

and leaving the hospital with the patients that they had accompanied thither. The plan seemed to work very well, and we had always one or two of these volunteer nurses on hand. If I thought it would please any of them to have their names mentioned I could do so, and commend their kindness and diligence as well. Neither were the permanent servants wanting in these respects. The food and all the other supplies were good, and to shorten a long story, if I had been taken sick I would have gone there myself. I mention all these things because within three days after the hospital had been opened it was asserted in public print, not only that the place was ill-provided and ill-managed, but that the sick within its walls were treated with gross inhumanity. I contradicted these statements at once, but they produced a bad effect. Up to the 23rd February, the date at which they were published, I had not met with a single concealment. In the course of the week immediately following I found *nine*. All this shows how careful the press ought to be in seasons of public panic, and furnishes an excellent commentary upon the popular notion of combating the disease through the medium of the hospitals.

I have now, gentlemen, explained to you the plan which was adopted in dealing with the disease, and the results which followed it. The plan, I think, was sound and the result good, but I leave them both to your criticism. I hope that the details have not been tedious. I have judged it necessary to go into them because their expediency was much questioned at the time, and may, perhaps, be doubted still, a fact which, at least, ought not to be due to a want of proper explanation. That explanation, which for obvious reasons could not be given then, I think it only right to give now. And before leaving this part of the subject, I shall not be deterred, by any fear of misconstruction, from offering a small tribute of approbation to our worthy ex-President of the Board of Health. I have no private interests to serve with that gentleman. I have not even acquainted him with the fact that I intended, upon this occasion, to make use of his name, lest his modesty should have shrunk from even this small acknowledgment of the very great services for which the public is indebted to him. I am not about to allude to his merits as a private gentleman or as a medical practitioner, which have long been recognized both in the profession and outside of it. It is only of his public actions that I am free to speak; of valuable services long and cheerfully rendered to the public, in posts whose only salary is the consciousness of being useful, in the face of all manner of personal annoyances, both great and paltry; of an hospital