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### Dissertation on hospital management

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# Hospital Management,

I select this subject for a Thesis, Gentlemen for several reasons, & 1<sup>st</sup>, because my attention has been especially directed in this Channel, & 2<sup>nd</sup> because I believe there is very great room for improvement in the Management of some of the American Hospitals; & 3<sup>rd</sup> because there is no class of people that lend so ready an ear, <sup>to the amelioration</sup> as the Medical Profession, <sub>of the condition of the Sick & the poor</sub>.

However widely men may differ in opinion respecting therapeutical agents, or the importance of pathological Anatomy, no one can doubt the positive utility of that branch of medicine, de  
nominated



Hygiene, at no period in the  
~~in the~~ history of medicine, have  
its claims been wholly disputed  
or its importance ignored -

In a house devoted especially  
to the sick, where are congre-  
gated many individuals with  
different disorders, too much  
importance cannot be paid  
to the Hygienic condition of  
the same. -

No Hospital can be considered  
complete without an ample  
supply of Furniture for the  
comfort of the sick.

I believe a great want would  
be supplied if a more liberal  
amount of bed, & body linen  
were furnished, so that each  
patient - may be kept perfectly  
neat, thereby giving great com-  
fort to the suffering poor.

So much attention cannot be given to keeping the corridors & wards perfectly clean—

It is the boast of England that the interior of her Hospitals is a model for the world, & I believe no foreign nation is ahead of her in this particular. A constant supply of pure air, circulating freely through each hall, & ward should be maintained—

It is frequently the whim of a patient & I regret to say of some that should know better that night-air is more injurious than that of the day. Never should a stream of air be allowed to blow directly upon the patient. By the use of shutters or screens ~~can~~ the draft be

regulated, Every room, directly  
over its door should have  
a window, swinging upon  
pivots, By this means the  
Hall, or passageway will  
carry off much foul effluvia.  
Let there be a free supply  
of water, thereby insuring a  
great advantage in the treatment  
of disease,

Paint & whitewash are very  
cheap, & properly applied do  
much to give an institution  
a good name, & stand as  
against the lurking of  
contagion in smothered, &  
dirty walls, No carpeting  
of any kind should lie upon  
the floors of a Hospital  
They prove too good places for  
disease to lurk in & frequently  
becoming very filthy. —

No patient should be allowed  
to occupy the room of  
another who is laboring  
under a contagious disease,  
A sick person, whose vital  
power is greatly reduced, is  
much more liable to be  
infected with the disease of  
another, than an individ-  
ual in health, This fact  
should always be borne  
in mind in the classification  
of Hospital patients. —

Great care should be exercised  
in the selection of proper  
nurses, that they possess tact,  
judgment, & skill is of the  
first importance. —

And they should know their  
duty, & do it, — I do not believe  
it judicious that a common  
nurse should have charge of

the patients medicine, neither should the Apothecary be granted the most varied attributes, always present in the Hospital he makes up by his regular visits the too important ones of the physician; & in their absence orders medicines, modifies prescriptions & thereby becomes in fact the most important officer on the medical staff.

This liberty is not attended with danger —

The attending Physicians orders should be scrupulously obeyed. To him, & him alone should there belong the right of the management of each case — His visits therefore should be often, & faithfully should he see to his duty.

Patients laboring under critical diseases should have throughout the night, as well as by day constant attendance. —

Very many patients will recover if properly attended to while neglect, even for a brief period may produce disastrous results. —

The food should vary, as the patients condition may demand. An individual with some slight local trouble should surely not be fed like one with high fever or injury of brain. — It does not look judicious to have a regular bill of fare, as for a Hotel, but that the diet may be under the charge of the Medical Officers as much as the Medical treatment.

There is one article that ~~should~~  
be used more than it is in  
any Hospital, & I refer to  
beef juice. By cutting a piece  
of beefsteak into small pieces  
& placing them in a bottle  
cooking it tightly, & immersing  
it in boiling water for  
about 30 minutes, when  
the juice can be poured  
off & seasoned. This broth  
is far more nutritious than  
any other <sup>broth</sup> known & will  
prove far safer than wine  
or brandy in many cases  
where a gentle stimulant  
is only needed. —

The inmates of a Hospital  
should feel that they are  
with friends; those who  
delight to do them good.  
The convalescent should

how amusement as well as Medical treatment. This should not be of an exciting nature, but just enough to give diversion & pleasure to those who have long suffered with pain. —

The indiscriminate admission of visitors into the rooms of the sick is an evil, & especially so when the patient imperiously needs perfect rest & quietness. Has not the patient some rights, & is it not ~~it~~ due him that he be not unnecessarily disturbed. 2

A Chapel should form a part of every Hospital. Here should be congregated every or both those who



are able to withstand the  
fatigue without injury.  
The periodical return of  
these occasions gives an  
order and system to the  
movements of the house.  
Their solemnity impresses  
the patients with a proper  
veneration that cannot  
but have a salutary  
influence on their hearts  
as well as health. —





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