

**Sketches of new buildings : General Hospital, Birmingham opened on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen by H.R.H the Princess Christian July the 7th 1897 / Wm. Henman architect ; with the compliments of J.C. Holder, chairman of the Building Committee.**

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New Buildings  
General Hospital  
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Opened  
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Her Majesty The Queen  
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July the 7th  
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Wm. Henman F.R.I.B.A.  
Architect

With The Compliments of J.C. Holder J.P.

Chairman of The Building Committee.

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## THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

### DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT.

THE new buildings, of which a block plan and a few sketches are herewith given, have been erected from designs by William Henman, F.R.I.B.A., upon a plot of land about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acres in extent, surrounded by Steelhouse Lane, Whittall Street, Weaman Row, and Loveday Street, situate near the junction of Corporation Street with Steelhouse Lane, and having the open space of St. Mary's Square in the rear. They were commenced in the spring of 1893, Messrs. Thos. Barnsley & Son, of Birmingham, being the contractors.

The principal materials employed externally are red bricks of excellent quality, manufactured at Cradley by Messrs. J. King & Co., relieved by plum-coloured bricks from Kingswinford, and red terra-cotta with roughened surface made by Messrs. Doulton & Co., at Rowley Regis, the modelling having been executed under the architect's directions at their Lambeth works. The roofs are covered with green slates from the Buttermere quarries.

A notable feature in the new buildings will be the employment throughout of the Plenum system of ventilation combined with steam heating on methods devised and successfully applied to a variety of buildings by Mr. William Key, of London and Glasgow. Provision is made for change of air up to 10 times per hour with a uniform temperature of  $60^{\circ}$  to  $62^{\circ}$ , and power to raise the air of any apartment up to  $70^{\circ}$  when required. The buildings contain an internal capacity of about two million cube feet, consequently air propellers are provided by which twenty million cube feet of air previously cleansed, tempered, and suitably humidified, can be forced through the buildings every hour. The advantage of this system of ventilation is that a constant supply of fresh air of suitable temperature is secured to every portion of the buildings without opening windows or having open fireplaces with their attendant dirt and noise.

The construction of the buildings is practically fireproof, all floors being solid, laid with marble mosaic to the corridors, &c., and with wax polished teak boarding to the wards.

The out-patients' waiting hall, with seating for over 400 patients, is embellished with delicately tinted faience ware, having a semi-glazed surface, above a richly glazed majolica dado, supplied by Messrs. Campbell & Co., of Stoke.

In addition to a supply from the Corporation mains, water will be drawn from an artesian well and pumped up to cisterns in the two large towers, whence it will be distributed throughout the buildings. Lighting is provided by the Birmingham Electric Supply Company, who also give power required for working the air propellers by electric motors. A complete system of telephonic communication with a central exchange has been installed by the National Telephone Co.

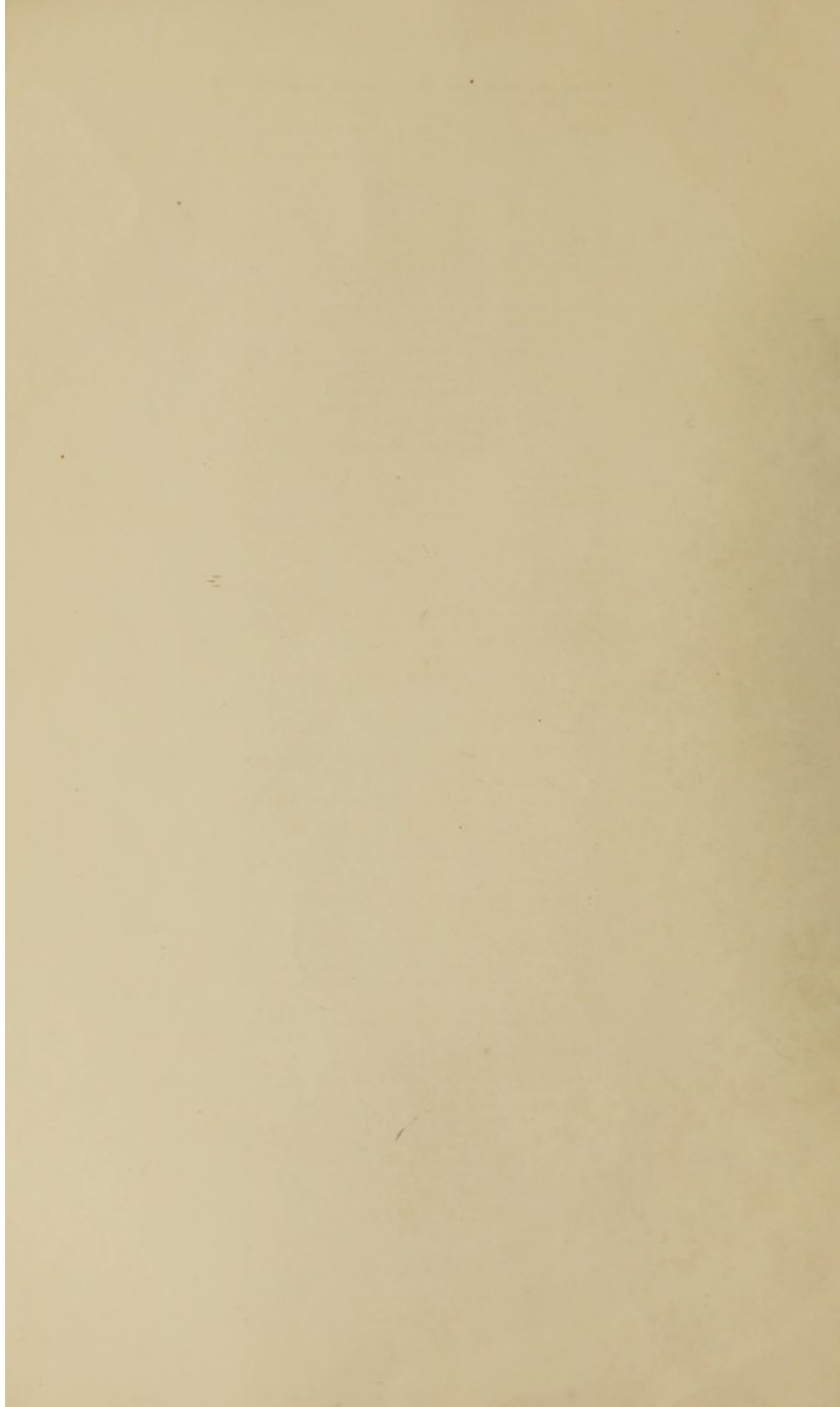
The walls of the large operating theatre and of two smaller operating rooms are lined throughout with marble and alabaster, specially treated to be non-absorbent, supplied and fixed by Mr. R. G. Lomas, of Derby. The ceilings are of Birmingham waterproof cement on expanded steel lathing, and the floors of marble mosaic. The most approved modern appliances have been procured in order that operations may be performed with the greatest ease and safety to patients. A large lecture theatre with raised seating is provided.

