AN ADDRESS ON ST. THOMAS'S, PAST AND PRESENT.

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By J. S. BRISTOWE, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.,
Senior Physician and Joint Lecturer on Medicine at the Hospital.

AT the request of my colleagues, I appear before you to-day to give the introductory address. I need scarcely say that I deeply appreciate the honour which they have done me, and the privilege it confers upon me of delivering myself as I please on whatever subject I may choose as suitable for the occasion; yet I must confess I would gladly have declined the honour and foregone the privilege had I dared. For, as we are constantly reminded by our critics, we orators of the 1st of October rarely say anything particularly new or particularly worth hearing; and it requires some exercise of moral courage for one who acknowledges that he has nothing new or important to say, and who finds himself for the third time in this unhappy position, to brave the adverse criticism which he feels that he shall deserve, and which has been passed upon him over and over again by anticipation. On the other hand, for reasons which I will briefly state, I have always been a consistent advocate of the maintenance of the custom which we are met this day to honour. It is admitted that the duties of the lectureship are difficult of adequate fulfilment; but, if difficult, so much the more is success worth achieving, and, at any rate, the mere endeavour to do one's best is a wholesome experience (I am saying this for the benefit of my younger colleagues). The occasion is one which, as I believe, most old pupils regard with interest; and certainly it never fails to attract, besides new faces, many old friends whom it is a pleasure to greet. The introductory speechifying, moreover, however poor many of the addresses may be, or may be thought to be, is made the occasion by the daily papers of drawing the attention of the public to the large hospitals and to the important educational work which is being systematically carried on in them and in the medical schools associated with them. Lastly, the oratorical display of October 1st is a time-honoured institution which links the present with the past, and on which respect for our predecessors and veneration for what is old should restrain us from laying violent hands. I felt it, therefore, my duty to accept—and I accepted readily, but not without misgiving—my present responsibility.

I have alluded to the fact that this is the third occasion on which it has fallen to me to give the introductory lecture. The first was eight-and-twenty years ago, and my lecture was delivered in the grand old hall of the hospital in the Borough, before an audience of ladies and gentlemen (for ladies at that time were invited to be present), and prior to the distribution of prizes, which then also took place on October 1st. I was a young man then, and felt it a high honour to be invited by my older colleagues to represent them on the occasion; and, like a young man, I did represent them in a speech of such eloquence and floweriness that now, in a calmer and more critical period of life, I can scarcely understand how it was I had the presumption to deliver it, or even to write it; and so full of admirable advice, that it might have been in this respect the joint production of the Archbishop of Canterbury and my friend Mr. MacKellar. Nevertheless, it was kindly received, and, if any felt the amusement in hearing it which I felt in recently re-perusing it, they did not show it.

My second lecture was given four years later. In the interval, vast changes had occurred. The old Borough Hospital had been sold to a railway company; the institution had just found a temporary home in the Surrey Zoological Gardens; and what the future was to be was a problem awaiting solution. Crude sanitary notions were at that time rampant; sanitary reformers inveighed against the iniquity of retaining establishments for the treatment of the sick in towns, and the enforced removal of St. Thomas's was hailed by them as a glorious opportunity for translating their theories into fact at the expense of one of the largest and richest metropolitan hospitals. Unfortunately, too, the treasurer for the time being, and some of the more influential governors, were largely under the influence of the prevailing sanitary craze, and also were inclined to transport the hospital, wholly or in part, into the country. The plan which most commended itself to them was to erect and maintain a small receiving-house or hospital for

acute and urgent cases in London, and to build a large hospital some miles away in the country, to which convalescent and chronic cases, and, in fact, all patients who were not likely to be injured by the journey, should be conveyed. The views of the governors had not been submitted to the medical officers for consideration, nor had their collective opinion been sought in any way; nor, again, had the medical officers (not accurately knowing what was going on) held any meeting to discuss and consider the state of affairs. I need scarcely say that the position was a very difficult and critical one, and the prospect exceedingly gloomy. The hospital and school, both of which had been in abeyance for a few months, opened simultaneously on October 1st. The inaugural ceremony, including the distribution of prizes, attended as before by ladies, took place in a large tent erected for the occasion. My address, I admit, presented occasional outbreaks of grandiloquence quite worthy of my former self; but I am pleased to say that, on the whole, my style had become much more sober than it was in my earlier essay; nor did I again venture, after so short an interval, to inflict a sermon on my younger auditors. The occasion, in fact, was unique; and I gladly availed myself of the opportunity it afforded me to discuss the future of the hospital and school, arguing, as strongly as I could, in favour of retaining them wholly in London, and refusing, as vigorously as I dared, the views (so far as I understood them) of the treasurer and his supporters. I cannot pretend that my lecture had any direct influence; but it was, I believe, the first distinct public expression of opinion adverse to the views of the sanitary crotchets-mongers, who, if they had had their way, would have ruined our school, and converted our great hospital into a mere sanatorium. Subsequently, other men of greater influence and greater ability than myself took up the matter energetically, from the same point of view as I had done; and, before long, common sense was triumphant, and the danger which seemed imminent was averted. Few persons now know how much we are indebted to Mr. Simon and the late Mr. Whitfield for the acquisition of the magnificent site on which the hospital now stands.

