times during that long period, the fact that its tradition of willing service to, and happy relation with, the Institution remained unchanged, was in no small measure due to Mr Caw's personality and his coordinating influence in every branch of the work of the Infirmary." At the close of the meeting Mrs George Kerr, the senior member of the Board, presented him with a silver salver, the gift of the managers, as a mark of their respect and appreciation. The vacancy was filled in June 1929 by the appointment of Mr Henry Maw, secretary to the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, the office being henceforth designated as that of Secretary and Treasurer. He commenced his duties on 1st January 1930.

CHAPTER XX

THE BICENTENARY YEAR—1929

THE COMMEMORATION SERVICE—THE BICENTENARY EXTENSION SCHEME—THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL AND THE NEW HOME FOR NURSES—RETROSPECT.

1729 to 1929—two centuries of time since the Royal Infirmary first opened its door in Robertson's Close ; and the story of its simple origin, with its small beginnings, steady growth and expansion throughout these years, reaches the final chapter. Little requires to be added save to relate how the bicentenary anniversary was commemorated and made the occasion of an appeal to the public to contribute to the continued prosperity of the heritage handed down to them.

" As Men and Christians we have the strongest Inducements and even Obligations to this sort of Charity, as it is warmly recommended and injoyned in the Gospel as one of the greatest Christian Duties. . . ." In these words, written more than two hundred years ago, John Monro made the first appeal to the citizens of Edinburgh to help him to found an Infirmary. With the Christian spirit as the basis of the appeal for the relief of human suffering, it was meet and right that the bicentenary commemoration should take the form of a religious service ; and for such a ceremony no more fitting shrine could have been chosen than the ancient and venerable pile of the Cathedral Church of St Giles in which, for a thousand years, generations had been wont to assemble and, in times of national mourning and thanksgiving, to raise their voices in prayer and praise. In 1926, within the same historic building the medical faculty of the University had commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of its foundation and the birth of the Edinburgh School of Medicine of which the Royal Infirmary, three years later, had become the necessary complement.

As the actual date of the opening of the original hospital,

the 6th August, occurred during Edinburgh's principal holiday month, the religious service was postponed till later in the year, but on the anniversary day every patient in the Infirmary and the members of the medical and administrative staffs were presented with an illuminated Commemoration Card as a souvenir of the event. On 27th November a large and representative gathering of the citizens and public bodies assembled in the Cathedral. Among those present were the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors, along with representatives of those " classes and societies " from which the original members of the Board of Management of the Infirmary had been selected and which have continued to give representation throughout the years. The officiating clergy, in the unavoidable absence of the Right Rev. John White, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, were the Very Rev. Charles Laing Warr, Dean of the Thistle and Chapel Royal; the Very Rev. James Harvey, Clerical Representative on the Board of the Royal Infirmary; the Right Rev. Bishop Reid, and the Rev. Thomas C. Macaulay, Chaplain to the Royal Infirmary.

The decision of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary to make a renewed appeal to the public in the bicentenary year was no sudden or eleventh-hour resolution, but the necessary continuation of the post-war policy of expansion that had failed to achieve its full purpose owing to the insufficient response to the appeal of 1920. A good deal had been accomplished, as has already been related, but one extension of particular urgency had been postponed —the erection of a new Home for Nurses, the construction of which could no longer be delayed.

Since the opening of the Central Nurses' Home—the " Red Home "—in 1892, the difficulty in accommodating the increased nursing staff had been temporarily and partially overcome by purchase of, or by leasing, house property in the immediate vicinity of the Infirmary or at some distance from it. As far back as 1907 houses had been bought on the east side of Archibald Place, a row of tall tenements forming one

side of the short street extending from Lauriston Place southwards to the grounds of George Watson's College for Boys, (see Plan facing p. 280). At subsequent intervals other tenements in Archibald Place were purchased as they came into the market so that, in 1929, they provided accommodation for 104 nurses and 15 maids and the term " West Home " was eventually applied to this row of buildings: being contiguous to the property of the Infirmary, entrance to the Home was easily obtained.[1] In 1914 it was necessary to lease from the University at an annual rent of £85 and for a term of five years number 36 George Square, beyond the eastern boundary of the Infirmary. This house which made provision for 18 nurses was finally vacated in June 1927. In 1922, in which year 340 nurses were on the staff, the managers found it expedient as a further temporary measure to acquire in the southern district of the city Woodburn House and grounds, a mansion in Canaan Lane, Morningside which for some years had been used as a sanatorium for the treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Opened on 1st October of that year it provided accommodation for from 40 to 45 nurses, but in 1927 by the provision of a pavilion in the grounds an additional 20 were accommodated. Thus 65 nurses, while on night duty in the Infirmary, found their sleeping quarters at Woodburn, the garden, tennis courts and relative quietness of the area adding to the attraction of the Home. But the impending regulations to reduce the number of working hours of the nursing staff, then fifty-six hours per week, necessarily entailed a further numerical increase and made more accommodation imperative. A large Home in the vicinity of the Infirmary was deemed preferable as centralisation permitted of better supervision and greater economy: further, it gave facilities for providing larger and more suitable rooms for recreation and improved sickroom accommodation during temporary epidemics of illness.