The chapel is fitted up with oak benches and has a panelled oak-and-plaster ceiling, with carved oak frieze. The walls are lined with alabaster, and the pulpit and altar rails are also of the same material, being gifts from friends of the institution. The west windows are filled with stained glass as a memorial to the late Mr. T. H. Bartleet, F.R.C.S., and one on the south side to the late Mr. D. Jolly, M.D., F.R.C.S. Ed.

There are ten large wards each for 24 beds, and six smaller wards for 12 beds each, together with a number of single-bed wards. Septic and infectious departments, providing in all for 346 patients; in addition to which there is ample accommodation in the main buildings for the staff and for servants, and a separate nurses' home, with sitting and separate bedrooms for over 100 nurses, connected to the main buildings by a spacious conservatory.

The kitchen department on the top floor of the administrative buildings, with walls lined with glazed tiling, is fitted with steam and gas cooking apparatus and provided with ample storerooms.

Two hydraulic elevators are centrally placed working from the basement to topmost floor, so that each story may be reached and perambulated independent of stairways.





Now that funds have been practically secured for purchasing the site, erecting and furnishing the buildings, amounting in all to a sum of about £210,000, of which almost £130,000 has been expended upon the buildings, it is interesting to recall words which were printed in the report which accompanied the architect's original design, viz. :—

"In view of the ascertained fact that similar buildings, less complete in their arrangements, have cost from £300 to £400 per bed, while others, where completeness has been aimed at, have reached and even exceeded £1,000 per bed, it would only be misleading to assert that the sum proposed to be expended would complete the buildings in their entirety. Two courses, consequently, were open: either to prepare a design to be erected for the sum of £80,000 which could not be put forward as complete, or to design a building as perfect as possible in all its arrangements, and to state which portion might be erected for the proposed outlay.

"This latter course, I respectfully submit, is the proper one, believing as I do—that the limit in liberality of the Birmingham public has not yet been reached.

"Some time must necessarily be occupied in the erection of the buildings, and I do not doubt that when it becomes known that a thoroughly complete scheme has been decided upon, additional means will be forthcoming in order that the traditions of so noble an institution may be maintained.

"I estimate, then, that by omitting such portions of the building as are not detailed in the requirements, the remainder may be carried out for the sum of £80,000, and as funds permit the design could be completed. By adopting such a course the permanent interests of the institution would be best secured, and the buildings may well be an honour to and the pride of the city of Birmingham for generations to come."

The result has certainly justified the committee in their decision to boldly undertake the entire scheme, and it should further be pointed out that some 40 beds are provided additional to the number contemplated when competitive designs were invited.

#### THE SKETCHES.

On the cover is an illustration of the gold and enamelled key presented to H.R.H. Princess Christian by the architect.

PLATE 1.—Block plan showing the arrangement of buildings on the site, and relative position in respect to the surrounding streets.

PLATE 2.—General view from Steelhouse Lane, reproduced from a drawing prepared from the architect's design, exhibited at the Royal Academy in the year 1893. It is now reproduced to show that all the main features of the original design have been carried out.

PLATE 3.—This and the succeeding plates have been sketched from the completed buildings.

Here are shown the north-east tower, the cloister, and entrance to out-patients' department as viewed from the quadrangle.

PLATE 4.—The south-west tower, business entrance, and fountain presented by Sir Henry Doulton.

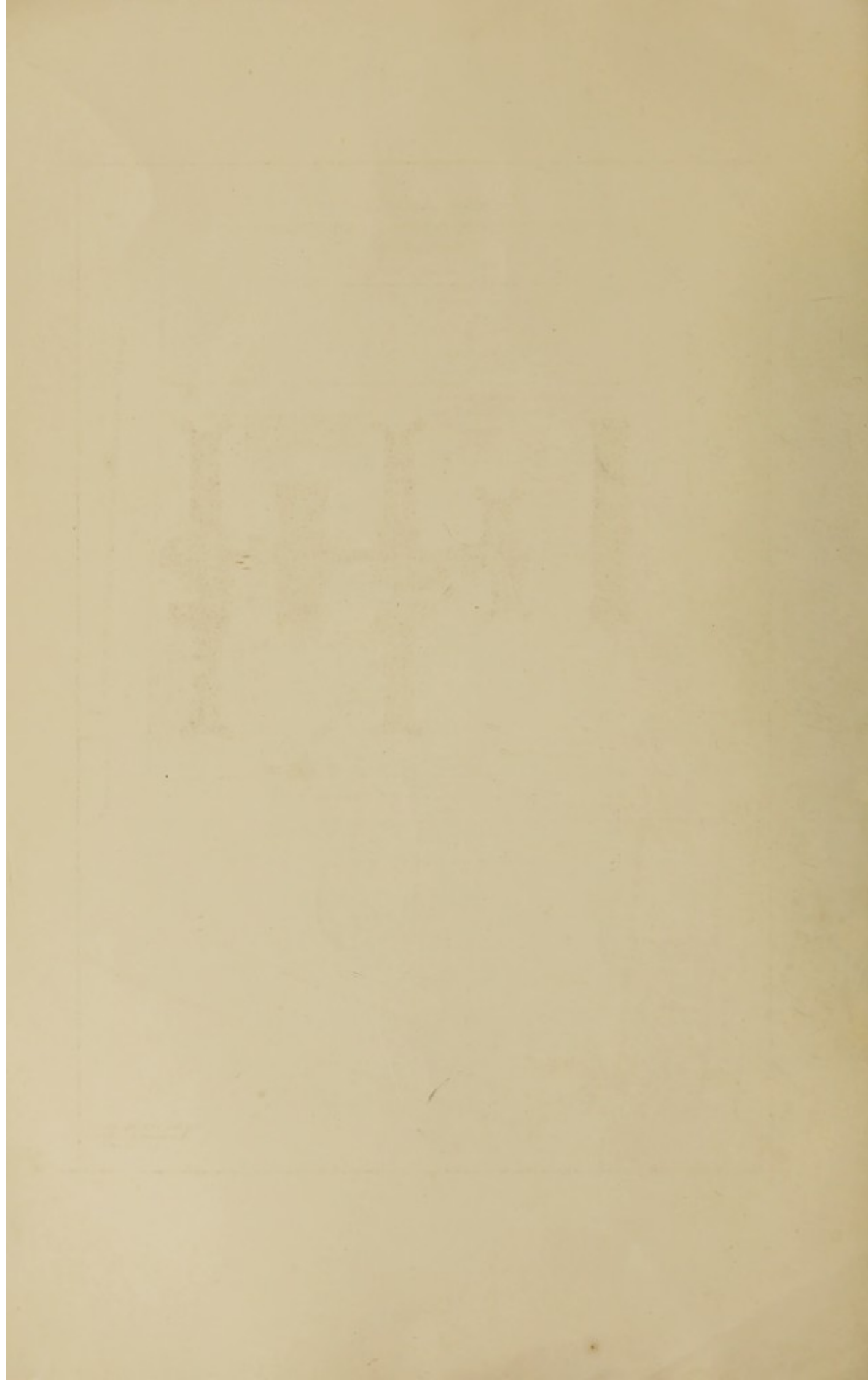
PLATE 5.—The central entrance porch, on the outer pier of which is a group of three figures, modelled by Mr. J. Wenlock Rollins, of Chelsea, illustrating the art of medicine and science of surgery, holding high the lamp of life, supported by Philanthropy—trampling under foot the serpent of death.

