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By Vaughan Thomas  
address

AN ADDRESS, &c.



AN ADDRESS  
UPON  
LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE  
OF THE  
QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM,

JUNE 18, 1840,

BY VAUGHAN THOMAS, B.D.

VICAR OF STONLEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE, AND FORMERLY FELLOW AND TUTOR OF CORPUS  
CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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FRIENDS, ADVOCATES, and PATRONS of the Birmingham Royal School of Medicine and Surgery!—or rather let me address you in words of larger import, as friends of your fellow-creatures suffering under accident or disease; as Advocates of those principles of brotherly love, which have been revealed by the Son, and recorded by the Spirit of God; as Patrons of every judicious provision, which Charity or Science can suggest for the relief, cure, or removal of bodily afflictions!—with heart-felt joy I offer my congratulations upon this occasion. I offer them, not merely as one known to take a lively interest in this great and good undertaking, but also as the representative of him, who, besides that lively interest, which he shares in common with myself, has manifested upon this, as upon all the other great efforts which you have successively made to improve, extend, facilitate professional education, his pious and patriotic devotion to the same great cause, and who has repeatedly shewn, in furtherance of it, a spirit of munificence which is peculiarly his own.

But the congratulations which my present honourable position before this large and distinguished assembly enables me to offer, (a position, which I refer partly to my connection with the Royal School as one of its Trustees, but principally to the favorable dispositions of the Committee of Management towards me, as Dr. Warneford's friend,) those congratulations would be defective, and I am sure that they would by no means accord with the tone and spirit of your loyalty, if they did not exhibit the workings of our gratitude towards our Sovereign Lady, the

*Queen*, and towards Her Majesty, *Adelaide* the Queen Dowager, for having graciously consented to be (and to be declared to be, in the very style and title of this Hospital) its illustrious Patronesses and Protectors.

To the solicitude of their Majesties for the health of a largely increased and increasing population of manufacturers, miners, and labourers in trade and agriculture; to their perception of the great advantage, or rather of the urgent duty, of providing a succession and supply of able Practitioners to administer to the wants of the sick and maimed; to these and other motives of Benevolence we are to ascribe the gratifying distinction, which so large an amount of Royal Patronage has conferred upon us. Under such auspices, and under the hopes of the still higher protection of the King of kings, a Second Hospital (for this great town, unlike all others of the same magnitude, has but One) is to be erected upon this foundation-stone. And I must here observe, to the honourable band of Masonic Friends who have been pleased to give us their most interesting services upon this occasion, that the foundation-stone of the Hospital has been so geometrically squared, and so skilfully laid, that it may well serve for an emblem of the fortunes of our future Institution, of its stability as a Temple of Learning as well as Mercy, of the rectitude of its administration, of the permanency of the blessings and benefits which it will be able to dispense. Memory too as well as imagination must be permitted to exercise its Powers on behalf of this arduous undertaking, and minister joyful anticipations of future success, by bringing to our recollection the events of this auspicious day. Do we not here find presages of triumph over difficulties and dangers? Do we not find on the fields of Waterloo evidences of what may be effected by constancy and courage? It was a good and righteous cause which called forth those energies, and God was pleased to crown them with such a Victory, as battle-field never saw before. The presence of some of those gallant champions of their Country (now the peaceful champions of Charity and Science) should remind us, that in every great undertaking, in Peace as well as War, there must be firmness as well as fortitude, judgment as well as zeal; that strong hands and courageous hearts must be guided by wise counsels and prudent calculations, and that these, and these only, with the blessings of Providence, are the parents of success.

I have been led to refer the ultimate success of our undertaking to Divine Providence. Upon such a reference I must not forget, and remembering I must not withhold, what I am sure your patriotism and piety will anticipate; I mean, the expression of our thanks and praises to the same Divine Providence, for the merciful deliverances, which the arm of the Lord, outstretched to prevent and powerful to save, has vouchsafed to our Patroness VICTORIA the Sovereign of our country, and the Queen of its affections. But the requirements of such a duty are not to be satisfied by so cursory a notice; that duty demands, and will

shortly receive, an appointed time, an appropriate place, and no language is equal to the discharge of it but that of Religious Service. I therefore thank the Almighty for this merciful interposition of his good Providence, in words which the Church has applied to former deliverances; "I humbly praise and magnify God's glorious name, for his unspeakable goodness toward us, as expressed in these acts of his mercy:" and let me again, in words borrowed in like manner from the page of prayer, express our hopes of future protection, as well as our thanks for mercies received. May our rescued Queen, and her Royal Consort the Prince Albert, the partaker of her danger and of her deliverance, "continue in health and peace, joy and honour: may they live long and happy upon earth, and after death obtain everlasting life and glory.