After the conclusion of the war considerable anxiety began to be felt owing to the growing pressure upon the bed

[1] In 1935-36 the West Home accommodated 178 nurses and 17 maids, making a total of 195 persons.

accommodation in the hospital, returns compiled for the last eight months of 1918-19 showing an average of 606 names upon the list of patients awaiting treatment in the wards; and this total progressively increased as, in 1922-23, the average number was approximately 1500 over the period of twelve months.[1] It seemed desirable, therefore, that further extension of the hospital should be considered with a view to preventing, if possible, a still longer list.

As the accumulation of these names was a matter of grave concern to the managers and to others, not only in 1923 but in the ensuing years, a more detailed reference to the subject at this point cannot fail to be of interest. The number of patients admitted into the Infirmary in 1922-23 was 14,239, of whom 4449 passed into the medical and 9790 into the surgical departments, the total number of beds available for their accommodation being 909. The average period of residence of patients in the medical wards was 28·81 days and in the surgical wards 18 days. As the great majority of those awaiting admission were entered for treatment in the various surgical departments, the medical cases forming a comparatively small proportion of the total, the two explanatory tables appended deal only with the former. Table A shows the number of beds available in the surgical departments at 1st October 1923, 1929 and 1936, and Table B the number of prospective patients awaiting surgical treatment at the same dates.[2]

It is evident from a study of these tables that, although more beds had provided increased facilities for indoor treatment, they had not effected any reduction in the number of those seeking admission to the Infirmary: on the contrary, the list of names continued to grow at a disconcerting rate in the surgical department to which most of the extra beds had been added. More than one suggestion has been offered in explanation. After the termination of the war

[1] No case of acute illness or serious injury was at any time refused admission, arrangements being at once made to provide the necessary beds.

[2] Beds are classified as *total* and *available*, as a number are held in reserve for occupation when wards in daily use are being cleaned, or in the event of emergencies. In 1923, total, 963, available, 909; in 1929, total, 1006, available, 982; in 1936, total, 1125, available, 1107.

economic conditions had altered considerably so that a section of the community, which had formerly refrained from

SURGICAL WAITING LIST

Table A. *Analysis of the Available Surgical Beds at 1st October 1923, 1929, 1936*

Year.	Total Available Surgical Beds.	General Surgery.	Gynæcology.	Ear and Throat Diseases.	Eye Diseases.	Total Waiting List.
						1440 Surgical 215 Medical
1923	514	348	90	24	52	1655
						2494 Surgical 415 Medical
1929	545	348	90	55	52	2909
						2971 Surgical 419 Medical
1936	605	392	90	59	64	3390

Table B. *Analysis of the Surgical Waiting List at 1st October 1923, 1929, 1936*

Year.	Total Surgical Waiting List.	General Surgery.	Gynæcology.	Ear and Throat Diseases.	Eye Diseases.	
1923	1440	504	250	608	78	
1929	2494	1370	536	507	81	
1936	2971	1608	813	469	81	

Note on Table A. In 1926, Ear and Throat Department increased by 31 beds; in 1936, Eye Department, by 12 beds; after 1929, General Surgical Department, by 56 beds; total additional beds = 99.

seeking advice in times of sickness at a voluntary hospital, was now through force of circumstances compelled to do so. With the rise in the cost of living and of medical and surgical services illness had become more expensive and many were

unable to meet the increased charges. Another factor was the influence of the motor car in facilitating and accelerating the transport to hospital, from widely scattered areas, of a large number of persons acutely ill or seriously injured, many of whom in pre-war days would have been attended to at home. Therefore the vacant beds in the hospital intended for the admission of patients on the waiting list were often filled by urgent cases, many of which, such as motor accidents, required prolonged treatment in the wards. And thus each week fresh cases regarded as of less urgency were being added to the bottom of the list while many of those at the top still remained, " sacrificed to the acute conditions on the plea of urgency." [1] So the waiting list lengthened slowly but surely.