My third appearance occurs under very different circumstances from those which attended my first two lectures. I was then young; I am now, I prefer not to say old, but at any rate no longer young. I was then at the bottom of the hospital staff; I am now at its summit. I then lectured to students whose younger sons are probably listening to me for the first time to-day; the troublous times have passed, and we are now, and have been for some years, in the sunshine of assured prosperity.

What should be the subject of my discourse on the present occasion? I have already uttered more good advice than I ever knew how to follow, and I do not care to furbish up my old lecture. I scolded the authorities at an important crisis in the history of the hospital, but there is no crisis now, and no occasion of quarrel. Even if there were, I would avoid it. You may perhaps agree with me, gentlemen, in thinking that the fact that the dates of my three addresses correspond to three important periods in the history of our hospital and school suggests, as the obvious answer to my query, that my present address should be mainly retrospective.

The first seventeen years of my professional life, during which I was successively student, teacher, and physician, were passed in connection with the hospital in the Borough—the hospital of Meade, Fordyce, Elliotson, and Robert Williams; the hospital of Cheselden, the two Clines, Travers, and Green. It is not unnatural, therefore, that I should still feel affection and veneration for that ancient and ennobled building, and should look back wistfully to the many happy and instructive hours spent within its walls. At the time at which I became a student, the school of St. Thomas's had just emerged from that cloud of failure and disaster (the causes of which I need not enter upon) under which it had lain for many years, and though the entries were still few, the school, on the whole, was extremely well managed, and the teachers, as a rule, were exceptionally good. The hospital, of which an excellent model is preserved in our central hall, was one of the largest and best appointed in the United Kingdom. The greater part of it dated from the early years of the last century, and bore a close resemblance to the older part of Guy's. The old wards were not, perhaps, exactly the kind of wards that one would erect nowadays; but they were roomy, well ventilated, and healthy, and answered their purpose. Two new wings, abutting on the High Street, had been recently erected, and it was intended that all the ancient part of the hospital should (as funds allowed) be taken down, and replaced by blocks on the same plan. The new wings were handsome structures, and the wards the noblest I have ever seen. Had the reconstruction been completed, St. Thomas's in the Borough would have been, I think, even a grander hospital than its grand successor, though possibly its arrangements might not have so well fulfilled all the sanitary requirements of this fastidious age. The school buildings

were compact and well arranged, with a magnificent lecture-theatre, and an excellent museum, library, dissecting-room, and chemical laboratory.

Among the physicians, surgeons, and other teachers, were many men of high eminence. Robert Williams, the author of the classical work on *Morbid Poisons*, and one of the most philosophical physicians of this or any age, was the senior physician in my first year, and died in the course of it. I only have a vague recollection of seeing him occasionally cross one or other of the hospital squares. Next to him was Dr. Burton, whose name is identified with the discovery of the blue line on the gums in connection with plumbism. He was, as far as my memory serves me, a quiet, amiable, gentlemanly man, and much liked; but he died of cholera in the epidemic of 1849, and I never, therefore, became very well acquainted with him. Dr. Barker and Dr. (now Sir) Risdon Bennett were also members of the staff, and before long were joined by the late Dr. Peacock. It was to these three able physicians mainly that the students of the period to which I am now referring owed their training in clinical medicine. Many an old student will recall the Dr. Barker of those days, twirling a quill pen windmill-like between his finger and thumb as he walked from ward to ward. I think most of us were a little bit afraid of him; but we all acknowledged his great qualities as a physician, his intimate acquaintance with morbid anatomy, his remarkable accuracy of diagnosis, and his simplicity and directness of treatment. Very few of those who wished to learn medicine failed at one time or another to attend his *clinique*. Dr. Bennett, again, is not likely to be forgotten by those who studied with him at that time. He, too, was recognised as an admirable physician, and as one who gave special care to the therapeutical and dietetic treatment of disease. There was never a more painstaking, accurate, and methodical physician than Dr. Peacock. He took the notes of all his cases in great detail, and generally dictated them to his clerks. His teaching, therefore, though excellent in quality, was perhaps a trifle dry and unattractive; nevertheless, it was highly appreciated. Among the surgeons, Joseph Henry Green took the lead. He enjoyed an immense reputation, and, I believe, deserved it. He was of lofty stature and commanding presence, with a handsome intellectual face. He was a man of rare endowment and wide culture, and an admirable surgeon. He was a consummate orator. I did not know him at his best; for, though he did his work in the hospital and school, he had ceased to take much interest in it. His lectures were the lectures which he had delivered without change for years. In the hospital visits, he was always accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Solly, who did most of the duties under the eye, and liable to the correction, of his superior. John Flint South was a man of a very different stamp. He was kind-hearted, but hot-tempered and crotchety, and delighted to put on a roughness and not unfrequently a coarseness of manner which those who knew him could pardon on account of his many excellent qualities, but which to strangers and patients was often offensive. But he was a most industrious man, and performed all his duties with remarkable thoroughness and conscientiousness. I suppose people now rarely consult his great edition of *Chelins's Surgery*, of which his own notes formed by far the larger portion, and, I am inclined to think, by far the more valuable. It would be impossible, in the limits of a brief address, to speak of all the members of the staff; but I must not overlook Samuel Solly, Le Gros Clark, and John Simon. Solly was a brilliant and enterprising surgeon; but he was more than that, for he wrote a work on the anatomy of the brain, which had and deserved a high reputation; and he was a landscape-painter of no mean skill. Of Le Gros Clark and John Simon I should like to say much more than I dare. Suffice it for the moment that to these two great surgeons, and to South and Solly, probably more than to any others, students were indebted for their surgical education.