From these tributes of loyal and religious feeling, I must return to the acknowledgments which I had left unfinished. I must now complete the wreath of praise, with which I would encircle the honoured names of VICTORIA and ADELAIDE. May they be ever coupled together in our memory, and so descend in the annals of our future Hospital, adorned with the loveliness of these joint acts of their charitable patronage and support!

It was to woman's thoughtful concern for the sufferings of human nature, under the visitations of accidental or constitutional ailment, that the sick were first indebted for the care and consolations of an Hospital. The fourth century beheld this fair fruit of Christian charity in the work of a Roman Matron, the widowed Fabiola, who, according to the narrative, "sold all her property, which was suitable to the greatness of her birth, and produced a very considerable income. She laid out the proceeds of the sale for the uses of the poor. Fabiola was the first to institute an Hospital for the relief and cure of disease, that she might there collect the sick from the high ways, and comfort the limbs of the miserable under the pressure of want and weakness."

The records of Christian mercy would furnish other monuments of the same sort, both before and since the Reformation; but in later ages the Queens of our Country have been the nursing-mothers of every charitable dispensation intended either for the relief of general maladies, or the special injuries, or losses incident to the human frame. But, my Lord, it has been reserved for the peculiar praise of our Royal Patronesses, that their Majesties, the Queen and Queen Dowager, are the first to be found in the annals of charitable enterprise, who have ever given the sanction of Royal Names to an Hospital, such as this is intended to be—an Hospital, which is to serve conjointly for a House of Charity, and a School of Instruction; whose ministrations are to be at the same time Eleemosynary, and Educational; whose services are to be directed, first, to the great ends of all Hospitals, the skilful and tender treatment of the sick and suffering; and secondly, to the diffusion of professional knowledge, by means of the prae-



tical lessons, which the mutilated and the diseased impart to those, who are duly qualified, and rightly disposed, to receive them\*.

Such, my Lord, is the combination of purposes, which is to give to the Queen's Hospital of Birmingham its peculiar character as an Institution, its comprehensive usefulness as an instrument of good, personally to those who labour under bodily distresses, and professionally to those who wish to qualify themselves for medical and surgical duties, by learning how to compound and dispense, by watching the effects of medicine, by witnessing the methods of scientific Surgery. Such too are the ends and objects, which under the wise and benevolent estimate which your Lordship is known to make of whatever is proposed for the temporal or eternal good of man, have induced the Lord Chamberlain of the Queen Dowager to give a new dignity to this celebrity, by taking part in its ceremonies. It is to your Lordship's marked approbation of the Christian, professional, patriotic purposes, which the Birmingham School of Medicine and Surgery seeks to accomplish in these midland districts of the kingdom, that the school is mainly indebted for the gratifying reception and honourable results of the memorial presented on its behalf to his late Majesty. A great debt of gratitude was thereby created, and in part paid, by the unanimous vote of thanks at a Special General Meeting. But, my Lord, I feel it to be my duty again to bear witness to your most important services in this cause, which is no other than the cause of Provincial Education in the Principles and Practice of Medicine and Surgery—services, which have now been largely increased in number and value, by your successful application to the beloved and venerated Queen Dowager, on the behalf of this Institution.

But there may be in the circuit of this numerous assembly some, whose apprehensions may be awakened by their misconception of an Hospital, intended to combine Clinical instruction with Charitable dispensations. Let me endeavour to relieve them of those apprehensions, and inform them, that the Educational will be kept in due subordination to its Charitable purposes. In the chart and scale of these ministrations, the visitation and comfort, the relief and cure, of the sick, will form the great ends and objects of its Physicians and Surgeons. Charity will do its perfect work before Science will be permitted to enter upon its Province or pursue its disquisitions upon the facts and phenomena of disease. Science in this Hospital will be the handmaid, not the rival or the ruler, of Charity; and thus the sick and maimed will be doubly benefitted. They will have their cases not only professionally attended, but pathologically discussed: they will be studied as well as treated; reasoning and consultation will follow inspection and enquiry, so that it will be scarcely possible that there should be any errors of judgment, as to the nature of a case, or any mistakes in the treatment of it, or any omissions or oversights in attending to it.

