

Hospitals in Holland are similarly supported, but receive in addition a certain income from patients who are able to pay.

Hospitals in Germany are built and supported by the State. Some of them, the Virchow, for instance, also receive pay from patients.

In America, excepting Pennsylvania and some of the Canadian provinces, not many hospitals receive State aid, as most of you are aware. Here and in Great Britain hospitals are supported mainly by the aristocracy of wealth; on the Continent by the democracy. While in many respects the former are better managed than the latter, yet, I must say, from the point of hospital maintenance, there is no question in my mind that the easier and better method of raising money is to get all you need from all of the people, rather than a part of what you need from a few of the people.

Through the years which shall intervene between the present and the time when that ideal condition is reached, let us be thankful that so many are disposed to give of their means for this purpose.

At the time of our visit to London, a committee from the leading voluntary hospitals of Great Britain was interviewing the Chancellor of the Exchequer and pointing out to him how his Insurance Bill, if passed in the form it then was, would decrease the revenue of the hospitals, and, perhaps, necessitate their closing.

The Chancellor's reply was significant: "The Government," said he, "cannot allow the hospitals to be closed."

In view of the fact that 45,000 of the infirm poor in London are supported by taxation, it may not be long until the remaining 10,000 cared for in the voluntary hospitals, are maintained in part or in full at the public expense.

Another result of this paucity of money for the support of voluntary hospitals was impressed on me while being shown through the medical teaching department of one of the large London hospitals. The Professor who accompanied