For both these purposes—more accommodation for nurses and additional surgical beds—a new site was obviously necessary as no space remained on the existing property of the Infirmary on which a Central Nurses' Home and a Surgical Pavilion could be erected.

At this stage in the deliberations of the managers a new factor was introduced destined not only to modify the form in which the bicentenary appeal was issued but to influence the future course of the development of the Infirmary. The directors of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, recognising the urgent need of a new and larger building, were contemplating an appeal to the public for funds. The Hospital in Lauriston Place had been giving constant service to the community since 1879, but, through lack of the necessary accommodation, was becoming less able to cope with the demands made upon it. During the war, through the pioneer work of John William Ballantyne, one of the physicians on the staff, the first Antenatal Department had been inaugurated making provision for the observation and care of the expectant mother, and still further taxing the resources of the hospital.[2]

[1] Address by Professor Sir John Fraser at the annual conference of the British Hospitals Association, Edinburgh, 18th June 1936. *The Scotsman*, 19th June 1936.
[2] J. W. Ballantyne died on 23rd January 1923.

With a view to considering what action should be taken the directors of the Maternity Hospital called a meeting of representatives of certain public bodies in the city—the Scottish Board of Health, the Town Council, the University of Edinburgh, the Royal Infirmary, and the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. On 16th November 1923, a Conference took place in the Old Council Room of the City Chambers at which were discussed the necessity of a new hospital, the accommodation required, a suitable site, and the means of financing the scheme. The delegates, who were unanimous in their opinion that a hospital of at least 150 beds was required, agreed generally on the importance of erecting it in the vicinity of the Royal Infirmary so as to secure the advantages which such proximity would offer; and a suggestion was made by representatives of the latter that it might be of advantage to the Maternity Hospital if there were some form of association or affiliation between the maternity and gynæcological work of the two Institutions, in the interests of efficiency and economy. Accordingly, information was sought from the managers of the Infirmary on two points: the possibility of their obtaining the necessary site within a reasonable period of time, and the basis upon which the two bodies might cooperate.

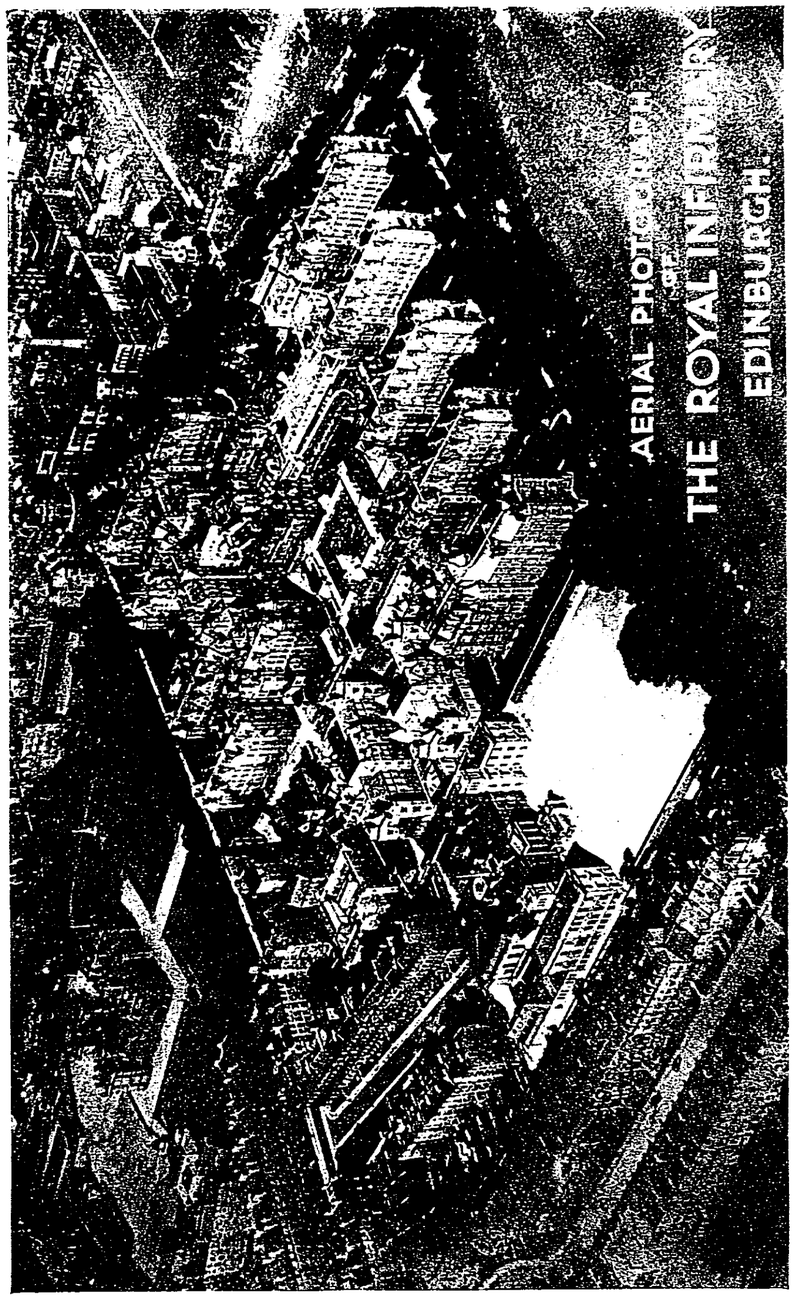
The only area suitable for extension in close proximity to the Infirmary was the ground occupied by George Watson's College for Boys; therefore, on 4th February 1924, a special committee of the Board of Management was appointed to meet the Education Board of the Merchant Company to ascertain if the latter would be prepared to consider the disposal of the College and grounds. Thus for the fourth time in the long history of the Infirmary the Merchant Company and the managers entered into negotiations: they had done so originally in 1736 for the purchase of Thomson's Yards which had been acquired by the trustees of George Watson's Hospital as a prospective site for their school; in 1869, when the managers bought George Watson's Hospital and grounds in Lauriston Place as the site for the new Infirmary; in 1891-92 when it was desired to purchase the Junior School of Watson's College;

