

Vermilye (J. E.)

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Opening of the Roosevelt Hospital.

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Vermilye

Alphabet - Box



# ADDRESS

BY

Thomas E. Vermilye, D.D., LL.D.,

AT THE OPENING OF

THE ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL,

November 2, 1871.

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1871.



# THE ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL.

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## THE ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL.

The Roosevelt Hospital, on Fifty-ninth street, between the Ninth and Tenth avenues, was formally opened for the reception of patients on the 2d day of November, 1871, with the following services :

1. Prayer by the

REV. JOHN COTTON SMITH, D. D.

2. Announcement of the opening of the Hospital by

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D., *President*.

3. Address by the

REV. THOMAS E. VERMILYE, D. D., LL. D.

4. Benediction by the

REV. WM. A. MUHLENBERG, D. D.

The addresses of the President and of Dr. Vermilye are published at the request of the Board of Trustees.

NEW YORK, November, 1871.



## OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.

FEW things have occurred in my long professional life more gratifying to me than to have been authorized to announce, as I do this day, that the Roosevelt Hospital is now open, and ready to receive patients.

THE ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL—and the name at once suggests that it was founded and endowed by the large and generous munificence of one individual—of James H. Roosevelt. All honor be to his memory, and may this monument of his great charity endure as long as there are sick and poor in this great city.

And what occasion could present more points of interest than that which has now called us together? We are here to witness the opening of a hospital, built and endowed for the public benefit. The patriot, the man of science, the philanthropist, all are deeply interested in it, as adding one more to the noble architectural monuments which adorn our city; as intended for an institution which promises to illustrate the benefits which modern science, and especially the science of medicine, are conferring upon mankind; as testifying to the progress of philanthropy in the age and community in which we live; as the fruit of individual benevolence and an example of private charity; and finally, as an evidence of the character of Christian civilization to supply what is wanting in one class of society by the abundance of another, and thereby to promote the welfare and happiness of the poor.

On the 18th of March, 1854, James H. Roosevelt, of this city, made his last will and testament. After certain special bequests, the document reads thus:

"All the rest and residue of my personal estate, including all lapsed legacies, together with all my estate not hereinbefore well and effectually disposed of, I give, in trust, to the several and successive presidents *ex officio*, for the time being, of the respective managing boards of those five certain incorporations in the City of New York, known as "The Society of the New York Hospital," "The College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York," "The New York Eye Infirmary," "The Demilt Dispensary," and "The New York Institution for the Blind," and to my friends the Honorable James I. Roosevelt, Edwin Clark, Esq., John M. Knox, Esq., and Adrian H. Muller, Esq., all of said city, and to the survivor or survivors of them, for the establishment in the City of New York of an Hospital for the reception and relief of sick and diseased persons, and for its permanent endowment."

In the month of November, 1863, the testator died, and in due course the large property thus bequeathed came into the hands of the Trustees.

We cannot but be impressed by the wisdom of the general form in which the object of this Hospital is stated by its founder. It was to be a hospital for the reception and relief of sick and diseased persons. There is no limit to the charity, except in the extent of its funds. *All* sick and diseased persons without distinction of *race*, or *country*, or *religion*, may apply here for relief, and will certainly be received to the extent of the ability of the Hospital.

In this document there is no particularity of detail in the conduct of the Institution. All is left to the discretion of the Trustees. Experience has shown that vast difficulty is likely to arise in the administration of trusts, where the founder has undertaken to provide for the exigencies of a remote and uncertain future. In this case, the Trustees, representing some of the principal charitable institutions of the city, are left free to administer this general trust in such manner as in their view is best calculated to promote the contemplated object.

In February, 1864, an act of incorporation was granted to the Hospital by the Legislature of this State. The Board of Trustees was then duly organized, and preparations made which resulted in the purchase of this admirable site for a hospital:

but certain legal obstacles were interposed which delayed for many months the commencement of the work.

During the interval the subject of hospital construction was carefully studied by the Building Committee, and that they might act with all the lights of science and experience which have been developed most rapidly within the last twenty-five years, Dr. Stephen Smith, of this city, was employed to study and report to the Board the principles of hospital construction now recognized as most appropriate to the ends to be attained in a public hospital. Mr. Carl Pfeiffer, our accomplished architect, was in constant communication for many months with Dr. Smith and a member of the Committee, and visited and examined many of the principal hospitals in our country. Before the plans were begun the whole subject was thus carefully examined, and not till then did the Trustees allow arrangements to be made for building the Hospital.

