

**A short account of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men : from its foundation in 1788 to its centenary in 1888.**

**Contributors**

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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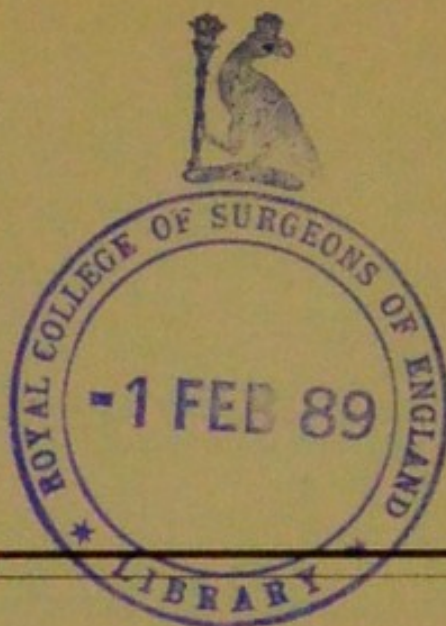
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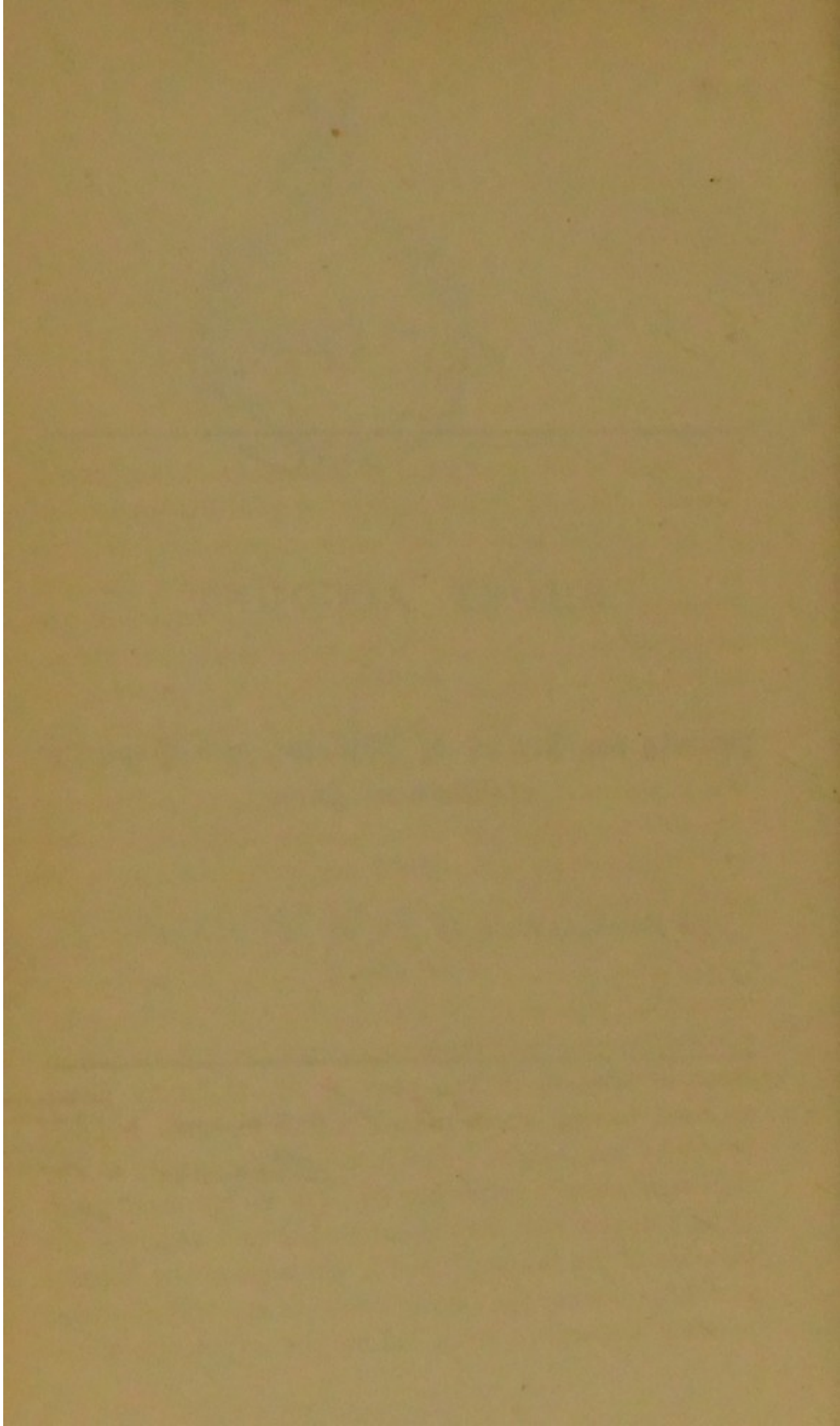
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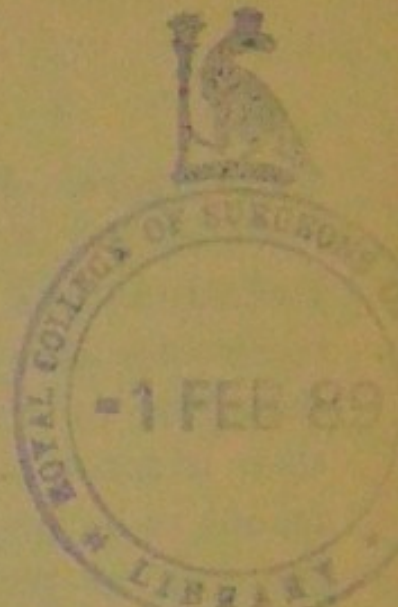
A

SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans  
of Medical Men,  
FROM  
ITS FOUNDATION IN 1788 TO ITS CENTENARY  
IN 1888.

53 Berners Street  
Oxford Street  
W.





A circular purple ink stamp from the Royal College of Surgeons Library is located in the upper right corner. It features a crest at the top and the text "ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS" around the perimeter. In the center, the date "-1 FEB 89" is stamped.

## PREFACE.

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THE Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men has now completed the first century of its existence; and at the commencement of this, its second century, it has been thought by the Court of Directors that a copy of the short account of the Society, drawn up in 1857 by the late Dr. Merriman, at that time Secretary to the Society, showing its origin, rise, and work, and with its subsequent progress carried on up to the present time, would prove acceptable and interesting to its members, and also to those of the profession who, residing within the radius of the Society's operations, are in ignorance of its existence, or, at all events, are unaware of the vast amount of good it has already accomplished and is capable of doing. The amount of self-sacrifice required on the part of any member of the Medical profession who may be desirous of securing his family from destitution in the case of his untimely death without having accumulated means for their support is indeed very slight. For instance, the family of any deceased member who has subscribed for three years (if left unprovided for) is entitled to and receives the benefits of the Society; and in the case of the decease of a life member the family becomes similarly entitled to such assistance, even before the expiration of the



three years. If (as the first preface to the printed laws of the Society in the year 1789 stated) this Institution had been founded upon the principles of a society for the benefit of survivors, it could not have answered fully the proposed benevolent intention, for then it must have had a termination ; whereas it is meant to be perpetual. Or if it had been formed upon the general plan of Annuity Societies, the benefits might have fallen, in many cases, to widows and children not in want of assistance ; and in others, relief could not have been proportioned to the degree of real distress, which is the object of the founders of this Society.

It will be noticed the original name of the Society, *The Society of Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men in London and its Vicinity*, was altered by the Royal Charter of 1864 to *The Society for Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men*. This was a very important change, as it enabled all members of the profession to become members of the Society. At present the Society is limited, by bye-law, to those who live within a radius of twenty-miles from Charing Cross.



## A SHORT ACCOUNT, ETC.

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THE Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men in London and its Vicinity dates its origin from a conversation held in February, 1788, between Dr. John Squire, then of Nassau Street, Soho, afterwards of Ely Place, Holborn, and Mr. William Chamberlaine, surgeon and apothecary, of Aylesbury Street, Clerkenwell, in which remarks were made upon the (supposed) fact that no society whatever existed in England to assist the destitute widows and orphans of members of the medical profession. Two such societies, however, did exist, viz., the 'Benevolent Medical Society of the county of Norfolk, and city of Norwich,' established by Mr. James Jones, a surgeon, of Fakenham, in Norfolk; and the 'Benevolent Medical Society of Essex and Hertfordshire,' founded by Mr. Robert Richardson Newell, of Colchester, originally a surgeon, but afterwards M.D.; and their regulations were studied in founding this Society.

About the middle of March, Mr. Thomas Rendall, then of Nassau Street, but afterwards of Dean Street, Soho, apothecary, joined these two gentlemen in discussing the subject; and in the following month this provisional committee of three was joined in one evening by Dr. Andrew Douglas, of Savile Row, Dr. Denman, of Old Burlington Street, Dr. John Sims, of Paternoster Row, and Dr. Dennison, of Broad Street Buildings.