and now, in 1924, when the managers offered to buy the College and its playground. With the present College secure in its new situation, one and a half miles from the Royal Infirmary, it is difficult to conceive future managers requiring to negotiate with the Merchant Company for a part or the whole of their School !

Considerable delay occurred before the final settlement was reached. At first, an offer of £60,000 was put forward, but " it was felt that an advance on that sum would require to be made in order to compensate the Company for the disturbance, and the committee of the managers have already indicated that the Board might be prepared to advance their offer to £75,000 as a maximum." [1] But it was difficult for the Merchant Company to arrive at an immediate decision on so important a question as the sale of their school-buildings. They were naturally reluctant to dispose of a site which had given educational facilities to two of their schools since 1818; in that year the Merchant Maidens' Hospital had been transferred from Bristo Street to a building facing the Meadows which, in 1871, became George Watson's College for Boys, after the Infirmary had acquired its new site in 1869.[2] Nor was it easy for the Company to refuse the appeal of the Royal Infirmary burdened with its ever growing waiting-list. Nevertheless the problem of finding another site on which to erect a new George Watson's College had to be faced. In 1925, negotiations between the two parties were continued without any decision being reached, as the Merchant Company were asking for a sum of £100,000, realising that the cost of a new site and school would be considerably in excess of the price offered by the managers for the purchase of their old building.[3]

During this long period of discussion the directors of the Maternity Hospital were chafing at the delay, as more than two years had elapsed since they had called their Conference in the City Chambers. As there seemed to be an imminent

[1] Minute, Royal Infirmary, 6th July 1925.
[2] The new Merchant Maidens' School was then opened in Queen Street.
[3] Minute, Royal Infirmary, 15th February 1926.



Aerial Photograph of the Royal Infirmary showing in the south-west corner George Watson's College for Boys and the playground, the site purchased for the erection of the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion and the Florence Nightingale Home for Nurses

risk that no agreement would be reached on the question of a site in the vicinity of the Infirmary, they intimated to the managers in February 1926 their intention of calling together a committee of the public bodies to report upon the situation. But a final settlement was in sight and, through the generosity of one of Edinburgh's prominent citizens, the danger of an *impasse* was prevented. For nearly a year the Infirmary had been slowly accumulating an extension fund and to this Sir John Ritchie Findlay, Bt., of Aberlour, offered to contribute £10,000 if the managers would increase their offer for the purchase of the site to £90,000.[1] This they agreed to do, at the same time intimating that the payment would be made in one sum. The terms were accepted by the Merchant Company on the condition that they secured a suitable site for their new school at a reasonable price and that the buildings should be ready for occupation before the boys were obliged to leave the existing premises, the expectation being that the Infirmary would obtain possession at the Martinmas Term, 1931.[2]

With the purchase price finally settled the managers were at last in a position to make definite proposals to the directors of the Maternity Hospital, which, transmitted in a letter dated 23rd June 1926, were as follows :—1. The erection on the acquired property of a complete maternity and gynæcological department of 245 beds, or thereby, along with an operating theatre annexe and out-patient department, and the existing gynæcological pavilion of the Infirmary to be utilised for other surgical requirements: 2. The only satisfactory method of amalgamation with the Maternity Hospital would be by absorption of it, as divided authority or management within the Royal Infirmary could not be contemplated, and that the Capital funds of the Hospital would be taken over and used towards meeting the cost of the new building, Parliamentary powers being probably necessary to legalise this transfer: 3. The name of "Simpson," intimately linked with the Royal Maternity Hospital, would continue to be associated with the

[1] Minute, Royal Infirmary, 1st March 1926.

