

St. Bartholomew's Hospital and School.

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FAMOUS HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

I.—ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL.



"THE PRACTITIONER," LIMITED,
149, STRAND, W.C.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT



FAMOUS HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

I.—ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL.

HISTORY AND BUILDINGS.

[With Plates III.—XII., and XX.—XXIII.]

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL in West Smithfield stands near St. Paul's Cathedral on the very site where it was placed by Rahere in 1123, "in honore Exaltacionis Sancte Crucis," a fitting dedication at a time when the first Crusade was still a living memory. Rahere obtained the land from Henry I. by the influence of his friend and patron, Richard of Belesme, Bishop of London. Twenty years later the site was enlarged by grants from owners of the adjacent property in token of their appreciation of the charitable work undertaken by the hospital. The story of the conception of the hospital is well known, but it always bears re-telling, and it is easy to believe that it is not without truth. Rahere, a courtier though a cleric, "decreed himself to go to Rome to do the worthy fruits of penance, and our Lord God directing his pace came whole and sound whither he purposed, where at the martyrdoms of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, he, weeping his deeds and calling to mind the escapades of his youth and ignorance, prayed to our Lord for remission of them, promising furthermore none like to do, but this utterly to forsake, promising ever devoutly to obey his will. And when he would perfect his way that he had begun he saw a vision full of dread and sweetness. It seemed him that he was borne up on high of a certain beast which set him in an high place, and when he from so great a highness would inflect and bow down his eye he beheld an horrible pit, and the deepness of the same pit was deeper than any man might attain to see. Therefore he, knowing his secret faults, deemed himself about to slide into that cruel downcast, and he for dread trembled and great cries proceeded out of his mouth. To whom dreading, and for dread crying appeared a certain man like in shape the majesty of a

king, of great beauty and imperial authority. Then, said he, 'I am Bartholomew,' the Apostle of Jesus Christ, that came to succour thee in thine anguish and to open to thee the secret mysteries of heaven. Know me truly by the will and commandment of the High Trinity and the common favour of the celestial court and council, to have chosen a place in the suburbs of London at Smithfield, where in my name thou shalt found a church, and it shall be the house of God : there shall be the tabernacle of the Lamb, the temple of the Holy Ghost. This spiritual house the Almighty God shall inhabit and hallow it and glorify it, and His eyes shall be open, His ears listening on this house night and day, that the asker in it shall receive, and the seeker shall find, and the ringer and knocker shall enter. Wherefore do thou boldly, neither of the costs of this building doubt thee nought, only give thy diligence and my part shall be to provide necessities : direct ; build and end this work. And therefore of this work know me the master and thyself only the minister : use diligently thy service and I shall show my lordship.' In these words the vision vanished."

The story is a pretty one and surely there are few hospitals which can boast so heavenly a foundation, for Rahere established the hospital before he built the priory and ever the two great foundations remained distinct though allied, until at the

¹ The appearance of Bartholomew rather than of one of the other Apostles is perhaps to be explained by the fact that Rahere had visited the church of St. Bartholomew, then newly-restored, which stands on the island of the Tiber at Rome, near the Capitol. The island (Fig. 1) once contained a temple to Æsculapius, and on the site of the temple is the church of S. Bartolommeo all' Isola, built in 997, restored in 1113, just before Rahere's visit, and modernised in 1625. The temple of Æsculapius was founded in 293 B.C., on the return from Epidaurus of the embassy sent to bring an eikon of Æsculapius to Rome to stay an outbreak of plague. When the ambassadors returned with a statue of the god a serpent was found to have hidden itself in the ship, and it was under this form that the god of medicine often showed himself. Arrived at Rome the snake left the ship, swam ashore, and hid itself amongst the reeds of the island. Here, therefore, the temple was built. The whole island was faced with travertine, and its form was reduced to the shape of a ship in memory of the event. Some remains of this curious work are still to be seen. They consist of part of the stern and the starboard side of a ship, with the damaged bust of the god in relief with his symbol, still in use amongst us, of a staff entwined by a serpent. An infirmary was attached to the temple of Æsculapius in ancient times, and on its site now is the hospital of S. Giovanni Calibita or dei Benfratelli, with 74 beds for male patients affected with acute disease. There is thus an easily traced connection between the father of medicine and St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

latter end the hospital has outlasted the monks. But it was no light task that was laid upon Rahere, and without a firm faith in Bartholomew he could never have carried it through. When Rahere got home, now an Augustinian Canon, men told him that the chosen site was a part of the King's market—Cloth Fair—"of the which it was not lawful to princes or other lords of their proper authority anything to minish, neither to so solemn a service to depute." In spite of this Rahere addressed himself to the king, "and the Bishop Richard being present, the which he had made favourable to himself beforehand, effectively expressed his business and meekly besought that he might lawfully bring his purpose to an end. And nigh him was He in whose Hand it was the king's heart to incline to what he would and ineffectual these prayers might not be whose author is the Apostle, whose gracious hearer was God. His word therefore was pleasant and acceptable in the king's eye, and he granted to the petition his kingly favour, benignly giving authority to execute his purpose. And he having the title of desired possession of the king's majesty was right glad. Then nothing he omitting, of care and diligence two works of pity began to make: one for the vow that he had made, another as to him by precept was enjoined. The church he made of comely stonework tablewise and an hospital house a little further off." One wonders if the recent loss of the White Ship and the drowning of the Atheling, after which Henry was never again seen to smile, had turned the king's heart towards works of religion and charity, and if to this catastrophe we owe the site of the hospital. The chosen site did not promise much, for "this place before the cleansing held forth no hope of goodness, right unclean it was, and like as a marsh dank and fenny, with water everywhere abounding. And what was eminent above the water dry, was deputed and ordained to the gibbet or gallows of thieves and to the torment of others that were condemned by judicial authority." It is told, too, that our founder took part in preparing this vile place for his buildings much in the same way as, but with better success than, Prof. Ruskin built his road at Hincksey near Oxford, for "truly when Rayer had applied his study to the purgation of this place and decreed to put his hands to that holy building, he was not ignorant of Satan's wiles, for he made

and feigned himself unwise for he was so coated, and outwardly pretended the cheer (mien) of an idiot, and began a little while to hide the secretness of his soul and the more secretly he wrought the more wisely he did his work. Truly in playing-wise and manner he drew to him the fellowship of children and servants, assembling himself, as one of them and with their use and help, stones and other things profitable to the building lightly he gathered together." The tale is pathetic and is instinct with the faith of the time, and though it does not become us to enquire too closely into its literal accuracy the main facts are undoubtedly correct.

From the beginning the hospital was founded for the relief of the sick poor and was not a mere almshouse like so many of the older hospitals in England. It had an independent constitution and a separate estate for a master, eight brethren and four sisters, whilst the priory at first had a prior and thirteen canons. The prior, says Dr. Norman Moore, to whom we owe so much of the history of the hospital, was, of course, a greater person than the master of the hospital, and the canons more dignified than the brethren; but such was the popularity of the hospital from its very beginning that its reputation and income rapidly increased and freed it from all dependence upon the priory. The relation of the hospital to the priory was in dispute for more than 250 years after its foundation. It was not until 1373 that the ordinance of Richard of Ely acknowledged the dependence of the hospital on the priory to be merely nominal, a conclusion which has had the happy effect of preserving for the use of the sick poor of London a great foundation which would otherwise have been diverted, like those of the priory, from the service of religion and charity to the treasury of King Henry VIII.

Nothing now remains of the original buildings, nor is it possible to trace them even in outline. They were in all probability mere scattered wooden structures whitewashed and of one storey, perhaps separated from each other by streets and narrow lanes, but most likely grouped round a central hall. We know that there was such a hall and that it had a large fireplace in the centre, because Henry III. made a present to the hospital on September 11, 1223, and again in 1224, in these terms:—"The King to Engelard de Cicogny greeting. We

PLATE III.

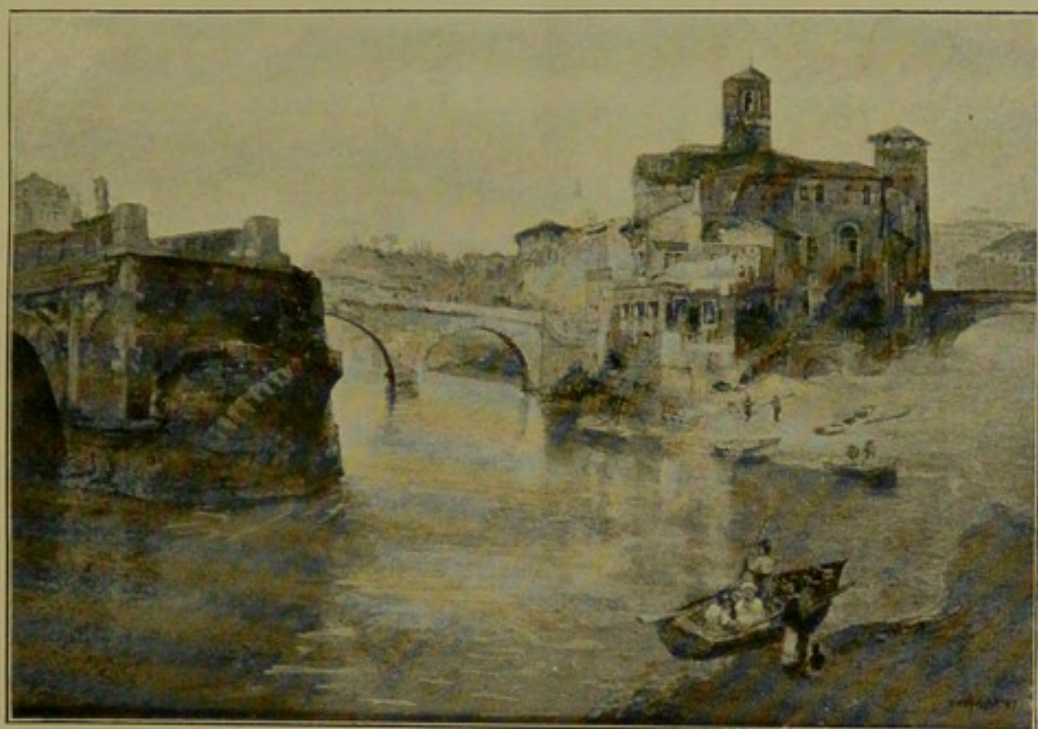


Fig. 1.

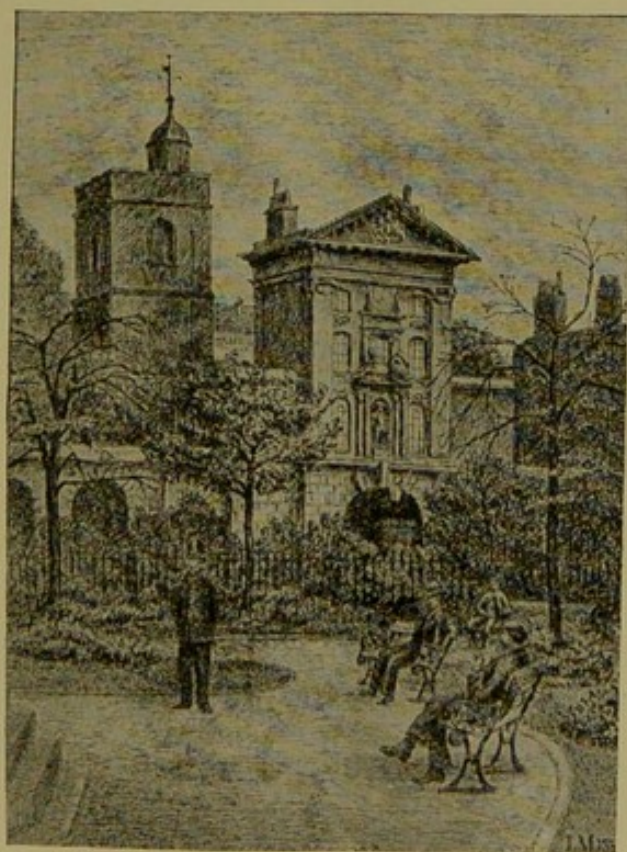


Fig. 2.

PLATE IV.