After six months spent in interesting, privately, other persons in the subject, the Society was regularly constituted at a public meeting called by the following advertisement, inserted in several of the public newspapers:



‘SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

*President:*

SIR GEORGE BAKER, Bart., President of the Royal College of Physicians.

*Treasurers:*

|                      |  |                        |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| THOMAS DENMAN, M.D.  |  | JOHN SIMS, M.D.        |
| ANDREW DOUGLAS, M.D. |  | RICHARD DENNISON, M.D. |

‘On Wednesday, the 29th of October, in the present year, 1788, will be held at the Gray’s Inn Coffee-house, Holborn, at six o’clock in the afternoon, the first GENERAL MEETING of a SOCIETY instituted for the relief of distressed widows and orphans of medical men in London and its vicinity.

‘It is requested that such gentlemen as wish to promote the purposes of this Institution, by becoming members, will be pleased to transmit their names and places of abode to any of the treasurers, or to Mr. Chamberlaine, secretary, No. 29, Aylesbury Street, Clerkenwell, on or before Friday, the 24th of October.

‘Signed by order,

‘W. CHAMBERLAINE, Secretary.’

At this meeting, attended by seventy persons, the following list of Officers and Directors was agreed to:

*President:*

SIR GEORGE BAKER, Bart., F.R.S., F.A.S., Physician to the King, and President to the Royal College of Physicians.

*Vice-Presidents:*

[Six Physicians, Four Surgeons, Two Apothecaries.]

|               |                 |             |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| DR. HEALDE,   | DR. BLANE,      | MR. HUNTER, |
| „ MILMAN,     | SIR W. FORDYCE, | „ BLIZARD,  |
| „ GARTHSHORE, | MR. GRINDALL,   | „ MOORE,    |
| „ LETTSOM,    | „ PITTS,        | „ NEVINSON. |

*Treasurers:*

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| DR. DENMAN, | DR. DENNISON, |
| „ DOUGLAS,  | „ JOHN SIMS.  |



*Registrar :*

DR. HAWES.

*Directors :*

|                   |                |              |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| DR. REYNOLDS,     | MR. W. WALKER, | MR. PUGH,    |
| „ DAVID PITCAIRN, | „ DAVIES,      | „ G. WILSON, |
| „ KNOX,           | „ WATHEN,      | „ RIDOUT,    |
| „ SQUIRE,         | „ MILWARD,     | „ BRUTON,    |
| „ COOPER,         | „ TAYLOR,      | „ ATKINSON,  |
| „ GRIEVE,         | „ WHATELY,     | „ CABBELL.   |
| „ SAVAGE,         | „ PARKINSON,   |              |
| „ BAILLIE,        | „ RENDALL,     |              |

*Secretary :*

MR. W. CHAMBERLAINE.

*Solicitor :*

OKEY BELFOUR, ESQ.

*Trustees :*

RT. HON. EARL OF LEICESTER, SIR JOSEPH BANKS, BART.,  
 ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE, ESQ., M.P.; JAMES VERE, ESQ.;  
 DR. WARREN, and DR. TURTON.

(The two latter, however, never acted, as the Bank of England only allows four Trustees.)

The Court of Directors set itself to work most zealously in making laws, and in electing members, amongst the first twelve of whom was included James Ware, Esq., of Lawrence Lane, to whom, more than to anyone else, is the Society indebted for the pains he took to make it such as his son, Martin Ware, Esq., afterwards President, saw it, and his grandson, James Thomas Ware, Esq., one of the Trustees, now sees it.

Medical men in actual practice alone were admitted members, all quacks being rigorously excluded. The original limits of the Society were those of the Royal College of Physicians in London, and the annual subscription was fixed at one guinea half-yearly. From this there has been no change; but the number of years during which a member must subscribe before



he retains his privilege for life has varied from fifteen years, the original, to twenty-five, the present number. The amount of entrance-fee has also varied ; but the life subscription paid on entrance is still retained at £21 for young members, though lately increased for those of more mature age ; and subscription for a period of one, subsequently of two years, and more recently of three years, has been required to entitle a family to apply for relief.

The following regulations about granting relief were rigidly adhered to during the first fifty years of the Society's existence, viz., that all grants must be applied for in December, or in June, and would be paid in March or September ; a sum of £10 10s. being immediately granted in some cases of extreme distress.