The intention of the Board was to erect upon this ground four pavilions for the patients and their immediate attendants; these buildings so far separate and independent as to avoid all danger of the spread of disease from one to the other, and connected only by a low corridor.

In the centre and front of these pavilions was to be placed the administrative building, containing the various offices required; apartments for the principal officers and their families; the apothecary and laboratory rooms; a very complete operating theatre; a number of small wards for patients requiring special accommodation; and in the upper story some wards for the general patients of the Hospital.

And lastly, a building for the kitchen and laundry, and the steam apparatus for warming and ventilating all the buildings, and furnishing power for most of the work of the Institution, was to be erected.

Two of these buildings are now finished, and two others in process of completion. They have been erected slowly, with the double purpose of careful construction and allowing the funds of the Hospital to accumulate, and as far as possible to confine the outlay to these accumulations.

The erection of buildings so large and so complete has, however, already required the use of a great proportion of the per-

sonal property left by the Testator. The earnest desire of the Trustees is to retain, after the buildings are constructed, a sufficient fund to enable them to receive in absolute charity, a large number of their patients. But in our community, there always exists a very considerable class of persons requiring hospital care, fully as numerous as the absolutely destitute poor, and yet unable, when injured by the accidents so frequent in mechanical occupations, or when the subjects of disease from any cause, to obtain the skilful medical or surgical advice, or the careful nursing and comforts their cases require. Such persons as these are able and desire to pay a moderate board, sufficient in great part to meet the expense of their maintenance in the Hospital. A farther provision was necessary and has been made for persons in good circumstances meeting with sudden accidents, requiring, perhaps, important surgical operations; or for strangers in our city, not knowing where to find the nursing and care their maladies require, when struck down by disease, far away from their own homes. These last will be no expense to the Hospital, but somewhat aid in supporting the sick poor who will fill our wards.

The Trustees expect to erect—if not immediately, then after some delay, to allow their funds to accumulate—another pavilion similar to that in which we are assembled.

But to complete the entire plan, which includes a fourth building like that now erecting on the Ninth avenue, more means will be necessary than we now possess.

In the construction of the two central buildings, it is obvious that the arrangements for warming and ventilating, and for kitchen and laundry purposes, are intended for a large number of patients, a number which the Hospital will contain when finished; and they will be ample for that purpose; although, when the second large pavilion is erected, they will all be brought into use.

To obtain means for the building of the fourth pavilion, the Trustees propose to offer to those who will subscribe for the purpose, the privilege of owning in the Hospital one or more free beds in perpetuity, to inure to their heirs as long as the Hospital endures; and to those who will pay a smaller sum, the right to such a free bed during the life of the donor.

Patients thus received will be at not the least expense, and have every care and comfort the Hospital can supply and the skill of its medical men can furnish.

Before I give place to the reverend gentleman who is to address you, let me say a few words as a representative of the profession who are to be the active workers in carrying out the intentions of the founder of this Hospital.

As far as the preservation of their health, and the treatment of their diseases is concerned, the public at large, every human being in our land, has as much at stake as any the most destitute poor we shall receive within our walls.

Without hospitals there cannot be good physicians; and if you will inquire into the history of some of the most celebrated and most skilful medical men, you will find they have not only constantly frequented the wards of hospitals, but in their early days have lived for a time within their walls, and in the midst of sick and dying patients.

To the physician, the hospital is the spring whence he draws, every day of his life, the knowledge which guides and directs him in his daily work; the garner which furnishes the nutriment on which his science feeds and grows, and is sustained as long as he lives. He may not as he advances in life have leisure himself to gather up all the stores of knowledge the hospital furnishes, but from the succession of younger men who fill the places of their elders he derives incessantly renewed and improved deductions from carefully made observations, found nowhere else so well as in such institutions; and more especially, it is almost here alone that he can study the *results* of disease in the human body; it is here alone he can obtain that profound knowledge of pathological anatomy which is the foundation and only firm basis of medical practice. It is here alone that he can compare, side by side, the similarities and diversities of disease; that he can become familiar, by constant comparative trials, with the physical diagnosis which in modern times has enabled him to understand the phases of disease which in earlier days could be only imperfectly understood and distinguished.

