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## Charity and the London Hospitals, 1850-1898 (Royal Historical Society Studies in History New Series)

*Keir Waddington*

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### CHARITY AND THE LONDON HOSPITALS, 1850–1898



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#7243385 in Books 2015-06-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.21 x .57 x 6.14l, .0 #File Name: 0861933311264 pages | File size: 27.Mb

**Keir Waddington : Charity and the London Hospitals, 1850-1898 (Royal Historical Society Studies in History New Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charity and the London Hospitals, 1850-1898 (Royal Historical Society Studies in History New Series):

By the 1890s Victorians assumed that London's hospitals were facing an endemic financial crisis which was so severe that some feared the state might have to intervene to support an ailing voluntary system: charity both underpinned London's hospitals and proved insufficient to meet the ever-increasing cost of care, despite the ability of those running the hospitals to pick the pockets of the benevolent. *Charity and the London Hospitals* takes these themes to study the development of the hospital as an economic, medical, and voluntary institution in the second half of the nineteenth century. Drawing on a comparative study of hospital records, the author investigates how and why Victorians contributed to show that benevolence was rarely amenable to a single form or reason, moving on to argue that though it remained central to the hospitals' *raison d'être*, philanthropy's contribution was modified at a financial and administrative level as hospitals shifted from being philanthropic to medical institutions. Why this process occurred and the impact of professionalisation and scientific medicine are also assessed, as are the debates surrounding hospitals and the state at the end of the nineteenth century. KEIR WADDINGTON is Professor of History at Cardiff University.

Fills an important gap... Instead of depicting the "great" metropolitan establishments as heroic arenas for medical and surgical triumphs, the author allows us to see them as administratively contested and financially precarious establishments. *MEDICAL HISTORY* A much needed and comprehensive study of hospital finance in the nineteenth century... sets the agenda for future work. *LONDON JOURNAL* About the Author KEIR WADDINGTON is a Research Fellow at the University of Cardiff.