

EUROPEAN HOSPITAL NOTES.

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It was my privilege to spend a part of the last summer, in company with my friend, Mr. Stevens, of Boston, in visiting hospitals in some of the European centres. These included Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Paris, and London. Our President honored me with a request for a few notes and reflections on what I had seen, which I gladly give to the Association.

HOSPITAL SUPPORT.

In Great Britain, where the system of voluntary hospitals has obtained for centuries, continuous urgent appeals for assistance appear in the advertising columns of the daily papers. In response to these appeals reports are published at intervals of moneys received from such sources as Hospital Sunday funds, some big dinner under Royal patronage, or other social function. Once in a while one may read that a hospital has been remembered in the will of some rich old gentleman, who has, perhaps, been unobtrusively visiting the hospital for many years.

In contrast to this precarious system of support, we find that the Continental hospitals depend on the public purse for their maintenance, and are quite independent of the benevolence of wealthy philanthropists.

In Paris, hospitals are supported by the city, and are governed by a Board of Charities, which has likewise the supervision of asylums and of poor relief generally.

In Vienna, the hospitals look either to the city, the province or the state for maintenance; and, though for a long time, none of these bodies wanted to shoulder the responsibility, yet the hospitals have been maintained through the aid of one or the other of them.