

Howarden Castle
Chester

Oct 18. 95.

My dear Sir

I feel that the recommendation, which, on behalf of
Guy's Hospital, you have requested from me, will be greatly deficient
in point of weight and authority. Nevertheless, after looking into the
circumstances of the case as they stand, I cannot refuse to make it,
and this with all the earnestness I can command.

In order to see and feel it as it deserves to be seen and felt, we must
endeavour to forget the beneficent but wealthy and easy going Guy's
Hospital of fifty years ago, when I was a Governor, we must re-
gard it as institution aiming at the most Christian and of elements
any necessity, more so rich for the work it had to do, and now
through no fault of its own, cut down to one half of its means,

The revenue, that was over £4000, has sunk to £2000: but
the surging sea of want, all around the Hospital, has grown
wider and deeper from year to year.

I wish, but vainly wish, it were in my power to bring London, and
we least the City of London strictly so called, to understand the great-
ness and urgency of the case: I send Report as Treasurer you inform
us that, from want of pecuniary means, one hundred beds are at the
present time, and have been for some past period, unemployed and
waste. This want is of itself sufficiently grave. But it is not all,
nor is it the greatest of what you have to tell. We have to make our
understand, that the arrest and contraction of efficiency, thus indicated,

will be followed, at the close of the present year, by a protracted and
dead yet heavier downfall, and that, unless a courageous and serious
effort is made to avert the calamity, an appreciable portion of the
Hospital must become a solitude. ~~But~~ such a solitude ~~is~~ would be
indeed a desolation.

This is surely a very grave subject of contemplation for the masses of
persons, resident in London, who are not too far from making some contribu-
tion out of their moderate means towards the end, in view of the very high
rent in London, not absolutely poor, consider the hundreds of thousands
unnaturally which his large class has passed through the too price of
bread: he may compare it with the £1400. per ann. which it takes as
an estimate of your deficit; and with his own temper conclude that,
if the threatened calamity should visit the Hospital, it would
be the infliction of a public disgrace to the London and especially the
Tenth London community, a disgrace the more grave when we
remember that it is the summer season, that the people have
received in the low price of bread, which has reduced your resources,
and crippled your means of meeting the wants and distresses
of the sick and of those suffering from accidents among them, and
surely the consequence ought to be that each man, in his responsi-
bility, living within the ~~the~~ radius of your operations, should do
what he can to still the stream of bounty on an emergency such as
this.

But if the net of obligation be cast thus wide over the community,
let us not forget how that obligation is intensified with respect to those
masses of wealthy concentrated in the City, and the West End; and
indeed ^{how many include} the other portion of the community to meet whose wants
with necessary and conventional, there have come into existence
other and larger classes such as create the demand for Hospital
accommodation.

No distance of mental vision can hide from us the ~~fact~~ fact that;
in the vast metropolis of this country, there subsist side by side two
marked, ^{marked,} social characteristics; the one boundless wealth, and the other
boundless want, and, when a crisis arises, at which, want continuing
its normal growth, the ordinary resources for meeting it have become
gone about normal reduction. The collision which in the face of the
wealth of London appears not only to the sense of kindness, but perhaps
even to the sense of shame.

A word on one remaining point. Injurious to find, upon the best exa-
mination I am able to make; that Guy's hospital, instead of being
pampered by its former wealth, is distinguished having sister
institutions by the vigilant economy of its administration: so that
it affords to all in whatever the best guarantee for obtaining
through their contributions a maximum of good.

I remain, dear Mr Treasurer,

Very faithfully yours

W. H. Sturges

The Treasurer of Guy's
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