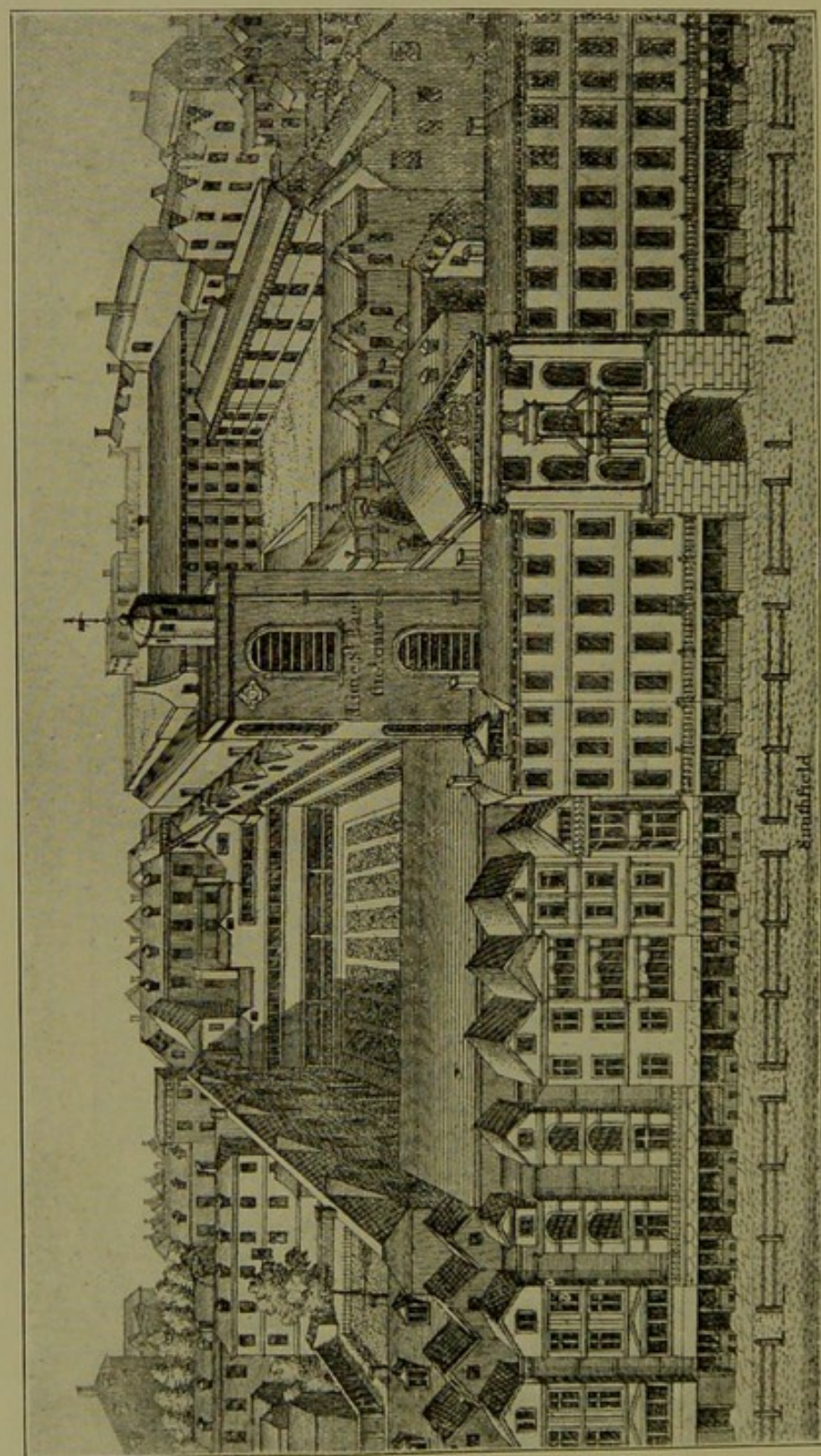


Fig. 3.

command you to give to the patients of St. Bartholomew in London as cur gift one old oak in our forest of Windsor, on the Thames, with the least possible injury to our forest and the greatest use to the aforesaid patients for their hearth."

There have always been entrances to the hospital where the gates at Smithfield (Fig. 2) and Little Britain now stand, and there used to be others. One was demolished when the new school buildings were erected, and for many years it was the principal entrance, as the Smithfield gateway was blocked to traffic. The principal gateway was rebuilt in 1702. It is of the Doric order and consists of a large arch over which is a statue of Henry VIII. placed between Corinthian pillars supporting a circular pediment adorned with two figures emblematical of sickness and lameness. Before the Reformation there were several chapels with lodgings for the chaplains, and the last of them, the tower of the original structure alone remaining, is known to us as the Parish Church (Figs. 2 and 10) of St. Bartholomew's the Less, though its proper name is Holy Cross. The other chapels were St. Catherine's, near the north corner of the Smithfield front, and St. Nicholas and St. Andrew on the south side, near the present outpatients' room.

Within the hospital, and remaining until a much later date, were houses with gardens. Dr. John Caius, who gave his name to Caius College, Cambridge, died, as he had predicted, on July 29, 1573, in one of these houses; Master Vicary occupied another a few years before him; and in 1567 Dr. Lopus, a physician, was resident officer. Between 1567 and 1575 there are various orders for repairing his house and gardens. On November 9, 1575, the hospital decided to "board his parlour" in consideration that he should be "more painfull in his care" for the poor. Vicary had received a livery of the hospital, but in lieu of it Dr. Lopus had forty shillings a year, which with his house and a certain allowance of "billets and coales" formed his salary. This plan was interrupted for a time and Dr. Lopus lived away from the hospital, but on the retirement of his successor, Dr. Turner, it was again adopted, and Dr. Timothy Bright was elected to have the office of physician with the house and fee thereto belonging. This plan of having a resident physician was continued until 1599 or 1600, when Dr. Doyley, who was then physician, asked for £20 a year "according to the king's

foundacon and it was granted him on condition of his giving up the house he held." And with this £20 a year he received in commutation "for his fewell v li. and for his livery xl s." It does not appear that Dr. William Harvey ever received anything in lieu of a livery, and he certainly never resided as physician to the hospital, though the minutes of 1614 show that it was considered very desirable that he should do so. Thus on July 28, 1614, "It is thought meate by this Court that Mr. Dr. Harvey, or his successor, physician to this hospital, shall have the howses nowe or late in the tenures of Mrs. Gardner and Dr. Bonham with a parcell of the garden now in the tenure of William Allen in Weste Smythfield, after the expiration of the lease sometyme granted to Robert Chidley, gent., which the said William Allen now holdeth. And the same then to be devided and laid forth at the discrecon of the governors of this howse, for so long a tyme as he shal be doctor to this howse, for such yearly rent and uppon such condicons as this Court shall thinck fytt." The Treasurer has been a resident officer of the hospital until quite recently, the clerk, the hospitaller, and the steward still have houses within the hospital gates, but their residences have long been shorn of any garden. The surgeons never appear to have lived in the hospital after its second foundation, but they were always enjoined to dwell in the immediate neighbourhood. This was construed to be the Old Bailey and Knighttrider Street in the seventeenth century; Charterhouse Square, Bedford Row, and even so far afield as Hanover Square in the eighteenth century. The charge delivered to the surgeons at the present time contains the clause:—"So long as you continue to be one of the surgeons to the hospital you shall reside within such reasonable distance there of as may be deemed satisfactory to the governors."

The older maps of London are too sketchy in their details to give even a general idea of the hospital and its buildings in the days of Elizabeth, nor are the woodcuts in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* showing the burnings in Smithfield of greater assistance. It is not until 1720 that a separate engraving was made (Fig. 3). This shows the gateway as it stands at present with butchers' shops on either side. The gateway leads into a narrow lane, and the hospital buildings

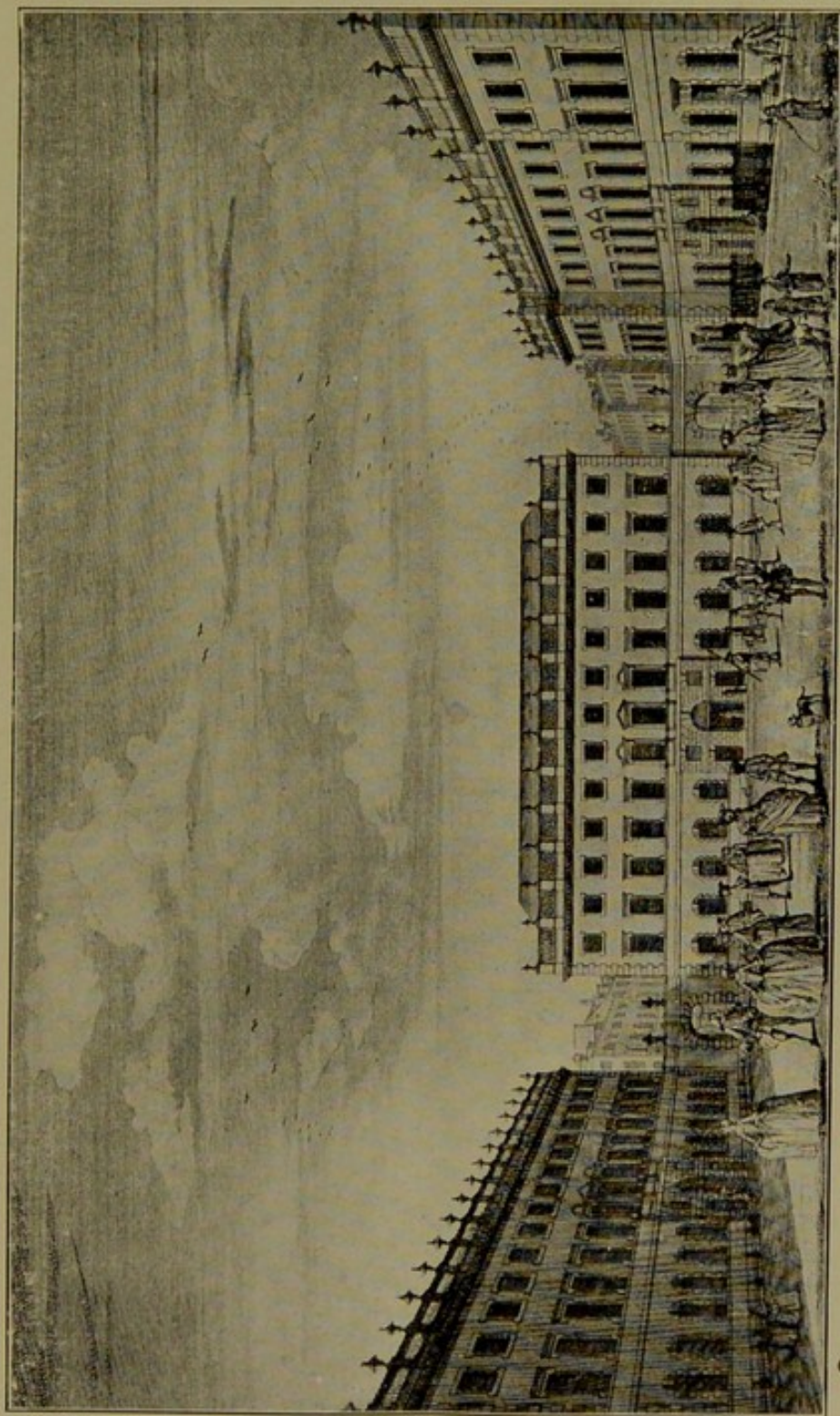


Fig. 4.

PLATE VI.