In 1793, Parliament having passed an Act ' for the Protection and Encouragement of Benefit or Friendly Societies,' this Society took advantage thereof ; its laws were revised, and on the 1st of May, 1794, the copy of the laws, signed by seventy-five members, was formally recognised by the Court of Quarter Sessions, and made binding on the members. The spirit of these laws is still acted on.

The income and other provision allowed to widows and orphans by these laws, beyond which no relief could be granted, were as follows :

To widows, the yearly value of £30.

To widows, with children, entirely dependent on their mother, the yearly value of £10 for each child, in addition to the £30 mentioned above.

To orphans having no mother, the yearly value of £15.

The peculiarity of these laws was, that relief might be given to a member himself, if ' totally incapacitated, by disease or infirmity, from attending to or directing his business.' Under this power the Directors ordered, on one occasion, the Treasurer to pay to the Collector £3 3s., being the subscriptions due from a member unfortunately imprisoned for debt. The Treasurer's



receipts and disbursements for this half-year, therefore, are each augmented by the same three guineas, paid out by the Society in order to their reception again in this curious way.

In September, 1807, considerable difficulty having been found in getting together a sufficient number of Directors to transact the business of the Society (a condition of almost invariable occurrence shortly after the establishment of any society), Mr. James Ware, one of the Vice-Presidents, offered £100 Navy Five per Cents. to ensure a regular and punctual attendance of Directors, the idea being that many would attend at the hour named if the fare of a hackney-coach were ensured to them. To this proposal the Society responded, and advanced £99 5s. to purchase another £100 stock; and Dr. Sims gave £10 also. The Society thus became possessed of £200 Navy Five per Cents., producing £10 a year, which was to be equally divided amongst the Directors present at the four quarterly courts from the beginning to the end of the meeting. This amount of Stock has been gradually reduced to £210 New Three per Cents., producing only £6 6s. a year, a diminution of nearly one-half. But it has been regularly distributed, and, though so small, the fact of its distribution still effects the purpose for which it was formed, and affords a curious instance of the efficacy of feeing Directors for the punctuality of attendance.

In this early period of the Society's history the age at which the children of members should become incapable of receiving relief was not specified. This enabled the Society to confer benefit on some adult and even aged 'children' who were in distress; but after many years' trial it was found necessary to strike off entirely this drag upon the Society's funds, and with it went also the power of relieving members during their own lives.

The limits of the Society were, in 1817, made to embrace the entire county of Middlesex.



The income allowed to widows and orphans, with retention of their eligibility to receive relief, was augmented in 1818 to £50 a year for widows; £12 a year additional for each child; and to £25 a year for each orphan whose mother was dead.

Between 1818 and 1840 a law stood on the books authorizing relief in the case of a bachelor, or widowed member without children, to his widowed mother or sister, living with him and acting as his housekeeper; but only one application was made, and in that case the sister could not be considered the member's housekeeper, as he had resided officially within the walls of a hospital.

The most rigid economy was always practised by this Society—its object being to give as much as possible *in relief*; consequently, the meetings were always held in a room hired each time for the purpose, and not in any building rented as an office. The books and papers—as few as possible—were kept by the Secretary for the time being; and as there were only three secretaries in the first sixty-seven years, the inconvenience arising from this want of offices was not very great.

In 1839 the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society kindly allowed the Society to hold its four quarterly Courts of Directors in Berners Street, which was a great accommodation and saving of expense; and in 1852, the business of the Society appearing to require permanent premises, it was resolved to lease two rooms in the house of that society, where all courts and committees could meet, and where the Secretary should attend at certain hours to give information on any subject connected with the Society. This attendance is regularly given, each Wednesday and Friday, from four to five o'clock.

The average cost of the management of the Society during the first sixty-four years came to about £127 5s. a year, including brokerage on investments, a charge now entirely remitted owing to the great kindness and



liberality of Messrs. H. Tudor and Son, the brokers, who by declining to make any brokerage charges have become large benefactors to this Society, of which they are enrolled as honorary members. The average cost afterwards became largely increased, and at the present time is about £220 per annum.

