

EDUCATIONAL FUNCTION OF A HOSPITAL.

A great hospital must play an important part in the philanthropic activities of the communities. The relief of individual suffering and the cure of individual cases must not, however, be considered the only reasons for such a hospital's existence. That would indeed be a narrow view to take. Great as its service to the community is in those particulars it is only a small part of the service which it really renders. It is as an educational institution, an institution through which alone doctors and nurses can be trained, and through which alone medical science can be advanced that a large hospital under enlightened management has its chief claim upon the public. Dr. Osler has well said "the whole art of medicine is in observation, but to educate the eye to see, the ear to hear, and the finger to feel, takes time and to start a man in the right direction is all that we can do."

At one time the instruction in the lecture room of the medical school was followed by perfunctory and haphazard walks through a hospital ward. Scores of students sauntered along between rows of beds and listened at an almost out-of-earshot distance. A student rarely touched a patient, seldom listened to the physical signs of pulmonary or cardiac disease, and never really studied a ward case. The surgical operations in the amphitheatre could only be vaguely seen. Thanks to the impulse given by the dominating idea of scientific investigation, all this is now rapidly changing. Now in small groups, or individually, students are permitted to work out some phase of a specific disease. The student sees the patient, touches the patient, comes in personal contact with the disease of the patient and begins to get a grip on its meaning.

In such a hospital will be assembled not only the sick and the maimed, who will not merely be healed themselves, but by whose healing that is learned which will heal others in generations to come; the physicians and the nurses who are there both to heal and to learn; the laboratories and surgical appliances with which they are to put their learning to the highest use. Such a combination in a great hospital will prevent more disease in generations to come than it actually cures in the generation with which it is immediately and personally dealing. The educational function of such a hospital should receive the same prominence which is given to its actual relief of human suffering. Then again the well equipped hospital not only relieves human suffering, educates doctors and trains nurses, but sets standards for the countless many who for the