

care of lunatics, there can be no doubt that Dr. Workman did well in directing our minds, among other things, to the construction and location of asylums for the insane. I believe that it will not be out of place for me to bring under the notice of the brethren a subject which has had a good deal of interest for me, as well as for others, for some years past, and to speak of another class of institutions which, in my opinion, deserves, though they have not secured, an equal degree of consideration with lunatic asylums—I refer to hospitals for the sick.

To what extent are these structures required, and how are we to get them?

I venture to bring these questions before the Association, because the subject of hospital accommodation is of undoubted importance to the profession and to the public, and is one on which physicians may possibly be afforded occasions of giving an opinion.

It must be admitted, in spite of the boasting in which we are prone to indulge regarding the improved state of the world in these later days, and the increased well-being of society, that our social condition renders hospital provision, at least, as great a necessity as it was when men spoke more modestly of themselves and their times than we do. The poor we have always with us, they do not cease out of the land, and no doubt we may say that they never shall,—all optimist and communistic theories to the contrary notwithstanding. Even in our country, largely filled as it has been, within the memory of living men, with fresh young blood; free as it is, as yet, from the semblance of what has been regarded by some as the oppression of class, a hospital population is springing up all around with wonderful rapidity, and that not from amidst unprovided strangers only, but also from among those born in the midst of us, and who have been surrounded from their infancy by the advantages of a land where labor is always in request, and sure of its reward; where all that is required of *any man*, in order to secure independence, is devotion to honest work. From among these there come numerous applicants for hospital relief and shelter, persons who have not made provision for one week's sickness. It is not necessary to discuss here the causes