[2] Actual possession of the property was not obtained by the Infirmary till 1932.

new building: and 4. The appointment of a Consultation Committee of the Hospital to meet the committee of the managers of the Infirmary in the preparation of the plans and for other matters. It was considered impossible to increase the membership of the Board of the Infirmary, but it was hoped that as vacancies occurred in the seats open to representatives of the Court of Contributors, places might be found for some of the directors of the Maternity Hospital.

These proposals were accepted by the directors, with the concurrence of the medical staff of the Hospital, as constituting a foundation upon which the new scheme might be constructed. The proposals embodied advantages to both Institutions. With the transference of the women from the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion to the new building, the Infirmary would be provided with approximately one hundred additional beds for the treatment of surgical patients with the expectation that the problem of the waiting list would in part be solved. They gave to the Maternity Hospital a much enlarged modern building and a central training school for the more efficient education of students of medicine and midwives; and, with the maternity and gynæcological services as one unit served by the same medical and surgical staff, and with all the advantages of close association with a large general hospital, administration and control would be conducted with greater efficiency and economy. In addition to the proposed hospital, part of the site was to be reserved for the new Home for Nurses and for accommodation of the increased domestic staff.

The Bicentenary Extension Appeal was accordingly drawn up on these lines, and the sum regarded as necessary for its completion and for the many alterations in, and additions to, the existing buildings, heating, lighting and other improvements, was estimated at half a million pounds. To quote the concluding paragraph of the Appeal, "Of this sum approximately £100,000 are required for the purchase of the site;[1] the remaining £400,000 for building and equipping the Maternity and Gynæcological Hospital of 240 beds, for the Nurses' Home

[1] The site purchased included, in addition to George Watson's College, properties on the west side of Archibald Place.

with accommodation for 400 persons, and for a number of much needed developments—for example treatment by radium—to bring the existing Institution into line with modern requirements."

Such were the conclusions arrived at in 1929, the bicentenary year of the Royal Infirmary. Since the autumn of 1923, when some form of collaboration between the Infirmary and Maternity Hospital was first mooted, the journey had been long; several years were yet to elapse before the scheme was finally adjusted and the buildings were ready for occupation.[1]

In unrolling the pages of the past and transcribing what they disclose, the attempt has been made to chronicle, however imperfectly, the story of the Royal Infirmary and the Edinburgh School of Medicine, their origin, early development and subsequent extensions; and to show how future events justified the aspirations and the actions of those pioneers, men of vision, sagacity and determination, who, two hundred years ago, founded the hospital and the medical faculty at Edinburgh. At the beginning of the eighteenth century the demand for a hospital service for the sick and injured poor had been met by the establishment throughout the country of the voluntary hospital system. But at Edinburgh a second factor, the need for a more complete education, influenced the minds of the founders, it being their intention that the hospital should also form the necessary complement of the medical school created three years earlier: "That students in Physic and Surgery might hereby have rather a better and easier opportunity of experience, than they have hitherto had by studying abroad, where such Hospitals are, at a great charge to themselves, and a yearly loss to the Nation." Hence, following the example of Leiden where, in the seventeenth century, a hospital for clinical

[1] In July 1933 the managers found it necessary on financial grounds to revise and modify the original Bicentenary Extension Scheme and to proceed on more economical lines: the modified scheme consisted in the erection of a Maternity Hospital of 122 beds and of a Nurses' Home to provide 260 bedrooms. This alteration precluded the liberation for other purposes of the gynæcological beds in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

instruction had been established in organised relation with its university, they founded the Infirmary as a correlated part of the school of medicine. Thus the Greek inspiration of Medicine, reborn at Padua and nurtured at Leiden, passed on to Edinburgh whence it spread across the seas to America and Australasia.

