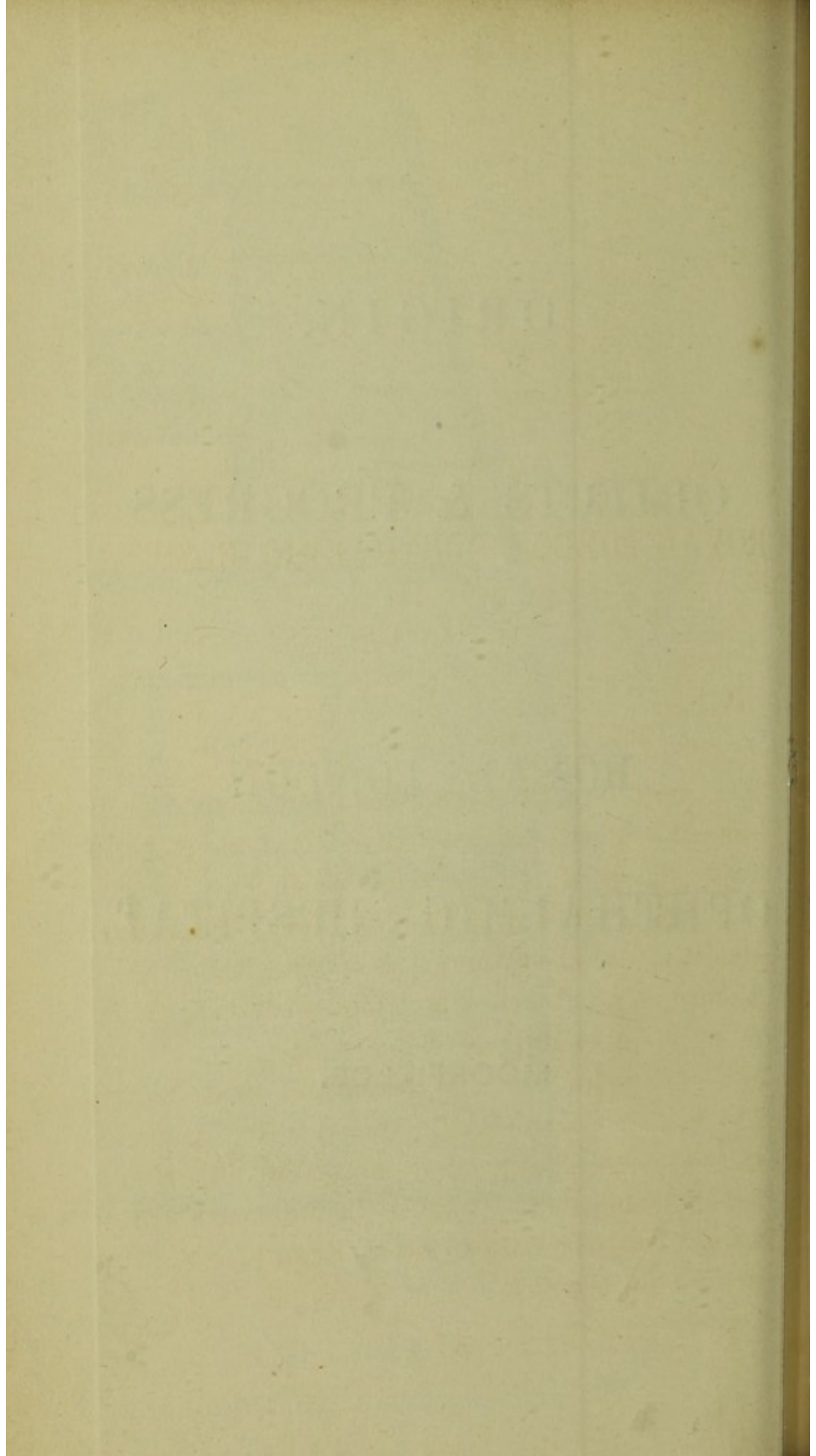


3.



ORIGIN,
OBJECTS & PROGRESS
OF THE
ROYAL LONDON
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL,
MOORFIELDS.

1858



ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

THE great attention given, since the beginning of the present century, to morbid affections of the Eye, the ready means of relief or cure which have ensued, and the facilities now afforded by the Teacher, in the medical schools of many of the great cities of Europe, demand more than ordinary efforts to extend this practice to all parts of the world.

