

ment ; the commercial spirit of the time and the disposition to acquire wealth, make a display and live in luxury. " People will buy pianos, bicycles, good clothes, who have their doctor's bill unpaid or go to the hospital for free treatment when sick ; " " the starting of this modern abomination, the private dispensary and hospital, by members of our profession for purely selfish and personal reasons ; " lastly, hospitals dependent upon the public for support must, to avoid alienating sympathy and subscriptions, sometimes receive into their wards those who are very well able to pay.

Dr. Armstrong, as a hospital surgeon, recognizes the growing evil of hospital abuse and its demoralizing tendencies, although the effects are felt mostly by the general practitioners who are not connected with hospitals, and he looks for means of remedying the evil. Among these is concerted action between all the hospitals of a city and a central hospital board with representatives from each hospital and from the general profession, selected from each district. This Board could do its work largely through one or more enquiry officers. Ambulance work and first aid to the injured should not be interfered with, but after the first aid is rendered those able to pay should be referred to their regular medical attendant.

The Victorian Order of Nurses will be a means of enabling those of moderate means to secure the necessary trained care. Dr. Armstrong thinks that hospitals should care only for the sick who are unable to pay anything, and he is entirely opposed to dispensaries and hospitals accepting small amounts from patients. These are the chief points of this interesting and timely paper, and they touch the most vital parts of the problem. The subject was discussed at several meetings of the Society, and was referred to a final discussion at one of the early meetings in the autumn. There is no reason whatever that those who have the means should be cared for at the expense of charitable institutions intended only for the poor and receiving the support and contributions of the public, and it only requires a proper organization to greatly minimize this pauperization of the masses and robbing of medical men of their proper source of revenue. The City Hospitals not only extend this unnecessary charitable work towards those residing there, but it is a common thing