During a comparatively brief space of time the practice of medicine and surgery was taught in a small hired house with six beds in a narrow Close of the old medieval city, till the large hospital was built and opened in 1741 in Infirmary Street; and, in the old Town's College before its reconstruction, in classrooms " mean, straitened and inconvenient and with little to recommend them," the science was expounded to an ever increasing number of students of medicine. But the attraction of the young school was not in its buildings but in the human factor which guided and controlled its destiny. Staffed by men who regarded their duty as teachers as their primary concern in the day's engagements, a practice was established which, handed down through the years, has become the tradition of the Edinburgh School to the present day. And for two hundred years the Royal Infirmary has discharged its threefold function, " the saving and restoring to health members of society whose labours are indispensable to a State," the education of the practitioner of medicine, and the training of the nursing profession.

While the opening years of the eighteenth century had witnessed the birth of the voluntary hospitals in Britain, and in Scotland also the foundation of the medical faculties in the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the early nineteenth century was identified with the widespread development of the provincial medical schools in England and with an increase in the number of the hospital schools in London. The rapid growth of industrialism with its teeming centres of population had already created in a number of areas the demand for hospitals, in some of which medical instruction on a small scale was imparted. But it was not till the advent of the nineteenth century that these hospitals became more firmly established as centres of medical education. The Apothecaries'

Act, 1815, laid down regulations for systematic teaching and extended the authority of the Society of Apothecaries of London to grant a diploma qualifying the holder to practise outside the limited area of London, thus creating a body of general practitioners in England and Wales who were entirely independent of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. Probably acting under the stimulus which the Act provided medical schools were established between 1824 and 1834 in Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Newcastle, Bristol and Liverpool, schools which, at the beginning of the twentieth century, became incorporated in the medical faculties of their respective universities. In London, the hospitals of Charing Cross, King's College and St Mary were founded and, after the creation of their medical schools, the old privately owned schools of anatomy and surgery which had been a feature of medical education in the eighteenth century eventually ceased to exist.

In the early development of more than one of the provincial schools in England, Edinburgh, through its graduates or those who had received part of their training north of the Border, exercised a formative influence. But nowhere was the Scottish inspiration more pronounced than in the foundation of University College, London, and of its medical school.[1]

During the latter half of the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, Scotland and its capital had enjoyed a period of great intellectual and academic activity somewhat comparable to that of Holland in the seventeenth century. It was an epoch which had given to Europe the philosophy of David Hume and Adam Smith, and later, of Dugald Stewart and John Playfair; a period which also embraced the writings of the historian, William Robertson, Principal of the University of Edinburgh for thirty years; the poetical works of Thomas Campbell, Allan Ramsay and Robert Burns; the architecture of Robert Adam and the portraiture of Sir Henry Raeburn,

[1] Prior to the opening of University College Hospital in 1834, the students of medicine at the College received their clinical instruction at the Middlesex Hospital and at the Dispensary.

culminating in the romantic personality of Sir Walter Scott. The period also saw the birth and early career of the *Edinburgh Review* under the able and critical editorship of Sydney Smith, Francis Horner, Henry Brougham and Francis Jeffrey, and the pages of *Blackwood's Magazine* fostered a younger literary school which included " Christopher North," John Gibson Lockhart, the biographer of Scott, and the pathetic figure of de Quincey. It was an epoch also that was remarkable in the contributions that were made to science : the perfecting of the steam engine by James Watt; the discovery of carbon dioxide and the principle of latent heat by Joseph Black; the determination of the maximum density of water by Thomes Charles Hope; the recognition of nitrogen gas by Daniel Rutherford and the discovery of the function of the lymphatic system of the body by Alexander Monro, *secundus*.

In the foundation of University College, the germ of the University of London, " the strongest, single, intellectual influence was that of Edinburgh, and, from the example of the Scottish Universities, London drew many of its most distinctive features. The extended range of the subjects of university study, the lecture system, the non-residence of students, their admission to single courses, the absence of religious tests, the dependence of the professors upon fees and the democratic character of the institutions, were all deliberate imitations of Scottish practice." [1] And amongst the founders of University College were Thomas Campbell, at one time a student at Glasgow, Henry, Lord Brougham and Leonard Horner, the first Warden of the College, both former students at Edinburgh. Of the early professors in its medical faculty the majority received their training at Edinburgh, Sir Charles Bell, in the chair of physiology and surgery, Edward Turner in chemistry, Anthony Todd Thomson in materia medica, John Connolly and John Elliotson in the practice of physic, John Gordon Smith in forensic medicine and, later, William Sharpey in anatomy and physiology and Robert Liston in clinical surgery.

[1] *University College, London, 1826-1926*, by H. Hale Bellot, M.A. London: University of London Press Ltd., 1929.