The advantages of enrolment as a Friendly Society, under the Act 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, having been urged upon the Society, and the former enrolment at the Quarter Sessions at Clerkenwell in 1794 being remembered, the Society was again enrolled in 1842, under the 10th Geo. IV., and became possessed of the following advantages: viz., deposit of funds with the Commissioners for Reduction of the National Debt, at an interest of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pence per centum per diem, or £3 16s. per cent. per annum; exemption from stamp duties; and settlement of disputes by arbitration. The former of these advantages has been of most essential service to the Society by rapidly increasing its capital; and its present prosperity is owing, amongst other causes, in great measure to this circumstance. A more recent Act of Parliament, passed in 1850, however, has somewhat lessened the advantage which the Society was gaining from its enrolment in 1842, by preventing any further deposit of money with the Commissioners for Reduction of the National Debt, unless the Society limits its grants to £30 a year; all existing privileges being, however, retained. Hence the Society divided its accounts into two; one having reference to the members on the books at the passing of the Act, and to all widows and orphans of these or former members receiving, or hereafter to receive, relief from the Society; the other, a new account for acknowledging the subscriptions of new members, all donations and legacies, with the investments of capital from these sources, and the relief of the widows and orphans arising from such 'new' members: the necessary expenses of the Society being payable indifferently from either account.



In 1851, it being felt that the laws required revision, a committee was appointed to take the subject into consideration, and a circular was sent to the members, requesting them to forward to the committee suggestions for the improvement of the Society. This committee took a considerable time in preparing their report, which contained many recommendations. Among those accepted by the Society of the most importance were, the granting of a sum to orphans under fifteen years of age, to enable them to start in some line of business, instead of the former strictly apprentice-fee;\* the re-arrangement of the half-years, to meet certain alterations necessarily made in the routine of business; and the appointment at each quarterly Court of Directors of three Visitors, who shall assist the Secretary in carrying on the business of the Society during the intervals of the meetings of the Directors, and inquire into the merits of each new case of application for relief. This regulation affords great advantage to those seeking relief, as the case can be inquired into at once, an immediate grant, if necessary, given, and a report as to the circumstances presented to the next Court of Directors: so that in all probability relief of a substantial kind can be granted within three months, or even within the month, should the widow apply immediately on the death of her husband; whereas formerly, from three to six months might, and often did, elapse before the first half-yearly grant, *payable in advance*, could be voted. This perhaps is the greatest improvement made in the laws of the Society since its foundation, and is a practical evidence of the truth of the adage, 'Bis dat qui cito dat.'

There is one circumstance connected with the history of the Society which may fairly be referred to here, viz., the foundation of 'Chamberlaine's Mite.' This was established by Mr. Chamberlaine in 1817, on

\* This has been considered a great boon by those receiving relief, and is one from which the Directors believe that much real benefit has resulted.



his resigning the office of Secretary, by the purchase in the Four per Cents. of £11 3s. 9d. stock, which he desired should accumulate till, by repurchase and by gift, it should amount to £100 stock, the dividends to be then expended upon a 'frugal supper' for the Treasurers and Auditors; not less than 40s. to be expended each half-year, and not to be held in any room which is charged for as well as the supper. This donation, which Mr. Chamberlaine hoped might reach £100 stock in two or three years, has only this year, 1888, reached that amount, and the interest become available for the above purpose.

In recording the history of the Society, mention must not be forgotten of the benefit it received from the successive patronage of their R. H. the Dukes of Kent, Sussex, and Cambridge. The Duke of Kent took a very warm interest in the Society, and not only promoted it by his own exertions, but bequeathed his kindly disposition to his younger brothers, who in turn became its zealous patrons.

The Society of Apothecaries deserves also an especial notice; for, although possessing a fund for relieving the widows of members of their own body, they annually, from 1819 to 1854, both inclusive, gave the Society £15 15s. In 1855 the benefaction was reduced to £5 5s. annually.

Two especial legacies also require notice; viz., in 1839, by John Milward, Esq., of Artillery Place, Finsbury, of £2,500 Consols, and £2,500 Reduced, less £250 stock on each for legacy duty. This Mr. Milward was a former member of the Society, and probably one of its earliest Directors. He subsequently became a Police Magistrate, and left legacies to a number of charitable societies, amounting to £84,000.

The second legacy is also of £5,000, but duty free. It was bequeathed by Thomas Copeland, Esq., of Cavendish Square, one of our members, who died in December, 1855.

This legacy was, in the year 1857, by Bye-Law lxxix., devoted to the founding of the Copeland Fund 'For



granting to any widow or orphan, already in the receipt of the Society's ordinary relief, extraordinary relief in special circumstances of unusual distress, such as blindness, paralysis, insanity, severe disabling accident, or grave permanent disease.' In this manner the interest of the Copeland legacy has been the means of alleviating very great misery and distress; the number of recipients of course varies greatly from time to time.

A third sum should be alluded to here, although it was not strictly a legacy. It was a donation in the year 1803 of £1,500 Consols, being part of a legacy of £100,000 by Isaac Hawkins, Esq., deceased, to his executors, to be divided amongst such societies as they should think fit; and it fortunately happened that one of these executors, Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq., was one of the Trustees of this Society, then fifteen years old.

