

intended, but the fact remains: the investigation was ordered; such an order necessarily carries suspicion with it. What was the suspicion? No charge was made; none could be formulated by the committee. Then it may be asked, was it right or just that a body of gentlemen, performing a gratuitous work for the benefit of suffering humanity, should, without any apparent reason, be subject to hostile criticism by the press—one writer going so far as to class them as freebooters and thieves—or that they should be compelled to defend their acts against irresponsible and disappointed medical men?

It is hard to trace the *hidden hand* moving in this matter. I am unwilling to believe that the action of the Hospital Board in the Clark matter is the cause. Yet, when looking for one, I cannot find another. If such is the case, a dangerous principle has been established, inasmuch as it holds out an inducement for a Board to condone or cover the act of an erring member. Had the Council passed a resolution that we had dealt harshly with Mr. Clark, or that the evidence did not justify our conclusion, we should have bowed to that decision. The acts of Mr. Clark were right, or they were wrong. After due consideration we came to the painful conclusion that they were wrong, and we feel that our decision has received scant consideration at the hands of the Council.

I have personally requested my brother Commissioners not to follow my example, for by so doing I believe the institution will be seriously injured. I do not say that honest men could not be obtained to fill their places; but I do say that none could be obtained who know the various duties so well, or who have the welfare of the institution more at heart.

It may be claimed that if the committee report favorably of the Commissioners, no harm is done. Not so; we have been in the pillory, and must necessarily come out soiled; not in the eyes of those who know us, but in the eyes of those abroad who do not know us.

I wish it to be understood that I have no fault to find with the investigating committee, the members of which treated us with the utmost courtesy.

I have seen the Hospital rise from nothing to its present state of usefulness. I have taken more than common interest in it. I leave it with regret, not in anger. I leave it as a matter of self-