PLATE 6.—The figure of "Purity," which with "Light" and "Air" (three essentials to health) embellish the entrance porch to the out-patients' department—also modelled by Mr. Rollins.

PLATE 7.—View along the cloister which connects the entrances to the board-room and offices, the administrative and out-patients' department.

PLATE 8.—Exterior of the west-end and south side of chapel, with the south-west tower rising behind.

PLATE 9.—A general view from St. Mary's Square, showing the extent of the buildings from the lecture and operating theatres on the left, to the nurses' home on the right.



— NEW BUILDINGS —  
— GENERAL HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM —  
— BLOCK PLAN —

SCALE OF FEET  
0 20 40 60 80 100

ST. MARYS' SQUARE

WERNAN ROW

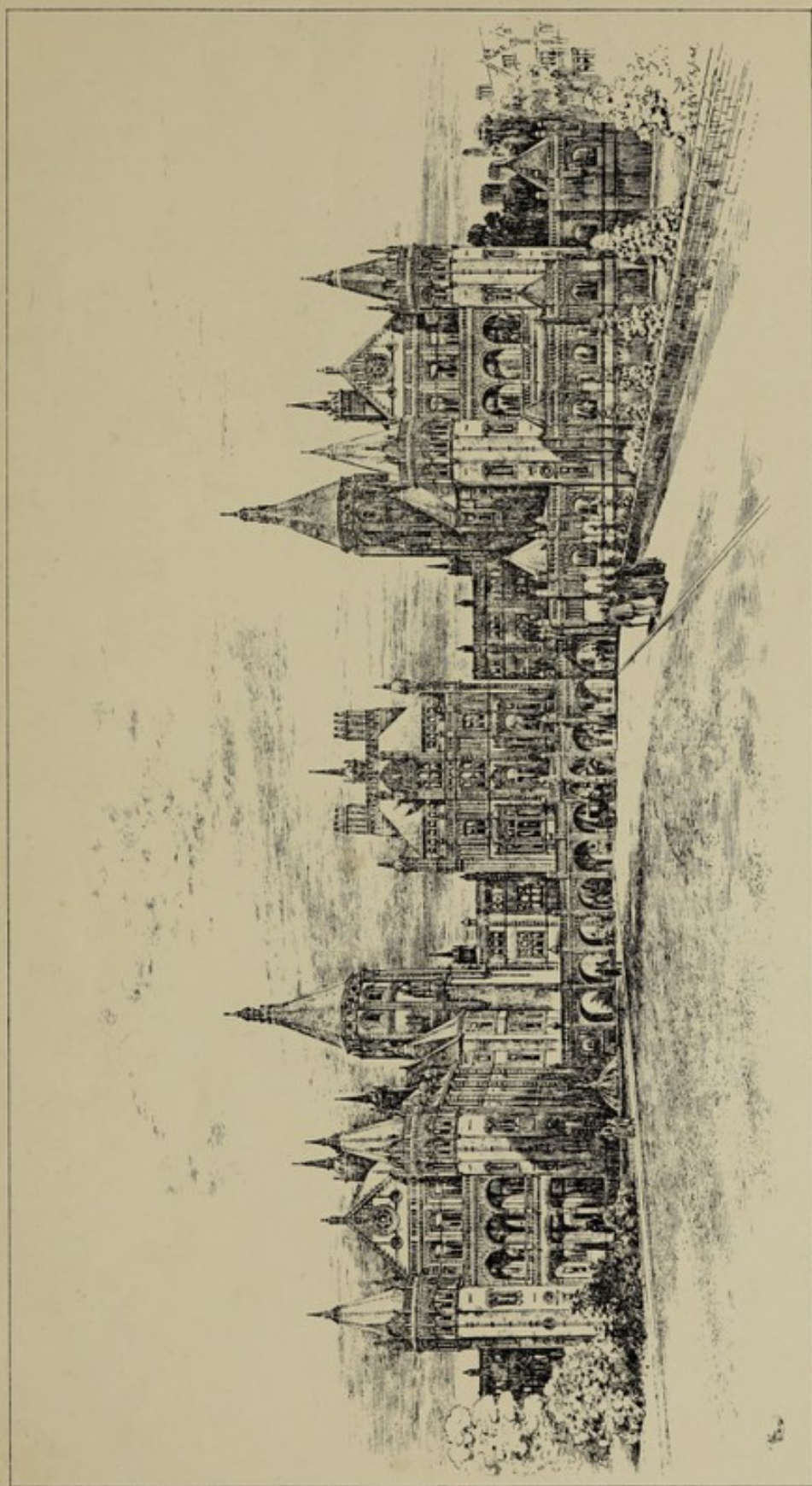
NURSES' HOME  
N.E. PAVILION  
S.W. PAVILION  
CHAPEL  
WEST PAVILION  
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.  
SOUTH PAVILION  
EAST PAVILION  
LECTURE AND SPEERING THEATRE  
LABORATORY  
ENTRANCE  
POLICE CELLS  
VICTORIA COURTS  
NEWTON STREET  
COLLIERIDGE PASSAGE  
STREET