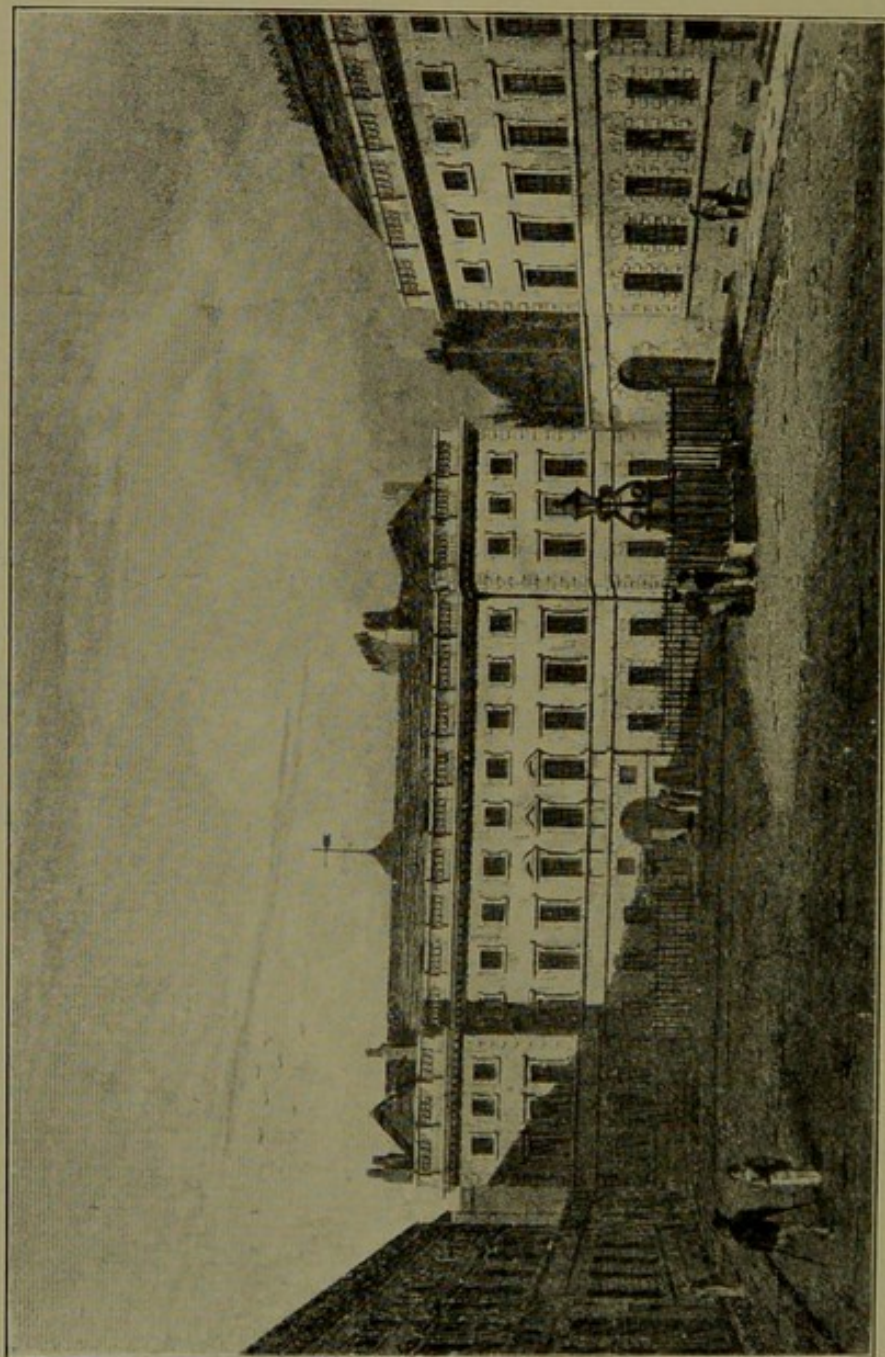


Fig. 5.

are built round quadrangles of three and four storeys high, one of which has an open gallery like the old inns. A few years after this engraving was made the hospital had outgrown its buildings, and it was necessary to rebuild it from the foundations between 1725 and 1760.

These buildings remain with certain alterations until the present day. They were begun in 1729 by James Gibbs, the architect of the church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in London, of the Radcliffe Camera at Oxford, and of the Fellows' Buildings at King's College, Cambridge. The buildings are grouped round a quadrangle (Fig. 4), and consist of four blocks, which were originally connected one with another by archways (Figs. 4 and 5). Each of the four blocks is four storeys high, and three of the four contain wards, the fourth being devoted to administrative offices (Fig. 6), the Great Hall, and the Treasurer's house. Each of the three ward blocks is entered by a plain archway leading to a great central staircase of wood. The wards are arranged in pairs on each floor running right and left of the staircase. The majority of the wards are divided longitudinally into two halves by a brick wall, access from one part of the ward to the other being only possible at either end. A sister's room, where she both lives and sleeps, opens out of the ward by a half glass door, and in every instance there is a small ward kitchen. The bath-rooms and lavatories built out at the end of each block are modern additions. A fifth ward block was built in the last century by the side of the old operating theatre. The staircase to the Great Hall was decorated by Hogarth, and Dr. Moore says that "surgeons will observe with interest the good Samaritan employing the method of treating a wound by pouring oil into it, while physicians will admire in the painting of the pool of Bethesda the accurate representation of the distribution of psoriasis in the well-rounded limbs of one patient, the contrast of hypertrophy and atrophy on the left of the picture, the gouty hand, the wasted figure with malignant disease of the liver, and the rickety infant. The walls in the Great Hall are inscribed with the names of benefactors to the hospital dating back to the sixteenth century, and contains many fine portraits of those who have served the hospital faithfully whether on the lay or the medical side.

The hospital has undergone a steady process of enlargement

ever since its foundation, and many names known to students of the history of London are included in the list of its benefactors. At the Reformation the hospital was separated from the priory in 1537, John Brereton, Doctor of Laws, being then master. The revenues came into the possession of King Henry VIII. on October 25, 1539, but as early as February 11, 1539, the Mayor and Recorder of the City had petitioned that the hospital might be given to the City, the petition reaching the king about March 5, 1539. No answer was given to the petition for five years when letters patent were issued on June 23, 1544, creating a new Bartholomew's Hospital. This corporation consisted of a master (a priest) and four chaplains, to whom were given the site, buildings, and church of the old hospital of St. Bartholomew's the Less, and all its goods, jewels, and chattels, but without any other endowment. The new hospital being called "the house of the poor in West Smithfield." The master and chaplains proved themselves bad managers, for they sold the property, despoiled the library, and removed so much of the furniture as hardly to leave sufficient accommodation for three patients. But in the meantime the care of the sick poor had become a question of importance in London, and the citizens again appealed to the Crown, who, for the second time, granted letters patent dated April 26, 1547, for the refounding of the hospital with an endowment of houses and lands of the annual value of 500 marks on condition that the citizens should raise annually a like sum to secure a total revenue of 1,000 marks or £666 13s. 4d. The hospital and its endowments being vested in the Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of London, because "of the miserable state of the poore, aged, sick, low, and impotent people, as well men as women, lying and going about begging in the common streets of the said City of London and the suburbs of the same to the great paine and sorrowe of the same poore, aged, sicke, and impotent people, and to the great infection, hurt, and annoyance of His Grace's loving subjects, which must of necessity goe and passe by the same poore, sick, low, and impotent people being infected with divers great and horrible sicknesses and diseases."

The Hospital of St. Bartholomew contained 100 beds at the time of its second foundation, and it is said that they were all allotted to surgical cases. Three surgeons were

PLATE VII.

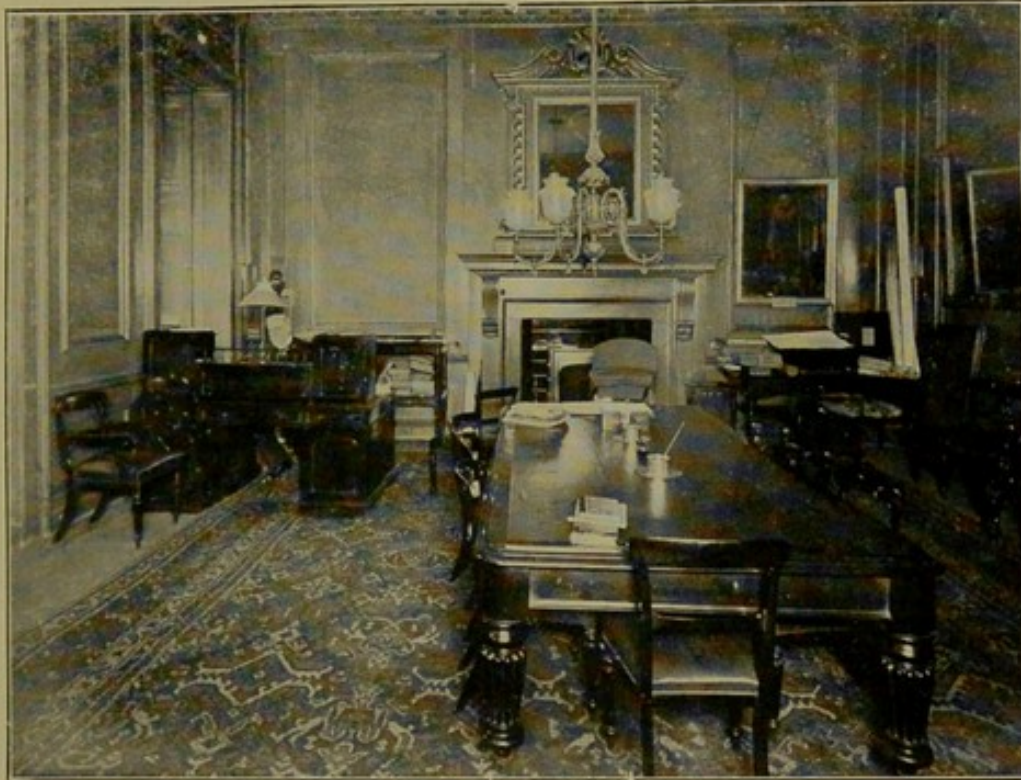


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

PLATE VIII.



Fig. 8.

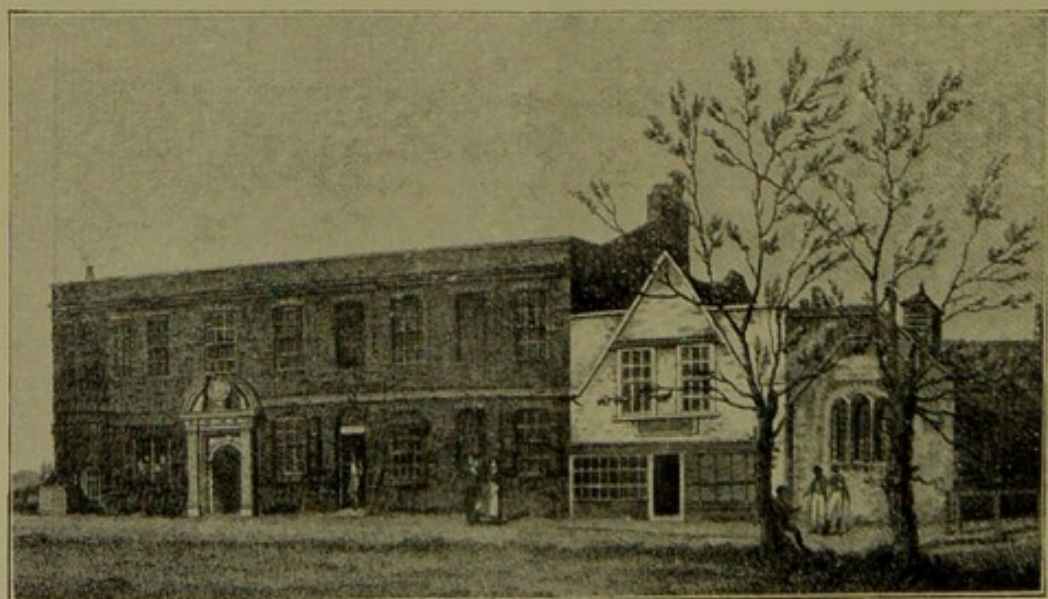


Fig. 9.

appointed as early as 1547, and it was not until some time between 1561 and 1567 that the first physician was elected. This only means, I think, that duly qualified practitioners were appointed to serve the hospital, for the Barbers' Company first, and afterwards the United Company of Barbers and Surgeons, had the monopoly of licensing to practise in the City of London and in the suburbs for seven miles round. The College of Physicians, founded in 1518, was a new body, its members were very few, and the citizens would know much less about them than they did about the members of the Barbers' Company whose quarrels they had often been called upon to settle. In 1564 the physician had 8 out-patients under his care; in 1670 he had 40, a number reduced to 25 in 1675, whilst in 1710 100 patients were allotted to him; in 1715 150, and in 1749 200. In accordance with the custom of the time the surgeons relegated some parts of their duty to those who were looked upon as unqualified practitioners. They did not operate to remove a stone nor would they undertake to cure a hernia; there was a bone-setter attached to the hospital and a curer of "scaldheads," who was sometimes a woman. The autocratic power of the surgeons was gradually nibbled away by the physicians until, even as late as 1745, the surgeons were prohibited from prescribing any internal medicine for patients within the hospital except "mercurial physick or purges." At first the surgeons supplied at their own cost the materials for dressing the wounds of the patients under their care, and it was not until 1567 that mention is made of an apothecary whose duty it was "to finde such medicines and drinckes as are administered inwardely unto any of the poore. And the surgions to find all stuffe, as plasters, ointments, pulteses, and such like things for the poore as are to be ministered outwardly." The work of the apothecary's shop (Fig. 7) has increased enormously. It now employs a large staff of dispensers under the able supervision of Mr. Moore, and as many as 1,000 prescriptions are made up in a single day for the use of the out-patients alone.