And farther still, nowhere else than in the public hospital can the surgeon gain so well the skill which enables him to

successfully perform surgical operations, or even to make the minor, but no less important, appliances of surgery, incessantly occurring, and requiring the dexterity which repetition and habit alone can teach.

If then, you would have good physicians and surgeons ; if, when you have any of the maladies so incident to human life, you would be thoroughly and skilfully cared for, you must have hospitals.

And to you who have been the successful builders of the great estates, so numerous all over our extensive country, I would say—follow the example of James H. Roosevelt, and of others still living among us—build and endow hospitals.

## DR. VERMILYÉ'S ADDRESS.

In my early boyhood, in this city, I was accustomed to meet a lad, whose bright countenance, modest bearing and manifest occupations, very greatly interested and attracted me. He was my senior by several years, and resided in Warren Street, near Broadway, as my father resided in the same street, near Greenwich, which was then far up town. His form was straight, spare and of good height; his eye was animated; the expression of his face, mild and intelligent; one of those faces that is apt to attract notice and favor; but a slight degree of pallor spread over it, and seemed to indicate that he did not enjoy robust health. This might be supposed to arise from studious habits, for I generally met him with his books under his arm, going to or from Columbia College, as I went to or returned from school. And I very well recollect the glow of young ambition his appearance excited within me, that the day might soon come when I should carry my books to college and be a collegian too.

Thus James H. Roosevelt appeared to me in early prime. On my settlement as one of the pastors of the Collegiate Church in the city, after years of absence, I found him a member of the Charge, and then formed a personal acquaintance, which ripened into a somewhat intimate friendship, and continued for nearly a quarter of a century, until his death. And it is interesting to me to remember that, without any reference to these circumstances, I was called to officiate at his funeral; and now, again, after the lapse of these many years, I am invited to take this prominent part in giving form and effect to his grand life-work.

Mr. Roosevelt was born in New York, on the tenth day of November, 1800, and died suddenly on the thirtieth day of November, 1863, in this city, where his whole life had been passed. His father was James C. Roosevelt, licensed at the Bar, though he never engaged in legal practice. But he was

through life highly respected, and for many years was a leading member of the Consistory of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church. His mother was Catharine Byvanck, of a family also prominent and greatly esteemed in the social circles of that day. The father died in 1840, and the mother in 1854. The first Roosevelt, Claus (a Dutch contraction for Nicholas), Claus Martinson (Martin's son) Van Roosevelt, came to New York about the year 1650, from a place, we should conclude, called Roosevelt.

As the names of both parents distinctly indicate, Mr. Roosevelt was thus of the old Holland stock, pure and unmixed, that first settled New Amsterdam, and for many years retained the government, observing the customs and perpetuating the spirit of the mother country: a people, both here and there, strongly characterized by those qualities that give success to families and vigor to States; intelligence, religiousness, industry and thrift; and the Roosevelt sept, which was here at so early a period after the settlement of the Colony, in those retaining the name and in collateral relations, has branched out widely among us.

On his graduation from Columbia College, in 1819, James H. Roosevelt was one of three of his class who received the highest honors for deportment and scholarship. The competitors were so equal in merit that the College authorities refused to discriminate between them, and they received co-equal distinction. He studied law, and was admitted to the Bar; and acquired great skill in the drawing of wills (as his own will appears to me to prove, in a very marked degree), and he was much consulted in such matters by many personal friends. But owing to circumstances and mainly, as would seem, to the impaired state of his health, he never devoted himself to the full practice of his profession. That paleness of his youth, I mentioned, probably indicated disease lurking in his system; and in early manhood some imprudent exposure brought on a rheumatic affection, from which he never fully recovered. It caused him much distress at times, probably was the immediate cause of his sudden death, but produced in early years a permanent lameness, which made the use of a crutch necessary; although it so far abated after several years that he was able

to walk easily with the use of a cane. But with the crutch or the cane, it was amusing to notice the ease and quickness of his motions and the rapidity with which he would glide along the streets. He always showed great agility in boyish sports.

