

great Boroughs of the Metropolis and receiving their greetings.

"I feel confident that the establishment of a large general hospital in your midst will be of immense service to those of My subjects who suffer from illness or accident and do not possess the means of obtaining adequate medical attention and nursing. King's College Hospital has done a great work in the past; but its future utility in the building which will spring up where we now stand will be even greater. The huge population in the midst of which it is set will have the advantage of easy access to its services, and the scientific and administrative work of the Institution will reap the advantage of the more commodious premises. There can be no nobler aim for benevolence and public spirit than the care of the sick and suffering, and you will, I do not doubt, use every effort to assist the hospital authorities in the task they have undertaken."

*Address of the King's College Hospital Removal Committee.*

(Presented by the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P.)

*Address to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen.*

*May it please Your Majesties,*

I am privileged on behalf of the Removal Committee of King's College Hospital to offer our humble duty to Your Majesties, and to express our deep gratitude for the great honour which Your Majesties have conferred upon the hospital by your presence upon this occasion.

Six years ago the Committee of King's College Hospital were called upon to decide whether they would spend a large sum of money upon the old hospital in order to bring it up to modern requirements, or whether they would undertake the construction of a new hospital in South London, where a poor and populous district was sadly in need of hospital accommodation.

The Committee of "King Edward's Hospital Fund" were strongly in favour of a removal scheme, and after a full enquiry into the changed conditions of the population surrounding the old hospital, caused by the clearance of crowded and insanitary areas, and on account of the fact that numerous hospitals already existed in a comparatively small area north of the river, it was decided to adopt the policy of the Fund and to construct a new hospital in South London. This building when completed will give accommodation for 600 beds, and ample provision for all the special departments now necessary for the efficient working of every general hospital.

The site extends to over twelve acres, and in addition land on the south side, to the extent of more than thirty acres, has been acquired, partly by private liberality and partly by public funds, for a people's park, so that the hospital will for ever have the advantage of an adjoining open space larger than any enjoyed by similar institutions in London.

The Committee of "King Edward's Hospital Fund" have given munificent donations, amounting in all to £27,000, to the Removal Fund, which has now reached a total of over £227,000. It is probable that the original estimate of the cost of removal will be somewhat exceeded, but the Committee have every hope that private generosity will provide them with sufficient funds to complete the building now undertaken, without trenching upon the capital sum realisable by the sale of the old hospital site and building, but which it is of vital importance to retain for future endowment.

As Your Majesties will have observed, the building of the out-patient, casualty, and some of the special departments is already far advanced, and it is hoped that in twelve months the whole of the building now contemplated will have been begun.

I now have the honour to request Your Majesty to lay the foundation stone of the new King's College Hospital, and in so doing to perpetuate the connection with Your Majesty's throne and family which our hospital by its style and title has the honour of commemorating.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

"I thank you most heartily on behalf of the Queen and Myself for your loyal Address, and for the cordial welcome you have offered to us.

"It gives Me great pleasure to come to-day to lay the foundation stone of the new building of the Hospital with which the Sovereign's name is connected and in whose past work I have taken so deep an interest. For many years King's College Hospital has ministered to the necessities and alleviated the sufferings of thousands of My subjects in the centre of this crowded Metropolis. It was specially and closely associated with the great work of Lord Lister, who, in introducing the antiseptic methods in surgery rendered an inestimable benefit to England and to all mankind. I remember also that your hospital sent out some of the most distinguished of its staff to do generous work among the sick and wounded in the South African War. Your Committee's decision to abandon the whole building and to remove the scene of your labour to a poorer and more populous district, where the need for a hospital was great and the field for its work wider, was a bold step, but I believe it was a wise and right one, and I congratulate the medical and nursing staff on the great opportunity thus given them for increased usefulness. The generous response made to the Committee's appeal for funds shows how highly their decision has been appreciated by the public. I am glad that the fund associated with my name favoured the scheme in its inception and has given material assistance in carrying it out; and I am confident that other generous donors will come forward to supply the money needed to complete a spacious and well-equipped building. I can conceive no worthier object for benevolence than this.

I assure you of My continued interest in your Hospital, and of the sympathy with which I shall watch its future progress. I cannot doubt that the blessing of Almighty God will attend the work to be done by it in its new home."

*Whitehall, July 30, 1909.*

The following Address was presented to The King on Friday, July 23rd, on the occasion of Their Majesties' visit to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital in Great Portland-street, for the opening of the new In-Patient Department of that Institution:—

*May it please Your Majesties,*

On behalf of the Committee and Governors of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital we beg to tender our most heartfelt and respectful thanks for the appreciation of the work of this Charity which Your Majesties display in finding time to come here to-day for the purpose of formally opening our newly-completed buildings.