We know but little of the nurses at the time of the second foundation. The hundred patients were cared for by a matron and 12 nurses. The matron in 1552 had supervision

"of the washers and nurses of this howse to see that they be alwaies well occupied and not idle." In 1652 she was charged "at such times as the sisters shall not be occupied about the poor ye shall set them to spinning or doing of some other manner of work that may avoid idleness and be profitable to the poor of this house." Of the sisters it is said, "Ye shall also faithfully and charitably serve and help the poor in all their griefs and diseases as well by keeping them sweet and clean, as in giving them their meats and drinks after the most honest and comfortable manner. Also ye shall use unto them good and honest talk, such as may comfort and amend them . . . using yourselves unto them with all sobriety and discretion. And above all things see that ye avoyd, abhor, and detest scolding and drunkenesses, as most pestilent and filthy vices. Ye shall not be out of the woman's ward after the hour of seven of the clock in the night in the winter time, nor after nine of the clock at night in the summer time, except ye shall be appointed and commanded by the matron so to be for some great and speciall cause that shall concern the poor (as the present danger of death or extream sickness)." Up to about 35 years ago there was one sister and three nurses to each of the 28 wards, and the entire staff of women numbered less than 120, now there are 320 residing within the walls of the hospital under the charge of Miss Isla Stewart—the matron. How well they do their work and how helpful they are to the medical staff and the patients is known only to those whose duty and pleasure it is to work daily in harmony with them. A sister clad in blue is the head of each ward, she is assisted by a staff nurse and a staff probationer both wearing striped uniforms, but distinguished from each other by the fact that the first wears a blue belt and the second a white belt, beneath them are one or more probationers in grey.

A few facts remain about the early patients of the hospital and of the manner in which they were admitted. One of the first of whom there is a record is Adwyne, in the time of Henry II. (1154-1189). He lived at Dunwych, in Suffolk, which has long since been swallowed up by the sea. He "dwelt on the seaside and was so contracted that he might not use the free office of hand nor of foot, his legs were cleaving to the hinder part of his thighs, that he might

not go, and his hands turned backwards, nothing with them might he do, nor work. The extremities of his fingers were so rigorously contracted in the sinews that he could not put meat in his mouth. In this grievous sickness he passed his young age, and when he attained to man's age and not yet had the power of his limbs, yet since the fame of tokens and miracles of the blessed apostle (Bartholomew) came to him by relation of other men, he began to lift up his sorrowful soul into a better hope. And though health were in that time delayed, it was promised to come. Therefore for that he was far from that church, he gave shipmen for their hire, and by ship he was brought to the church¹ and put in the hospital of poor men. And there awhile of the alms of the said church was sustained. And he began in the meanwhile by the virtue of the apostle to take breath unto him and the desired health first with his hands though they were crooked he did make small works as distaffs and weights and other women's instruments, and furthermore by succession when other members used their natural might he followed in greater works, hewers of wood with axe and squarers of timber with chipping axe (adze) and not long after the craft of carpentry in the same church and in the city he exercised, as it had been taught him from his childhood, blessing God whose eyes be on them that dread him and upon them that hope on his mercy."

In later years it was the custom of the hospital to employ eight or ten beadles, who are charged daily to "separate and divide yourselves into sundry parts and liberties of the city, every man taking his several walk. And if in any of your walks ye shall happen to espy any person infected with any loathly grief or disease, which shall fortune to lie in any notable place of this city, to the annoyance and infection of passers-by and slander of this house, ye shall then give knowledge thereof unto the almoners of this hospital, that they may take such order therein as to them shall be thought meet. Ye shall also have a special eye and regard unto all such persons as have been cured and healed in this house that none of them counterfeit any grief or disease, neither beg within the city and liberties thereof. And if ye shall so fortune

¹ He could have been brought up the Fleet river as far as the bottom of Hosier Lane opposite the hospital.

and find any so doing ye shall immediately commit him or them to some cage and give knowledge thereof to the governors of this house. Ye shall not haunt or frequent the company of any poor and beggarly persons (that is to say) to drink or eat with them in any victualling house or other place . . . lest by occasion thereof ye should winck at them and so lewdly license them to begge . . . Also ye shall not suffer any sturdy or idle beggar or vagabond to beg or ask alms within this City of London or suburbs of the same, but ye shall forthwith commit all such to ward and immediately signify the name and surname of him or them to the alderman of that ward where ye shall apprehend any such beggar, and also to the Lord Mayor, that execution may be done as the law in that case hath provided."

The hospital received general surgical cases in the time of Elizabeth very much as it did until 50 years ago, and, if we may believe contemporary writers, they were too often the direct outcome of quack practice. Master Gale says in 1562 :—"I did see in the two hospitals of London called St. Thomas' Hospital and St. Bartholomew's Hospital to the number of 300 and odd poor people that were diseased of sore legs, sore arms, feet and hands, with other parts of the bodies so sore affected that 120 of them could never be recovered without loss of a leg or an arm, a foot or a hand, fingers or toes, or else their limbs crooked so that they were either maimed or else undone for ever. All these were brought to this mischief by witches, by women, by counterfeit javils that took upon them to use the art not only by robbing them of their money, but of their limbs and perpetual health. And I, with certain others, diligently examining these poor people how they came by their grievous hurts and who were the chirurgions that looked unto them, and they confessed that they were either witches which did promise by charms to make them whole with herbs and such like things, or else some vagabond javil which runneth from one country to another promising them health only to deceive them of their money. This fault and crime of the undoing of the people were laid unto the chirurgions—I will not say by part of those who were at that time masters of the same hospitals—but it *was* said that carpenters, women, weavers, cobblers, and

tinkers did cure more people than the chirurgions. But what manner of cures they did I have told you before—such cures as all the world may wonder at; yea, I say, such cures as maketh the devil in hell to dance for joy to see the poor members of Jesus Christ so miserably tormented.”

This plague of quackery and its results in the form of amputation is confirmed by John Woodall, who, writing in 1639, bears testimony to the good work of the hospital in the following words:—“I affirm for a truth, that for the space of near 24 years I have been a surgeon in the hospital of St. Bartholomew’s, where I have taken off and holpen to take off more than one hundred of legges and armes, besides very many hands, amongst all which not one of them all hath died in the time of their dismembering nor afterwards through the exceeding effusion of blood in the operations that ever I could gather or conceive, and furthermore I affirm that not above four of each twenty dismembered, but lived to have been healed and have been delivered whole out of the hospital notwithstanding whatsoever their diseases have been.” A mortality of 20 per cent. In the year 1722 there were 3,381 admissions into St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, “of whom 217 were buried after much charge in their illness.”

When the plague was rampant and syphilis was a much more serious disease than it is at present some means of isolation were of the utmost importance. St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, by the hand of Dr. William Harvey, declared in 1633 “that all such as are certified by the doctor uncurable and scandalous or infectious shall be put out of the said house or be sent to an outhouse, and in case of sudden inconvenience this to be done by the doctor or apothecary.” These outhouses or isolation hospitals were situated in Kent Street, Southwark, “The Lock,” for men (Fig. 8), and at Kingsland, “The Spital” (Fig. 9), for women. They were originally leper houses of very ancient foundation, hospitals which were once more numerous though less closely connected with St. Bartholomew’s. The Lock and the Spital survived until 1760. Each contained about 30 beds and was under the charge of a “guide” or surgeon, who, in 1608, had an annual stipend of £4 a year, and fourpence a day for the diet of each patient under his care. In 1754 each surgeon had a salary of £30 a year besides a

house, and a gratuity of £50 a year for medicines. It was usual in later times for the two senior assistant surgeons to the hospital to be "surgeons and guides" of the Locks. The sacramental chalice, until lately used in the wards of the hospital, was formerly in use at the Lock in Southwark, and it is thus one of the last connecting links which binds the hospital to the even more venerable leper houses of London.

The Parish Church of St. Bartholomew's the Less (Fig. 10) is within the gates of the hospital, and was at one time called the chapel of Holy Cross, at another the chapel of the Brotherhood of St. Bartholomew, and contained a chapel for the poor. It was founded by Rahere, and the structure then standing escaped the Great Fire of London. With the exception of the tower this chapel was taken down because it had become ruinous, and was replaced in 1789 by an octagon building of wood designed by George Dance, architect and surveyor to the hospital. His wooden building was replaced by the present church of stone erected by Hardwicke in 1823. The tower was built at some time before 1300 and is thus the oldest part of the hospital building, it contains some Norman and Early English arches and pillars. The piscina (Fig. 11) from the ancient church now does duty as the font. In the ante-chapel are two brasses (Fig. 12) showing the figures of William Markeby, who died in 1439, and his wife Alice; in the north wall of the church is a monument to Ann, wife of Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The tomb of Robert Balthrope, serjeant-surgeon to Queen Elizabeth (Fig. 13), is in the wall behind the organ, and the tomb of John Freke, surgeon (1729-1755), is interesting. It is of the perpendicular period, and Dr. Moore suggests that it may have belonged originally to John Wakeryng, master of the hospital from 1422-1466.

The earliest record of a medical school at St. Bartholomew's hospital is in 1662, when students used to attend the medical and surgical practice, their studies being assisted five years later by the formation of a library "for the use of the governors and young university scholars." In 1726 accommodation was provided for a museum of anatomical and chirurgical preparations placed under the charge of John Freke, then an assistant

PLATE IX.

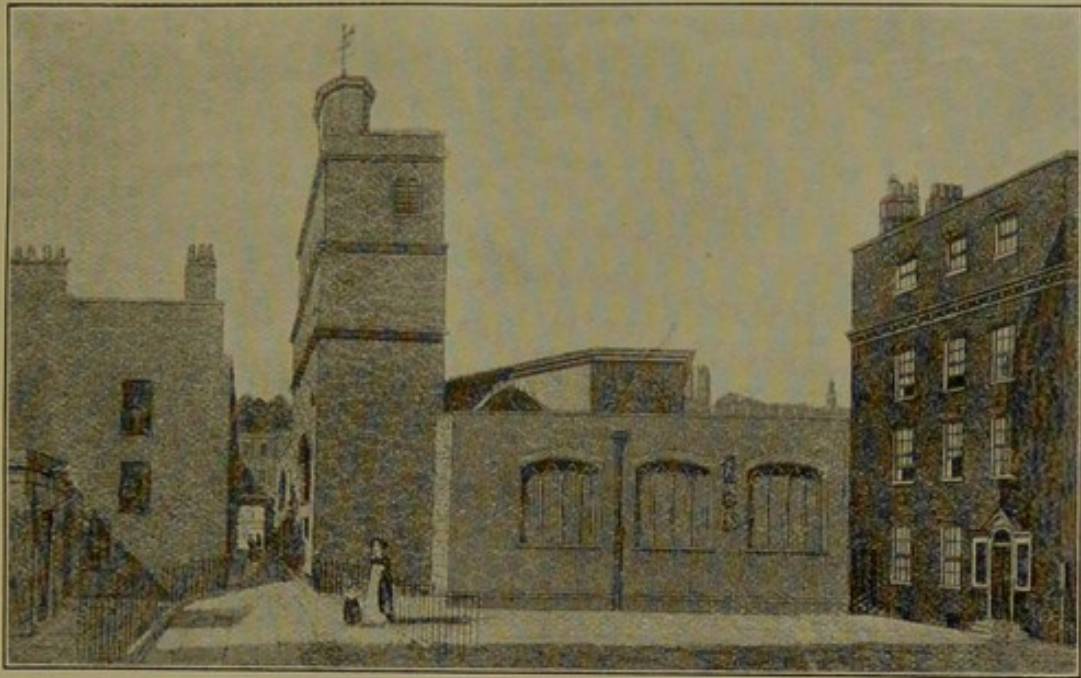


Fig. 10.

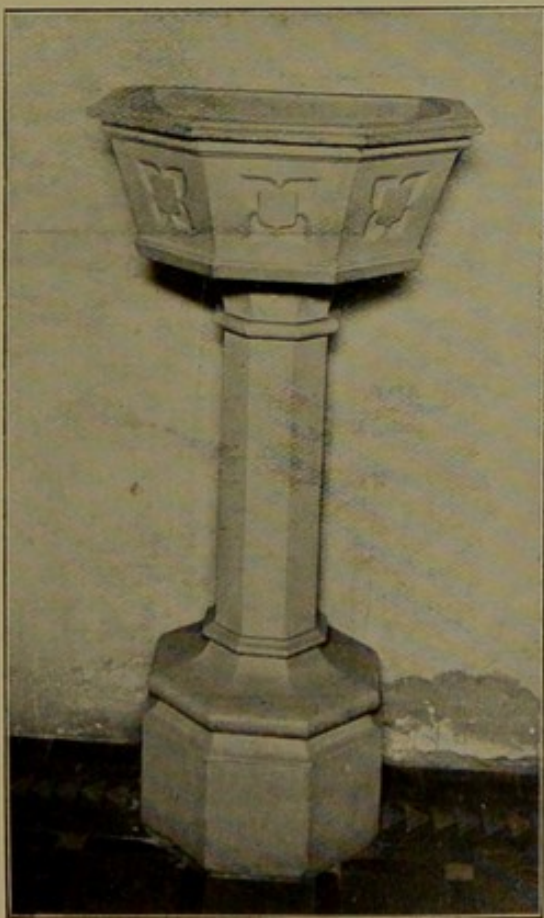


Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.

