THE WORKS of WILSON WEATHERLEY PHIPSON

In 2002 the CIBSE Heritage Group produced a biography Wilson Weatherley Phipson, Victorian Engineer Extraordinary 1838-91, written and edited by Brian Roberts, Chairman of the Group. It was updated in 2006 and a limited number of copies printed. It ran to 142 pages with 63 illustrations and featured many of the Victorian hand-written Phipson documents in the Heritage Collection. An electronic book version was subsequently added to the Heritage web site. In addition, further updates have been posted under Victorian Heating Engineers by Heritage Group Webmaster, Frank Ferris.

At the time of writing a portrait of this pioneer engineer still eludes the Group. However, it was decided to collect together as many additional illustrations as possible of the projects in which he was involved. Research has uncovered a variety of early photographs, drawings and postcards of these buildings, which are now presented here in chronological order according to (where known) the approximate date of Phipson’s work, rather than the construction date of the building itself.

BMR, 2009
The following is the list of the principal buildings warmed and ventilated on this plan:

Hospitals
- Beaujon
- Hôtel Dieu
- Hôtel Vésale
- Hôtel St-Antoine

Hospitals
- Croix Rouge, Lyons
- de Charles, Charles de Nivelles, Belgium
- de Bronbeek, Holland
- de Amsterdam, Holland

Houses of Parliament and State Library, Holland
- Student Club, Lyons, Holland
- Vocational Schools, Nivelles, Belgium
- Model Prison, Lyons, France

M's Birds, Rothschild's Bank, London
Hand Music Hall, London
Exchange Buildings, Birmingham
Orphanage, Edington, Birmingham
Masonic Hall and Club, Birmingham

Phipson's listing of projects dated November 1865
Those in continental Europe are attributable to his mentor Dr Van Hecke
No illustrations have been found so far of the following projects:

- Hospital Beaujon, Paris, France
- Hospital Croix Rouge, Lyons, France
- Hospital de Chartres, France
- Hospital de Nivelles, Belgium
- Hospital de Brombeek, Netherlands
- Hospital de Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Student Club, Lyden, Netherlands
- Parochial Schools, Belgium
- Model Prison, Lyons, France

Hospital Necker, Paris, France
Hospital Vesinet, Paris, France

Hospital St Antoine, Paris, France
REMARKS ON VENTILATION,
WITH EXTRACTS FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS,
OF THE COMBINATION OF VENTILATION & WARMING
SYSTEM VAN HECKE.

BY
WILSON WEATHERLY PHEISON,
CIVIL ENGINEER.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY E. M. POLLITT, 38 & 39, ALDERMANBURY.
1861.

REMARKS ON VENTILATION,
WITH EXTRACTS FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS,
OF THE COMBINATION OF VENTILATION & WARMING
SYSTEM VAN HECKE.

Before addressing the various testimonials to the great ad-
vantages of the above-mentioned system, it will be well to
remark, that for several years the evils arising from unsani-
dation, from neglect of ventilation, particularly in hospitals, and a
remedy for them, have been the subject of study to men of
science and philanthropy in all parts of Europe.

In September, 1852, a Congress of General Hygiene, was
held at Brussels, which was attended by Delegates from nearly
every European Power; and the following conclusions to
the questions proposed were arrived at by them.

The question on Ventilation was as follows:

“What are the essential laws which should govern the
Ventilation of public edifices or private dwellings, and what
are the means which are especially susceptible of being re-
commended for this purpose?”

1861 Report for the Medical Officers of Health, London
Given at the Old Marylebone Court House
1861 Ventilation of a Ship for the Admiralty (Test & Report).
The Old Admiralty, Whitehall, London

1862 Rothschild’s Bank, St Swithin’s Lane, London (Testimonial)
1862 Baron Rothschild’s Mansion, 148 Piccadilly, Westminster, London
Left of lamp post in photo, next to Aspley House

1863 Masonic Hall & Club, Birmingham
No information.

1864 The Royal Exchange, Birmingham
No illustration of the building has been discovered so far
1864 The Strand Music Hall (later The Gaiety), London
Heating and ventilation by Phipson
The Guildhall, Gloucester
Listed as a Phipson project but no details found

1865 Cardiff Castle, Glamorganshire, Wales
Phipson’s involvement unknown
1865 Orphanage, Erdington, Birmingham
Advice was given by Phipson

Phipson used the “steam-powered” ventilation “Systeme Van Hecke”
1867 Marine Barracks, Woolwich
Phipson carried out tests on the heating and ventilation

1868 The Junior United Services Club, Regent Street/Charles Street, London
Phipson carried out improvements to the ventilation
1869 The Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, London: the original building housing the ICE Heating and ventilation of the Council Chamber by Phipson

1869 The Birmingham & Midland Bank, New Street/Stephenson Place, Birmingham. A picture of the bank has not been identified Hot air heating by Phipson
1870 The University of Glasgow, Gilmore Hill, Glasgow, Scotland
Phipson designed an extensive system of ventilation using heating coils in
the extract shafts to accelerate the airflow, but he failed to provide any
form of individual room control

1871 St Thomas’s Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London
Phipson prepared a detailed proposal for the heating and ventilation,
including capital and operating costs, but it was not accepted
1871 The Royal Albert Hall of Arts & Sciences, Kensington Gore, London
Phipson provided a mechanical warm air ventilation system

1871 The Hull Dock Company’s Offices, Hull
Phipson is credited with providing a “steam-powered heating system”
1871 The Criterion Restaurant & Theatre, Piccadilly, London
Phipson provided heating using “hot air circulation”

1872 National Provincial Bank of England, Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch
Phipson provided heating by hot water