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ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH

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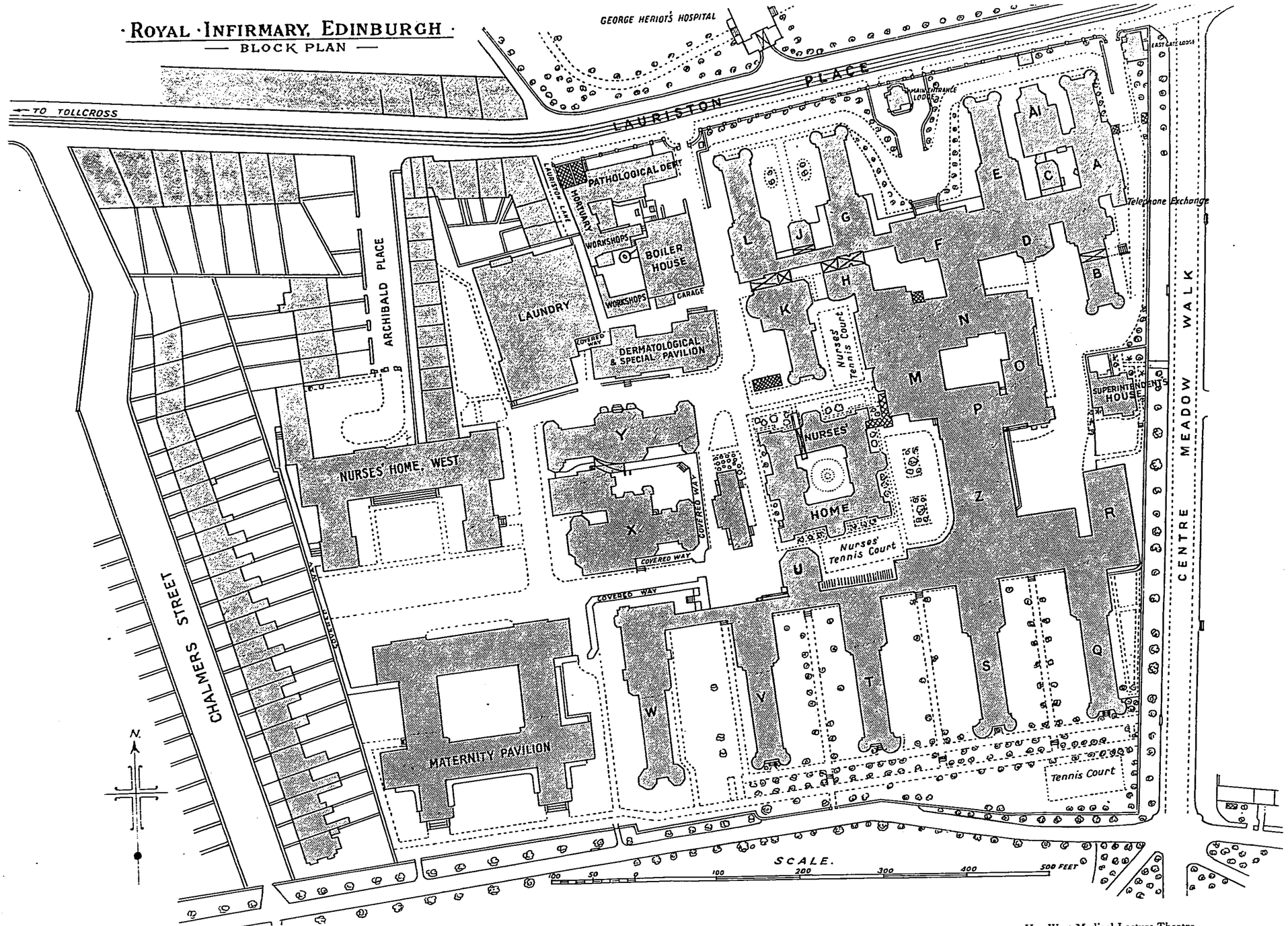

A.—Surgical Out-patient Department, and Wards 7 and 13.
A 1.—Surgical Out-patient Theatre.
B.—Wards 2, 8, 14 (Surgical), Dietetic Department.
C.—Ward (Casualty), Diagnostic Theatre, and Operating Theatre for Wards 13 and 14.
D.—Operating Theatre for Wards 7 and 8.
E.—Wards 3 (Delirium), 9 and 15 (Surgical).
F.—Administrative Offices, Wards 19 and 20.
G.—Wards 4, 10, and 16 (Surgical).
H.—Operating Theatre for Wards 9 and 10.
J.—Operating Theatres for Wards 11, 12, 17, and 18.
K.—Wards 1, 5, 11, 17. Operating Theatre, Wards 5 and 6.
L.—Wards 6, 12, and 18 (Surgical).
M.—Chapel and Administrative Departments.
N.—Large Theatre and Administrative Departments.
O.—Medical Out-patient Department and Residency.
P.—Dispensary.
Q.—Wards 22, 23, and 24 (Medical).
R.—Clinical Medicine Laboratory, Ward 21 (Dietetic), etc.
S.—Wards 25, 26, 27 (Medical).
T.—Wards 28, 29, 30 (Medical).
U.—West Medical Lecture Theatre.
V.—Wards 31, 32, and 33 (Medical).
W.—Wards 34, 35, and 36 (Gynæcological).
X.—Ear and Throat Pavilion.
Y.—Ophthalmic Pavilion.
Z.—Radiological Department.