PLATE X.



Fig. 13.

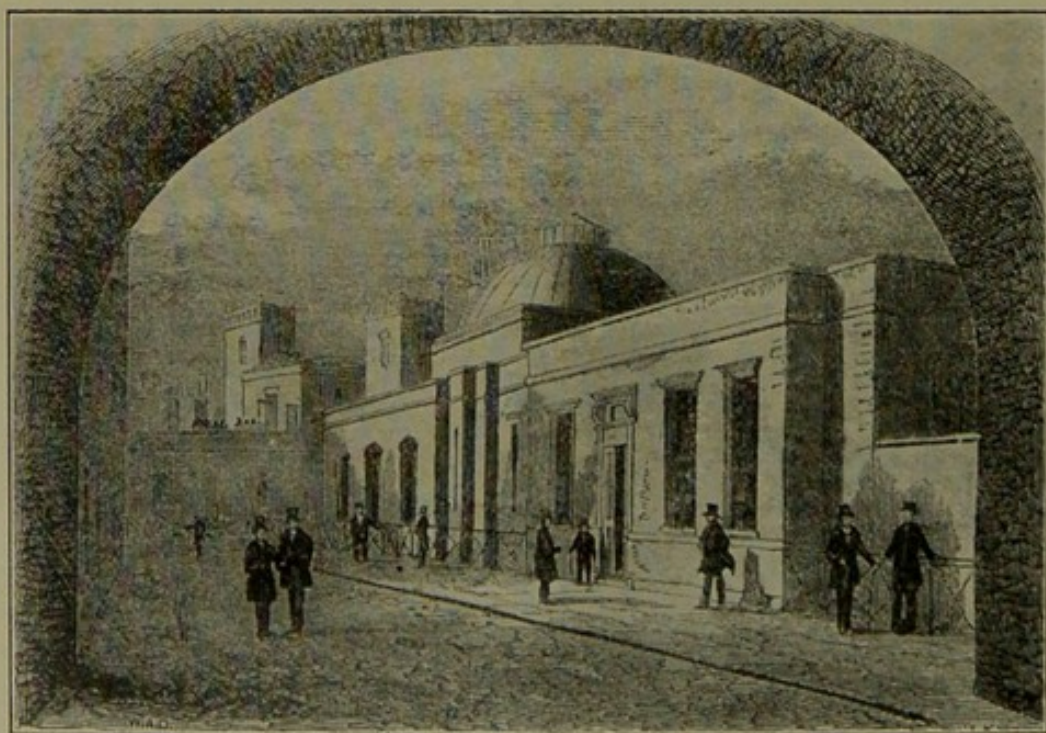


Fig. 14.

PLATE XI.

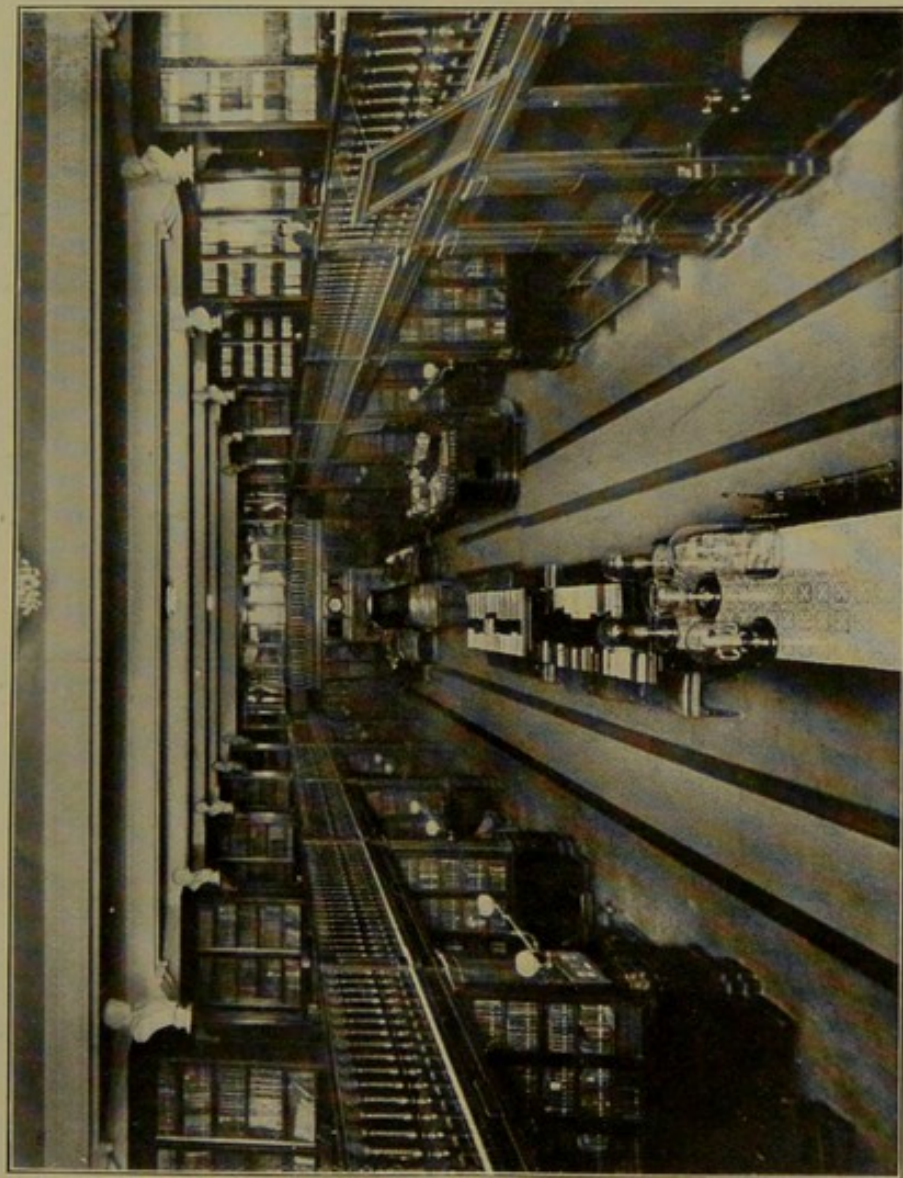


Fig. 15.

PLATE XII.



Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.

surgeon. Leave was granted in 1734 for any of the surgeons or assistant surgeons "to read lectures in Anatomy in the dissecting room of the hospital," a great step in advance, for the Company of Barber Surgeons still held a monopoly of anatomical teaching, and it was only by especial favour that a licence for "private anatomies" could be obtained. The first surgeon to avail himself of this permission was Edward Nourse, whose course consisted of 23 lectures. These anatomical lectures were delivered for many years, and were followed in 1765 by lectures on surgery delivered by Percivall Pott, who had been his pupil and prosector. These lectures became so celebrated as to attract men from all parts, and amongst others John Hunter. About the same time Dr. William Pitcairn, and afterwards Dr. David Pitcairn, gave lectures on Medicine, though the lectures were probably only occasional. It was in one of these lectures that Dr. David Pitcairn first pointed out the relation between cardiac disease and acute rheumatism.

Further additions to the course of instruction were made by John Abernethy, who established the principal lectures of the present day in conjunction with Drs. William and David Pitcairn. The governors of the hospital built a lecture theatre in 1791, where Abernethy lectured with the greatest success, having amongst his auditors at different times Benjamin Brodie, William Lawrence, and the poet Shelley. So great, indeed, was the attendance that a new and larger theatre was built in 1822 (Fig. 14). At the same period Dr. William Austin, physician to the hospital, delivered the first course of lectures on Chemistry. The anatomical museum was considerably enlarged in 1835 and 1854; new medical and chemical theatres and museums of *Materia Medica* and Botany were built, the library was enlarged, and in 1865 the dissecting rooms were rebuilt. Various alterations and additions were made to the school buildings until, in 1876, the increase in the number of students rendered the existing accommodation insufficient. The governors then decided to rebuild all the school buildings, a design which was completed in 1881, when the present block was opened by H.R.H. the President of the Hospital, now His Majesty King Edward VII.—our Patron. In the building is a fine library (Fig. 15) and a

museum (Fig. 16), which contains a magnificent collection of pathological specimens.

In 1843 the governors founded a college for the convenience of students who wished to live within the hospital. Its site was part of the gift to the hospital of Hersent, wife of Geoffrey of St. Loy, William FitzSabelline, and of John Bocointe. The Bocointes, or family of Bucca uncta, "oily mouth," were distinguished in Stephen's reign, and John's father, Andrew, was the leading citizen in 1137, when he was Justiciar of London, a position which gave him precedence even of the sheriff.

In 1877 an institution was established for training nurses in connection with the hospital, and in 1885 a complete convalescent home was opened at Swanley, in Kent, to accommodate 70 patients. The clinical practice of the hospital now comprises a service of 744 beds; of these, 231 are allotted to medical patients, 335 to surgical cases, 25 to diseases of the eye, 32 to diseases of women, and 50 to general and isolation cases. There are no separate wards for the diseases of children. During the year 1903 the number of in-patients under treatment was 7,264, and of out-patients 137,305, whilst 1,538 midwifery cases were treated at their own homes.

The hospital has several times renewed its youth by rebuilding its premises, and in each instance the renewal has been coincident with a time of great intellectual vigour. The twelfth century was remarkable for the Crusades, the building of the great cathedrals, the coming of the friars, and the growth of feudalism, it was the prelude to the Renaissance. Our hospital was built and grew most strongly during the middle of this period. The second foundation was the direct outcome of the Reformation, that peculiar movement which in a few years separated at once and for ever mediæval from modern England. The third rebuilding of the hospital came on the wave of philanthropy, which raised infirmaries in every county town throughout the kingdom, a tide whose origin and far-reaching effects have never yet been adequately discussed. The necessity for rebuilding has again arisen (Fig. 17) and must be faced by the present generation, a generation familiar with the advent of steam, of iron, and of electricity. As on all the former occasions, it must be gradual but it will be none

the less thorough. Money will come in but slowly, and as it comes so the work of rebuilding must be carried out. New out-patient rooms, accommodation for the special departments of medicine and surgery and pathological laboratories will be built first, for the King, Patron of the Hospital, has already laid the foundation-stone of this block on land obtained at a great price from Christ's Hospital. The wards must then be reconstructed, for enormous improvements have taken place in the construction of hospitals and public opinion demands, what the governors freely allow, that a determined effort be made to bring the buildings up to a modern standard. To do this, however, much money is required, and as in the eighteenth century money had to be obtained by public subscription, so in the twentieth century the hospital is again appealing for funds to rebuild on its ancient site. In the eighteenth century money came so slowly that more than thirty years passed before the buildings could be completed; in the present day it pours in somewhat more rapidly, but in nothing like the full stream which is necessary to enable the hospital to proceed in its highest splendour.

GREAT MEN.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital has attracted to itself a large number of remarkable men in the course of its long and beneficent career. Everyone interested in the hospital knows the names of Rahere, Vicary, Harvey, Pott, Lawrence, Paget, and Savory, but only a few know more than their names. It is the object therefore of the following pages to give a short account of those who have made the hospital famous.

RAHERE.

The loving care of a canon of the Priory of St. Bartholomew has preserved for us some facts about Rahere, our founder, facts obtained from "those who saw him, heard him, and were present in his works and deeds, of the which some have taken their sleep in Christ and some of them be yet alive and witnesseth of that what we shall after say," for he wrote about 1180, and Rahere died in 1144. Rahere (Fig. 18) was of Norman ancestry, perhaps from the east side of Brittany, and he was

born about 1080 of low lineage. "When he attained the flower of his youth he began to haunt the households of noble men and the palaces of princes, where under every elbow of them he spread their cushions with japes and flatteries, delectably anointing their ears. . . . And even he was not content with this, but often haunted the king's palace. This wise to king and great men, gentils and courtiers familiarly and fellowly was he known." Yet, though he was a courtier in the following of William Rufus, he was also an ecclesiastic, and had for his patrons Richard de Balmeis, made Bishop of London in 1105, and Richard's nephew, who became Dean of St. Paul's in 1111. About 1115 Rahere was appointed to the prebendal stall of Chamberleynes wood in St. Paul's Cathedral, and about 1120 went to Rome on a pilgrimage. He bewailed his sins at the Tre Fontane, the place of martyrdom of St. Paul, and there "he avowed if health God him would grant that he might lawfully return to his country he would make an hospital in recreation of poor men and to them so there y-gathered, necessities minister after his power." On his return to London and in accordance with a vision, which has already been told (p. 1), he began to build the hospital of St. Bartholomew in March, 1123, and soon afterwards a priory of Augustinian canons, of which the church still remains to us as the parish church of St. Bartholomew the Great.

