

## **Hospitals after the Dissolution**

*'considering the miserable estate of the poore aged sike sore and ympotent people aswell men as women lyinge and goying about beggyng'*

Henry VIII, 27 December 1547

Many medieval charitable foundations in London were closed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, including specialist hospitals like Elsyng Spital for the blind, the Hospital of St Mary of Bethlehem for the insane and the hospital of St James for lepers. Inadequate provision for the poor and infirm caused widespread concern, and so King Henry VIII re-founded some hospitals on condition that they were funded by the City of London.