

parishes as such could not stand the taxation arising and so some were united to bring about a certain reciprocity and combination in their work.

In 1719 the Westminster Hospital was founded. It owes its existence chiefly to the Society of Friends and the Evangelical Church. Such men as Hoare, Barclay and Buxton were assiduous in founding hospitals. It was an age of economy and there were great complaints relative to the expenses at St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's and thus economy may be said to have helped to bring the voluntary hospitals into being. Guy's Hospital was the next of the voluntary hospitals to be founded and then, in 1740, the London Hospital was founded by John Harrison.

There was a distinct difference between the Voluntary Hospitals and the Chartered Hospitals. St. Thomas's and

use of the poor. They were intended for a middle class population—trained artisans, etc., and the sick poor were not, in the main, considered. The Foundation Deed of the London Hospital in 1740 lays down clearly that the latter is not so much for the sick poor as for such as manufacturers, artisans, master mariners and the like. The Chartered Hospitals were more or less connected with politics also, which was regarded as a disadvantage by the supporters of the voluntary system. St. Bartholomew's sympathies were Tory and St. Thomas's Whig. St. Bartholomew's was consistently loyal to the Hanoverians and St. Thomas's to the Stewart cause; the voluntary hospitals remained untrammelled by any political considerations. And so successful has been the voluntary hospital system that there are now 140 in the metropolitan

area—a great tribute to a wonderful work in medical education and care of the sick. One can hardly realise the revolution that has taken place in the last sixty years.

At the time of the Great Plague of 1665 every effort was made to arrest its spread. At first it was thought to come from the air and so great fires were lit in the streets on which sweet herbs were burnt to purify the air. Then it was thought to be carried by dogs and 40,000 dogs and cats were destroyed. Rats were really the cause and such was the extent to which they increased that they grew tame and waxed fat after the annihilation of their foes. It is hard to realise the blunders that were made and especially there was the practice of closing up the sick and the well together in one house; usually, when it was opened, it was not a house but a tomb. The Chartered Hospitals at that time were groping in the dark; they recognised the curative power of kindness but not of science and yet it is so interesting to note how hospitals began as guest houses of the monasteries, then became houses of kindness and then great educational and preventive institutions. In connection with the voluntary hospitals' work one cannot but pay tribute to



Photo: ]

[William Davis.

#### H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, R.R.C., S.R.N.

At work in the Casualty Department, University College Hospital.

St. Bartholomew's were Chartered Hospitals. Both were under the control of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London, both charged fees for admission except when the Lord Mayor gave a free ticket; medical men in the Chartered Hospitals were paid. In the voluntary hospitals the services of the medical men were gratuitous and there were no fees; the idea of voluntary hospitals came from France where there was a hospital in every province. In them the management was more elastic than in the Chartered Hospitals, they were more democratic, no fees were charged to the patients and there were no salaried medical men; all these factors served to bring into being more and more voluntary hospitals. Erasmus Wilson has stated that the voluntary hospitals, were, in a sense, a mid-way house between the Chartered Hospitals on the one side and the Poor Law Hospitals and Poor Houses on the other, but these hospitals, at their inception, were not intended for the

such men as Sir Humphry Davy, Sir James Simpson and to Dr. Morton in America. They have made it possible to use the surgeon's knife in a highly beneficent way. Indeed they may, in a sense, be said to have opened the doors of the theatre to those noble ladies, the nurses; prior to the use of anaesthetics few ladies could stand the sight of an operation when often the patient had to be strapped down to the table. English people should think kindly of these men when they see a rural doctor passing on his rounds, see the students busy in the hospitals, the scientist with his eye on the microscope or the men working in darkest Africa on the edge of disease stricken districts and teaching progress to many others. Such are the products of the voluntary hospital system. The voluntary hospitals have had a great mission.

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