But, independently of such considerations, can Charity perform a nobler part, or do a greater service, or provide a larger store of benefits for mankind, than by fitting and preparing the young for the duties of their profession, by means of Clinical studies in Medicine and Surgery? Under this point of view, it appears to be manifestly wrong to distinguish the Educational from the Charitable purposes of an Hospital in such a manner, as to set the one in array against the other, as if they were opposed and hostile in their very nature. Charity is a grace of various energies, a virtue of infinite relations, a duty of manifold obligation. It embraces within its ample purview, not only the prompt application of matured wisdom to the pressing necessities of the sick, but the preparation of the young for the due performance of the same acts and duties of mercy, upon future occasions of the like pressing necessity. In the one case it supplies present means of relief and cure, in the other it provides for future cases and occasions of suffering. Its watchfulness does not confine itself to the urgent wants of those who are actually labouring under sickness, or to the dispensation of what is immediately necessary for the relief of distress, or the removal of danger. The eye of Charity, ranging far beyond the horizon of visible and tangible afflictions, embraces within the compass of its care the unseen but anticipated wants of future ages, when existing Physicians, Surgeons, Patients, however eminent the one, or afflicted the other, will be removed, the former from the fields of their renown, the latter from the burthen of their sorrows. Charity never faileth: and it is one of its never-failing labours to fill up the places which may be left vacant by the death, old age, or infirmities of those who, having devoted their lives to the service of Humanity, have been compelled either by the hand of sickness or of death to retire from their benevolent and honourable exertions.

But how is Charity to provide for such wants, how is it to supply such losses, but by teaching the young practically? and where is that practical knowledge to be so largely and so profitably obtained as in an Hospital? Such instructions then, arising out of the spirit and subservient to the ends of Charity, ought to be called Charitable. They are Charitable under two relations: first, in respect of the sick who are to be ultimately benefitted by them; and, secondly, as to those who are to be qualified and prepared in this way for the successful discharge of their future professional duties.

There is another wrong impression which may be made, by affixing the term Clinical to the Hospital to be built upon this foundation-stone. The denomination may lead to the entertainment of the opinion, that it is to be a small Hospital for what are called "select cases." For the removal of this error it must be stated, that it is not intended to abridge the liberty of recommendation, or the rights of Governors, by reducing the amplitude of the design to that narrowness, which a selection of cases

supposes and implies. The Queen's Hospital of Birmingham is to be an Hospital of a hundred or a hundred and fifty beds, and its doors are to be opened to all sorts of Patients, and from whatever county recommended. And so it ought to be, not only upon principles of charity, but for professional instruction. The phænomena of common accidents and diseases (as well as of rare and curious cases) should be made familiar to those, who will most frequently have to treat such cases in the future exercise of their Profession.

But it is now time to consider this Royal Hospital as one connected by the closest affinities with the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, and its practice as subsidiary and supplemental to those Courses of Lectures, which the able and assiduous Professors of the School are in the habit of delivering. I have already observed, that this is the first Provincial Hospital erected expressly for Educational as well as Charitable purposes, which has ever enjoyed the honour and advantage of Royal Patronage. I will now carry my observation still farther, and say, that this is the first Hospital, Provincial, (or Metropolitan, if you except the North London and the King's College Hospitals,) which has had this didactic character so clearly and strongly impressed upon it at its first formation. I say not, that it is the *only* instance of a Provincial Hospital, which has been ever made to bear from its beginning such a type of its usefulness, for I think I can name two, which may be said to have preceded it in this particular; I mean, the Provincial Hospitals at Oxford and Cambridge; the former built in 1772 by the Trustees under Dr. Radcliffe's Will, the latter under an Act of Parliament obtained in 1766, for carrying into effect the Will made by Dr. Addenbrooke in 1719. By the homely expressions of the latter Testator, "it appears, that he wished to build a small Physical Hospital" at Cambridge, a sort of edifice, which would be now called (according to modern nomenclature) a small Hospital for the teaching of Clinical Medicine. With respect to the other, the Radcliffe Infirmary, its educational character was stamped upon it, and with great distinctness of outline, as soon as it was opened. It is expressly said in the account of its plan as published at that time, that it was intended "to provide for the improvement of Medical Knowledge as well as for the relief of the distressed," a representation, which distinctly recognizes the very principles or purposes of the Queen's Hospital, and would serve to declare our present design, if the Educational part of this specification had been made to include the improvement of Surgical as well as Medical Knowledge, instead of Medical alone.