Although there was abundant opportunity of learning medicine and surgery in the wards and in the out-patient rooms, students were not required, as they are at the present time, to take clinical appointments, and most of the more valuable posts that are open to them now did not then exist. The clinical clerkships were got for asking, and those who did not ask were not appointed. There was no such post as that of house-physician, but all medical duties in the absence of the physicians and surgeons were performed by the apothecary and his assistant. The dresserships were more sought for, and, indeed, they were of remarkable value, for the dressers enjoyed much more freedom in dealing with patients and in taking responsibility in the emergencies of practice than they are allowed at the present time. But house-surgeoncies were instituted in my own early days (I was one of the first to fill the post), and curtailment of the privilege of dressers began to take place.

We were provided with good teachers. Members of the staff were responsible for the systematic lectures on surgery and medicine, but, in addition, Dr. Marshall lectured on nervous diseases, and Dr. Gregory discoursed on the exanthemata. But it was, I think, in the anatomical and physiological departments that the teaching was most systematic and best. We had no practical physiology in those days, but the systematic course of lectures was efficiently carried out. Richard Grainger had been associated with his elder brother for some years in teaching anatomy and physiology in the Webb Street School, and had been imported into St. Thomas's three years before I joined it. He was an excellent physiologist, one of the best of his day, and his lectures were singularly instructive, clear, and attractive. He was a striking illustration of the fact that a man who is in earnest may be a first-rate lecturer, in the sense of being able to make his meaning clear, and to command the attention of his audience, without being in any sense an orator or even a fluent and consecutive speaker. Mr. Grainger was a tall, gentlemanly, quiet, amiable, and aimable-looking man, who took a great interest in his work, as well as in his pupils, who, in return, held him in the greatest affection. I may, perhaps, recall the fact that latterly much of his time was given to sanitary investigations, and that he was one of the pioneers in the field of public health. Mr. Le Gros Clark was the lecturer in anatomy; and those who know how he speaks now may judge how well and pleasantly he lectured then. Perhaps in relation to this I may venture to recall a little incident of my student-days. I recollect that, when I went into the anatomical theatre to hear my first lecture, I had no notion until the lecturer entered the room what kind of man he was, and I have to acknowledge that I was so far attracted by the personality of the lecturer that, though I was a fairly industrious student, I proceeded to spend my time in taking his portrait in my notebook, instead of paying due attention to his discourse.