LOVEDAY STREET

GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM





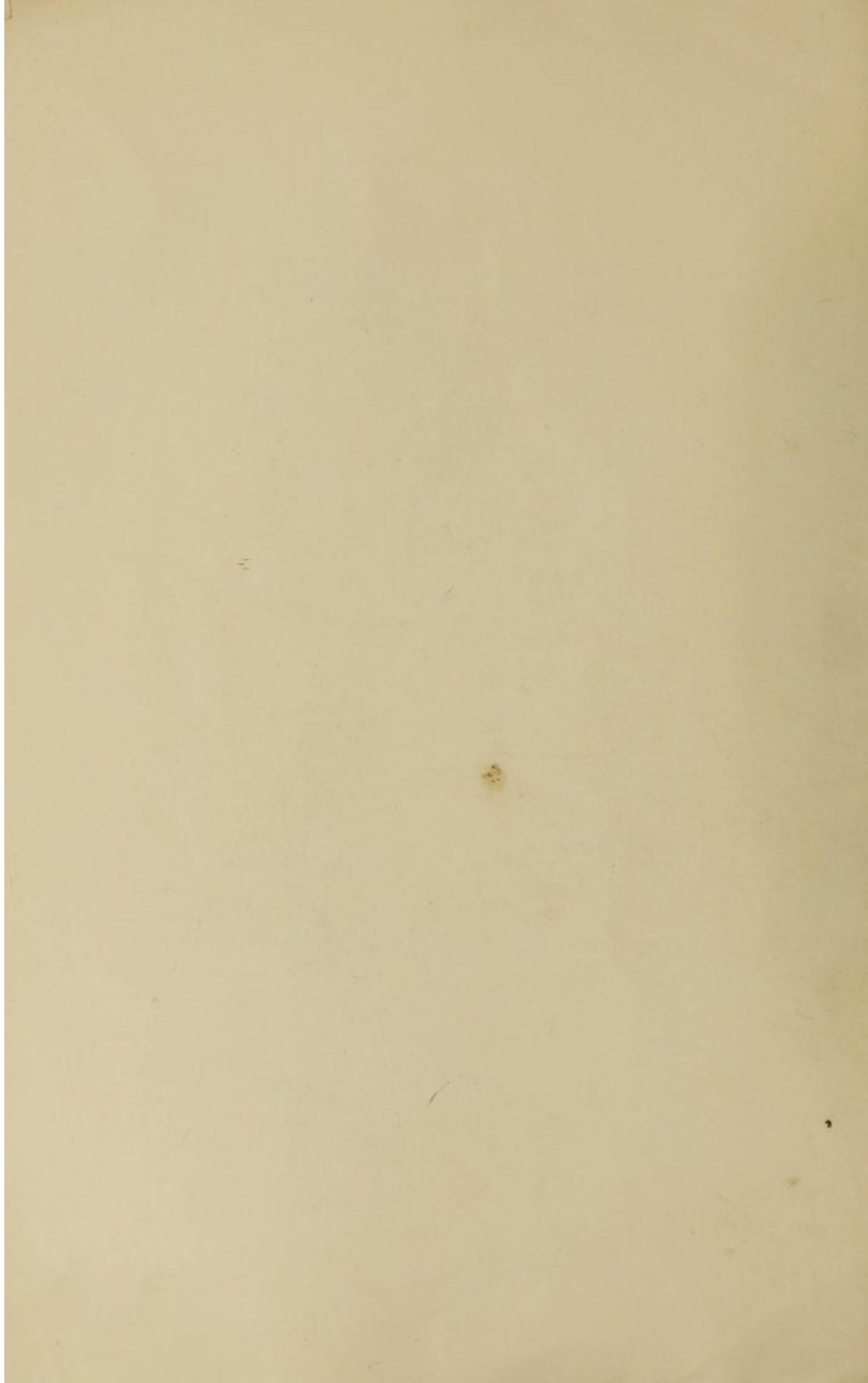


ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION 1856

