

During the 220 years which have elapsed since the foundation of the Hospital, its history has been one of uninterrupted evolution, alike in its wards, in its laboratories, in the science of medicine and surgery, and in its Medical School.

Throughout its life there has been an ever-growing demand for the services of the Hospital, and for greater and more modern facilities. Until now, these have had to be met to the best of our ability by housing the Nurses apart from the Main Hospital, by the relegation of our cancer service to a building at Hampstead, and by removing the Medical School to Caxton Street, a separation that was both uneconomic and inefficient, as well as inconvenient, not only to the Nurses and Students, but also to the patients, many of whom had to go daily for their treatment from one place to another.

In June 1935 the foundation stone of the new Hospital was laid. During the four years that have elapsed, our beautiful home for Nurses has been completed, and has been opened and named by our beloved Queen Mary. The new Medical School, surely one of the finest in the country, was opened last May by the Chancellor of the University of London. The culmination of our task is the splendid Hospital building which your Majesties see to-day. The unique planning of the building which is the result of research throughout the country and abroad, and the remarkable attention to detail to ensure economical and efficient administration, have already made it a model for other institutions of its kind. Copies of its plans and of its scheme of administration have been sought by administrators and architects in this country and abroad.

I desire to record, and to acknowledge with gratitude, the cordial co-operation which has existed in the past between the London County Council, the County and City Authorities, and the old Westminster Hospital. I feel sure that this co-operation will continue and develop in the future.

We meet under the happy auspices of Your Majesties' presence, in the company of two thousand of our friends, who have devoted, and will still devote, their money and their time to the support of this Hospital. On such an occasion, may I be permitted, Sire, to express our deep debt of gratitude also to our generous benefactors, and in particular to one who has been the inspiration of us all, our Chairman, Mr. Bernard Docker? We are fully conscious that it is very largely due to his guidance, example and magnificent generosity that this great scheme has been brought to fruition.

While congratulating ourselves on this achievement, let us not forget the symbolic inwardness of today's event. This new home of healing, of pioneering and medical instruction, has been provided by the voluntary gifts of many thousands of people in all parts of the country and Empire. Yet we are only one of a thousand Voluntary Hospitals in England, each carrying on, day and night, their merciful task, and each having its loyal band of voluntary supporters.

The seal of our Hospital portrays the Good Samaritan, and bears the words "Go and do

thou likewise." It is inspiring to think that, even in these difficult days, there are people in every corner of the Empire thus following the words of the Master.

Your Majesty, I am asked by the Governors of Westminster Hospital humbly and respectfully to invite you to declare open the new Westminster Hospital.

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

I thank you most cordially for your loyal and dutiful Address, presented on behalf of the Governors and subscribers of the Westminster Hospital. For The Queen and Myself this occasion is one of much interest. As you have said, the Westminster was the first of all the great Hospitals to be founded upon the charitable gifts of the public. Its history has been long and famous and its reputation as a leader of progress is being worthily maintained in our own day. These new buildings incorporate the latest improvements in hospital planning and technique, and I am glad to learn that they are already widely admired.

There are, however, more personal reasons for Our Pleasure in being here today. I am a Patron of the Hospital, and the link with Our Household is a close one, for any member who needs treatment is accommodated in its wards. Moreover, the new Nurses' Home, which was opened by My Mother Queen Mary, now bears her name.

To mark the present occasion, I have agreed that the Children's Wings of the new Hospital should bear the names of My Daughters, and be known as "The Princess Elizabeth Wing" and "The Princess Margaret Rose Wing."

I am informed that arrangements have been made, in dealing with out-patients, to ensure close co-operation with their own doctors, and in certain special cases with the local authorities. If the best results are to be obtained from the many services, voluntary and public, for the treatment of ill-health, in the Home and in the Hospital and Clinic, co-ordination of this kind is of the greatest importance, and I am happy to learn that this is so well recognized by the authorities of the Westminster Hospital.

The new buildings embody a great ideal. The benefactors, whose generosity has made this achievement possible, and the Committee and Staff, who have for four years devoted so much of their energy and leisure time to its completion, must indeed be gratified to-day, when they look upon the fine result of their efforts. I congratulate them heartily and have great pleasure in declaring the new Westminster Hospital open.

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*Whitehall, April 24, 1939.*

Under authority of a Royal Warrant, the Viceroy of India, on the 6th April, 1939, at an Investiture held at "The Viceroy's House," New Delhi, conferred the honour of Knighthood upon Mr. Justice Srinivasa Varadachariar on his appointment to the Federal Court of India.