

### THE LONDON HOSPITALS AND THEIR FUTURE.

*Historical Account of Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School (University of London) Original Plan and Statutes, Rise and Progress. Founded 1818. With which is included some Account of the Origin of the other Hospitals and Schools in London.* By Dr. W. Hunter. Pp. xx+309. (London: John Murray, 1914.) Price 21s.

THE rise and development of the "teaching" hospitals of London is intimately associated with the progress of medical science in England; besides being the homes of medical education, much excellent research work, particularly on the clinical side, has emanated from their walls.

In a sumptuous volume, embellished with a wealth of illustrations and reproductions of old prints, Dr. William Hunter, its "Dean," reviews the history of Charing Cross Hospital. He classifies the modes and motives of origin of the London hospitals as follows:—(1) The *Monastic* (afterwards charitable), e.g. St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's; (2) the *Charitable*, e.g. Westminster, the London, St. George's, etc.; (3) the combined *Charitable* and *Educational*, for which Charing Cross Hospital was founded; and (4) the *Educational*, University and King's College Hospitals.

Founded by Dr. Benjamin Golding in 1818, the fortunes of Charing Cross Hospital were directed by him for a period of well-nigh fifty years. Of its many distinguished students, the name of Huxley is the most prominent, and his memory is perpetuated in the biennial Huxley Lecture delivered at the school.

The Charing Cross Medical School has continued to progress, and one of the latest developments is the housing of the Public Health Department of King's College within its walls—a form of concentration in one branch of medical education which to some extent falls into line with the conceptions of the Royal Commission on University Education in London.

Although the report of this Royal Commission foreshadows many changes in medical education, there seems little prospect of State control of the hospitals—indeed, the voluntary system of support appears to be in a stronger position than ever. When the first Employers' Liability Bill came into force many came to the conclusion that this was the thin end of the wedge for State control, and the second and more far-reaching Act seemed to confirm this opinion. As a matter of fact, however, the voluntary hospital system has gone

NO. 2357, VOL. 94]

on, and as the public became accustomed to these Acts, the hospitals continued not only as well as before, but most of them with improving revenues. Even the appearance of the National Insurance Act upon the scene has made no difference—most of the hospitals receive better support than ever from the public, and the King Edward's and other funds are thriving beyond all expectation. On one hand, it is true, the voluntary system has disadvantages. It is the generous and sympathetic portion of the public that supports the hospitals, and others shirk their responsibilities. On the other hand, the poor obtain better treatment than they could probably obtain in State supported hospitals. There is a blaze of light on the British voluntary system that is entirely absent from the continental State hospitals and in hospitals under the Poor Law. Even if the present voluntary hospitals were taken over by the State, it is almost certain that new ones would immediately be founded, as has been the case in Paris (e.g. the Hertford Hospital).

There might well be some modification of the hospital system in London. The sick should so far as possible be removed from the densely populated centres more into the country. That large blocks of wards should be erected on costly sites in the heart of London is a mistake—both financially and from the medical point of view. All that is required at the centre is accommodation for receiving rooms and for a sufficiency of beds for the reception of accidents and emergencies and for the treatment of the very ill. All the other cases, and the serious cases as they convalesce, should be removed to hospital wards erected more in the country. In these days of motor transport and improved road surfaces this would be an easy matter, and the staff by the same means could minister to the sick almost as readily on the slopes of Hampstead as at Hyde Park Corner.

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### SCIENCE AND METAPHYSICS.

- (1) *Henri Bergson: An Account of his Life and Philosophy.* By A. Ruhe and N. M. Paul. Pp. vii+245. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 5s. net.
- (2) *The Idealistic Reaction against Science.* By Prof. Aliotta. Translated by A. McCaskill. Pp. xxii+483. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 12s. net.
- (3) *Berkeley and Percival.* By Benjamin Rand. The Correspondence of George Berkeley afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, and Sir John Percival afterwards Earl of Egmont. Pp. x+302.