His person, in manhood, was much the same as in youth, somewhat tall and erect, never stout, and, with the exception of his lameness, well formed and graceful. His eye was open and sparkling, and his whole expression of countenance prepossessing, without a trace of moroseness or meanness; his voice was clear, his speech prompt, and his disposition, naturally kind and amiable, lost none of those qualities by years and suffering; but rather his liveliness freely vented itself in puns and humor and genuine wit and a ready laugh, and genial good nature. He never married, but kept house with his mother until her death, and afterward, with the occasional presence of some female relative or trusty servants. And there was something very touching and beautiful in the tenderness with which he cherished that mother through the trials of old age, and down to the very grave. The domestic and social affections were strong in his bosom, and fidelity was a decided characteristic of his moral nature.

Mr. Roosevelt never became a communicating member of the Church. In conversations with him I found, that while he had a connected understanding and full belief of the doctrines of the church in which he had been reared, and loved its order, and while he was a most punctual and constant attendant on its services from Sabbath to Sabbath, he was deterred from a public profession of religion by doubts and scruples which too often prevail to the same unhappy result. He deferred from distrust of his fitness, perhaps. Perhaps he did not sufficiently reflect on this subject; yet there were times, to my knowledge, when it was present to his mind with much feeling, though he could not bring himself, at any given time, to perform the duty. I thought he allowed some not uncommon misconceptions as to the nature of such an act and of the preparation necessary for it to cloud and embarrass his clear mind. Yet he was not only carefully observant of religious services, but in several spheres of benevolence he took an active part. He was much interested in the Leake and Watts Orphan House, of which,

for upwards of 23 years, he was the treasurer; and how strongly such objects laid hold on his sympathies the purpose of our meeting to-day in this place may attest.

The want of physical strength was probably the chief reason why he did not pursue his profession, or engage in any regular line of business. But his active spirit did not allow him to lead a listless or aimless life. He inherited from his father a considerable, but not very large property; this was his capital, the management of which gave him occupation. And the large estate he left did not grow from bold speculation or the arts of the usurer, nor from any of those questionable courses by which great wealth is often rapidly acquired, but from the regular accumulation of income, and from investments in real estate, which proved advantageous in the same way that many large fortunes have been realized in this City, by those who had the means and skill to purchase. Moreover, he was frugal in expenditure as he was careful in acquisition. His style of living was perfectly respectable but simple, without ostentation or extravagance in any form. Such was his taste; and still more, it was, I think, from his sense of what was right. He gave at times, in various directions, quietly; but the frequent calls of promiscuous charity found no great favor in his eyes. And no doubt some constituting themselves his censors, and knowing neither his feelings nor what he really did in this respect, when their applications were not met as they wished, would be free to condemn him as penurious, mean, narrow and avaricious. Yet this frugal, unostentatious man was living WITH A PURPOSE; and that was, not to secure the reputation of vast riches, nor to revel in selfish indulgence, nor sway the power they might create for him, nor to found a family or buy a title; but to found an institution, which should be a home, and the source of untold blessings to his suffering fellow creatures for generations after he should have been laid away in his grave. Was it not a noble, holy purpose? Worthy of self-denial and toil? Does it not exact our reverence and praise? I am able to relate an incident which proves that this purpose was long in his mind, and very conscientiously considered. Walking from his house with Dr. Knox, his revered friend and mine, years before Dr. Knox's death, he said to me, "Our friend Mr. Roose-

felt is perplexed and is anxiously considering what posthumous disposition he shall make of his estate ; whether he shall bestow it where it is not needed or where it will probably do little good, and may do harm ; or give it in some direction that will be likely to make it a permanent benefit to the community." It proves that he felt the responsibility which wealth imposed upon him, and, while he did not care to use it in personal gratification of any kind, that he meant to make it in some way a source of lasting good. And his will, so thoughtful and well compacted into legal form, he drew so as to accomplish this generous and deliberate purpose. By his will he provides, first, what he believed would be a suitable expression of his duty and affection to individuals ; and then devises the residue of his estate, in the hands of most judiciously selected trustees, for the founding and endowment of a hospital.