I shall not recall all the excellent men who at one time or another taught in the dissecting-room. But in my second year a gentleman became chief demonstrator who, I believe, had previously for a short time occupied the same post, and who continued chief demonstrator for more than thirty years. I speak of George Rainey, who was in the fulness of his powers, I think, during the period to which I am now specially referring. There were men at the hospital of higher intellect, of wider culture, of more imposing presence, and of greater refinement than he; but there was not one whose lessons were more highly appreciated, who had greater influence among the students, or who stands out more prominently among the memories of those days. He was a small, spare, ill-dressed, untidy man, with a bald head, auburn hair, a ruddy face, which in form, features, and expression bore a close resemblance to that of John Stuart Mill, and a weak, husky voice. He passed his time almost wholly between the dissecting-room and a small apartment with a bay window looking into the dissecting-room from above, where the chief part of his microscopical work was done. It was in this room that most of those fine injections for the microscope, with which his name is identified, and of which our museum contains a choice collection, were made; and it was here that he carried out most of those inquiries which brought him reputation as a physiologist and a thinker. Possibly some here present may call to mind one occasion when, in the midst of a winter session, he obtained leave of absence for six weeks. It was naturally thought he was out of health, and wanted change of air. But he passed the whole of the time (excepting the nights) in his den above the dissecting-room, where he could be seen from below deeply engaged in some physiological investigations. His demonstrations were very clear and simple, and largely done by putting questions to those whom he was teaching. But the most interesting feature about the man, and that which chiefly explains the great influence he had over his pupils, was his habit, usually about luncheon time, and later in the afternoon when the daily work was drawing to a close, of sitting in front of the dissecting-room fire, and entering into conversation with such pupils as happened to congregate around him. The conversations were on all kinds of topics. But, no matter how they began, they generally before long diverged into discussions concerning science, morality, or religion. A favourite method with him was to fix upon one man, to ply him with questions on the Socratic principle, and then, as often happened, having led him into contradictions, or having made him display his utter ignorance of the subject he was talking about, or having induced him to express views or sentiments which were absurd or reprehensible, to lay bare the unhappy victim's errors and inconsistencies, to overwhelm him with a torrent of chaff, sarcasm, and logic, and to wind up by expressing his own views with a manner and in language which were singularly impressive. Many a student retired from such encounters a good deal crestfallen, but few, if any, showed resentment, and many I am sure were benefited by them.

The celebrated Dr. Thomas Hodgkin had been imported from Guy's Hospital to be the demonstrator of morbid anatomy at St. Thomas's, but he remained only a short time, and had left before I entered. The growing importance of pathology, however, was fully recognised, and it was as a pathologist, with clinical duties, that Mr. Simon shortly afterwards was introduced into St. Thomas's Hospital. I recollect well the introductory address he delivered in the grand hall of the hospital, before the governors, the staff, and the students, on the occasion of his appointment, and its striking eloquence. It is needless to say that whatever Mr. Simon undertook to do, he did with all his strength, and admirably. His lectures on general pathology were always eagerly attended, and were valuable not only for what they taught directly, but for their suggestiveness, and for the impulse they gave to pathological work in the hospital. Among others who lectured at one time or another during this period, were some men of assured eminence, and some who were then comparatively unknown, but have since achieved greatness. Among the former were Mr. Thomas Taylor and Dr. Dundas Thompson, distinguished chemists; among the latter, Dr. Gladstone (now a well-known member of the School Board, and a chemist of the first rank as an investigator and discoverer), and Mr. Huxley.

Any picture of the old St. Thomas's would be incomplete which did not include a sketch of the apothecary and medical secretary. There was no more striking figure in the institution than Mr. Whitfield, the third and last of his name who had filled these important posts. He was then a handsome man, in the prime of life, and occupied a position which gave him immense influence. He was the apothecary, and that meant, not only that he was at the head of the drug and dispensing department, but that he was the resident medical officer, and exercised control over patients, over house-surgeons and dressers, and over nearly everybody and everything else, and that he shared with the physicians the medical fees. He was the medical secretary, and in that capacity had more authority than anyone else over the medical school and all its arrangements. He was the depository of all the unwritten rules and traditions of the hospital and school. Moreover, he was in fact, though not in name, the treasurer's prime minister. He was thus the most powerful subject in the hospital kingdom. Nor was he the man to let any advantage or influence which he possessed slip from his grasp. As a rule, he no doubt exercised his legitimate and his usurped powers for the benefit of the place, at any rate for what he thought its benefit, and took an active part in introducing useful reforms. But there is also no doubt that he was instrumental in introducing changes of which the staff did not approve, and which many of us thought, and think, were detrimental in their effects. He was a man of much liberality and kindness of heart, and ever a real friend to the student, and all who were in need.

In some important respects the times to which I am referring were times of transition; and not only were great changes actually in progress, but the foundations were being laid of improvements which have since been effected. In my early days, the nursing at St. Thomas's, like that at all other hospitals, was, to say the least, discreditable. The sisters were, for the most part, respectable women, if not trained nurses, and some were women of remarkable ability and fitness. But the nurses generally were slovenly, dirty, and disreputable, which is not to be wondered at when it is borne in mind that they not only nursed the patients, but scrubbed the floors, purchased and cooked their own food, and slept (many of them) outside the hospital. But, after a few years, the treasurer of that time, the late Mr. Baggallay, with the aid mainly of Mr. Whitfield, and our present excellent matron, cleansed the Augean stable, and gradually introduced the system of nursing, which has become perfected with time, and now prevails. The reconstruction of the nursing department led, in the course of a few years, to further far-reaching arrangements. For when, shortly after the Crimean War, Miss Nightingale had decided that the national testimonial which had been presented to her should be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of a school of nurses, she, on account of the recognised excellence of our nursing arrangements, entered into negotiations with the governors, which resulted in the establishment of the Nightingale School, in connection with St. Thomas's—a school which for more than a quarter of a century has provided skilled nurses for hospitals and infirmaries throughout the British dominions, has helped to develop and still further improve our own nursing, has been the parent of many similar institutions, and still flourishes in our midst. As I have already stated, the house-surgeoncy was instituted within my recollection. The creation of this office foretold the creation of the correlative office of house-physician. But, though the importance of such an appointment was fully recognised, it was not possible to make it until the retirement of Mr. Whit-

field should leave the authorities free to deal with the clinical portion of his duties; and that was not to take place for a good many years. And lastly, the medical and surgical registrarships, appointments, valuable for the hospital and valuable for those who hold them, were created towards the end of this time. It may be interesting to recall the fact that the first registrar was my colleague, Dr. Ord; the second, my colleague, Dr. Stone.

