St Mark’s Hospital for Fistula and other Diseases of Rectum

Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest

St Luke’s Workhouse Infirmary
St Luke’s Hospital For Lunatics

French Huguenot Hospital
City of London Lying-In Hospital

Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital
All but one of these seven major hospitals would disappear over the following 130 years.

Why were so many hospitals established here before 1900?
Why had all but one vanished by 2000?
Alleyn’s Almshouses (1707)
The Shepherd & Shepherdess Inn (1743) - alehouse and tea garden

“To the Shepherd and Shepherdess then they go, To tea with their wives, for a constant rule; And next cross the road to the Fountain also, And there they all sit, so pleasant and cool, And see, in and out, The folk walk about, And the gentlemen angling in Peerless Pool.”
Peerless Pool (1761)
French Hospital ‘La Providence’ (Jacob Gibbs 1718)
Why were six hospitals established here between 1770 & 1900?

In vicinity of the centre of medical London in 18th century
   – Moorfields (Finsbury Circus and Square)

• Cheap land offered opportunity to expand

• Meet local needs

• Health benefits of fresh air and sunlight

• Transport developments
1. Cheap land offered opportunity to expand

• Construction of City Road (1761)
  – continuation of New Road from Paddington to Islington (1756)
    • now Marylebone Road, Euston Road and Pentonville Road
  – by-passed congested City and West End

• Three hospitals took advantage and moved here
City of London Lying-In Hospital
- established in Aldersgate Street (1750)
For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travaile, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child...

Jeremiah 1:13-14
St Luke’s Hospital for Lunatics

• 1750 established in Upper Moorfields (Finsbury Square)
  – alternative to Royal Bethlehem Hospital (Bedlam) and private madhouses
  – ‘Patients shall not to be exposed to publick view’

• Dr William Battie
  – first chief physician (1750-64)
  – described as an ‘eccentric humorist’
“a neat but very plain edifice...a building of considerable length, plastered over and whitened, with ranges of small square windows on which no decorations have been bestowed.”

Despite ‘enlightened’ ethos: large cold plunge bath to shake lunatics out of their insanity (used until 1856)
St Mark’s Hospital

- established in Aldersgate Street
- *Infirmary for the Relief of the Poor Afflicted with Fistula and Other Diseases of the Rectum*
- known as the ‘Fistula Infirmary’
St Mark’s Hospital for Fistula &c. (1854)

Benefactors included:

William Copeland
(Lord Mayor)

Charles Dickens

Lord Iveagh
(Guinness brewing empire)

John Wallen
St Mark’s’s Hospital (1896)
2. Meeting local needs

1782 St Luke’s Parish Workhouse

1832
population 46 000
1850

St Luke’s
245 people per acre

St Giles’
221 per acre

Clerkenwell
170 per acre

Westminster
71 per acre

Islington
49 per acre

1868
Holborn & Finsbury Poor Law Union
1879  St Luke’s Workhouse Infirmary
(Henry Saxon Snell)
3. Fresh air and sunlight

Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest

Established 1814 by Dr Isaac Buxton in Spitalfields and Finsbury Square as *Infirmary for Asthma, Consumption and other Pulmonary Diseases*

First specialist chest hospital in the world

Opposed because wards heated in winter
  - unproven benefit and suffer when return to their miserable homes

Moved to City Road 1849
1865
rebuilt
26 beds
6000 out-patients
Extended 1885
THE OLDEST HOSPITAL IN EUROPE FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.

The Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest,

CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

Founded by H.R.H. the late Duke of Kent, A.D. 1814.
Rebuilt 1863. Enlarged and New Wing, 1876-77.
New Wing for In-Patients, 1864.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

VICE-PATRONS—
H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c.

PRESIDENT—
The Right Hon. the Lord Wolverton.

TRUSTEES—
The Right Hon. the Lord Charles Bruce.
The Right Hon. the Lord de Rothschild.

TREASURER—The Hon. Pascoe Glyn, M.P., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

The Central Position of this old-established Hospital:
The fact that it receives Patients from all parts of the Kingdom:
That a New Wing, containing Eighty Beds for In-Patients, has just been added to the Hospital:
That it has dispensed its benefits for more than seventy years:
And that it is dependent on Voluntary Contributions:

Urge the Council to commend its claim for increased support, especially in the form of ADDITIONAL ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Donors of £31 10s., or Annual Subscribers of £3 3s., may recommend One In-Patient and Eight or Four Out-Patients, per annum.

JOHN J. AUSTIN, Secretary.


FORM OF BEQUEST.

"I give and bequeath to the Treasurer for the time being of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, London, the sum of £ in the said sum to be applied in aid towards carrying on the charitable objects of the institution; the said sum to be paid free of Legacies Duty, out of such part of my personal estate as I may lawfully bequeath to the purposes of the said Institution, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors for the same."

* The sum to be expressed in words at length.
4. Transport developments

*London Dispensary for Curing Diseases of the Eye & Ear*

Established 1805 in Charterhouse Square
- John Cunningham Saunders
- 2nd eye infirmary in London
- died 1810 (aged 37)

1822 growing demand led to move to Finsbury Square
London Ophthalmic Infirmary

Robert Smirke (1822)
Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital
1898
Why had all but one hospital vanished by 2000?

• Urbanisation

• Changing attitude to treatment

• WWII bomb damage

• Changing medical technology
1. Urbanisation

French Hospital
1865 Victoria Park, Hackney
1960 Rochester
(almshouses)
2. Changing attitude to treatment

St Luke’s Hospital: closed 1917
Sold to Bank of England – print works
Demolished 1963
St Luke’s Workhouse Infirmary

1930
London County Council
1127 beds

1936
St Mathew’s Hospital
600 beds

1948
NHS
320 beds

1960s
Geriatric Hospital

1987
Closed/demolished
3. WWII bomb damage

Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest
Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest Nurses’ Home (1905)
City of London Maternity Hospital
1907 rebuilt following damage from construction of Northern line
4. Changing medical technology

1927

Continued to expand

1927
71 beds (including 9 pay beds)

1930s
Shifted focus to cancer
Staff helped establish British Empire Cancer Campaign

1948
“jewel in my health service” Aneurin Bevan

But isolated from rest of medicine
Took 50 years of discussion

1995 moved to Northwick Park Hospital
St Mark’s Hospital Nurses Home (1926)
By 2000...only one survivor
1944
Flying bomb struck
Proposal to demolish and move out of London

1948
NHS

Merger with
Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital
and
Central London Ophthalmic Hospital

1956
Moorfields Eye Hospital

1988-91
Other sites closed
The lost hospitals of St Luke’s
- not just a curious historical tale

• Wide-range of factors shape our hospitals
  – well-recognised: attitudes to illness and disease, medical technology
  – less recognised: land prices, physical environment, other needs for land, war, social policies

• Like other activities, health services ebb and flow across the metropolis
You can go and see what remains of the lost hospitals

...although a new edition in October.