It is not very important, perhaps, to inquire what motive or motives led to this particular designation of his property. Possibly the affliction to which he had himself been a victim through life may have turned his sympathies towards the condition of many fellow sufferers, whose sorrows he hoped by this means in some measure to alleviate. Or he might justly have felt this to be of various agencies of benevolence, a primary mode of using wealth, so as to secure from it as large an amount of real good as is likely to be attained by any one form of charitable distribution. In reflecting upon this subject, I have often considered that if a graduated scale of beneficent giving were formed, the first place should probably be assigned to physical want, food and shelter for the poor. It is the voice of humanity. Our Saviour teaches that this is a claim not only always at our door, but always impressive. "The poor ye have always with you." No form of society is without them, for the good of society itself ; and for the like cause, as well as for the relief of the sufferers, there is no class nor person exempt from the duty. Next, or even in union with this, is sympathy and succor to the sick and the suffering ; and here comes in, as one of the fixed divisions of employment in civilized communities, the noble profession of Medicine, and then, the Hospital. Education for the mind and religious agencies for the soul, would follow ; not inferior indeed, but indispensable to our

highest wants, yet waiting necessarily for their success in good measure upon our physical well being. Practically, no such graduation can be made; for claims justly appealing to our hearts and hands for aid do not thus stay upon the order of their coming, and must be met when and as they arise. But an individual making a conscientious apportionment of what he can from time to time bestow, as every good man should do, may act, to some degree, on such a principle; and especially when one is considering the solemn matters of a testamentary bestowment of such portion of an estate as justice and kindness to family and relations will allow him to designate to objects of general beneficence, some such discrimination may and should be exercised; or of many objects alike intrinsically important, that may be selected which, for any special reasons, appeals most directly to the donor's personal sympathies.

The first idea of a hospital is of a place of refuge and relief for the sick and suffering. That is the paramount object for which it exists. Its location, internal economy and services therefore, should be arranged so as most conveniently and effectually to attain this end. The place should be healthy, both on account of the patients and that the Institution meant for healing may not diffuse disease and pestilence around. Its apartments, and especially its dormitories, should be airy and cheerful; its beds, as comfortable as skill can make them to soothe the aching limbs of the poor occupant to whom wearisome days and nights are thus appointed; and the food should be simple and nutritious. It should be equipped with a corps of nurses, intelligent, patient and tender, and the best medical and surgical skill which the most thorough science can command. And let me, in passing, pay my humble tribute to the high benevolence, the self-denial and assiduity with which the Profession lay themselves out to foster and serve such institutions. Largely are they public benefactors, although their rich stores of learning and their skill may mainly be displayed only in the sick chamber or the lecture-room. The Scriptural epithet is chosen with exquisite felicity to express the feelings of confidence and attachment the virtuous man inspires, "The BELOVED Physician." To a refined mind this is a gratifying recompense for much anxiety and toil.

We should suppose that some such provision for our many maladies would be found in all ages, from the earliest periods and under all forms of regulated society. Yet we read that among the Babylonians, in the grandeur of their Empire, there were no educated physicians, and of course no institutions for the reception of the sick, but that they were exposed in the Forum, that those passing by might inquire into their diseases and suggest whatever each thought would be beneficial: a mode of practice not entirely obsolete, since now, besides the diplomaed practitioner, hundreds may be met, each ready with advice, each with a nostrum, a specific, an infallible cure for all "the ills that flesh is heir to." The practice of exposure seems to have remained even to New Testament times: since they laid the sick on beds in the streets, that the shadow of Peter falling on them might exert a healing power. Ancient Rome with the experience of all former ages and its high culture, had no institutions, it is said, for the treatment of the sick. "Diseased persons were carried to the temple of Aesculapius for a cure, as Christian believers were taken to the churches which contained wonder-working images." Perhaps the exact date when they arose cannot be fixed; but it is affirmed that benevolent institutions for the indigent, like our alms-houses, or for the sick, like our hospitals, were first introduced by Christianity; "and the first infirmaries or hospitals were built close to the cathedrals or monasteries. The Knights of St. John opened a hospital for sick pilgrims at Jerusalem in 1048, and were styled Knights Hospitallers. There were hospitals for the sick at Constantinople, in the eleventh century. The oldest mention of physicians and surgeons established in infirmaries occurs in 1437." They sprang then from the bosom of Christianity and they very impressively illustrate its heaven-descended spirit. For obvious reasons, large cities are their appropriate home. Among their dense populations, the greater number of proper subjects and the means of support, and the appliances for working them, are most readily found. The undomesticated man or woman who find the boarding-house comfortable while in health, pursuing their daily business, may hail such a retreat in sickness. A family might be crushed by the necessary expense and attendance on a sick member at home; but a re-

spectable hospital might free their energies for necessary labor, and likewise afford better accommodations for the sick. The stranger also will here receive kind care, and very many cases arise which require attendance and treatment that cannot well be given anywhere else.