The Society were much gratified some years ago by a gift of £50 from the son of a widow who had received relief, at her desire, out of her savings. This acknowledgment of benefits received is extremely pleasing, and honourable to all parties.

The following list of legacies and benefactions, carried up to the present date, will prove that warm interest in the work of this Society, and sympathy with the families of those members of our profession who have been cut off in the midst of their work, and have left their families unprovided for, have not died out of the hearts of the benevolent, whether themselves members, or only acquainted with the profession by having experienced the kind professional care and skill of their own immediate attendants. Among the most notable of the more recent legacies and benefactions will be noticed those of Sir Charles Clarke, £500; Mrs. Jane Lyon, £500; Mrs. Hannah Brackenbury, £1,000; Alexander Barker, Esq., £1,500; Rev. Henry Charles Morgan, £1,000; Mrs. Mary Davis Parker, £500; Miss Harriet Hurst, £500; Dr. Harvey Kimpton Owen, £300; and Sir Erasmus Wilson, £5,000.



## LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

|      |  | £    | s. | d. |
|------|--|------|----|----|
| 1791 | Christ. Ridout, Esq. Lavender Hill (Consols)   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1803 | Executors of Isaac Hawkins, Esq. (Consols)   | 1500 | 0  | 0  |
| 1812 | Maxwell Garthshore, M.D. ....  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1814 | James Ware, Esq. .... (Consols)  | 200  | 0  | 0  |
| (?)  | James Hogben, Esq. ....  | 21   | 0  | 0  |
|      | Anthony Fothergill, M.D. .... £500   |      |    |    |
|      | Received in 1821 .....   | 421  | 10 | 0  |
|      | " " 1822 .....   | 140  | 15 | 3  |
| 1819 | Richard Haworth, Esq. ....   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1821 | S. Foart Simmonds, M.D. .... (Free)  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1823 | Matthew Bailie, M.D. ....  | 300  | 0  | 0  |
| 1830 | John Milward, Esq. .... (Consols)  | 2500 | 0  | 0  |
|      | " " " (Reduced)  | 2500 | 0  | 0  |
|      | Additional in 1833, by order of Court of<br>Chancery .....   | 0    | 16 | 6  |
| 1833 | W. Henry Church, Esq. .... (Free)  | 300  | 0  | 0  |
| 1838 | P. H. Leathes, Esq. .... (Reduced)   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1843 | — Stubbs, Esq., by G. Beaman, Esq.<br>(Free) .....   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1845 | Mrs. Bailie. .... (Free)   | 50   | 0  | 0  |
| 1847 | Dr. Kerrison .....   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1849 | Thos. Spencer, Esq. .... (Free)  | 500  | 0  | 0  |
|      | R. R. Pennington, Esq. .... (Free)   | 105  | 0  | 0  |
| 1851 | Executor of Mrs. Owen. ....  | 50   | 0  | 0  |
| 1855 | T. A. Hewson, Esq. .... (nominally £1000)  | 513  | 11 | 3  |
| 1856 | Sir B. F. Outram, M.D., C.B. ....  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Thomas Copeland, Esq. .... (Free)  | 5000 | 0  | 0  |
| 1858 | Sir C. M. Clarke, Bart, M.D., <i>President</i><br>(Stock) .....  | 500  | 0  | 0  |
| 1860 | Edward Baker, Esq. ....  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1861 | Edward U. Berry, Esq. (Donation from)<br>Legatee and Almoner to Richard Hall,<br>Esq. ....             | 50   | 0  | 0  |
| 1862 | George Darling, M.D. .... (Free)   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1867 | George Arnison, Esq. ....  | 19   | 19 | 0  |
| 1869 | William D. Child, Esq. (Donation, part of<br>the residue of the Estate of G. E. Aldred,<br>M.D.) ..... | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1869 | Everard Augustus Brande, Esq., V.P.<br>(£100 Stock, duty free) .....                                   | 91   | 17 | 6  |
| 1872 | Mrs. Ann Hammond (£200 Stock, duty free)   | 185  | 0  | 0  |
| 1872 | Martin Ware, Esq., <i>President</i> (duty free)  | 100  | 0  | 0  |