With these two exceptions, I believe, that there cannot be found in the history, not only of Provincial but Metropolitan Hospitals, any evidence to shew, that any one of them was originally instituted and intended for the instruction of those, who were to be trained up to professional pursuits as Physicians, Surgeons, or General Practitioners, by walking its Wards.



witnessing its practice, and by being taught by its Physicians and Surgeons. With respect to the annexation of these uses to County Infirmaries, it might have been expected, that some vestiges of such a design would have been found upon the Book of Rules, drawn up with the greatest care for the regulation of that justly celebrated Hospital, erected by subscription at Winchester in 1736, the prototype and pattern of all others built by voluntary contribution throughout the Counties of England. Instead, however, of shewing any regard to the preparation of the young for the future acts and offices of their profession, it seems that its Founders rather contemplated the improvement of the old by Hospital practice. It is stated in the fifth Reason given for its establishment, that the Hospital would be "of considerable use to other persons as well as the poor." It might be supposed that pupils were the persons here intended; that, however, is not the case; the Clause refers not to the junior but senior members of the Profession; "the Hospital will be of considerable use to other persons as well as the poor, by furnishing the Physicians and Surgeons with more experience.

Neither did the professional education of the young fare much better in the London Hospitals. The Hospitals of the Metropolis may be divided into two sorts, the endowed, and the subscriptional. The endowed also admit of a two-fold division, those of Royal, and those or rather that (for I know of no more than one, Guy's Hospital) of private endowment. The five Royal Hospitals are St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Bethlehem, Christ's, and St. Bride's; and on their behalf, Sermons (called the Spital Sermons) have been preached, either annually or occasionally, from the time of Edward the Sixth. I will here take occasion respectfully to recommend the like valuable and praiseworthy exertions of the Pulpit on behalf of this Institution; and I entertain the hope, that Spital Sermons may be preached in every Church of the County, in aid of the building funds of the Queen's Hospital. Of the five Royal Hospitals, two only are places of refuge for the sick and maimed, St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's; but we look in vain into their Charters, and Trust-deeds, and ancient Rules and Orders, for evidence of any design or desire to assist professional education in any one of its branches; such views and purposes seem to have been beyond the foresight of those who counselled Henry the Eighth and Edward the Sixth to make these splendid provisions for the sick and needy. Not even the capacious charity of the martyred Ridley, whose conference with his youthful King determined him to endow St. Thomas's; nor the profound wisdom of Linacre, who persuaded Henry VIII. to incorporate the College of Physicians, was able to feel and find its way through the thick clouds which enveloped not only the Duties of Benevolence in this matter of Medical and Surgical Instruction, but Medicine and Surgery themselves in all branches of practice, and all forms or modes of application. It is very true, that in those noble Hospitals of St.

Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's, the wants of the Profession ultimately produced what their Founders never proposed nor provided for. By regulations of a comparatively recent date those treasures of knowledge, which their distinguished Physicians and Surgeons have collected by study and observation, are imparted to large Classes of Students in exact and extensive Courses of Clinical Instruction both in Medicine and Surgery.

The like omissions are found in the original constitution of Guy's Hospital. No intention is expressed, no provision made, no concern for the Education of Students is to be discovered, either in the Will of its munificent Founder, nor in the Act of Parliament by which the Trustees of his appointment were incorporated. In short not the slightest notice is taken of a subject, which has now so long engaged the attention of Parliament and the country, as one intimately connected with the safety and well-being of man, at all periods of his life, and all places of his abode.

If we direct our attention from the endowed to the unendowed or subscriptional Hospitals of the Metropolis, we shall find in the printed accounts of their objects and purposes, and in their original and early Rules, the same silence as to the important particular of Professional Education. I speak not of what has been ruled and ordered by recent legislation. I confine my observations to their original purposes as set forth in published statements of the reasons, views, intentions of those who undertook and promoted these works of Charity.

Under these limitations it may be safely asserted that (with the exception of the Radcliffe and Addenbrooke) no Hospital, Provincial or Metropolitan, built and to be supported by voluntary contributions, was from the beginning intended to give to the young the means and opportunities of Clinical instruction, as well as of relief and cure to the sick and needy. In vain shall we search for such evidence the original prints of the Prospectus's, Accounts, and Rules of the old Westminster, established in 1719, (at one time the Hospital of Cheselden;) or those of the St. George's, erected in 1733, (which witnessed the last as well as the early and happiest days of John Hunter;) or those of the London, opened in 1740, that ancient House of Surgical Charity, (so to be called, not only because it is so much occupied upon the cases of maimed and wounded seamen, manufacturers, and labourers, but also because it had a Surgeon for its principal Founder;) in vain shall we search the monuments of these, the oldest of the Metropolitan unendowed Hospitals, or of the elder Provincial Hospitals at Winchester, Bristol, York, Exeter, Northampton, Shrewsbury, Newcastle, respectively built in 1736, 37, 41, 41, 44, 47, 47, 51, in short of any of the forty-one great Provincial Houses which were erected before the country was alive to the importance of Hospital Practice, for the Education of future Practitioners; nothing will be found in any one of them which is indicative of the remotest intention of making