It will be acknowledged, I think, gentlemen, that St. Thomas's in the Borough during the time I knew it was a great and growing institution, and that the survivors of those who were then connected with it, and their heirs, are justified in looking back upon it with pride. The hospital itself was a grand hospital. As I have shown, among the physicians and surgeons were men of the greatest eminence in their profession; among the lecturers and teachers, men whose teachings were unsurpassed. I am bound also to acknowledge that, though we were not always on such good terms as were desirable with the treasurer and the governors who acted with him, these gentlemen had the good of the hospital and school at heart, and did much in many ways, and much successfully, to promote their interests and advancement. The school, too, was successful. Students had excellent opportunities afforded them, and on the whole were well taught; and many men who have since achieved eminence were turned out by us in those days. Our numbers, too, had been gradually increasing, so that latterly we were treading on the heels of our successful rival, Guy's. When I delivered my first address in 1858, there was no suspicion of the fate that was impending; everything was prosperous, and prosperity seemed assured. A few domestic troubles occurred, indeed, about this time; but they were temporary troubles affecting the staff and teachers, and not the students, and could have had little, if any, injurious effect on the progress of the school. In 1862, the hospital became the property of a railway company, and for some months hospital and school were in abeyance.

When the crisis came, it was a subject of serious consideration among those who were in authority whether the hospital should remain dormant until a new permanent hospital was erected on a new site, or whether, in the meanwhile, it should go into lodgings. By the adoption of the former plan much money would have been saved, which could have gone towards defraying the cost of the new buildings; by the adoption of the latter, the continuity of the beneficial functions of the hospital would be secured. I think the governors did right to adopt the latter alternative. But it was also a serious question among the members of the medical and surgical staff and the lecturers whether, even if the hospital should continue its functions, the medical school should be maintained; for some thought that the maintenance of a failing school would be attended with no credit or advantage; and everyone knew that, as in order to keep the school together the expenditure would have to go on as before, there was not only a strong probability that the surplus for division would prove scarcely worth dividing; but a possibility that the lecturers and teachers might have to put their hands into their pockets to pay for the privilege of teaching. It was decided to continue the school; and again I think the right course was taken. I may mention, however, that the latter anticipations were, in the main, justified; for, on looking through my memoranda for the purposes of this address, I find that for seven years of those passed in our temporary abode, my average yearly income from the school was just £16 10s., and in one year amounted to the magnificent total of £12. I was lecturing on physiology with Dr. Ord. The site acquired for the temporary hospital and school was the old Surrey Zoological Gardens, which had ceased for some few years to fulfil their original functions, and in which there had subsequently been erected a large hall for music and dancing, where also Thackeray lectured and Spurgeon preached. With no little skill the building was converted into a hospital of three floors, of which the lowest one was devoted half to the purposes of a ward, half to the out-patient department, and of which each of the upper two floors constituted one magnificent ward, holding upwards of eighty patients. The hospital contained about half the number of beds the old hospital had contained. It was designed only for temporary occupation, and its plans and arrangements had, of course, to be made conformably to the capabilities of the building to be adapted. Nevertheless, the arrangements were really good; the wards were very imposing, light, airy, and convenient, and they remained sweet and healthy to the last. The infectious cases were accommodated in the giraffe-house. The museum, library, dissecting-room, and lecture-theatres were distributed about the grounds, some occupying the monkey-house and other former abodes of beasts or birds. The school buildings, though they had been hastily prepared, and were somewhat rough in character, were fairly convenient, and no one had much reason to complain of them. But the charm of the place was the beautiful and large garden

in the midst of which the hospital and school were placed, with its pretty walks, its avenues and copses, its flower beds and lawns, and its picturesque lake of one or two acres or more in extent.

By this time many changes had taken place in our staff of medical officers and lecturers, and many others occurred before we found ourselves in the building in which we are now assembled. Green and South had retired from the surgical staff, and Grainger from the physiological lectureship, and, among others, Dr. Brinton had been added to our number. Before we left the Surrey Gardens, Barker and Bennett, Solly, and Le Gros Clark had all taken farewell of us, and Brinton had died. I may add that few of the later vacancies thus created were immediately filled up; not, however, because suitable applicants were not forthcoming, but partly because a large staff was not needed for the work of the hospital, and partly because it was thought best that the inauguration of the new hospital that was preparing for us should be made the occasion for strengthening the staff by the addition to it of a careful selection of men of eminence or of promise, whether educated in our school, or attracted from other institutions.