Rahere was appointed the first master of the hospital, and to the Austin canons "was prelate xxii years, using the office and dignity of a prior, not having cunning of liberal science, but that that is more eminent than all cunning, for he was rich in purity of conscience." He resigned the mastership of the hospital in 1137, being succeeded by Hagno, and in his later years he associated with himself Alfune, the builder of St. Giles' Cripplegate, who helped him greatly in collecting food and alms for his brethren the canons and also for the poor men that lay in the hospital, as is shown in the following story from the *Liber Fundacionis* "of Gooderich the butcher, a man of great sharpness . . . which to the asker would not give, but was wont with scorning words to insult them. It fell upon a day that while this foresaid Alfune went about the butchers man by man and after others when he came to this Godryke and moved him with

good and honest words of opportunely and importunately because he was not willing to give, he persevered that he would not go from him void, and when the old man beheld that he would not for dread, neither for love of God nor also for shame of men he might not temper the hardness of that obdurate heart he broke out in these words 'O, thou unhappy, O, thou ungentle and unkind man to the giver of all good, that for the gift of heavenly goodness will not commune with the poor men of Christ, I beseech thee, wretch, put away a little and assuage the hardness of that unfaithful soul and take in experience the virtue of the glorious apostle, in whom if thou trust, I promise thee that every piece of thy meat that thou givest me a portion of shall sooner be sold than the rest and nothing

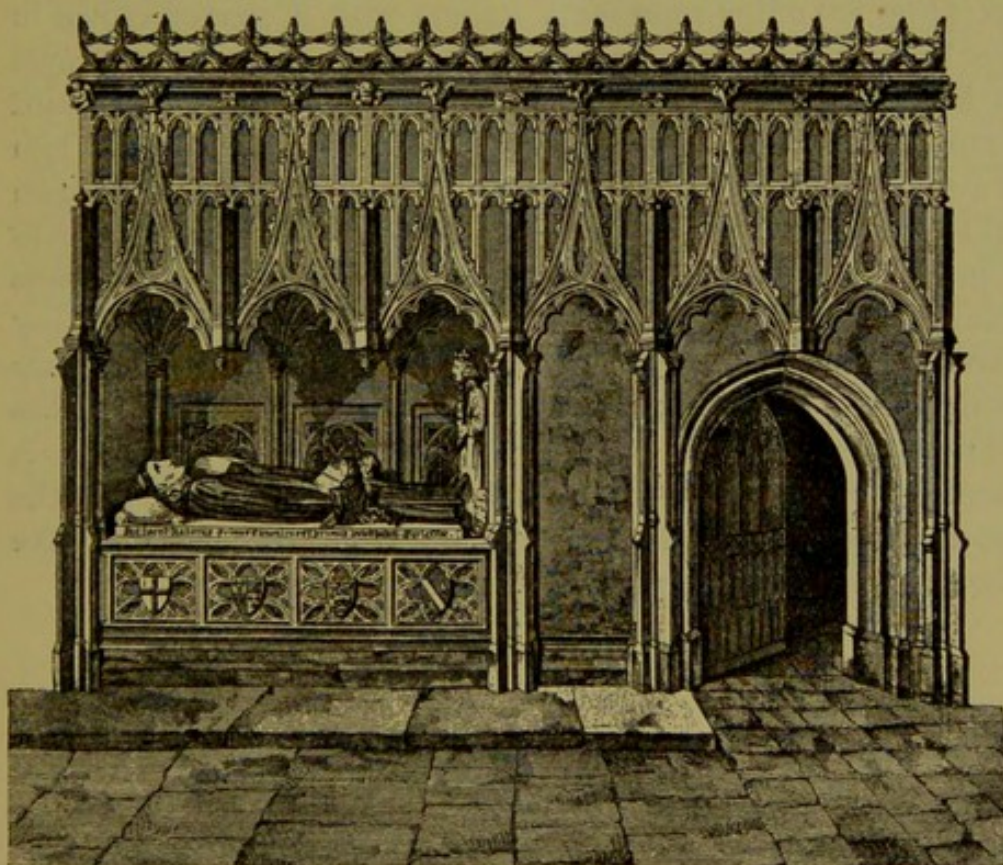


Fig. 18. *Tomb of Rahere.*

in the minishing or lessening of the price.' He was moved not with the instinct or stirring of charity but overcome with the importunity of the asker, he drew out a piece of the vilest meat and cast it into Alfunyn's vessell, calling them truants and bade them lightly go from him: to whom Alfunyn

answered 'I shall not go from thee till my word and promise be fulfilled.' And without delay there was a citizen coveting to buy flesh for himself and his household and of that heap of the which Alfunyn spoke before, he bought at the will of the seller and took it away with him. And when this was told through all the butchery, it was taken for a worthy miracle as was fitting. And from that time they began to be more prompt to give their alms and also fervent in devotion."

Rahere died September 20, 1144, and was buried on the north side of the altar of the Priory Church in the place where his tomb still stands with the inscription "*Hic jacet Raherus, primus Cononicus et primus Prior hujus ecclesiæ.*" The alabaster (Fig. 18) effigy represents Rahere with a shaven crown in the black robe of an Augustinian canon; a crowned angel at his feet holds a shield "*gules bearing two lions passant guardant with two crowns or in chief.*" At each side of him is a small kneeling figure of a monk reading from a book open at the passage "*For the Lord shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*" The effigy is probably of Rahere's century, it has well-marked features and is almost certainly a portrait. A vaulted canopy is above the tomb with tabernacle work of the fifteenth century, whilst beneath it are panels belonging, like the canopy, to the perpendicular style.

THOMAS VICARY.

Thomas Vicary (Fig. 19) was one of the most prominent men about St. Bartholomew's Hospital for many years after its second foundation. Born in all probability between the years 1490 and 1500, he was a man of Kent, and practised for a time as a surgeon at Maidstone. He came to London, and in 1530 he was one of the surgeons to King Henry VIII. and was Master of the Barbers Company. About 1535 he was appointed serjeant-surgeon to the King, and this office he held under Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. In 1541 he was appointed the first Master of the United Company of Barbers and

Surgeons, a position he occupied no less than five times. He died late in 1561 or at the beginning of 1562, having been twice married but leaving no children. We know him best by the carefully drawn portrait (Fig. 19) in Holbein's great picture, where he is represented as receiving a charter from Henry VIII.

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Vicary seems to have acted as medical superintendent, though it is doubtful whether he ever practised as a surgeon to the hospital. He was appointed one of the six new Governors of the hospital on September 29, 1548, and on January 16, 1551-2, "It is ordered that Thomas Vicary shall be one of the assistants of this house for the term of his life." On October 2, 1554, "This day it is ordered that Mr. Vicary should have the oversight of all such officers as be within the hospital in the absence of the Governors and to reform such things as hee seeth amiss in any officer and to make report to the Governors at their next meeting." He had three surgeons under him, each of whom received £18, and at a later time £20 per annum. He was clearly resident, because in 1550 his house was repaired by the hospital, and in June, 1651, he was given the old Convent Garden. He had, too, a livery of much more costly material than that supplied to any other officer. Thus in the discharge account of 1552-3 there is an entry for :—

"Three yards of fine new collour for Mr. Vicar's lyverye
at xii a yarde xlviii."

and in the following year—

"For Mr. Vicaryes liverye liiis."

After his death the surgeons at St. Bartholomew's Hospital published in Vicary's name a treatise of anatomy to which they gave the title of *The Englishman's Treasure*. It was said to have been compiled by "that excellent Chyrurgion Mr. Thomas Vicary, Esquire." It ran through at least seven editions, and until lately was thought to be a compilation by Vicary; but Dr. Payne has shown good grounds for thinking that it is merely a transcript of a fourteenth-century work on anatomy which may or may not have been made by Vicary.

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY.

William Harvey (Fig. 20), the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, is the glory of the latter house, as Rahere was of the first foundation. Born in 1578, the eldest son of an alderman of Folkestone, Harvey was educated at the King's School, Canterbury, and at Caius College, Cambridge. In 1600 he was at Padua, where he became the pupil and friend of Fabricius, lecturer on Anatomy, who was then perfecting his knowledge of the valves of the veins. In 1602 Harvey returned to England and settled in London, where he married the daughter of Dr. Lancelot Browne, physician to Queen Elizabeth and James I., as well as to the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew. He was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians in 1607, and in the following year brought letters from the King to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital asking that he should be granted the reversion of the place of Dr. Wilkenson, physician to the hospital, for this was the way in which the staff was then appointed. Dr. Wilkenson soon died, and Harvey was chosen to fill his place on Sunday, October 14, 1609.

Dr. Moore tells us that as physician it would be his duty to attend the hospital once a week. He sat at a table in the hall and the patients brought to him sat on a settle by his side. The apothecary, the steward, and the matron stood by whilst he wrote the prescriptions in a book, which was at all other times kept locked. The surgeons discharged their duties in the wards, which the physician only entered to visit patients who were unable to walk. Harvey continued to live in Ludgate after his election and never occupied the physician's official house (p. 6) within the hospital gates; indeed in 1626 his annual stipend was increased from £25 to £33 6s. 8d. because he decided not to take up the lease of the house, which could thus be let at a profit to someone else.

Whilst Harvey was physician to the hospital he was appointed Lumleian lecturer at the College of Physicians, and in April, 1616, gave his lectures to prove anatomically that the blood passes from one side of the heart to the other by way of the arteries and veins. At this time he was 37 years of age; a man of the lowest stature, round-faced, with a

PLATE XX.



Fig. 19.



Fig. 20.



PLATE XXI.

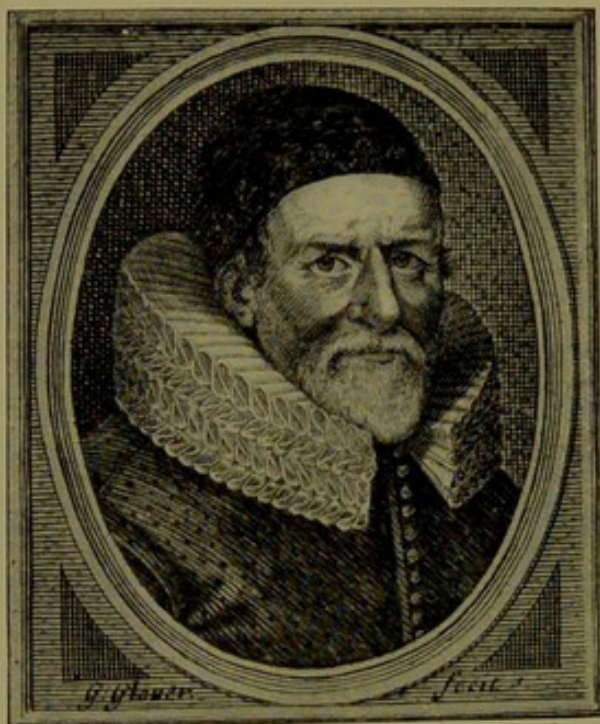


Fig. 21.



Fig. 22

complexion like the wainscot; his eyes small, round, very black and full of spirit; his hair as black as a raven and curling; rapid in his utterance, choleric, given to gesture, and used when in discourse with anyone to play unconsciously with the handle of the small dagger he wore by his side. In 1618 he was appointed to the sinecure office of physician to King James I., and in 1631 he was appointed physician to Charles I., to whom he soon became warmly attached and to follow whose cause he ultimately severed his connection with the hospital, although he remained physician until 1653, when he was succeeded by (Sir) John Micklethwaite. When the King was at Oxford, Harvey held the post of Warden of Merton College in the year 1645-6, at a time when he was busy with his experiments on the development of animals. Harvey retired from public life after the execution of Charles I., and being well advanced in years and exceedingly troubled with gout, spent much of his time with one or other of his brothers, successful Turkey merchants. He died at Roehampton, in the house of Sir Eliab Harvey, on June 3, 1657, and is buried at Hempstead, near Saffron Walden, in Essex. Although Harvey fortunately never attained to a large or fashionable practice, he was able to serve the hospital materially, for he came of a family of first-rate business capacity. The minutes of the Hospital Court contain numerous entries about him whilst he was physician, and show that the governors had a high opinion of his capacity. Indeed, Sir James Paget says that during the 34 years he held the office of physician he was more honoured by the governors and exercised a greater influence in the affairs of the hospital than any medical officer before the time of Abernethy.