This Hospital being, in the order of time, the first of its class, the Committee deem it to be, especially, their province, to use every exertion in their power, for the promotion of similar Institutions wherever wanted, and the state of society be such as to admit of their introduction.

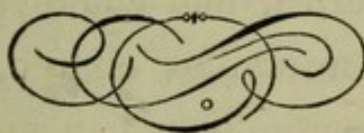
Until 1805, Hospitals appropriated, exclusively, to the treatment of Eye disease were unknown. In that year a proposal for the establishment of an Infirmary for diseases of the Eye and Ear, of a somewhat earlier date, was brought to bear in face of some objections and many difficulties. Experience soon evinced the advantage of concentrating attention upon diseases of the eye, the treatment of the ear was discontinued, and the Institution has long taken the rank of a Royal Hospital.

The innumerable Hospitals, Infirmarys and Dispensaries, dedicated to Ophthalmic medicine and surgery, which have followed, bear unanswerable testimony to the value of the parent institution. In this metropolis alone, there are not less than six establishments for this benevolent purpose; few of the larger towns of England are without; they are general throughout Europe, and are found in India, the United States of America, even in China; and the Committee would rejoice to learn that the Communities of Eastern Asia, South Africa, the British provinces of America, and wherever the British flag waves, had taken similar charge, more generally, of the afflicted poor. They can announce, and they do so with much pleasure, that they are allowed, by the medical officers, to offer free admission to the

Hospital to all Missionaries proceeding on their high calling to distant lands, where the effects of the union, in one person, of the Physician or Surgeon and Christian teacher, cannot fail to produce blessed effects; and in this view China must be regarded with intense interest.

Under these circumstances, and upon these considerations, the Committee submit the annexed copy of their last report and other papers illustrative of the state and progress of this Hospital. In addressing their countrymen in regions remote from their native land, they strike the chord of sympathy with human suffering, to which the support of this Institution is to be attributed; it was commenced with a small pecuniary loan, and has been raised, carried on and partially endowed, by funds voluntarily contributed during little more than half a Century, to an amount approximating to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.

1st November, 1858.



SPECIAL REPORT.

The Committee have much pleasure in stating that, whilst they have been occupied in devising the means and endeavouring to raise the funds for the enlargement of the Hospital, their cares have been materially alleviated by the progress of art and science in the treatment of ophthalmic disease, by which the cure is so quickened as materially to reduce the number of beds required for any given number of patients, the time of occupation of the wards being reduced at the least one-half, and, as a consequence, although the addition of a wing is still a consideration of much interest and importance, the estimate of the cost has been lowered from £5000 to £3000; the superstructure will be less.

This last-mentioned sum will, as is conceived, be sufficient for every immediate purpose; and should more room at any time be required, its acquisition

will be easy, by the provision which may now be made for carrying up the building hereafter, without in any sensible degree increasing the cost, as compared with the execution of the entire work at one time.

Towards this sum of £3000, nearly £700 has already been contributed and, for the most part, invested in term annuities; and the Committee, with the confidence inspired by experience, rely on the further bounty of the Benevolent, in upholding the Hospital and advancing it still higher as a national institution. The immediate aim and object of the Committee are, to erect the wing without having recourse to the invested property of the Hospital, already taxed to meet a considerable deficiency in the ordinary annual income; and they trust they may be allowed to urge this plea with the more confidence, from the circumstances now related, by which they are enabled so largely to reduce the estimate for the proposed building, the difference between the former and present estimate being £2000, as well as to reduce the average expense of each In-patient.

The ground coloured *pink*, in the plan, is leasehold and intended for the wing; the *blue* indicates the freehold, already built upon.

The number of patients admitted to the care of the Hospital, in the year 1857, was 12,577; during the

half year ended 30th of June last, the admissions have been at the rate of 13,000 and upwards per annum, the increase of IN-PATIENTS being in the proportion of about forty per cent. more in 1858, than in 1857. This great increase arises from more facility in the admission to the wards, the improved and quicker methods of treatment, and from attention having been more attracted to the Hospital by the free circulation of reports and other notices of the Institution.

The loss of sight, so frequent in Eastern countries, in particular, is attributed, principally, to neglected inflammation, *not difficult of cure by modern art, if promptly applied.* It is the anxious desire and earnest effort of the Committee to draw attention to this important fact, and especially in India, the British dependencies generally, and in regard to China—so increasing in interest.

