

Book Reviews

The original home of the Hospital was at 42 Great Marylebone Street, but in 1863 a move was made to larger premises at 54 Berners Street. At the same time the name of the institution was changed to St. Peter's Hospital for Stone. The Hospital flourished, but its work was sadly hampered by lack of space and of funds until, in 1873, its destiny was changed by one of the most remarkable events in the whole history of the British voluntary hospital movement. On 11 February 1873, a man walked into the Hospital and handed to the Secretary a packet, which he insisted was not to be opened until he had left the building. The packet contained ten Bank of England notes of one thousand pounds each! The name of the donor was never revealed, although many years later it became known to the authorities of the Hospital. With the aid of this princely donation a new St. Peter's Hospital was built in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

During the first forty years of its existence the Hospital was primarily renowned for the treatment of stone, but after that it became a world-famous centre for the treatment of all forms of genito-urinary disease. The most important events in its recent history are its amalgamation with St. Paul's and St. Philip's Hospitals, the organization of postgraduate instruction in 1947, and the opening of the Institute of Urology in 1954. In this beautifully produced book an admirably succinct history of the Hospital by Dr. Cuthbert Dukes is followed by biographies of deceased members of the consultant surgical staff including Sir T. Spencer Wells, Hurry Fenwick, Reginald Harrison, Sir Peter Freyer, Sir John Thomson-Walker, J. Swift Joly, and other famous men. There are also chapters on the physicians and on the various specialists who have been attached to the Hospital. There is a very interesting account of the Venereal Diseases Department by Dr. A. H. Harkness, its Director for more than thirty years. Production, as with all Messrs. Livingstone's work, is first class, and the book can be highly recommended as the story of a courageous venture which has resulted in untold good.

W. J. B.

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ERRATUM

With reference to the Bibliography of the late Dr. W. W. Francis (*Medical History*, April 1960, p. 164) it should have been made clear that the Bibliography was the joint work of Dr. Robert Fortune and Miss Cécile Desbarats.