WILLIAM CLOWES.

Surgery reached its lowest ebb in the later years of the reign of King Henry VIII. It became of no account as a profession, and an Act of Parliament was passed to allow any quack to practise. But even at this dark time there existed a band of men to whom surgeons must always be grateful, for they made a serious attempt to advance the best interests of the profession in face of the greatest difficulties. Some of

these men lived in the provinces, others resided in London. At first they worked independently of each other; afterwards, recognising each other's worth and that they had a common end in view, they became friends and toiled together. The best known members of the band were Thomas Gale, William Clowes, John Halle, John Read, and John Banester. Gale and Clowes were well known as surgeons in London, Halle practised in Kent, Read in Gloucester, and John Banester at Nottingham.

William Clowes was born in 1540, a Warwickshire man, and was apprenticed to George Keble. In 1563 he was a surgeon in the army commanded by Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, and after the Havre Expedition he served for several years in the navy, as was not unusual at a time when the two Services were not separated, and the same leader was sometimes a general and sometimes an admiral. In 1575 he was elected a Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, becoming full Surgeon in 1581. He was also Surgeon to the Bluecoat School. He went to the Low Countries with the Earl of Leicester in May, 1585; and on his return to London he was admitted a Member of the Court of Assistants of the United Company of Barber Surgeons, becoming a Warden of the Company in 1594, though he was never elected Master. He served in the English fleet against the Spanish Armada, and was afterwards appointed Surgeon to Queen Elizabeth. He died at Plaistow, in Essex, in 1604.

Clowes writes strongly about the multitude of quacks, and he had quite a remarkable flow of language when he was properly roused by their enormities, as will be seen from the following passages:—

“Where the learned physician or surgeon cannot be had for counsel, I am herein to admonish the friendly reader to take heed and not to commit themselves into the hands of every blind buzzard that will take upon them to let blood, yea, to the utter undoing of a number. For many in these days being no better than runagates or vagabonds, do extraordinarily, yea, disorderly and unadvisedly intrude themselves into other men's professions, that is to say, not only in letting of blood, but also do take upon them further to intermeddle

and practice in this art, wherein they were never trained nor had any experience : of the which a great number be shameless in countenance, lewd in disposition, brutish in judgment and understanding as was their unlearned leader and master Thessalus, a vain practitioner, who when his cunning failed, straightways sent his patients to Lybia for change of air. . . . This their grand captain was by profession a teazler of wool and also the forerunner of this beastly brood following : which do forsake their honest trades, whereunto God hath called them, and do daily rush into physic and surgery. And some of them be Painters, some Glaziers, some Tailors, some Weavers, some Joiners, some Cutlers, some Cooks, some Bakers, and some Chandlers. Yea, now a days it is apparent to see how Tinkers, Tooth-drawers, Pedlers, Ostlers, Carters, Porters, Horse-gelders, and horse-leeches, Idiots, Apple-squires, broom-men, Bawds, witches, conjurers, Sooth-sayers and sow-gelders, Rogues, rat-catchers, runagates and proctors of Spittle-houses with such other like rotten and stinking weeds which do in town and country without order, honesty or skill daily abuse both physic and surgery, having no more perseverance, reason or knowledge in this art than hath a goose, but a certain blind practice without wisdom or judgment, and most commonly useth one remedy for all diseases and one way of curing to all persons both old and young, men, women and children, which is as possible to be performed or to be true as for a shoemaker with one last to make a shoe to fit for every man's foot and this is one principal cause that so many perish." The picture, though deplorable, does not seem to be greatly exaggerated, as it is confirmed by Gale, who says, in almost identical words, that a similar state of things existed in the army in his time, and by Halle, who met with the same hindrances in the provinces.

Clowes' outspoken expressions of opinion did not render him a *persona grata* to his contemporaries and sometimes led him into trouble. Thus it is recorded in the books of the Barber-Surgeons' Company, that on '28th February, 1576. Here was a complaint against William Clowes by one Goodinge for that the said Clowes had not only misused the said Goodinge in speech but also most of the Masters of the Company with scoffing words and jests and they all forgave

him here openly in the Court and so the strife was ended upon condition that he should never so misbehave himself again, and bonds were caused to be made to that effect. But, alas, for the frailty of human nature! in the very next year on '25th March, 1577. Here at this Court was a great contention and strife spoken of and ended between George Baker and William Clowes for that they both contrary to order and the good and wholesome rules of this house misused each other and fought in the fields together. But the Master, Wardens and Assistance wishing that they might be and continue loving brothers pardoned this great offence in hope of amendment.' Clowes' opponent on this occasion was one of the Earl of Oxford's men, who afterwards became Serjeant-surgeon to Queen Elizabeth and was master of the company in 1597.

It is not surprising, I think, that people objected to Master Clowes' expressions and endeavoured to misuse him, for he sums up his opinion of one of his fellows with the words he was a "great bugbear, a stinging gnat, a venomous wasp, and a counterfeit crocodile."

JOHN WOODALL.

The tradition of surgery lingered for some time in London in the possession of the United Company of Barber-Surgeons, and John Woodall (Fig. 21) was its chief repository. We know but little of his life. He was born about 1569, and at the age of 20 he served in Lord Willoughby's expedition to render assistance to Henry IV. of France. He then travelled for many years through France, Germany and Poland, gaining his livelihood by the practice of his profession, until his familiarity with the plague tempted him to settle in London during the great plague year of 1603. Shortly afterwards he was appointed by Sir Thomas Smith to the post of Surgeon-General to the East India Company. He became surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital 9th January 1616, and was the youngest warden of the Barber-Surgeons' Company in 1625, though he was not elected second warden until 1627, nor master until 1633. He was appointed in 1627 "to go to Portsmouth to cure the wounded soldiers that come from the Isle of Rea in France." In 1641 he was an examiner in Surgery at the

United Barber-Surgeons' Company, and in 1639 he complains that time has overtaken him "so that now I am forced to conclude having run through the cares of sixty-nine years: old age being an enemy to study, for my sight being weakened, my memory much impaired, and my capacity utterly unable to perform so hard a task" as the continuation of his surgical treatises. He died in October, or in the early part of November, 1643.

If Woodall had done nothing else he would deserve the lasting gratitude of every sailor, for he inferred the efficacy of limejuice from the happy accident of two ships' crews, one smitten with scurvy, the other free from it, differing in this one article of diet and nothing else. In the eyes of his contemporaries Woodall did much more. He published in 1617 the *Surgion's Mate*, and in 1628 *The Viaticum: being the pathway to the Surgion's Chest*, text-books of surgery which long formed part of the library of every surgeon and surgeon's mate or assistant by sea as well as by land. To us Woodall stands out as the one surgeon in the reign of James I. who carried on his craft as a profession and not as a trade. The art of surgery had fallen to so low an ebb that he is almost literally correct when he says in his preface to the *Viaticum* that "for this forty years last past no Surgion of our Nation hath published any book of the true practice of surgery, to benefit the younger sort, these my mean Treatises only excepted."

It had been the duty of the earlier Elizabethan surgeons to struggle against the usurpation of surgery by quacks. Woodall fought to secure the freedom of the surgeons against the physicians. It had been long laid down that a surgeon ought not to give inward medicines without the counsel of a physician, but the attempt to obtain a free hand for the surgeons was quite futile. The physicians at this time and for many years afterwards were too strong, and in June, 1632, they obtained an order of council with a clause to the effect that no chirurgeon "doe dismember, Trepan the head, open the chest or belly, cut for the stone, or do any great operation with his hand upon the body of any person to which they are usually tied to call their Wardens and Assistants but in the presence of a learned physician, one or more of the College or of his Majesty's physicians."

The physicians afterwards exhibited a bill in the Star Chamber to strengthen their powers still further, but the surgeons petitioned against it successfully, and in 1635 Charles I. ordered it to be expunged. The desire however remained, and for many years the physician struggled hard to keep the surgeons in an inferior position. It was useless for Woodall to write :—

“Galen in his third and fourth books, *De Methodo Medendi*, doth name the artist Medicus that doth cure ulcers and wounds, &c., and many ancient writers call him Medicus Chirurgus ; whereby it appeareth, that the surgeon is Medicus a Medendo, and retains the name Chirurgus by performing the art of healing in a practick way, namely by the hand, and, therefore, is rightly called Medicus Chirurgus, and thereby is capable to use all medicines for healing. And if so, he must not of necessity be forbidden lawful practice ; otherwise how shall he well perform his scope of healing, when he is either in ship, in camp, or anywhere in the country, where physicians are either not at hand, or will not come ? as when and where contagious diseases happen, namely the small and great pox and the pestilence, &c. Now here in all conscience the surgeon must be admitted to show his utmost skill for healing men's infirmities without danger of any law, if he be a man lawfully called, as aforesaid to the exercise thereof : otherwise it were very unreasonable that the surgeon alone should be pressed to the healing of his Majesty's subjects, where no physician or apothecary is admitted to advise, assist or direct him, and yet to practise should be held unlawful to him when he performeth his best in any action or part of healing to his patient's good. But, God be thanked, there are both ancient and modern good laws, orders and ordinances, which do manifestly enable a surgeon to exercise his science, and to breed up servants to be expert therein, for the better continuance of the art, and for the future increase of good and able surgeons for the service of his Majesty and the commonwealth. And to manifest the same his Highness not only alloweth the use of inward and physical drugs and medicines to the surgeons for his own service but is further graciously pleased (out of his own coffers) to pay for them.”

DOUGLAS.

Dr. Norman Moore tells that Mr. Douglas was a physician in London who constantly attended the hospital though he was not a member of the staff. In 1716 he described very clearly, in a paper published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, the general appearances of amyloid disease of the spleen in a case of marasmus with strumous enlargement of the lymphatics. He also says that while he was going round the wards of the hospital he saw a young man suffering from palpitation, and that as his heart beat he could hear a distinct sound with the beating of the heart. The man died, and Douglas describes how at the post-mortem he saw the heart was enormously enlarged, and the aortic valves were contracted and hard so as to allow the blood to flow back into the ventricle. He had thus discovered the murmur caused by aortic disease a hundred years before the stethoscope came to make such an observation easy.

CHARLES BERNARD.

Charles Bernard may be looked upon as one of the first English surgeons who ranked as a well-educated gentleman. He was thus the forerunner of such men as Cæsar Hawkins, Percivall Pott, Anthony Carlisle, and James Paget, who, by their lives, raised the status of a surgeon to its present high position. Bernard possessed a large and valuable library, the sale of which was attended by Swift though he bought nothing. Bernard was born in 1650 and died in 1711. He was elected surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital on August 26, 1686, upon the special command of King James II., and he became serjeant surgeon to Queen Anne soon after her accession. Bernard had the chief surgical practice of his day, and Dr. Moore says that he was famous for his skill in operating and his desire never to operate unnecessarily.

PERCIVALL POTT.

The name of Percivall Pott (Fig. 22) is known throughout the surgical world on account of the careful description he gave of a fracture which he sustained in his own person. "As he

was riding in Kent Street, Southwark, he was thrown from his horse and suffered a compound fracture of the leg, the bone being forced through the integuments. Conscious of the dangers attendant on fractures of this nature and thoroughly aware how much they may be increased by rough treatment or improper position, he would not suffer himself to be removed until he had made the necessary dispositions. He sent to Westminster, then the nearest place, for two chairmen to bring their poles, and patiently lay on the cold pavement, it being the middle of January (1756), till they arrived. From this situation he purchased a door, to which he made them nail their poles. When all was ready he caused himself to be laid on it, and carried through Southwark, over London Bridge to Watling Street, near St. Paul's, where he had lived for some time. . . . At a consultation of surgeons the case was thought so desperate as to require immediate amputation. Mr. Pott, convinced that no one could be a proper judge in his own case, submitted to their opinion, and the proper instruments were actually got ready, when Mr. Nourse (his former master and then colleague as surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital), who had been prevented from coming sooner, fortunately entered the room. After examining the limb he conceived there was a possibility of preserving it: an attempt to save it was acquiesced in and succeeded."

Pott was born at the beginning of the year 1713, the son of a scrivener, who died in 1717, leaving his wife nearly penniless. Pott was educated by the help of a distant relation—Dr. Wilcox, Bishop of Rochester—and was apprenticed to Edward Nourse, then an assistant surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He was admitted to the freedom of the United Company of Barbers and Surgeons in 1736, not in the ordinary way, but after a more searching examination, which gave him the "Great Diploma" and showed that he intended to practise exclusively as a surgeon. On March 14, 1744, Pott became assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital "in room of Joseph Webb, appointed surgeon and guide (p. 13) to Kingsland Hospital," and on November 30, 1749, he was made full surgeon to the Charity. This post he resigned on July 12, 1787, having served the hospital, as he used to say, man and boy for half a century. He died December 22, 1788.

