

Bye-Laws of the Retreat

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BYE-LAWS OF THE RETREAT,

REVISED AND CONFIRMED BY THE

GENERAL MEETING OF DIRECTORS,

HELD AT YORK 28TH 6TH Mo. 1855.

I. PERSONS ADMISSIBLE AND THE TERMS.

1st. The objects of the Institution are declared in the Fundamental Rules to be, all persons in a state of mental derangement, unless merely idiotic or superannuated, who are in membership or profession with the Society of Friends. If the number of applicants from these classes be greater than can be accommodated, the members of the Society shall be considered as having a preference. In extraordinary cases the Committee may exercise its discretion as to the granting or otherwise of such preference.

2nd. When there is room in the distinct apartments appropriated to the higher classes of patients, persons who are not connected with the Society of Friends by membership or profession, may be admitted into them; care being taken not to interfere with the prior claims of those who were the original objects of the Institution.

3rd. The Committee shall have a discretion to decline the admission of patients, though members of the Society of Friends; but in such cases, the applicants, if dissatisfied, may, after having given fourteen days' previous notice, in writing, to the Treasurer, represent the case to a General or Quarterly Meeting for its decision.

4th. The terms to be paid by the patients, are to be regulated by their pecuniary circumstances; so as to afford suitable accommodation to all classes, and to make the means of the more affluent, contribute to the support of the poor.

II. GOVERNMENT.

1st. The General Meeting in the year 1800, according to the original plan of the Institution, made provision for a perpetual succession of Directors. Forty Subscribers, members of the Religious Society of Friends, were then nominated and appointed, who, and their successors as hereinafter directed to be appointed, together with any other Donors, Subscribers, or Executors, qualified as hereinafter declared, and Agents appointed by any qualified meeting, are to constitute the General Meeting, and continue to be the Directors of the Institution, in whom the government of it is perpetually to vest and remain. The said forty Directors, with any other qualified Donors or Subscribers, are to meet quarterly for the transaction of business as described in the fundamental Rules. The members of the Committee of Management, for the time being, shall be members of the General and Quarterly Meetings, by virtue of that appointment. Eight of the forty Directors shall be present at each Quarterly Meeting, and ten of the said forty at each General Meeting.

2nd. At each General Meeting the first named eight on the list of the said forty, are to cease to be Directors, and eight others are to be appointed by the General Meeting in their places, with an addition for such as may be deceased or disowned; and the whole may be chosen from the number of Annuitants, Donors, Subscribers and Executors, or other members of the Society of Friends as shall, in process of time, be judged most convenient and best. The Directors so chosen shall have a right to attend the meetings of the Committee.

3rd. The name of every Annuitant, Donor, Subscriber, or Executor, shall be recorded by the Secretary, in a book kept for that purpose; and every Annuitant, Donor of not less than two guineas, and Subscriber of sums at any time amounting to two guineas, or Executor paying a bequest of not less than one hundred pounds, being and continuing a member of the Religious Society of Friends, shall be a member of the meetings which are to be held for the government and superintendence of the Institution.

4th. If at any future period, by means of some unforeseen or unexpected events, it should appear to the General Meeting that the original purpose of the Undertaking cannot be accomplished or pursued, the said General Meeting shall give due notice in writing to all the Directors, and also in every Quarterly or other Meeting of our Religious Society, which according to the Rules may be interested therein, that the disposal of the Property of the Institution is to be taken into consideration at a Meeting, the time and place of which shall be specified. At such Meeting two Agents or Representatives appointed by any of the said Meetings, shall be admitted as members of the General Meeting; and in case two-thirds of the meeting so convened shall agree thereto, they may sell and dispose of the whole Estate and Property of the Institution, or any part thereof; and after discharging all claims upon it, may appropriate the net produce thereof, to such just, equitable or charitable use, as they, on serious and deliberate consideration, shall judge best.

III. RESPECTING CONTRIBUTIONS.

Gratuitous contributions, and subscriptions for annuities and legacies, shall in addition to the payments of the patients, be received in aid of the funds; and Contributors, Annuitants, and Executors, shall be entitled to the following privileges, viz :

1. A contribution of one hundred pounds from any Quarterly or other Meeting, in its collective capacity, a donation of twenty-five pounds from any Friend, a subscription of fifty pounds for an annuity, or the payment of a bequest of not less than one hundred pounds by any Executor, shall entitle such Meeting, Donor, Annuitant or Executor, respectively, to the privilege of nominating one poor patient at a time, on the lowest terms of admission.

2. As it is necessary to ascertain the rights of each Meeting to recommend poor patients, Donors of twenty-five pounds and upwards, are desired to explain whether they wish to enjoy the privilege during life of recommending poor patients, or that their donations should be considered as the subscriptions of their Quarterly or other Meetings: and it is agreed, that all donations of individuals not claiming such right of recommendation, shall be considered as the subscriptions of their respective Quarterly Meetings, whether reported to such Meetings or not; and every Quarterly Meeting shall enjoy the privilege of recommending poor patients in proportion to the subscriptions of their respective members, on which no separate privilege is claimed.

3. The privilege of meetings or persons to recommend poor patients as described in the foregoing regulations shall not be taken away or diminished, notwithstanding any general powers which are, or may be invested in future Directors.

IV. THE TERMS OF PATIENTS.

1st. The terms are, for every poor patient recommended by a privileged Donor or Meeting, a sum not less than six shillings per week.

2nd. Not less than ten shillings per week shall be paid for other patients, and more according to circumstances; and a reasonable sum for the board of the servant of a patient when one