There are two men whose names are identified with the later history of the old hospital and the earlier history of the temporary hospital of whom I may venture to speak. Dr. Brinton became connected with the school, as Mr. Grainger's coadjutor in the chair of physiology, at a time when Mr. Grainger was beginning to find his strength failing and unequal to the work required of him. He was a man of much ability and brilliancy, an eloquent and effective lecturer, and, as a physiological lecturer should be, an excellent draughtsman. After a few years, he was appointed one of the physicians, and at once took a leading position as a clinical teacher. His career unfortunately was a short one, and he died while quite young of kidney-disease. The other was a man whom I have not yet named, and who I daresay has long slipped out of the memory of many here who were once familiar with him. I speak of Edmund Montgomery, who for several years was our demonstrator of morbid anatomy. I think, however, some may manage to recall that tall, slim, handsome young man, with his profusion of crisp, curly, dark hair; with his British name but German accent, for he had been brought up from infancy in Germany among Germans, and when he came to England a few years before he joined us knew little or nothing of the English language. Some of us who were intimate with him knew that he possessed a depth and striking originality of thought, an extent of knowledge, and a command of language which casual acquaintance would probably never have suspected of him. It must be more than twenty years since he left us, and nearly as many since circumstances took him to the wilds of Texas, where he has since resided, leading (not from choice) the precarious and hard existence of a backwoodsman. It will surprise most, and I hope gratify many, of those who were his friends to learn that, among his rough, uncouth, and uncongenial surroundings, in spite of continuous daily toil and penury, he has continued to pursue his philosophical studies, and that his papers published during the last few years, discussing with exquisite eloquence profound metaphysical problems, have secured for him at length a foremost place amongst American, and I believe European, philosophers.

Although our migration to the Surrey Gardens, and our sojourn there, were, in many ways, of serious injury to most of us; although our labours there were carried on under many discouragements, and with much inconvenience; although for the second time within the memory of some among us, the school had become unprosperous, and, although we looked forward to the better days which we saw approaching, I must acknowledge that I look back to our nine years' sojourn in the Surrey Gardens with much more pleasure than pain. There was much good fellowship between all those who were banded together to carry on the work of the institution. The few pupils we had were of more than average merit; they were, I think, content, and certainly were loyal. And there are few more pleasing recollections than those of the academic shades haunted by the studious and meditative, of the grassy lawns alive with cricketers and others who indulged in athletic exercises, and of the frozen lake gay with its crowds of skaters.

The scene once more changes. In 1871 Her Majesty opened the magnificent hospital within the walls of which we are now assembled—a hospital, as far as I know, unsurpassed, and which, whatever its faults may be, and despite all the adverse criticisms of native fault-finders, is the admiration of almost every foreigner that visits it. We turned our backs on the old Surrey Gardens, over which the tide of time has since swept, carrying away with it everything of interest and beauty that adorns its surface, and leaving only a sediment of bricks and mortar; and we entered on our new career with the commencement of the winter session. The hospital, which was now prac-

tically completed, had been three years building. During this time, arrangements (in which the medical officers had had no unimportant share) were carefully made for strengthening, by the infusion of new blood, the staff, which had been undergoing attenuation through the successive retirement of some of its most experienced and ablest members, and for effecting many improvements in the hospital and school. Among those who are invited to become members of the staff were, on the surgical side, Mr. (now Sir William) Mac Cormac (who, indeed, joined us ere we left the Surrey Gardens), recommended to us by his brilliant services during the Franco-Prussian War, and by his recently published *Notes and Recollections of an Ambulance Surgeon*; Mr. Francis Mason, one of Sir William Fergusson's favourite pupils; and Mr. Henry Arnott, who has since left us for the Church, but whom we selected on account of his scientific promise;—on the medical side, Dr. Murchison, whose reputation was even then world-wide; Dr. John Harley, who had passed a distinguished career at King's College; and Dr. Payne, who had already made a reputation for himself as a pathologist;—and, lastly, in the ophthalmic department, Richard Liebreich, at once oculist, artist, and musician. It will probably still be allowed, as I think was acknowledged at the time, that the selection was, on the whole, well made, and that the addition of these to a still larger number of able and distinguished men, already fellow-workers for years, constituted a strong and many-sided staff. Among the beneficial reforms introduced into the hospital, were those relating to the resident medical appointments. The long-delayed retirement of the apothecary, who, however, retained his medical secretaryship, made it possible to put the drug and dispensary departments under the care of an educated pharmaceutical chemist, and to bring the arrangements for the care of the medical patients, during the absence of the physicians, into harmony with the corresponding surgical arrangements. I will not discuss details; but all who know anything about the hospital, are aware that the plan of having a resident assistant-physician and a resident assistant-surgeon, who enjoy supreme control in the absence of their superiors over the medical and surgical patients respectively, house-physicians and house-surgeons, who are responsible, under these rules, for the specific care of groups of patients, and clinical clerks and dressers, at the bottom of the scale, who perform various subordinate but necessary duties in respect of the patients and make records of their cases, has answered admirably in practice; that the scientific interests of the medical officers, the educational interests of the pupils, and the sanitary interests of the patients alike have been more and more advanced; and that, while no doubt the nursing of the hospital has been undergoing gradual improvement under the direct and indirect influence of the Nightingale School, the relations between the nursing department on the one hand, and the medical students and others who work in the wards on the other, has become more and more friendly and pleasant. Indeed, the experience at St. Thomas's has shown, in the most striking manner, that a large medical school and a large nursing school may be carried on concurrently in the same institution not only without jealousy and without quarrels, but with the maintenance of the most cordial relations, and to their mutual benefit. Among the clinical improvements, it must not be overlooked that the obstetrical has advanced like other departments, and that the specialties, more particularly, perhaps, those relating to the eye and throat, have been developed with singular success.