Pott was not only a great teacher of surgery but he introduced a wholesome scepticism into the profession, for with a full knowledge of what his predecessors had done and thought before him, he thought and observed for himself, drew his own conclusions, and acted upon them. He may be regarded therefore as the earliest surgeon of the modern type. He cannot be compared with any of his contemporaries, but his chief predecessor was Richard Wiseman, and his greater successor was his own pupil John Hunter. Pott was as far in advance of Wiseman as that surgeon had been in advance of Gale, of Clowes, or of Woodall. Like Wiseman, Pott was of necessity a practical rather than a scientific surgeon, for pathology as yet had no existence. Like Hunter, Pott was a great teacher though a diffident lecturer: as a practical surgeon Pott ranks far before his pupil Hunter, but as a scientific surgeon the pupil was much greater than his master. In his writings Pott was more fortunate than Hunter in the fact that the clearness of his style enabled him to place his facts and speculations in the most attractive form; whilst Hunter was constantly struggling to make his feeble powers of expression carry the greatness of his ideas, for he was no master of words.

DR. WILLIAM PITCAIRN.

Dr. William Pitcairn (Fig. 23) was born in 1711, the eldest son of Rev. David Pitcairn, minister of Dysart, in Fife. He studied under Boerhaave, at Leyden, and graduated M.D. at Rheims. He travelled with James, the sixth Duke of Hamilton, and when the Radcliffe Camera was opened in 1749 the University of Oxford conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Physic by diploma. He then settled in London, and was elected physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1750, a position he resigned in 1780. He was elected an almoner in 1782, and was appointed treasurer of the hospital in 1784. Pitcairn Ward is named after him. He was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1775 to 1785, and he died in 1791. Dr. William Pitcairn was an accomplished botanist, and was noted for his botanical garden in Upper Street, Islington. It was five acres in extent, and was abundantly stocked with the scarcest and most valuable plants.

DR. DAVID PITCAIRN.

David Pitcairn (Fig. 24) was born in Fife on May 1, 1749, the eldest son of Major John Pitcairn, who was killed at Bunker's Hill. David was educated at the High School, Edinburgh, and afterwards at the University of Glasgow. He went to Cambridge in 1773 and graduated as M.D. in 1784. He was elected Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1780, and soon gained a large practice. He deserves mention amongst the notable men attached to St. Bartholomew's Hospital as being the first to draw attention to the fact that valvular disease of the heart is a frequent result of rheumatic fever and because he published this discovery in his teaching at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Dr. Pitcairn wrote nothing, but it is to his credit that he was instrumental in bringing into notice Dr. Matthew Baillie, the founder of morbid anatomy in England. He died of acute œdema of the glottis on April 17, 1809, and was buried in the family vault at the church of St. Bartholomew's the Less. His last illness is interesting, because his case was one of the first recorded instances of acute œdema of the glottis.

JOHN FREAKE.

John Freake (Fig. 25), the son of a surgeon, was born in London in 1681. He was elected assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1726, and soon afterwards became curator of the Museum, then a single room beneath the Cutting Ward. In 1727 it is recorded that "through a tender regard for the deplorable state of blind people the governors think it proper to appoint Dr. John Freake, one of the assistant surgeons of this house, to couch and take care of the diseases of the eyes of such poor persons as shall be thought by him fitt for the operation, and for no other reward than the six shillings and eightpence for each person so couched as is paid on other operations." He was elected surgeon in 1729, and resigned in 1755. In addition to his capacity as a surgeon, he was a judge of painting and of music. He was a skilful carver in wood, and the carved chandelier of oak which hangs in the steward's office bears the inscription "*Johannis Freake, hujusce nosocomii chirugi, 1735.*" He was too a pioneer in the science of

PLATE XXII.

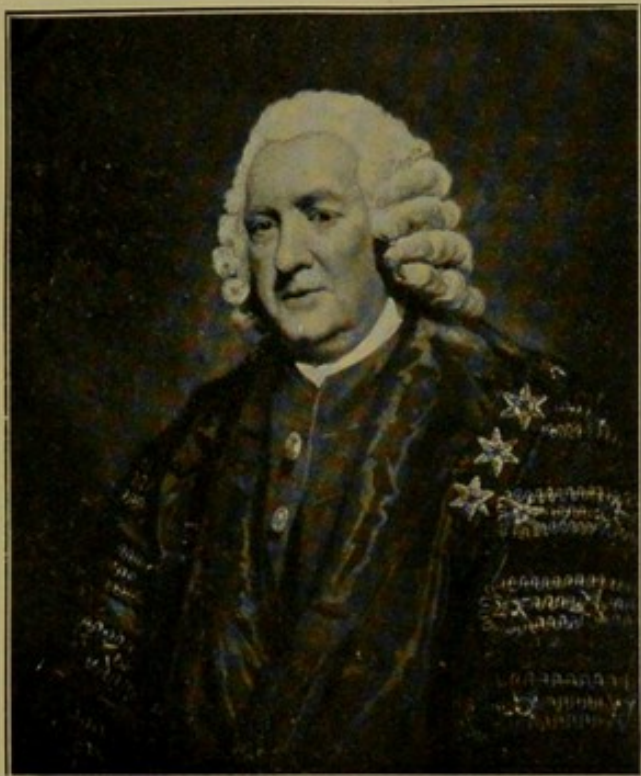


Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.

PLATE XXIII.



Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.

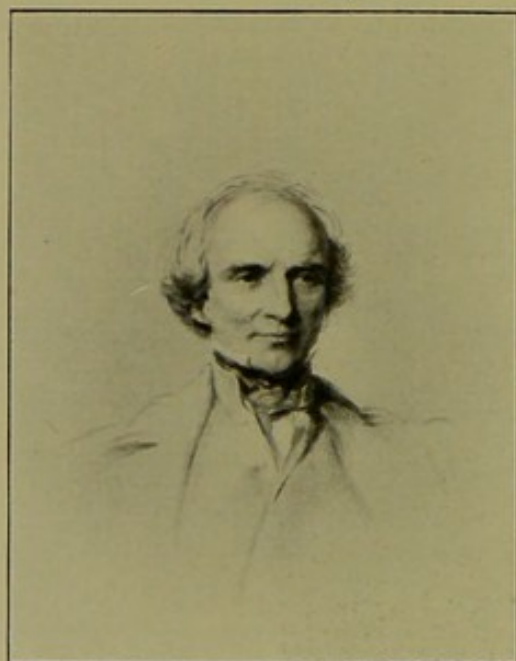


Fig. 27.

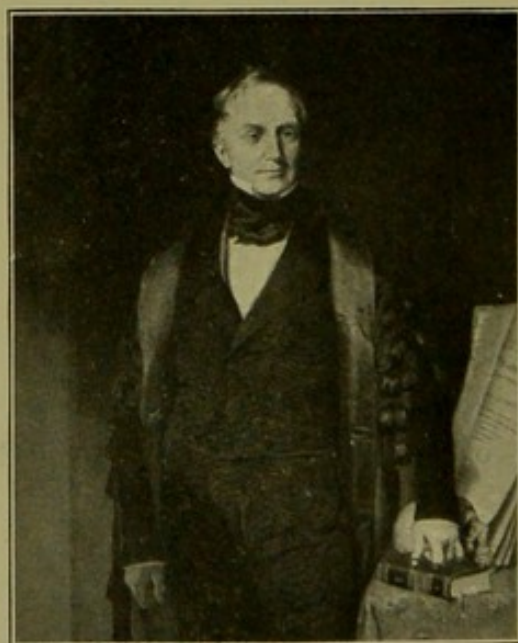


Fig. 28.

electricity. He died November 7, 1756, and was buried in the Church of St. Bartholomew the Less under the canopy of a fifteenth-century tomb.

JOHN ABERNETHY.

John Abernethy (Fig. 26) was the son of a London merchant and was born April 3, 1764, his ancestors being of some eminence in Ireland as Nonconformist divines. He was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School, and was apprenticed to (Sir) Charles Blicke, Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and was also a pupil of John Hunter. He attended the lectures of Percivall Pott, was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy, and in 1787 was elected Assistant Surgeon, a position he held for 28 years. Abernethy was so successful as a lecturer on anatomy that in 1791 it became necessary to build him a new and larger theatre, and in this theatre he lectured on anatomy, physiology, and surgery, becoming the founder of the modern medical school of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He died at Enfield in 1831.

Abernethy may justly be looked upon as one of the great reformers and teachers of the medical profession. He taught it honestly, and the sheer force of his personality compelled attention. There is no question that he carried his eccentricity beyond all limits, partly owing to a natural irritability and partly as an affectation. Innumerable stories record his rudeness, and perhaps one of the best is that told by the late Lord Tennyson. "A farmer went to the great surgeon, complaining of discomfort in the head—weight and pain. The doctor said 'What quantity of ale do you take?' 'Oh, I taaks my yale pretty well.' Abernethy (with great patience and gentleness), 'Now then, to begin the day, breakfast; what time?' 'Oh, at haafe past seven.' 'Ale, then—how much?' 'I taaks my quart.' 'Luncheon?' 'At eleven o'clock I gets another snack.' 'Ale then?' 'Oh, yes; my pint and a haafe.' 'Dinner?' 'Haafe past one.' 'Any ale then?' 'Yees, yees; another quart then.' 'Tea?' 'My tea is at haafe past five.' 'Ale then?' 'Noa, noa.' 'Supper?' 'Noine o'clock.' 'Ale then?' 'Yees, yees; I taakes my fill then, I goes to sleep arterwards.' Like a lion aroused, Abernethy was up, opened the street door—he was living in Bedford Row—shoved the farmer out, and shouted after him, 'Go home, Sir, and let me

never see your face again. Go home, drink your ale and be damned !' The farmer rushed out aghast, Abernethy pursuing him down the street with shouts of 'Go home, Sir, and be damned.' Yet if Abernethy was merciless to patients of this class, he was unsparing in his attentions to those who were deserving objects of pity, and he often sacrificed his private practice to the needs of his hospital patients.

DR. PETER MERE LATHAM.

Peter Mere Latham (Fig. 27), the second son of Dr. John Latham, was born in 1789. He was educated at Sandbach, Cheshire, at Macclesfield, and at Brazenose College, Oxford. He obtained the Chancellor's Prize for Latin Verse in 1809, and graduated M.D. in 1816. He was educated in medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was elected Physician to the Middlesex Hospital in 1815, and to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1824, and became joint Lecturer on Medicine with Dr. Burrows in 1836. In 1836 he published his *Lectures on Clinical Medicine*, one of the *opera aurea* of physic, wherein he wrote on functional palpitation and on the cardiac physical signs in cases of phthisis in a manner which has never been surpassed. He was, perhaps, the most stimulating teacher on the roll of the physicians of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He died at Torquay in 1875, having just entered upon his 87th year.

SIR WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

William Lawrence (Fig. 28) was born in 1783 at Cirencester, the son of William Lawrence, a surgeon. He was apprenticed to Abernethy, who in 1801 appointed him a demonstrator of anatomy, a post he held for 12 years. He was elected assistant surgeon in 1813 and surgeon in 1824, an office he did not resign until 1865. His lectures upon man at the College of Surgeons in 1815-16 brought him into notoriety, for an attempt was made to show that he was undermining the foundations of religion. Ten years later he headed a public agitation against the management of the College of Surgeons. Lawrence did much for the School of St. Bartholomew's, and lectured for 33 years upon surgery with such success that Sir George

Humphry, Mr. Luther Holden, and Sir William Savory, amongst many of his pupils, were unanimous in speaking of him as a teacher of first-rate capacity. His treatises on Rupture and on Diseases of the Eye were standard text-books for many years, and may still be read with profit by those who wish to obtain more than a superficial knowledge of the subjects with which they deal. In 1857 Lawrence was appointed serjeant surgeon to Queen Victoria ; in 1867 he was created a baronet, and on April 30, 1867, he died, leaving his title to his son Trevor, who as Sir Trevor Lawrence has acted for several years as treasurer of the hospital with which his father was so long connected.

For the drawings and photographs illustrating these two articles, I am greatly indebted to Mr. A. Russell Baker, Dr. Norman Moore, Mr. W. H. H. Jessop, the Rev. W. Ostle, Mr. W. H. Cross, Dr. Leonard P. Mark, Mr. Sidney Young, F.S.A., and the Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, who have either allowed me to select views from their collections, or have given me permission to photograph various parts of the hospital.

J. A. Power