They are permitted to add, that the missionary student will be freely welcomed, if desirous of attending the practice of this Hospital.

The number of blind persons living, cannot be estimated at less than ONE MILLION; and here may be remarked the great value and importance of schools, whence the student may carry the blessings of practical science to all nations in the prevention of

this severe affliction, not only by his personal ministrations, but by promoting similar institutions wherever needed, and they can be introduced with the expectation of success. As the parent institution, it is gratifying to reflect that the design of its founders and supporters is so far advanced, and that for its completion the domestic outlay of a small amount of capital only is required, whilst the object to be attained, by means of the accomplished physician and surgeon, extends to the relief of the afflicted, co-extensively with the human race.

The abstract of report for 1857, shews that, so far as could be ascertained, the locations of the patients, were ;

Bermondsey	239
Bethnal Green	767
Camberwell.....	309
Clerkenwell.....	279
Chelsea and Pimlico	100
Greenwich, Deptford and Woolwich.....	393
Hackney and Stoke Newington.....	399
Holborn	131
Islington.....	600
London, City of, Union.....	791
London, East, ditto.....	410
London, West, ditto.....	485
Lambeth	232

Limehouse, Ratcliff and Wapping	624
Mile End Old Town	275
Marylebone.....	103
Poplar, Bow, and Bromley.....	386
Southwark	269
Shoreditch	1,478
St. George's East	648
St. Luke's	467
St. Pancras.....	144
Whitechapel and Spitalfields	1,346
West Ham, Leyton and Stratford.....	160
Wandsworth and Clapham.....	106
Other Metropolitan or Suburban parishes	632
Various parts of the country, chiefly	
In-patients	298
Location unknown	506

Of these, 2000 and upwards, were submitted to surgical operation, many under very critical circumstances, endangering the loss of sight; many relieved from cataract, some having been BORN BLIND.

☞ *It is deemed right to draw attention to the delay in submitting children born with cataract, to the care of the Surgeon. In 544 cases of that description brought to the Hospital, the average age is estimated at seven years; although the condition of early childhood is most favorable for the operation.*

4th October, 1858.

In the Medico-Chirurgical Review for January, 1858, a very interesting commentary is given on the introduction to India, by the Honourable East India Company, of Ophthalmic practice, at the three Presidencies; at Calcutta, under the direction of Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN, for many years the responsible Superintending Surgeon of the Calcutta Eye Infirmary, and from whose reports many valuable particulars are collected, shewing that the HINDOOS themselves operate for Cataract, and, on the whole, with considerable success,—the result of their attainments at that Institution. Mr. MARTIN proceeded to India from this Hospital, of which he was one of the Officers.

The following extracts, relative to China, are from the same number of that Journal:—

“The blind are a very numerous class in CHINA. The Missionaries who have proceeded to that country very wisely studied Medicine and Ophthalmic practice; and there are, at least, three Hospitals where the poor are treated. An eye witness has described to us the crowds who flock thither, and the respect and gratitude acquired by the medical gentlemen for the relief afforded, more especially from the sufferers from eye disease. This gives them great influence with the natives, and may be productive of important results.”

One of the Missionaries, at SHANGHAE, writes,—

“I think much good may be done among the blind; they

seem more open to receive impressions of the truth than others; their affliction renders them thoughtful, and their willingness to be taught is remarkable."

"In 1843, an Hospital was established at NING-PO, by the Missionaries, for the cure of Ophthalmia, from which the natives suffer most severely, being peculiarly liable to diseases of the eye-lids. The numbers which apply for and receive relief are considerable, and hundreds are benefited by this Institution, worthy of a Christian country."

The great advantage of the union of the Christian Missionary and the Physician in one person, has recently received a remarkable illustration in the successful labours of Dr. BETTELHEIM in Loochoo. This devoted Missionary has resided seven years in these islands, situated between Japan and China, practising medicine and occasionally surgery, and at the same time teaching Christianity, wherever and whenever an opportunity offered. His missionary labours, and his translations of the Gospels and Epistles into the Loochoo tongue, are detailed in the report (the seventh) of the Loochoo mission,* and his medical services, especially his introduction of

* Office, 48, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street. This Mission was established in the year 1845, under the name of the "Loochoo Naval Mission."

vaccination, in the "Medical Times" of the 6th, 13th, and 20th August.