As regards the school, old lectureships and demonstratorships were rearranged, and new lectureships and demonstratorships were created; a redistribution of appointments was effected, and the newly added members of the staff had freely allotted to them such posts as seemed best suited to their abilities and their lines of work. It would be impossible within the limits of time at my disposal to discuss all the changes that were made. Moreover, many further changes have occurred between that time and the present. I may, however, refer to two or three matters.

A few years ago, practical physiology as a course for medical students was undreamed of, but a department of practical physiology was provided for in the new school, and has been, and is being, conducted with much success. It is only within the last few years that the pathological importance of microbes has been discovered, and bacteriology has come to be recognised as an important part of medical study. Thanks to the energy and scientific spirit of Mr. Ballance and Dr. Theodore Acland, a bacteriological laboratory has been established, and is in work. It is well known that the museum of St. Thomas's Hospital has always been peculiarly rich in pathological specimens, and that it contains a series of preparations which are of great historical interest, notably Sir Astley Cooper's collection, including many of those from which the illustrations for his work were taken. The museum was much damaged by its two removals, and during its sojourn in the

Surrey Gardens; but since it has again found a suitable home, its importance and value have increased year by year, and now, in its way, I should think it is almost unrivalled. We are indebted for the progress, largely to the enlightened liberality of the treasurer and governors, but directly to the admirable labours of two successive curators: Professor Charles Stewart, who was with us for many years, and who was a year or two ago, much to our loss, elevated to the curatorship of the museum of the College of Surgeons; and Samuel Shattock, who now occupies the post, and has signalised his brief tenure of office by the most splendid work, and of whom I may mention especially that during the last few months, with the aid of Dr. Stone and Mr. Plowman, he has re-arranged, renovated, and enlarged the museum of *Materia Medica*, which, now that it is completed, is probably the finest, most perfect, and most serviceable museum of the kind in existence.

Year by year, gentlemen, during the fifteen years we have occupied our present site, our school, which had been so often and so seriously checked in its career, has increased in usefulness and prosperity, until once more it occupies a leading position among the metropolitan schools of medicine. Nor can I see any cloud in the horizon—any reason why our success should not be maintained in the future. But, while the school grows and prospers, those who contribute to its progress drop out one by one, and one by one new comers fill the places thus vacated. Fifteen years is a short time—at any rate seems short to those whose journey of life approaches completion, and for whom the abyss into which all must finally plunge is already within easy distance. Yet many changes have occurred even in this short time; and not only have we had losses amongst those who were with us from the beginning, but some of those who joined us later have disappeared from our midst. Some have died; some have left us from age or from ill health; some have transferred themselves to other spheres of usefulness. Our late treasurer, Sir Francis Hicks, under whose reign the present hospital was built, and to whose sagacious energy we are indebted for the carrying out of most of the improvements which I have discussed, died, after a short illness, nine years ago. Mr. Whitfield passed away a year earlier. Poor old Rainey, whose laborious and useful career among us had extended over so many years, worked with us for a time at this hospital; but he was falling into ill health, and probably few of those who only knew him here could form any conception of what kind of man he had been. He retired on a pension some years ago, and died but recently. Peacock and Murchison are both dead; and it is only within the last four months that poor Frank Mason, whose genial temper and kindness of heart had won for him the warm affection of all his colleagues, and of everyone who knew him, whose musical accomplishments were our admiration and delight, and whose eminence as a surgeon was universally recognised, was, to our infinite loss and grief, snatched away by death, in the prime of life, in the fulness of his powers, and when there seemed for him the promise and the assurance of a long and prosperous career. But great though our sorrow is when those we love are removed from among us, Time, the healer, brings its compensation in the hallowed memories that remain when the sting of loss is no longer acutely felt. And irreparable though our loss may seem when eminent colleagues and great teachers depart, they are yet not wholly lost to us, for their names, their examples, and their works survive, and add accumulating lustre to the school which they adorned.