It is painful to observe how little the regulations that should govern such institutions have been understood or regarded in times past. They have been held apparently as pest-houses, and their bad location or bad management has, no doubt, made them so, quite as much as the character of diseases treated in them. The Centenary Address of James W. Beekman, Esq., before the Society of the New York Hospital in July last has some very judicious remarks on this point, and the appendix contains an interesting historical paper in relation to hospital management, published in this city in 1775, just before the Revolutionary War, and just after the establishment of that institution. The writer declares that at that time there was not in the "Capital of the Kingdom, London," "a single hospital conducted upon proper medical principles." \* \* \* "In the two great hospitals of St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew, in London, about six hundred patients die annually," or about one in thirteen. "In Paris it is supposed that one-third of all who die there, die in hospitals. The Hotel Dieu receives about 22,000 persons annually, one-fifth of which number die every year." This of course implies a dreadful condition of society, and a very improper use of hospitals. But to the overcrowding, the vitiated air and necessary negligence or unskillfulness of treatment, the results are mainly ascribed. If the case were so, however, at that time, what before? And if so, in enlightened London and Paris, what must it have been in the Lazarettos on the Continent. It is consoling to know that, with the great advancement of scientific and medical knowledge, more correct hygienic principles prevail, and vast improvements have been made in the economy of such establishments. To be conveyed to a well regulated hospital is by no means now to be conveyed to the grave, but to the best medical skill and assiduous care, and the best prospect of recovery. And that prejudice, and even horror, which once accompanied the mention of the hospital, may give place to gratitude for so kind a har-

bor in sickness and liberality in their support. Nor will the rivalry, which the multiplication of such retreats may create diminish the efforts of science or endeavors after improvement, until they reach the most perfect conditions possible.

The Hospital is, again, to be viewed as a School of Science. I own the common neat phrase, "the Healing *Art*," does not strike me favorably as a proper designation of the Medical Profession. True, an art it is in some respects : more so perhaps than the other liberal professions, in that its utility must be largely the result of experience and observation respecting the functions of the human system, and the nature and power of remedies. But it is greatly derogatory and aside from the truth to suppose that a thoroughbred physician is, after all, nothing better than an empiric, a quack, a pretender, who is working in the dark, by guesses, and trying experiments with each case he undertakes.

The profession has all the dignity of a science : more strictly Baconian in its method than some of the others ; it builds up a system of principles of procedure from knowledge carefully collected by extensive experiments and observations. If the sciences and liberal callings are a sisterhood, and no one of them can be studied to the best advantage without diverging, in some degree at least, into the other provinces of learning, Medicine is pre-eminent in this respect ; or rather we may say it brings within its legitimate domain the largest number of intellectual pursuits, and levies tribute upon them all—Psychology, since mind is subject to disease as well as the body, and exerts often a strange control over the patient and applied remedies ; the Anatomy and Physiology of the Human System ; the Influence of Climates ; Chemical Properties ; the Nature and Effect of Medicines ; and, in fact, almost the entire field of the natural sciences, is the sphere, and should be the study, of the accomplished physician. And the hospital is just the place where the most varied subjects are brought under his inspection, and the largest material afforded for observation and the establishment of principles, and the application of remedies.

The advantages for practical ends to the student, and equally to the practitioner, are so many and obvious as hardly to need

remark. Theoretical knowledge of Medicine, Anatomy and Surgery may be best acquired, probably, at the College. Yet many important surgical cases appear in the hospital, which cannot be conveyed to the anatomical theatre, but must be treated on the spot. And a long life-time of active practice would scarcely furnish the private practitioner with such opportunities for the diagnosis of diseases, their causes, progress, and best treatment, as an inspection of the cases gathered within the wards of a hospital, the consultations of the faculty there held, and the effects of curatives exhibited, not in one or two, but in many cases, and under various conditions of the subjects. Within the smallest compass and in the shortest time, large stores of practical knowledge will in this way be accumulated. And the knowledge thus obtained has this special advantage: that it arises in connection with cases such as most frequently occur in the daily practice of the private physician. The treatment found best in the hospital is the same, therefore, that will promise the best results in the family.