It appears from these accounts, that his success in healing, and the Christian fortitude with which he persevered in doing good in spite of opposition, ill treatment, and difficulties almost insurmountable, at length won the affection of the people, and induced their rulers, notwithstanding their professed contempt of foreigners, to tolerate, almost to encourage him, and even privately to seek his assistance and advice.

This favourable feeling, arising out of love and respect for the healer of sickness, considerably increased the number of his Christian converts, and induced even his guards, appointed to watch and report his movements, to declare that the God of the Christians had blessed Loochoo.—*Postulates and Data, 1st September, 1853.*

Previously to the establishment of this Hospital, the greater operations on the Eye, and, in consequence, the treatment of Ophthalmic disease generally, were left to the few, more or less educated, who, confining themselves to this department of practice, as Oculists, acquired a dexterity of hand not attained by the general Surgeon.

It was the object of the late Mr. SAUNDERS, through the medium of this Institution, notwithstanding this mechanical difficulty, to effect the combination of Ophthalmic with general practice, and his success distinguished him, not only in his profession, but as a public benefactor. This great object was accomplished;—

Firstly;—By rendering operations for cataract, comparatively easy and safe.

On this point, Mr. SAUNDERS, prompted by his friends, thus addressed the Committee, on the 25th March, 1808:—

“ In addition to the observations made in the last report, which are equally applicable to the present, there is one point on which I must beg the indulgence of expatiating; I mean the adaptation of an operation on the cataract to the condition of childhood, by which I have successively cured, without failure, fourteen persons born blind, some of them even in infancy; and it has just been performed on an infant only two months old, who is in a state of convalescence. As I reserve for another occasion the communication of the method which I pursue for the cure of very young children, I shall no farther compare it with extraction, than observing that extraction is wholly inapplicable to children, or only fortuitously successful. Those who on all occasions adhere to this operation, and have never turned their thoughts towards the application of means more suitable to this tender age, have been obliged to wait

until the patient has acquired sufficient reason to be tractable; otherwise, when they have deviated from this conduct, the event has afforded little cause for self-congratulation.

“ How great the advantage of an early cure, is a question of no difficult solution. Eyes originally affected with cataract, contract an unsteady and rolling motion, which remains after their removal, and retards, even when it does not ultimately prevent, the full benefit of the operation. A person cured, at a late period, cannot overcome this awkward habit, by the utmost exertion of reason, or the efforts of the will. But the actions of the infant are instinctive, surrounding objects attract attention, and the eye naturally follows them. The management of the eye is, therefore, readily acquired, his vision rapidly improves, and he will most probably be susceptible of education about the usual period.”

Secondly;—By the establishment of this Hospital as the means of subjecting the morbid affections of the Eye, to the minute attention called for, and of acquiring the skill and manipulative power required;—by the establishment of a school whence the most approved Ophthalmic practice might be carried into the profession, as an important element in the education of the Physician and Surgeon.

These points, the setting apart first, and the *eventual union* of Ophthalmic and general practice, are noticed with much clearness and force, by three of the able

surgeons who, in succession, have distinguished this Hospital as its officers,—the late Mr. TRAVERS, Mr. LAWRENCE, and the late Mr. DALRYMPLE, from whose works the following are extracts:—

*Mr. TRAVERS, Preface, pages 8 and 9, as quoted from
Mr. SAMUEL COOPER. 3rd Edition, 1824.*

“ The disorders of the eye and its appendages are far more numerous and diversified than those of any other individual part of the body; and some of the requisite operations for their relief ought to be done with the nicest combination of skill and delicacy. These circumstances, strangely enough, have had the effect of inducing an erroneous supposition that such cases do not properly enter into the department of ordinary surgery, but ought to be consigned to the care of a man who makes them exclusively the object of his attention, and disregards disease in every other form.

“ The morbid affections of the eye, it is true, like all other surgical cases, must be studied, in order to be understood.

“ They have no peculiarity, however, except what depends upon their number, and the tenderness and functions of the organ affected. In their nature they are swayed by the same laws which influence all common diseases for which the practice of surgery is instituted; and their treatment is regulated by general principles, which prevail throughout the whole of this indispensable art.

