

medical and surgical supervision, medical and surgical instruments, appliances, etc., I feel, as a Commissioner disbursing public money, I have not the right to grant such privileges at the expense of the rate-payer.

We have been asked to try the experiment; we answer, we have no right to try experiments with the public funds. The word experiment implies a risk. If we lose—of which we have little doubt—what then?

Again, it may be asked, have the petitioners taken into consideration the risk of placing their patients—when it can be avoided—in the atmosphere of a hospital that has been in constant occupation for thirty years. They should know, that with all the care possible, the air of such hospital cannot be made so pure as a private house with proper sanitary surroundings that has not been made a receptacle for the sick; the safety of their patients should be their first consideration. It is more than probable that the *other half* of the profession who refused to sign the petition, had this risk in their minds.

It has been claimed, that by granting this petition, it would prevent persons from going abroad to seek surgical aid; daily experience proves such a claim to be fallacious.

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Hospitals are institutions that should commend themselves to the sympathy of all classes. To the poor, for whom alone they are established, and to the rich, who see the result of their good work—a form of charity, to which, every individual should be proud and glad to contribute his mite. For I hold, that no man—whatever his prejudices may be—can pass through the wards of one, without being impressed with the care and comfort extended towards each and every sufferer who receives the daily, and I may say the hourly attention of the experienced physician, with the kind and gentle aid of the skilled nurse. And as the road to the heart is oftener through the eye than the ear, we solicit the visits of *all* to this one.