May I be allowed, in this connection, to refer to a subject interesting in every view, and in regard to which physicians everywhere, in hospitals, in alms-houses and in private practice, have great influence, and also great responsibilities? I mean the use of ardent spirits, a stimulating plan of medical treatment. No doubt it is necessary and wise at times, and the wise and temperate physician is the proper judge of such necessity. And no doubt there is much less use of such agents now than formerly. But I think I have observed something like fashion in such matters; that use and disuse are apt to alternate; and hence the propriety of thoughtful and uniform care in medical prescriptions, as much as in social intercourse. And a kind and well-meant word on so grave a topic from one who so profoundly respects the medical class will certainly not be taken amiss, nor be regarded as ignorant dictation by the thoughtful men of the profession. When we see the insidious nature of intoxicating substances—how gradually and easily a habit is formed, what a slavery it becomes, and what ruin it entails; when we notice the daily mid-day drinks by which many business men and young men are forming the inexorable habit; and when we are informed that in Great

Britain, and it may be among ourselves, the use, under the guise of medical necessity, is gaining ground and making sad ravages even among ladies in the higher circles, it is surely appropriate to call the subject to mind, and utter a word of caution. With peculiar effect, arising from their position, may our doctors counteract the idea that strong stimulants are at all necessary to persons in ordinary health ; and even poor victims of indulgences in our alms-houses may possibly be reclaimed, and all be safer and better by their resolute anti-stimulating advice.

But the hospital is likewise a school of most impressive moral, and even religious, inculcations. Its very presence is a memento of mortal frailty, as a church spire suggests immortal hope. We enter its doors, and the very stillness within its corridors, the long line of couches, and the elaborate arrangements, all intended for sickness and suffering, take us at once away from associations of thought or feeling with the outward bustling world, and make us realize our relations to sorrow and death, as well as to life and joy, and impress and awe our spirits. Here we receive lessons of God's infinite sovereignty in the distribution of disease and pain ; the weakness and utter helplessness of man, and his absolute dependence on an unseen power for support at every moment of his pilgrimage ; the inestimable value of health, and the duty of humble gratitude for its possession—impressive lessons of submission and patience. Or at times the reverse, perhaps, shocks us with exhibitions of hardness of hearts, of heaven-daring impiety and defiance under the Divine hand. The flush of health amidst the marts of the busy world, where every thought is fired by ambition or intent on gain ; the halls of festivity, where pleasure holds its court and beauty smiles, and a succession of gay delights entrance the soul ; or even the great mansion which wealth has furnished forth with every appliance for refined and elegant enjoyment, where luxury appears in all the accompaniments ; where no want is denied, and no taste is ungratified—these are not the scenes in which frail man most correctly realizes his present condition, or prepares most earnestly for his future final audit. The false glare is apt to bewilder our senses. But, in the sick chamber, in a hospital, all is reversed, and the most

unthinking prodigal comes to himself. Reality succeeds to the gorgeous vision; the sinews of iron relax; the athletic frame bows; the strong man trembles: his vigor departs, and he becomes weak and helpless as a child; pain darts through the system, or paralysis benumbs the limbs; paleness spreads over the countenance; the beauty that fascinated all eyes is "consumed away like a moth," and voices all around seem to echo the lessons of holy truth, "Every man walketh in a vain show," "Surely every man at his best state is altogether vanity." And again, at times our hearts are cheered and profited by the sublime energy of religious consolations. We sit down at the bedside of some poor sufferer to minister comfort, and find ourselves interested by the sweet words and the sweeter spirit of one of Christ's little flock; and we learn, even in a hospital, and because of the discipline there experienced, how sustaining, how glorious is the power of Christian truth and faith, and the hope that makes not ashamed. Anthems alternate with groans; songs with sighing. The eyes, dim with pain, kindle into rapture as faith describes the better land—the rest that remaineth; where a kind Saviour waits to receive the tried and purified saint; where is no more sorrow, and where tears are wiped forever from all faces. These are the teachings most beneficial to man on his sojourn below. They alone are essential. And I know no school more appropriate in which they may be conned and learned than in a hospital.