RETROSPECT

At the commencement of the nineteenth century Edinburgh, like other parts of the country, benefited by the development of the Scottish industries, agriculture, the mineral resources and the woollen industry ; while the growth of the population, the expansion of the city, and the improvements in the roads and means of transport were factors which increased the demands made upon the resources of the Infirmary. From the year 1800 to 1900 the school of medicine at first occupied an even stronger position than it had done at the close of the previous century so that, by the end of the first decade, the number of students enrolling in the faculty of medicine of the University had reached 934 : although this large total afterwards declined considerably through several decades, there being a distinct reduction in the number of those entering the profession of medicine at Edinburgh, before the end of the century the numbers again increased and the students matriculating in the year 1889-90 reached the unprecedented total of 2044. Moreover, early in the period two chairs of surgery had been created in the University and a strong extra-academical school grew up, providing a valuable means of training the younger men as teachers.

Four other factors, however, during the century, had a profound influence upon the future development of the Infirmary, contributing largely to its expansion : the introduction of general anæsthesia as a means of preventing pain during operations ; the new science of bacteriology which laid the foundation of the Germ Theory of disease and upon which was based the antiseptic principle in the treatment of wounds, by which the whole field of surgery was enlarged ; the adoption of the modern system of nursing ; and, finally, specialisation in surgery and medicine. Their influence upon the expansion of the hospital was manifested in the active steps taken to acquire more property on which to erect buildings to provide the additional accommodation. In 1832, with the occupation of the old High School for surgical cases, the hospital was subdivided into medical and surgical houses, the original Royal Infirmary building opened in 1741 being retained as the medical house. The erection of a second surgical hospital

followed in 1853. Specialism was first recognised in 1850 with the appointment of Sir James Young Simpson as extra-physician for diseases peculiar to women, and five years later nineteen beds, which had been reserved in the New Surgical Hospital for the treatment of diseases of the eye, were placed under the charge of an ophthalmic surgeon. In these small beginnings specialism, which was to make so many claims upon the hospital before the century closed and after, was firmly established in the old Royal Infirmary.

In due course Time inevitably laid its hand on the fabric of the old medical hospital and, after a keen controversy extending over a period of nearly five years, which excited the interest of the medical profession and the general public, the important decision was reached to build a large new modern Infirmary upon the site in Lauriston Place. With the foundation stone laid in 1870, the new Royal Infirmary was opened in October 1879. The succeeding fifty years became a period of great activity and rapid expansion, with the Infirmary on two occasions, in 1892 and in 1926, extending its boundaries by the purchase of adjoining property. A Central Nurses' Home, long delayed, was occupied in the spring of 1892 : new pavilions were constructed for special departments, for the diseases of women, a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and pavilions for the treatment of diseases of the eye and of the ear, nose and throat ; a new radiological and physio-therapy department and a large clinical medicine laboratory were erected on the area occupied in 1879, while the Bicentenary Extension Scheme of 1929 envisaged the erection of a Maternity Hospital and a New Home for Nurses. And so through the long period of two hundred years the small hired house with six beds had grown into a great hospital capable of accommodating 1025 patients.[1]

What of the future ! It would be idle, perhaps unprofitable in 1929, the bicentenary year, to predict what the future may have in store for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Recent legislation has made it competent for County and Town Councils to submit schemes for the reorganisation of hospital

[1] In October 1936 the total beds in the Royal Infirmary numbered 1135.

facilities and to provide treatment for sick persons residing within their area ; and to take reasonable steps to secure full cooperation with every voluntary hospital, university or medical school within or serving the area of the Council. It is possible that a new system of hospital administration may profoundly affect the status of the Royal Infirmary in the years to come.[1] Perchance the cross-roads have been reached and, in the misty haze of uncertainty, it is difficult to discern along which route, indicated by the sign posts, the voluntary hospital will travel in order to fulfil its destiny.

[1] Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929. [19-20 Geo. 5, Ch. 25.]