VIEW FROM STEELHOUSE LANE

THE NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM

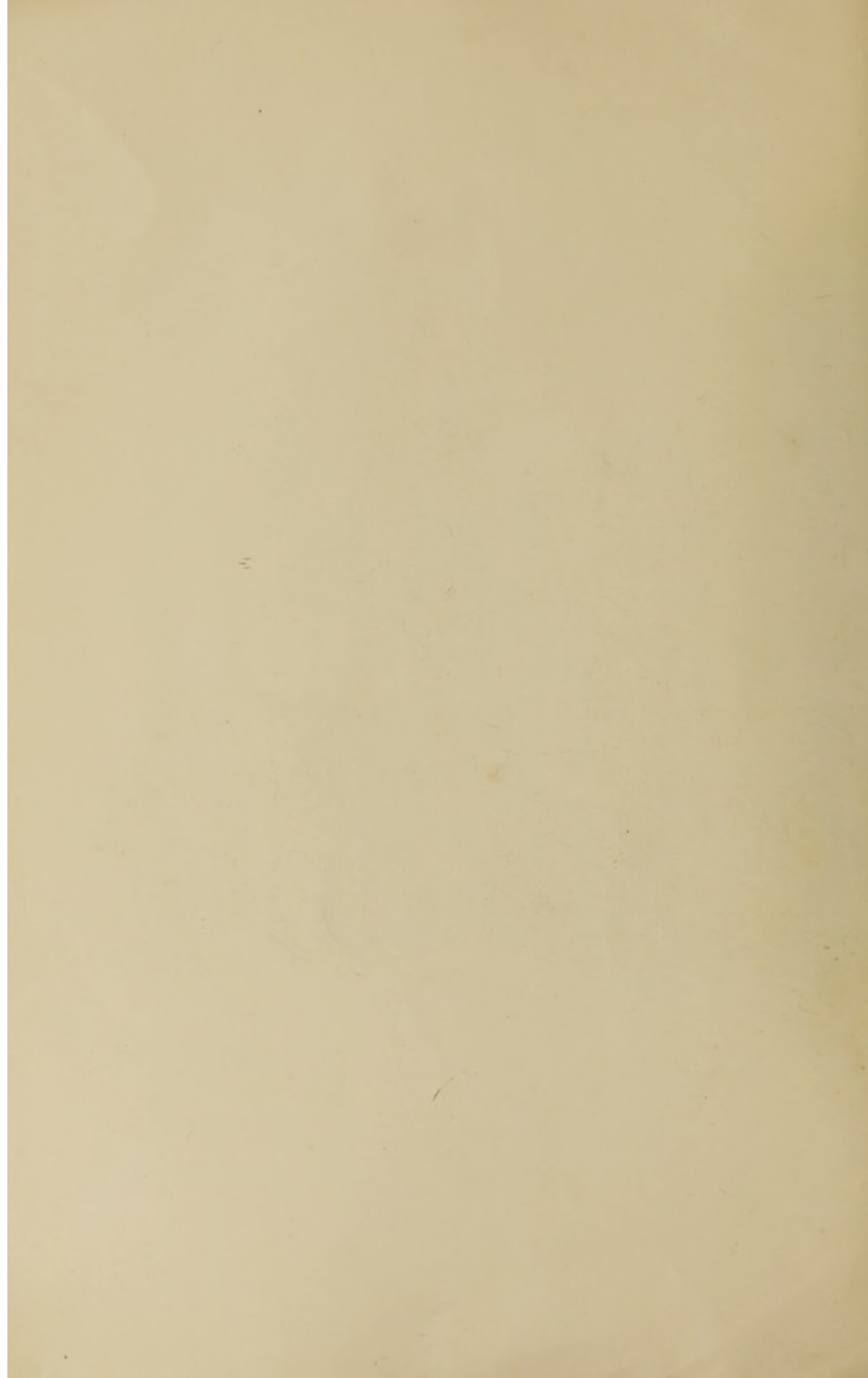
WM. HENMAN FRIDA ARCHITECT







