

**HOSPITALS, INFIRMARIES, AND DISPENSARIES;
THEIR CONSTRUCTION, INTERIOR
ARRANGEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT, WITH
DESCRIPTION, OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND
REMARKS ON THE
PRESENT SYSTEM OF AFFORDING MEDICAL
RELIEF TO THE SICK POOR**

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Hospitals, infirmaries, and dispensaries; their construction, interior arrangement, and management, with description, of existing institutions and remarks on the present system of affording medical relief to the sick poor by F. Oppert

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F. OPPERT

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P R E F A C E.

It might appear superfluous for me to write on Hospitals, and the system of relief to the sick poor, considering the number of treatises and pamphlets relating to the subject. It is scarcely four years since Miss Nightingale presented the public with the third edition of her valuable work, which contributed not a little to diffuse sound principles relative to the construction of Hospitals in this country. Shortly afterwards Dr. Bristowe and Mr. Holmes wrote their able Report, for which the profession owes them its thanks. Nor have continental authors been behindhand. M. Husson's remarkable work stands out overshadowing all others by its splendid illustrations and variety of contents; and a few less comprehensive essays, in which, however, some of the principal points are treated with great clearness, have reached me recently. I venture, nevertheless, to hope that this work will meet with the approval of an indulgent reader. In some degree, I differ from other writers. I am not acquainted with any English work treating the subject as a whole, and comprising Hospitals, Dispensaries, and other means by which relief is afforded to the sick poor. The construction and management of Dispensaries is only second in importance to that of Hospitals, and the relief which the poor obtain by being visited at their homes deserves equal attention. In a country where committees and boards of guardians manage most of these institutions, it may not be out of place to draw everything relating to the system within the sphere of public criticism.

In a former edition written in German, and published in 1859, but

now out of print, I described only a few Hospitals, but in the present work I have endeavoured to include all the most noteworthy establishments in existence. The second Part, containing these descriptions, may possibly serve as a practical guide to those who may be inclined to visit the institutions. It has been my object to give more detailed accounts of those establishments which have been opened during the last few years. Some that had not been previously described, I specially visited; others I have had occasion to visit at various periods: but in many instances I had to rely on reports and the accounts furnished by other authors, and I confess with pleasure that I have availed myself of descriptions and illustrations found in the valuable works mentioned above.

I should not have been able to lay before the reader these pages, imperfect as they are, if I had not had the assistance of others, who kindly supplied me with correct information and tracings of various buildings. I am greatly indebted to those gentlemen, who at some inconvenience to themselves, cheerfully responded to my various inquiries: and it is in compliance with the expressed wish of many who thus assisted me that I refrain from making their names public.

F. OPPERT.

Great Russell Street, March, 1867.

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