

CUS417/129.23 1/2
Mag 1919
Jul 16 1919

The American Hospital for Great Britain.

It has been decided to erect in a central quarter of London a hospital to be known as "The American Hospital for Great Britain."

This Hospital will be organized upon the most modern lines. It will be complete in every department of medical and surgical activity, and accommodation will be arranged for every class of patient.

There are no existing facilities for the treatment of American citizens resident in or travelling through Great Britain. This state of things should not continue. England has welcomed the opportunity of extending hospitality to the sick of America, but, with closer association, increased facilities for travel and consequently growing numbers visiting and residing in this country, it is felt that the time has come when America can and should bear this responsibility herself, and take steps to help those of her own people who want help most—the sick and suffering who are far from home.

The consulting and visiting medical staff will bring together many distinguished members of the profession in the United States and Great Britain, whilst the resident appointments will be held by American medical men who desire to complete their professional education on this side of the Atlantic.

It is intended that the Hospital shall become an important centre of medical research, and a research institute, modelled upon the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, will be designed as an integral part of the building.

The need for the institution of the Hospital is very great, and the exceptional opportunities of the present moment are never likely to be repeated. Apart from the extreme scientific value of the Hospital and its research departments, there are international reasons of the highest importance why the Hospital should be supported without stint by all citizens of America.

The medical professions of America and Great Britain have hitherto worked too much apart, though each has much to learn of the other. In the past Americans who wished to follow their post-graduate studies abroad journeyed almost without question to such centres as Berlin and Vienna.

These centres the War has put out of court. But the incidence of the campaign has brought the medical men of the two races into the closest contact. For two years American medical men have been attached to British units in

the field, and have worked side by side with their British *confrères* upon the staffs of military hospitals in all parts of England and Scotland. The comradeship brought about by such friendly co-operation and interchange of scientific knowledge is of such importance to the future history of the two nations that it must be encouraged and strengthened in every possible manner.

As normal conditions are restored the Hospital will become a natural headquarters for all American citizens who come to Europe for the purposes of medical study. It has already been selected as the meeting place of the American Medical Post-Graduate Society for London. Under its roof the Post-Graduate will find every opportunity for work, and all available information. The Hospital itself, with its lecture rooms, research laboratories, library and reading rooms, will be the centre from which he will be able to make the most complete use of the exceptional clinical material offered by London and the provinces. He will be able to meet for social and scientific purposes not only his own fellow-citizens but those British members of his profession who will be ready to afford every assistance and advice for the furtherance of his studies.

No more fitting monument could be raised to those who have fallen in the War than the relief of suffering Americans in the future. It should also be a living factor in promoting the friendship and cementing the union of the two great English-speaking races. Whatever may contribute to this end with, besides, such a humanitarian object in view, is worthy of every endeavour on the part of those who can help as well as the whole-hearted support of all who appreciate the beneficent purpose to be attained.

It has been arranged to form a Governing Board in England, and a like Board in the United States.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Reading has accepted the office of President of the Hospital, and His Excellency the American Ambassador will act as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Sir William Osler, Bt., F.R.S., Sir Arbuthnot Lane, Bt., Sir Humphry Rolleston, K.C.B., President of the Royal Society of Medicine, Sir John Bland-Sutton, and Mr. Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., constitute the Medical Executive Committee.

Communications should be addressed to:—

Mayfair 868.

MR. PHILIP FRANKLIN, *Hon. Secretary,*

27, Wimpole Street, W. 1.