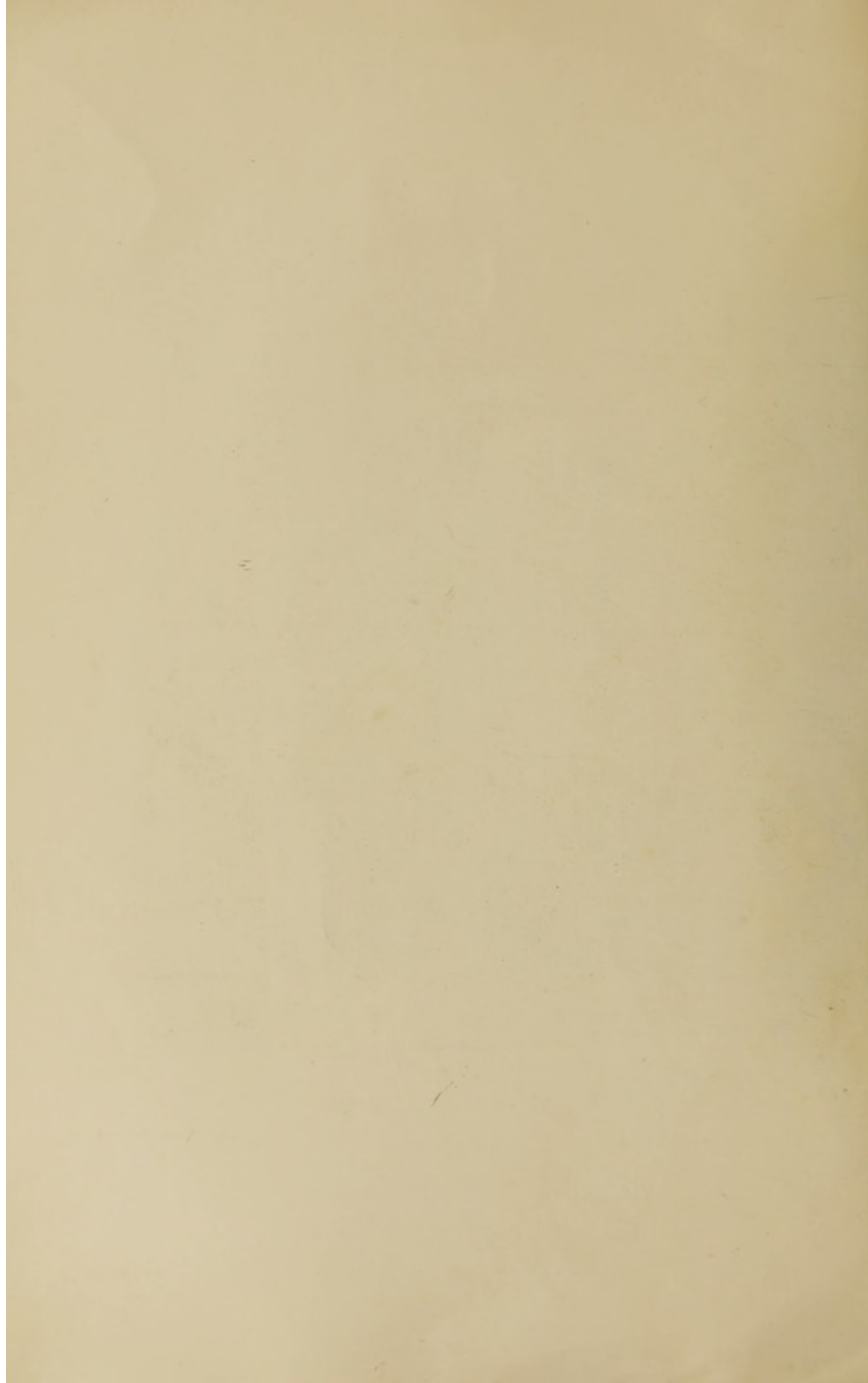
Entrance Quadrangle  
looking North

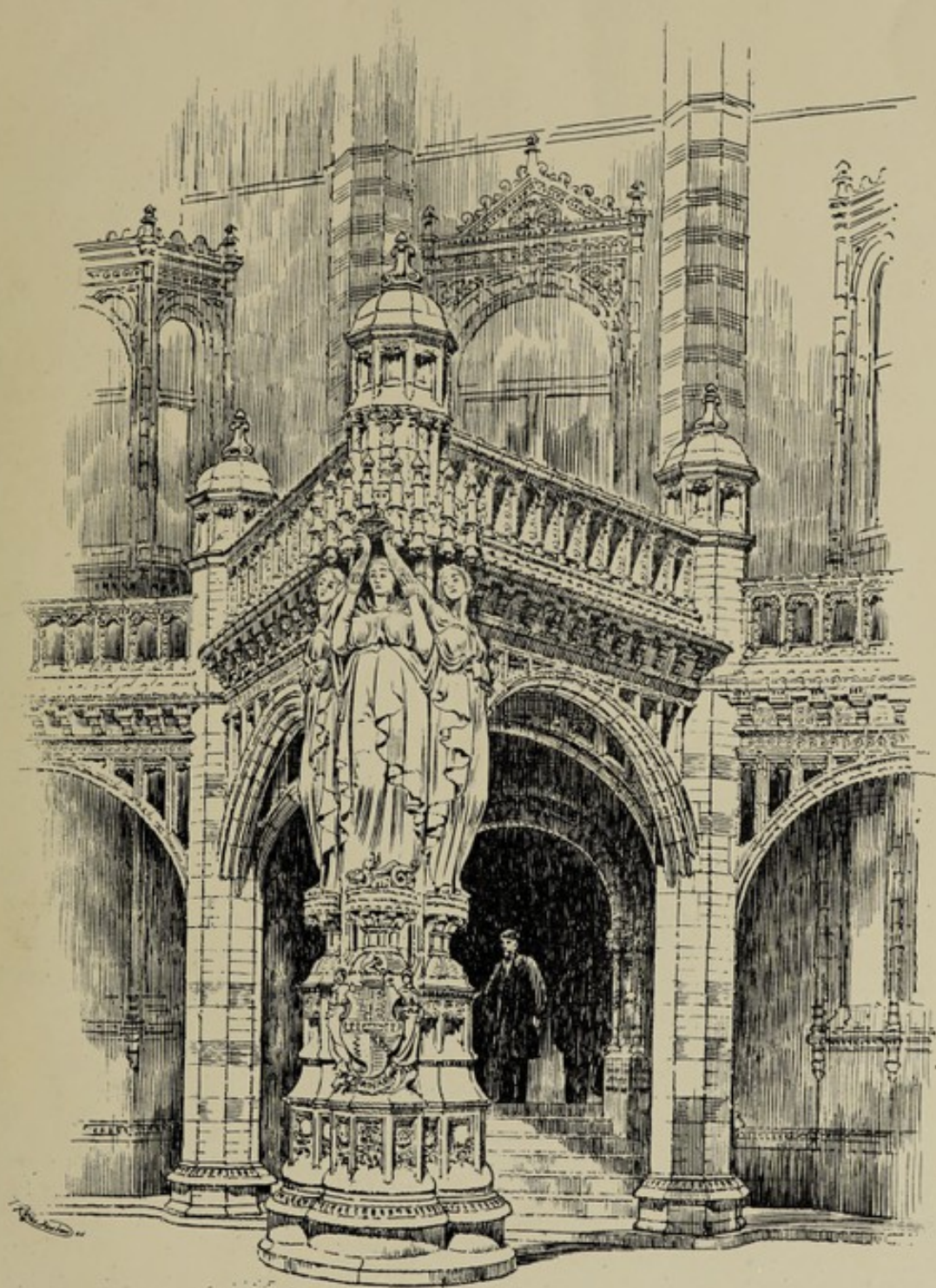




Entrance Quadrangle  
looking West







Central Entrance Porch  