The Roosevelt Hospital now begins its benevolent work, and we both pray and prophesy for it a career of great usefulness. At the beginning of the century the New York Hospital was the single refuge of the kind in the city, and was adequate to the wants of the community. But then New York lay almost entirely below the Park, and the hospital was quite out of town. Now the city is rapidly covering the Island, our population has grown from tens to thousands, and of course greatly extended accommodations are required. I have not thought to obtain an enumeration of the new hospitals which have recently arisen from private munificence or public aid; but they are many and of various kinds, and the fact indicates that this form of benevolence has been recognized as of eminent importance, and will be fostered by the affluent and the good among

us. Is it paradoxical to say of hospitals that they are an ornament and a glory of our city? and this must hold a distinguished place, both from its location and completeness, and as the gift of one man—one of New York's own sons—from property all acquired within the city, and constituting one of the most munificent endowments ever, or anywhere, created by a single person. Several in London are "of ancient date and richly endowed." Guy's Hospital, Southwark, one of the noblest in London, was the gift of a book-seller of that name, who built it at a cost of nearly £19,000, and endowed it, in 1724, by a bequest of £219,500. This, turned into our currency, would nearly equal the gross sum of the Roosevelt bequest, which, as I understand, is expected to reach a million and a quarter of dollars.

The Trustees of the fund have been untiring in their part of the work, scrupulously aiming to fulfill the trust devolved on them in such a manner that the Institution shall be, in all respects, worthy of the city and of the present state of knowledge on the subject. It is likewise but just to mention that, in the spirit which prompted the original gift, their services have hitherto been, as by a by-law they have resolved they shall hereafter be, gratuitous. In their plans, they provide for and expect to receive transient pay-patients, which is a thing well considered in a city like this, filled with strangers, who often need medical attendance and nursing such as they cannot obtain at a hotel or in a boarding house. It is proper also to say, that to complete the buildings and endowments according to the plans adopted will require funds beyond those provided in the will, and they therefore solicit contributions for this purpose, and for the endowment of free beds. A donation of \$5,000 entitles the donor to nominate to a free bed in perpetuity, and \$3,000 to nominate during the donor's lifetime.

It has been common, at all times, by various erections, or by inscriptions, to endeavor to immortalize great events and to give perpetuity to the deeds and names of notable men; to write their record so that it shall live after them. Often has this been the dictate of mere vanity, that like the builders of Babel, they might "make them a name."

- “ Great Princes have great playthings; some have played  
 “ At hewing mountains into men, and some at building human wonders  
 “ mountain high.  
 “ Some have amused the dull sad years of life  
 “ With schemes of monumental fame, and sought  
 “ By pyramids and mausoleum pomp,  
 “ Short lived themselves, to immortalize their bones.”

But often with higher thoughts they have intended to commemorate great deeds or the examples of the wise and good for the instruction of after times. Such records abound. Thermopylæ had its memorial, rehearsing its patriotism to all Greece. The Shaft at Bunker Hill, seen far off at sea, shall tell to children's children the victories of our fathers, and the struggles of this nation's birth. Scott's monument in Edinburgh elaborately stories to Scottish hearts the genius of one of Scotland's greatest sons. Who also can walk through Pere la Chaise, or St. Paul's Cathedral, or Westminster Abbey, and pause to behold the “ storied urn and animated bust” and read the epitaphs of the great of many generations, without profound emotion and lasting profit? The honor thus paid to departed men is not alone to be considered, but the force of example upon the succeeding generations of the living. The rising column, the sculptured marble, appeals from the eye to the inmost spirit of the beholder, and if the subjects were truly worthy of such honors, these “ sermons in stones” refine and exalt the sentiments of a people and make them wiser and better. But if to the memorial structure, utility is added; if some use of benefit to the living be combined with the testimonial to the departed, then it becomes even more impressive as it is more fitting. This idea has frequently, of late, been brought into practice and seems to be in harmony with the spirit of our times. Such is this noble endowment.

Mr. Roosevelt left no funds to garnish his sepulchre or rear a magnificent mausoleum to his name. That thought, I sincerely believe, was neither in his mind, nor to his taste. But in the language of him of old, we may say for him, *Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice*. I am glad of the opportunity now afforded to pay what I have felt to be a merited tribute to his memory—a tribute somewhat late perhaps, but now most appropriate to the time and place—and to consecrate this hospital to its appointed uses for future times, and as his most appropriate

monument. Here science shall learn and teach its lessons ;  
“ pure religion and undefiled ” shall bless chastened spirits, and  
many will speak his name with gratitude for the comforts his  
munificence has provided. Here then, on some suitable place,  
let a tablet be inscribed, “ To the memory of James Henry  
“ Roosevelt, a true Son of New York, the generous founder of  
“ this Hospital ; a man upright in his aims, simple in his life,  
“ sublime in his benefaction.”