“ No one, except the thorough surgeon, can make the complete oculist; by which last term is not meant anybody who can merely manage to extract the cataract better than the

generality of surgeons, but a man whose science leads him to recognise the analogy betwixt the diseases of the eye and those of other parts; and whose knowledge of the latter, while it qualifies him in a great measure for the treatment of the former, gives him a decided superiority over the bare oculist."

Mr. LAWRENCE, on Diseases of the Eye. Page 4, Preface. 1833.

"It thus became desirable to establish an express and distinct school for Ophthalmic Surgery; not because the principles of treatment differ from those applicable to disease in general, nor because any peculiar mode of study is required, but in order to supply a deficiency in the existing sources of professional instruction; to provide for the diseases of this important organ those means of information which the general hospitals neither do, nor could provide, consistently with the requisite attention to their other important objects. This proceeding, which at first view seems calculated to complete and perpetuate the separation, was the only rational mode of reuniting ophthalmic practice to general surgery.

"It was the object of the London Ophthalmic Infirmary* to apply the general principles of pathology and therapeutics to the elucidation and treatment of diseases of the eye. Hence it is a law of the establishment, that the Medical Officers of the Institution shall be selected from those who have been regularly educated as Physicians or Surgeons. The great field of observation which it affords has been thrown open to the public, thus enabling the general body of the profession, and

* The title of "Hospital" was not assumed until the progress of the Institution rendered it appropriate.

particularly medical students, to acquire easily, and in a short time, a full knowledge of this department. The opportunities afforded at this Institution are not intended or calculated to make oculists merely, but to impart to Surgeons and Physicians a knowledge of Ophthalmic disease."

Mr. DALRYMPLE'S Introduction to his great work on the Eye.
1852.

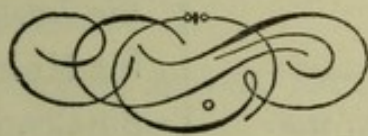
" There are no diseases to which mankind are liable more important than those affecting the organ of vision ; none whose speedy relief is more essential to the comfort and usefulness, nay even to the safety of the patient, or which require more intelligent diagnosis, greater decision of treatment, and more thorough medical information.

" It is a matter much to be deplored, that more attention to the subject of diseases of the eye is not enforced in the studies of our younger brethren, or, in fact, made a compulsory part of the medical curriculum."

The testimonies of these eminent Professors, are authoritative, satisfactory and conclusive, as to the means and importance of uniting Ophthalmic with general practice ; and this object, notwithstanding many difficulties and obstructions, has been accomplished at and by this INSTITUTION, according to the intention originally entertained. The method of operating has been rendered more easy, the command of the hand has been acquired by an unprecedented extent of practice ; and the union of manipulative

skill, with the attainments of the educated Physician and Surgeon, has been effected with much advantage to the medical profession, and through the profession, to the British public, and to many people and nations.—*Report of Committee for 1857.*

☞ *To diffuse this blessing more widely, the Committee invite the co-operation of all benevolent and religious Societies, and would gladly supply any number of this notice of the Hospital for which application might be made.*



ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL,
MOORFIELDS.

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Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A.

The Hospital is open, daily, for the relief of the poor of every country or denomination, suffering from disease of the EYE.

Every afflicted applicant, being poor, has gratuitous advice and a free supply of medicine, as an Out-patient. Patients considered by the Medical Officers to require admission, by a Governor's ticket, or, should the case be urgent, without recommendation.

Subscriptions will be received by MESSRS. WILLIAMS, DEACON, & Co., Bankers, or the Treasurer, 20, Birchin-lane; or by the Secretary, at the Hospital, and thankfully acknowledged.

Ophthalmic practice, generally, is recorded in a periodical (quarterly) exclusively devoted to the subject of the Eye, as a perfect organ of vision or affected by any of the numerous diseases to which it is liable. This journal, "OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL REPORTS," is edited by one of the Medical Staff of the Hospital, and is published by CHURCHILL. Communications, addressed to the Editor, at the Hospital, will be received with attention and acknowledgment.

The following is a list of the
 names of the persons who have
 been appointed to the various
 offices of the Corporation of
 London, for the year ending
 the 31st day of March 1861.
 The names of the persons who
 have been appointed to the
 offices of the Corporation of
 London, for the year ending
 the 31st day of March 1861,
 are as follows:—

NORRIS and SON, Printers, Blomfield-street, London, E. C.