I have now completed, however inadequately, the task which I had set before myself; and it only remains for me to give, on behalf of myself and colleagues, a cordial welcome to you who come among us to-day for the first time; to advise you to do your duty, and work systematically at your studies, for you have much to do, and little time to do it in; and to urge you here, and in the future, to show yourselves worthy heirs of those proud traditions which are the common heritage of all who join our ancient hospital and ancient school; and lastly, to thank you, Mr. Treasurer, and you my audience, for the kind patience with which you have listened to my address.

ADULTERATION OF BEER IN PARIS.—There is evidently a strong and creditable desire on the part of the authorities in Paris to put a stop to the adulteration of beer, and the recent agitation has, it is believed, already been attended with good results, and several foreign brewers are said to have given up its use. Dr. Chaumemps and the Committee of the Municipal Laboratory do not, however, mean to rest satisfied with half measures. They have had a recent interview with the Minister of Justice, in which they asked that adulterated beer should be thrown away as soon as it reached the frontier, or, if that were not possible, immediately after it enters the Paris railway stations.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

PROCEEDINGS OF SECTIONS.

BRAIN-SURGERY.

Read in the Section of Surgery at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Brighton.

By VICTOR HORSLEY, B.S., F.R.S.,

Surgeon to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen's Square; Assistant-Surgeon to University College Hospital, etc.

THE following paper is necessarily, owing to the brevity of the time at the disposal of those reading papers at the meeting, a simple description of that method of operating on the brain which I have adopted as one which successfully meets the various difficulties and dangers of the task.

Since in many very essential points my method differs from what are considered by some the canons of surgery, I think the subject may best be handled by my describing, in detail, the treatment of an imaginary case, illustrating the same by these photographs¹ and specimens removed from the patients² you see before you, and from the lower animals the subjects of experiments.

Preparation of the Patient.—The day before the operation, the patient's head is shaved, and washed with soft soap and then ether; next the position of the lesion is ascertained by measurement, and marked on the scalp. The head is then covered with lint, soaked in 1 in 20 solution of carbolic acid, oil-silk and cotton-wool, being thus thoroughly carbolised for at least twelve hours before operation. Finally, the patient has the usual purgative administered the evening before, followed by an enema on the morning of the operation.

Anæsthetic.—The method of narcotising the patient is most important, and consists of the administration, by hypodermic injection, of a quarter of a grain of morphine, after which the patient is chloroformed. The object of giving the morphine is two-fold. In the first place, as is well known, it allows of the performance of a prolonged operation, without the necessity of giving a large amount of chloroform. In fact, the amount actually used in an operation lasting two hours, I have found to be very small. The second reason for employing morphine is, perhaps, the more important, since it is based upon the fact determined by Professor Schäfer and myself, from experiments on monkeys—namely, that this drug causes well-marked contraction of the arterioles of the central nervous system; and that, consequently, an incision into the brain is accompanied by very little oozing if the patient be under its influence. I have not employed ether in operations on man, fearing that it would tend to cause cerebral excitement; chloroform, of course, producing, on the contrary, well marked depression. Naturally, if there existed any heart-complication, the above theoretical considerations would be disregarded in favour of the safer narcotic. In the case of the second patient I show you to-day, from whom I removed this tumour, the heart is displaced outwards, and the lower lobe of the left lung rendered practically of very little use by repeated attacks of pleurisy; but I did not consider this condition was sufficient to negative the use of chloroform. In a case where considerable heart-mischief exists, no doubt an operation of the kind might be done under the influence of eucaïne. If this be attempted, care must be taken to employ a very strong solution when the dura mater is exposed, since that membrane is extremely sensitive (being supplied by branches of the fifth cranial nerve), a fact which appears to be unknown to clinicians, although it is obviously of immense importance in considering the causation of intracranial pain, cranial tenderness, etc.

Although solutions of eucaïne can, it is said, be made perfectly aseptic, further confirmation of this assertion must be produced before it is used as I have just suggested, since it can hardly be repeated too often that asepsis is the one cardinal point on which brain-surgery rests.

¹ Very kindly made for me by Dr. Wilson, Senior House-Physician to the National Hospital.

² By the courtesy of the Board of Management of the National Hospital for Paralysis, etc., the patients have been sent to the meeting at Brighton at the charge of the institution—an effort to aid the progress of medicine which I am sure the Association will fully appreciate.