them subservient to any other purpose whatever than those of curing the sick, and healing the various mischiefs and maladies of persons suffering from accident or disease; nothing of a didactic, nothing of an educational, character was impressed upon any one department of their ministrations; nothing said about the admission of pupils, their attendance, conduct, payments, instructors. And I believe that the like silence continued to reign over the Rules of most Provincial Infirmaries, till the Regulations of the College of Surgeons and Company of Apothecaries imposed a sort of necessity upon their Governors to attend a little more to Professional Education, and make their institutions available to the charitable uses, and national benefits, of practical instruction in Medicine and Surgery. They then drew up Rules and Orders upon the subject.

I impute not these omissions to the worthy, the charitable, the munificent of those early days as personal faults; they are stated simply as facts; if they are to bear a harsher name, I would call them, not the faults of individuals, but of the age in which they lived; for some of them lived in days of darkness, and some of twilight, as to the great truths, that Pathology must be studied like other natural sciences, under the guidance of facts and phænomena; that inductive Philosophy, in this as in other applications of its power, demands instances and examples; that no safe or sure progress can be made in conducting the studies of the novice, or in completing those of the proficient, without the inspection and explanation of cases, without the power of referring to the different sorts of accidental or constitutional, of structural or functional mischief, as instanced in the sufferings of individuals; and where are these to be found in such contiguity to each other, in such variety and abundance, and under such diversities of internal or external character, as on the beds of an Hospital? But to these incontestible truths, and to these wants of Professional life; to the obvious interests of the public, and to the duties of Charity in the dispensation of this necessary knowledge, Founders, Trustees, Governors of Hospitals, do not in early times appear to have paid any attention.

In tracing the history of human opinion upon this subject, we might naturally expect to find something to indicate care or concern about it in some of those powerful appeals on the behalf of St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's, and the other Royal Hospitals, which have been made by the ablest of our divines during the last 280 years; we might expect to find parts or passages which might serve as proofs, that whilst these pious and powerful advocates of Charity took care to set forth its functions, and enforce its duties, in their relations to bodily sufferings, their relief and cure, they did not altogether overlook those other forms and affinities of good-will to man, which are to be evidenced by provisions for the instruction of the young in the art and science of healing, by an attendance upon Hospital practice. It is well known, that Archbishop Secker was in early



life intended for the Profession of Physic; and I entertained the hope, that, possessing as he did a large amount of Medical knowledge, he would with his profound insight into the reasons, relations, and analogies of things, have been led, in his well-known discourse on behalf of the London Hospital, to press that particular duty of Charity which is occupied upon the preparation of professional youth for their future ministries of mercy. But, in common not only with those who preceded, but with those who have followed in the course and order of these advocacies of Hospital Establishments, the most Reverend Preacher enters not into these fruitful fields of argument. He points not to the blessings bestowed, under Providence, by the exactness of therapeutic information; he does not dilate upon the pains which are to be removed, the dangers to be escaped, the lives or limbs to be saved, the tears to be wiped away, by a course of scientific treatment, or the success of a skilful operation; neither does he touch upon the dismal reserves, which are exhibited in the failures of inexperience and inability. He makes no allusion to the blessings which arise out of the more extensive diffusion of sound practical knowledge, and the increased facility of obtaining for the sick, even of the most sequestered villages, prompt attendance and proper treatment. By opening the doors of Hospitals to those who come to learn, and by making these means and materials of knowledge accessible, life and health in the remotest corners of the country may, when visited by accident or disease, be placed with confidence under the care of the Country Practitioner. And is not the multiplication of such resources and facilities an act of charity? Is not the communication of such preparatory knowledge one, and that too an important, function of charity? Are not these personal and national benefits to be considered some of its most precious fruits? Of what avail would have been the act of the Samaritan, if he had been ignorant of the virtues of his wine and his oil; if he had been equally ignorant of the nature of the wounded man's injuries, and of the efficacy of such timely applications of a skilful hand, and a suitable medicament? Where can such acts and offices of Samaritan charity be so promptly or so perfectly learned, as by attending the bedsides of the sick, by studying spectacles of woe, by watching the hand, it may be the instrument, which is to relieve them, and by converting results into Rules of conduct, and Principles of practice?