|      |   | £    | s. | d. |
|------|---|------|----|----|
| 1873 | Mrs. Jane Lyon .....(duty free)   | 500  | 0  | 0  |
| 1873 | Miss Hannah Brackenbury (duty free)   | 1000 | 0  | 0  |
| 1875 | Alexander Barker, Esq., less duty .....   | 1500 | 0  | 0  |
| 1875 | Thomas F. Chilver, Esq., less duty.....   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1876 | Edward Absalom, Esq. (Executor of John Whittaker, Esq.) .....   | 25   | 0  | 0  |
| 1876 | Lady Fisher (by desire of the late Sir John Fisher) .....   | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1876 | The Rev. Henry Charles Morgan (duty free)   | 1000 | 0  | 0  |
| 1877 | James Graham, Esq., Donation from Executors of, part of residue of estate bequeathed for charitable purposes.....   | 250  | 0  | 0  |
| 1878 | Mrs. Mary Davis Parker ..... (duty free)  | 500  | 0  | 0  |
| 1879 | Miss Harriet Hurst, Donation from Executors of .....(Stock)   | 500  | 0  | 0  |
| 1883 | Henry Sterry, Esq. V.P., less duty .....  | 200  | 0  | 0  |
| 1883 | John Allnut, Esq., per Mrs. Allnut, part of a sum left for charitable purposes .....  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1885 | Nathaniel Rogers, M.D.....  | 100  | 0  | 0  |
| 1886 | Miss Ann Lyne, part of sum left for charitable purposes, per Dr. Stokes .....   | 50   | 0  | 0  |
| 1886 | Harvey Kimpton Owen, M.D., V.P. ....  | 300  | 0  | 0  |
| 1887 | Sir Erasmus Wilson, V.P.....  | 5000 | 0  | 0  |
| 1888 | The Estate of Mrs. Douglas, per Lord Shaftesbury .....  | 400  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Portion of bequest in will of Henry Quinn, Esq., of Richmond, Surrey, of £50,000, to charitable institutions in London or its neighbourhood, per William Mathers Hepper, Esq., Executor ..... (less duty) | 450  | 0  | 0  |

The trustees of the Cholmondeley Charities have also been liberal. Two other gifts should be mentioned, viz., that in 1799, Mr. Whateley announced that he had dedicated to the Society his 'Observations on Wounds and Ulcers of the Legs,' and that he should give the profits to the Society. This he apparently did at once, by a donation of £20. The other, a gift in 1842, of seventy-five copies of the portrait of Bransby Blake Cooper, Esq., to be sold for the benefit of the Society, at a price not less than a guinea and a half each.

No relief was solicited till five years had elapsed



from the foundation of the Society, and then the Directors endeavoured to accommodate, as far as possible, their grants to the necessities of the different cases brought before them. There appears to have been no theory formed, that such a sum of money should be given to each person; but it being decided that a certain sum should be expended in relief, the several applicants received such portions as seemed best suited to their individual needs.

It having been already shown that no definite sum was, in former times, considered the amount to be voted, generally, to a widow or child, it is impossible to state with accuracy the largest grants, and the smallest; but the largest and smallest amounts in all paid to a family are as follows, viz.: £1,654 16s. 8d. to a widow with five children, given during a period of fifty years, of which £252 was for the children alone; and £12 to a widow alone, for one half-year. Another widow, Mrs. S——, whose husband was member for nine years only, and paid in all the small sum of eighteen guineas, received for herself and family the large total of £2,272. The widow who received assistance for the longest period was a Mrs. B——, for fifty-three years. There is another widow, also a Mrs. B——, at the present time, who has been a recipient of relief for thirty-nine years. The largest amount which has ever been given in one year to a family is £107, being for a widow and six children; this would gradually diminish as the children grew up. Since 1856, the largest amounts paid to any one family of widow and children in one year have been to Mrs. C—— and eight children, £81; to Mrs. L—— and four children, £80.

The largest and longest duration of grants to one family of children is £495 to seven children in fourteen years. Two exceptional cases of imbecile orphans have occurred—one received annual grants from June, 1831 to January, 1874, in all for forty-three years. The other, from 1802 to the end of 1861, making just sixty years, during which time his unhappy existence



was rendered more comfortable by the grants of this Society.

The following account of a family relieved by the Society is entered on the minutes in 1819, and is of sufficient interest to be extracted. The first son had become a lieutenant on half-pay in the army, with other occupations, so as to support himself comfortably. The second son was a managing clerk in London to a mercantile house in Liverpool. The third went as Head Grecian from Christ's Hospital to Cambridge, and was then a master in the Hospital. The fourth son had been presented to Christ's Hospital, through his brother's good conduct, and had been fitted out for mercantile employment at sea. The fifth and youngest son was still at school. The first daughter was a governess in a gentleman's family, the second 'finishing' for the same occupation, principally at the expense of her brothers.