to Quadrangle

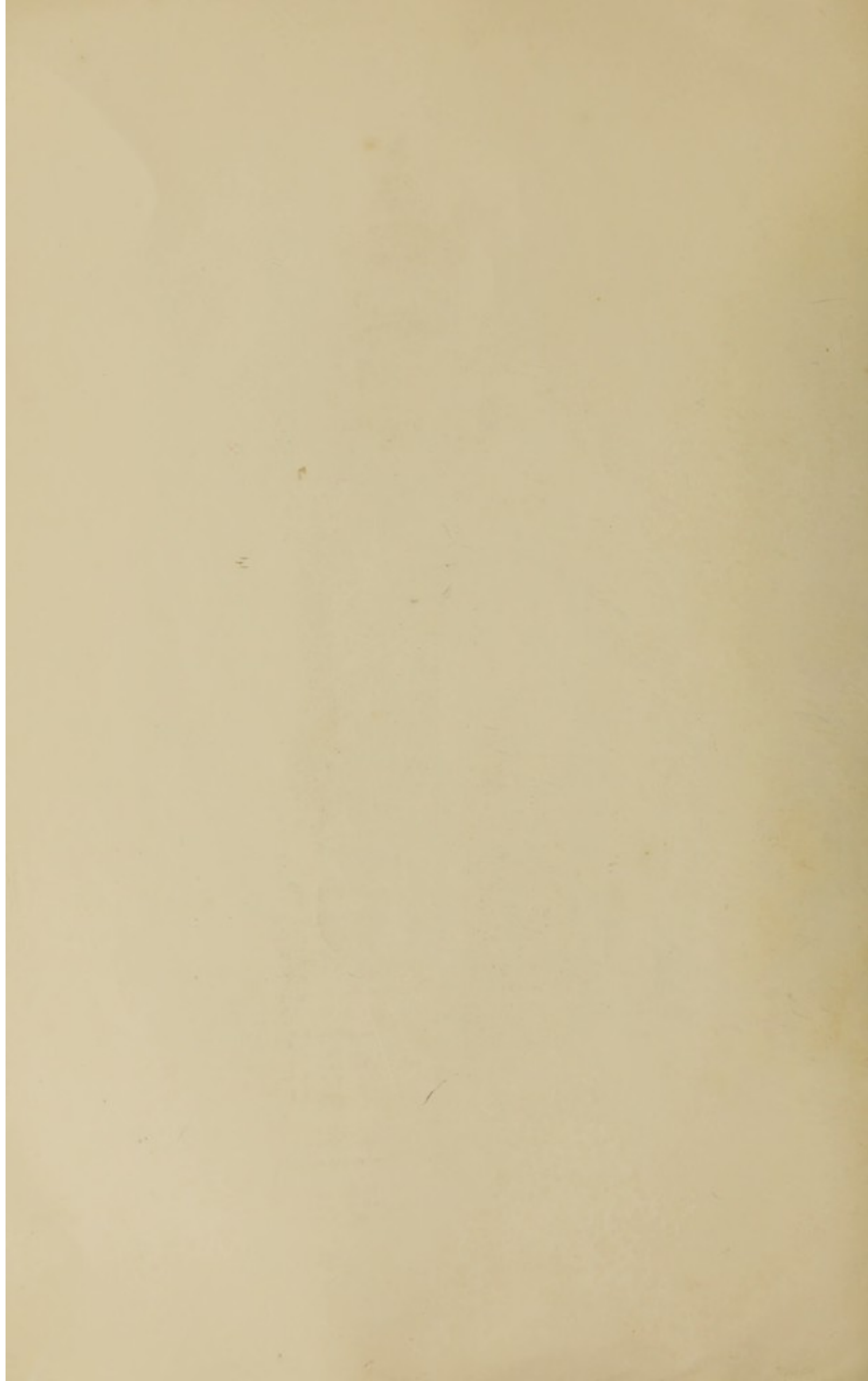






Figure of Purity  
Outpatients' Entrance Porch  
by J. Wenlock Rollins



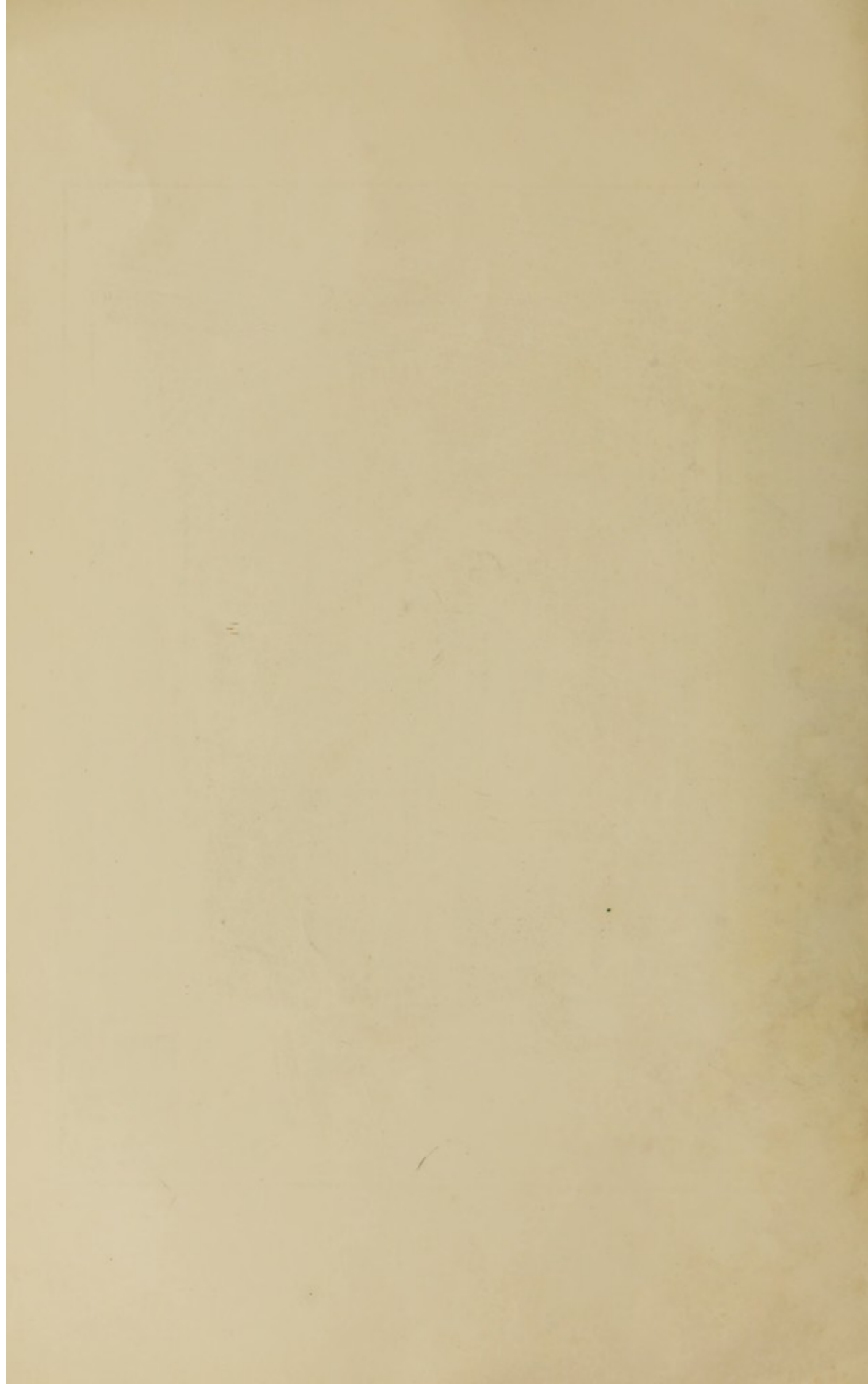