Such are some of the topics which a knowledge of the Educational use and application of an Hospital would have administered to those, who, during more than two centuries and a half, have been successively called upon to plead the cause of St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's. With great power of language, and piety of purpose, and compass of scriptural warranties, have they urged the cause of poverty and sickness. But preparing the young for the care and cure of sickness, by teaching them what they ought to do in cases of accident or



disease, and by giving them the manual, the moral, the intellectual ability to do it, were departments of eharitable exertion, which in those days were neither understood by the advocates nor the administrators of Hospitals. The merciful end of such courses of Medical and Surgical Education never entered into the calculations of the wise and good; it ought however to be added, in justice to those able and pious orators, that such topics, as the eharitable offices of Medicine and Surgery, and the Christian duty of training up pupils and apprentices to be good Practitioners by attending Hospital Practice, would scarcely have been understood in the general ignorance or indifference that prevailed, much less would they have been felt, as grounds and reasons for a more liberal contribution in those days of insensibility to the Educational wants of the Profession.

But whilst I am thus extending my observations to so many, I am bound to except the honoured names of Bishop Lowth and Bishop Butler, successively of the See of Oxford. These Right Reverend Advocates of the Radcliffe Infirmary, in 1772 and 1777, (an Infirmary which, as I have before observed, was from the very beginning instituted for educational as well as charitable purposes,) took occasion to introduce into their Sermons the very topic, which, according to my estimation of its importance, ought never to be omitted in any of these appeals to public feeling when professional Instruction is found to be coupled with the care of the sick and maimed in the Medical and Surgical ministrations of an Hospital. "Whatever advantages" (says the profound and pious scholar Bishop Louth) "the study of Medicine may at any time have enjoyed in this place, so richly endowed with all the various stores of learning, and so well furnished with able Professors in every part, there was still a deficiency which rendered all the rest imperfect, and to which the student was obliged to seek elsewhere for a proper supplement, namely, the opportunity of being led from speculation to practice, of correcting, verifying, and perfecting theory by fact and experience. The knowledge of Medicine, which hath of late years received great improvements, and been rendered much more extensive and general than in former times, hath been more indebted to the public Infirmarys, newly established in most of the populous towns throughout the kingdom, (and much increased in number in the metropolis,) than to the justly boasted advancement of Science and Philosophy. These are the best, the most instructive, schools of Physic, where the student, already well grounded in the principles of his art, proceeds from literary and historical to experimental and practical knowledge; where the book of nature is laid open before him, illustrated as by a living comment by the observations, the elucidations, the example, and method of practice of the skillful Practitioner.

The same points were again urged by Bishop Lowth's successor. "Designs of this magnitude appear best adapted to a large commercial city, which is besides the resort of the noble

and wealthy families of the kingdom. Commerce not being the profession of this place, so expensive an exertion of Charity and Benevolence was more likely to be admired than imitated; yet the want of it was peculiarly felt. The Students of a Science, which has been in all ages eminently beneficial to mankind, could carry their pursuits little farther than theory without it; and the practitioners of an Art, which approaches so far towards perfection, that it is become difficult to distinguish, whether some of its operations are more the result of Art or Science, had fewer opportunities of improvement than elsewhere in a place, so favourable to every other valuable branch of knowledge. Among a variety of cases, some will always be new, and few of these can, without such a collection of cases as Infirmaries continually exhibit, fall under the observation of persons, whose labours for mankind are for the most part confined to a certain circle of observation."

To these interesting testimonies, not only to the public and professional benefit of combining education with charitable ministrations in the economy of an Hospital, but also to the prudent and prospective wisdom of these Prelates, to the soundness of their philosophy, and to their Christian concern for the good of mankind, I will add two other testimonies; one of a much earlier and the other of a later date, but both conveying the declared and recorded judgments of distinguished Gentlemen in the profession of Medicine and Surgery.

Sir William Browne, in 1745, appears to have raised and enlarged his views of the usefulness of Hospitals above the level and beyond the compass of their opinions, who had preceded him in these speculations. With a remarkable coincidence of opinions with those entertained by the advisers and promoters of the present undertaking, he declares, "that the same good and godly benefactions which have raised the best nurseries in the world for the sick and wounded, might also be improved farther into the best schools for the Art of Physic and Surgery . . . and that if once Students in Physic were suffered to attend the Hospitals as practical Schools in the utmost latitude, it would be the most worthy improvement of those noble Charities, without interfering at all with the pious intentions of their founders."

But notwithstanding these powerful representations, and their undisputed truth and justice, it does not appear that they had produced, as might have been expected, universal conviction. Public opinion may have been in some degree influenced by them; but it cannot be said to have advanced even in 1783 beyond a transitional state, when Dr. Maddocks and Sir William Blizard (then Mr. Blizard) of the London Hospital found it necessary to address their remonstrances upon the subject to the Governors of that Institution.