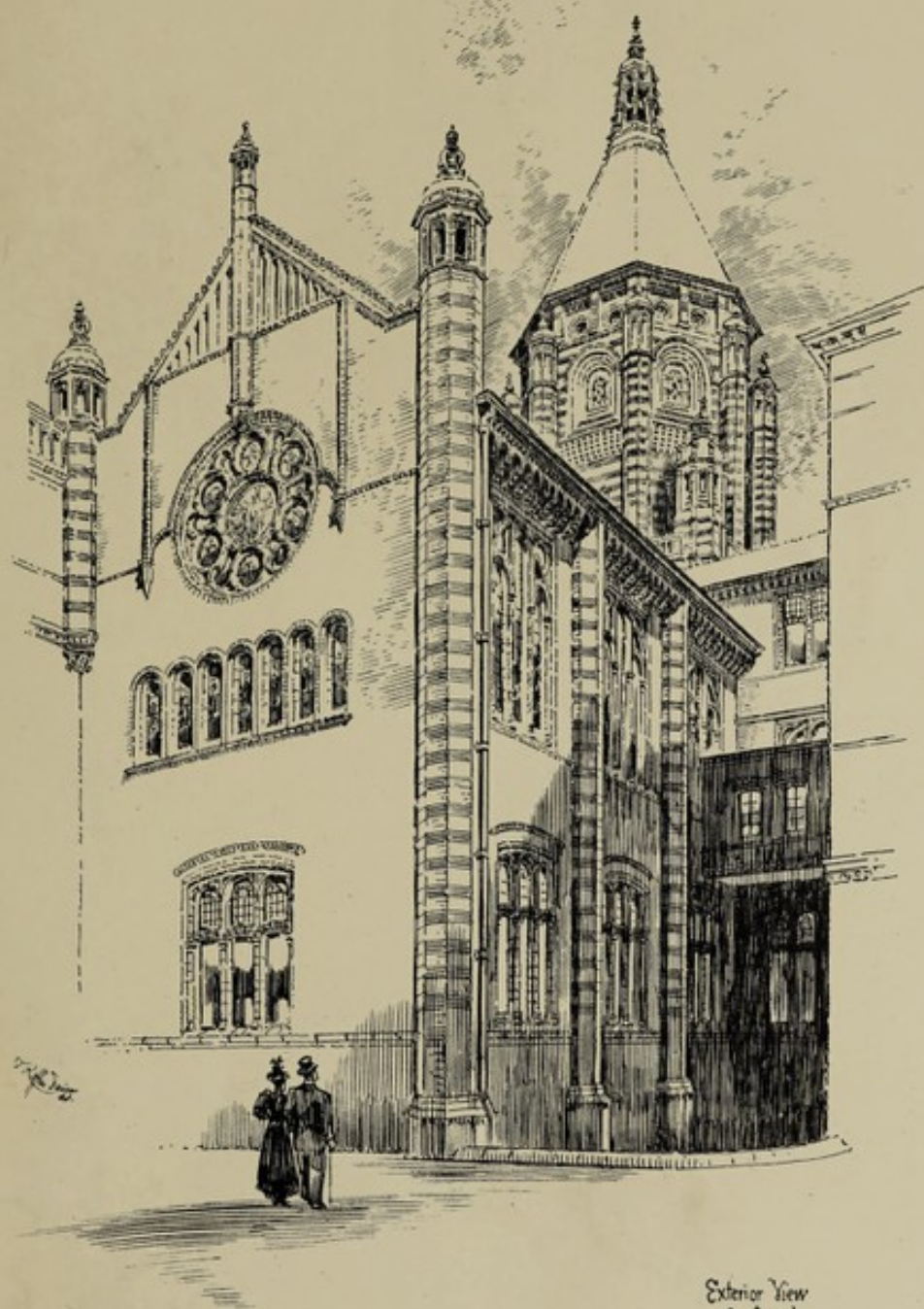


T. R. Jones

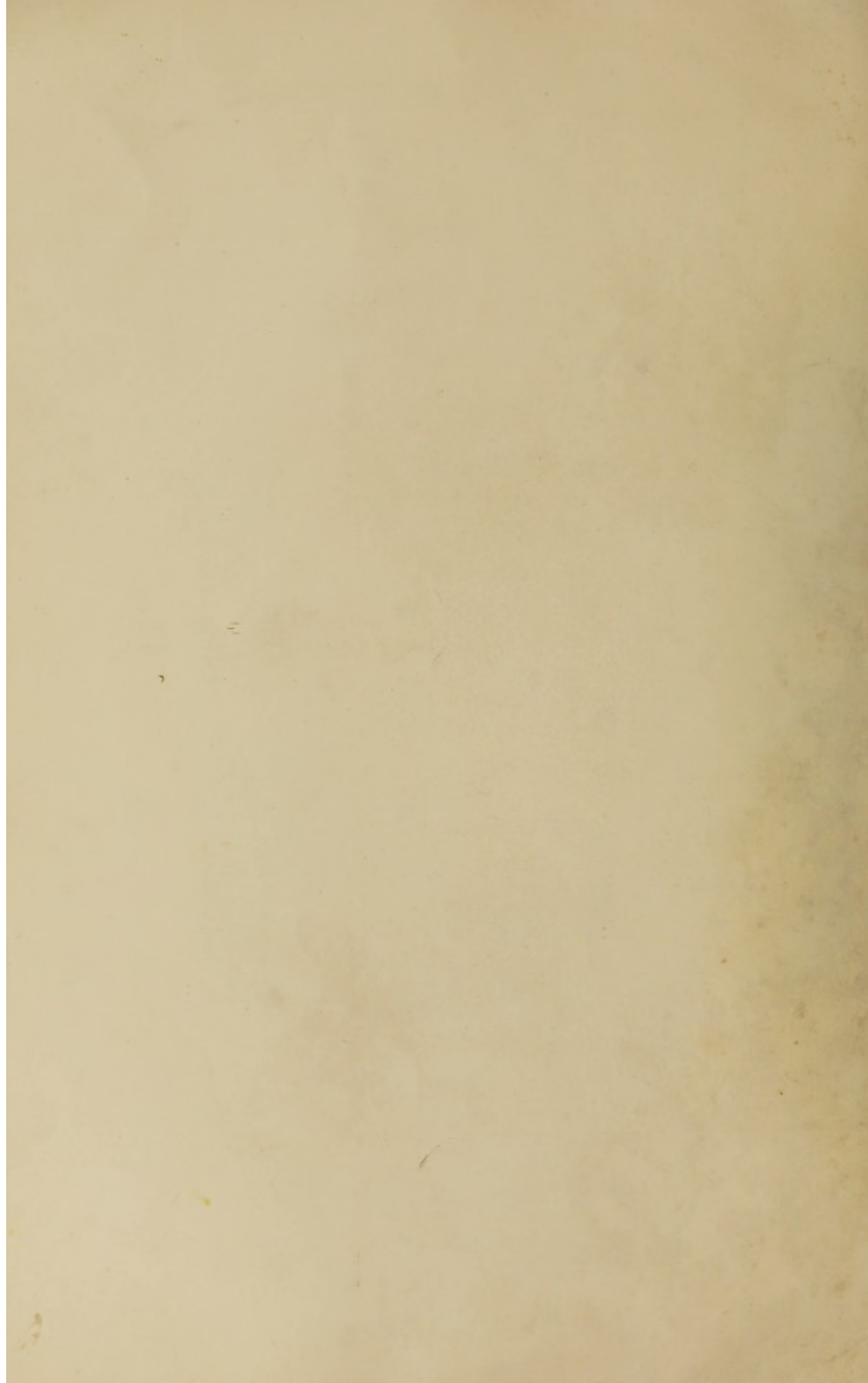
Cloister Entrance







Exterior View  
of Chapel







View from Saint Mary's Square