"The importance of the Arts of Physic and Surgery, from the degree in which they may be made to contribute to the good

and happiness of mankind, is immediately acknowledged. Their cultivation and advancement, therefore, are objects highly deserving the consideration of the wise and good. But however great may be the improvements of those Arts, and however strong the desire to promote such improvements, yet if proper and effectual methods be not adopted for the education of young persons who are to practise, those Arts may, with the generality of practitioners, be in a very imperfect state, and even prove pernicious and destructive, instead of useful and salutary. In the beginning of the late war, numbers of our brave sailors experienced severely or fatally the effects of ignorance and unskilfulness. Skill in the practice of Physic and Surgery cannot be acquired without an attendance on an Hospital; but then the skill which can be acquired from an attendance on Hospital practice without a knowledge of principles, as it is the result of mere imitation, must be comparatively very small. It is therefore necessary that principles be also studied, which principles cannot be taught but by means of Lectures publicly read."

In this declaration of the two great component parts of a professional education, Lectures and an attendance on Hospital practice, we find the very matters which actually constitute the labours and studies of the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, and which are about to be embraced by the large and comprehensive benevolence of the Queen's Hospital. The knowledge of principles is to be acquired at the School; a knowledge of practice at the Hospital.

The Royal Hospital will be an auxiliary, a powerful auxiliary, to the School. The discourses and demonstrations of its Professors, the sound, morbid, and modelled specimens in its Museum, the ancient and modern records of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology upon the shelves of its Library, will receive their best elucidation from the living and breathing volumes to be hereafter seen perused, studied upon the beds of this Hospital; an Hospital which, by wise and prudent arrangements, will thus be made to satisfy the claims of Charity in two ways; first, by the actual visitation of the sick; and secondly, by training the young to perform the like duties of visitation, as future Physicians, Surgeons, or General Practitioners. The Queen's Hospital and the Royal School are to be bound together by the same sort of ties, as those which connect the King's College of London with its newly-established Hospital; there should be a community of feelings, and a reciprocity of services between them; they should be sister-institutions, and as such they should be animated by the same spirit, should acknowledge a common origin, be directed to the same great end; they should be made to administer to the relief and cure of bodily afflictions, directly by scientific prescription or manual ability, and indirectly by communicating to the young the results of long experience and the resources of skill, and by enabling them to apply the lessons they have learned, and the practice they have witnessed.



Happily not only for the interests of Science, but Humanity, wonderful improvements have been effected both in the knowledge of these special duties of Charity, and in men's dispositions to fulfil them. Many reasons are to be found for this change; such as the discovery of new fields of Science, the improvements in Pharmacy and Surgery, arising out of deeper surveys of the constitution and compages of the human frame; the closer examination of the animal and vegetable, mineral and gaseous kingdoms, and of the things which injure or improve health, save or endanger life, cause or cure disease. The universal dedication of the Professional mind to the minuter phenomena which the morbid condition of the body administers for the guidance of the judgment, these are some of the causes of the change which has taken place in the feelings and opinions of the Public and the Profession upon these subjects. Again, Parliament and the Country have had their attention specially directed to the serviceableness of Hospitals to give practical effect and permanent continuance to the knowledge obtained in the Lecture Room. Neither must I omit in this enumeration of the causes which have contributed to give more of an Educational character to our Hospitals, the requisitions which have been made from time to time by those Chartered Bodies, who hold in their hands the power of giving or withholding the License and the Diploma. These requisitions have scarcely left it any longer at the option of the Governors and Subscribers of a County Hospital, whether they will or will not make their Institution serve the purpose of instructing pupils. I do not complain of them. For though they are stringent in themselves, they are at the same time, in their reasons, so just and forcible, that they may be said to establish a duty, whilst they impose an obligation. Neither must I omit the engagements existing between masters and apprentices, teachers and students, in respect of attendance on Hospital practice; these too have had their effect, and have concurred with other causes to give that more strongly-marked character of educational usefulness, which has of late years been impressed upon our Provincial Hospitals.

To the Professors of the Royal School, who have devoted the energies of powerful minds, and the stores of various learning to this great cause of Provincial Education, our warmest thanks are due, for the high and honourable position which is now occupied by the Royal School in the estimation of the Profession and the country. The same acknowledgments are also due to Dr. Edward Johnstone, the venerable President of our chartered body, who has so long dedicated his paternal benevolence and professional wisdom to the same cause; and to the Rev. James Thomas Law, Chancellor of Lichfield, our esteemed and respected Vice-President, for his able, active, and unwearied exertions to complete the Educational Economy of the Royal School, by the erection of an Hospital in union with it. Neither must I pass over the name of one of my worthy Co-Trustees, who in the early history of our School devoted his great talents



and attainments to its service as Lecturer, John K. Booth, Esq. M.D. and who has never ceased to promote, by his zealous and judicious co-operation, the great work which now may be said to be crowned with honourable success. And more especially should the School Council and its Honorary Secretary Mr. Sands Cox, be thanked for their judicious management of its affairs. By their zeal and assiduity, (supported as they have been by the donations of its friends and the munificence of its great contributor,) the Royal School has been successively supplied with all the subsidia which Medical and Surgical Studies require, with Lecture Rooms, Theatre, Library, Laboratory, Museum. It has also encouragements for diligence, and prizes for talent; rewards for proficiency, and testimonials for good conduct. It has also the honour and happiness of having for Pupils a body of young men, who, for attendance on Lectures, and attention to studies, for general good conduct, as candidates for public confidence, and for distinguished success, when examined by the College of Surgeons and Company of Apothecaries, are not surpassed by the Pupils of any School of Medicine or Surgery in the kingdom. To these distinctions it should be added, that the great truths and duties of Revelation lie at the very foundation of this School. The ambition of Science is not here permitted to trample upon the doctrines of the Cross. That School, as we now behold, has also the honour of reckoning among its friends and patrons, the Good and the Great, the Worthy and Respectable, the Wise and the Brave; (for after the kind services we have this day received at the hands of the Brave, we must reckon them among the friends and favourers of our Institution,) But notwithstanding all these honours and advantages, the Royal School laboured under a want, and that so great, as not to be compensated by any of its advantages, honours, or distinctions—it wanted an Hospital. That only deficiency will soon exist no longer. When finished, may it ever work (but in due subordination to those great ends of Christian Charity, the supremacy of which it has been my great object to maintain) for the promotion of a sound and sure practical knowledge in Medicine and Surgery, for the fulfilment of the duties of compassion, and for the diffusion of brotherly love, and the social and professional virtues! Something I would here introduce respecting its economy, as settled by its *Fundamental Regulations*; but it may be enough to say, that those Regulations are drawn up so as to embrace, protect, promote, the interests of Humanity and Science, both in the Royal School and the Queen's Hospital.

But let it never be forgotten, either in the legislation or the ministrations of this House, that man's labours in the fields of Charity, as in the fields of Agriculture, must be upheld by the power and blessed by the goodness of God, before they can produce their expected harvest. This dependence upon God's good providence should remind us of the necessity of doing His will,

and of learning it in order to do it, and of reading His Word that we may learn it ; as in the School, so in the Hospital, let us try to shape and fashion its whole economy, educational as well as charitable, upon the principles of revealed Truth and Duty. Many will take refuge, and seek repose, within the walls which are about to inclose this spacious area, who will be found to be as much in want of Religious as of Medical or Surgical advice, as much the objects of spiritual as of bodily relief. What happy opportunities then may be afforded for the instruction of the ignorant, for awakening the careless, reprovig the vicious, supporting the weak, reclaiming the bad, confirming the good ! If such become the operations of Pastoral assiduity within these walls, then indeed I should have the most powerful of all reasons for congratulating you upon this occasion ; I should then have to add another and a higher sphere of usefulness to those which I have already enumerated ; I should have to annex its religious usefulness for treating, and (by God's help) for healing and curing, the diseases of the heart by the medicaments and prescriptions of the Great Physician. If the conversion of sinners and the saving of their souls be the happy results of Ministerial watchfulness, under the aids of grace and the all-sufficiency of the Saviour's sacrifice, then may this edifice in principle and purpose be called a House of Prayer, as well as an Asylum for Sickness and a School of Instruction. Then will your Lordship hereafter find new sources of satisfaction in the recollection of this day's solemnities ; for besides the pleasure of having so effectually assisted in this good work of providing relief for the sick and needy, and knowledge for the young and inexperienced, you will have to rejoice at your instrumentality, in having promoted the spiritual and eternal good of the future inmates of this Hospital. Then too will our Gracious Sovereign and her Majesty the Queen Dowager discover, in the conclusions of their Faith and the comprehensiveness of their Benevolence, still more powerful reasons for patronizing and protecting an Institution, which includes within the purview of its charity so many purposes of good beyond and above the communication of professional knowledge and the cure of bodily infirmity. Under these hopes, prospects, and impressions we may now joyfully retire from this interesting, this affecting, spectacle, carrying along with us the happiness of thinking, that we have, by being present at or by taking a part in this celebrity, done our best to provide for the Duties of Piety, the Dispensations of Compassion, and the Interests of Science, to God's Glory, and the temporal and eternal good of man.