These seven children received in all £388 10s. from the Society.

Between 1793 and 1842 six members received relief for themselves, the aggregate sum being £154 18s., of which three guineas was issued as payment of subscriptions, and therefore credited again to the Society. During the same period £571 10s. was given in apprentice-fees to children. This form of relief has now, however, entirely ceased to be given.

One of the most important events in the history of this Society was its obtaining a Royal Charter, and thus ceasing to be enrolled as a Friendly Society. A committee in 1861 first reported in favour of this step; but it was at that time thought advisable by the Court of Directors to postpone any action with regard to this matter. In 1862, however, upon the strong recommendation of Mr. Tidd-Pratt, the Directors determined on applying for a Charter; and in 1863 a General Meeting of the Society confirmed their resolution, and a draft Charter and Petition to the Crown was adopted. The Charter was obtained in the



following year, when the name of the Society was altered to its present title; and the money which had been in the hands of the Commissioners for Reduction of the National Debt (as those of a Friendly Society) were invested in Government Stocks and Railway Debentures in the names of trustees. The cost of the Charter was £316; and a piece of plate, value £52 10s., was presented to Mr. Upton, in recognition of the friendly trouble he had taken in obtaining the Charter for the Society. After this, a committee was appointed to revise laws, and new bye-laws were made in accordance with the new Charter. These bye-laws have from time to time received the careful consideration of the Court of Directors, and have been remodelled according as they were discovered to be inefficient, harsh, or unjust in their working, or were thought capable of improvement. The principal alterations took place in 1872, 1874, 1879, and in 1882, when the working of the Society was extended, both in its area and in the liberal spirit with which the cases of distress were arranged to be dealt with. It would be unadvisable in such a sketch as this to enter into the detail of these alterations. Suffice it to say that Admission Fees were done away with, and the opportunity given to any member of five years' standing, becoming unable to continue his subscription through illness, to have his name placed on a separate list and future payments remitted; so that his family, in case of his death, may receive relief proportionate to the number of subscriptions paid, with regard to the maximum number required by the bye-laws. The standard of independent income belonging to applicants for relief was considerably raised, as also was the age up to which assistance might be given to orphans.

The whole of the laws may, however, be obtained from the Secretary at any time, and further notice here is unnecessary.

The working of the Society may be shortly summed up as follows:



It is managed by a President, twelve Vice-Presidents, three Treasurers (one of whom is 'acting'), and twenty-four Directors, elected by the members annually, the Directors remaining in office during four years only, and then not being eligible for re-election during one year.

The Court of Directors meets quarterly on the second Wednesday in January, April, July, and October.

An Annual General Meeting of the members of the Society is held in May, when the minutes of the Court of Directors, and Treasurer's accounts, are read.

The members are elected by the Directors at the quarterly meetings, after their applications and recommendations have been considered. They pay one guinea twice a year for twenty-five years, or one sum, varying according to their age, as a life subscription.

For form of proposal, see Appendix.

Applicants for relief must be the widows or orphans of members of three years' standing at least, prior to their decease, and coming within the following limits, viz.: widows, with an income or provision not exceeding the annual value of £80; children, of £15; and orphans, of £40; with a limit of age in children to sixteen years, in orphans of eighteen years. Both children and orphans may apply for a sum in aid of self-maintenance under sixteen years of age. The amount to be granted is to be decided by the Court of Directors, and the declaration (for the form of which see the Appendix) must be verified by two members of the profession, or, in some cases, by the clergyman or magistrate.



# PRESIDENTS FROM FOUNDATION TO PRESENT TIME.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Sir George Baker, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., A.D.               | 1788 to 1809 |
| James Ware, Esq.....                                      | 1810 „ 1815  |
| Matthew Bailie, M.D., F.R.S. ....                         | 1815 „ 1823  |
| Sir Henry Halford, Bart., M.D., F.R.S. ...                | 1823 „ 1844  |
| Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., M.D.,<br>F.R.S. .... | 1844 „ 1857  |
| Thomas Arthur Stone, Esq. ....                            | 1857 „ 1864  |
| Martin Ware, Esq. ....                                    | 1864 „ 1867  |
| Sir George Burrows, Bart., M.D., F.R.S...                 | 1867 „ 1884  |
| Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S. ....                       | 1884         |

## LIST OF INVESTED FUNDS BELONGING TO THE SOCIETY.

| £      | s. | d. |  |
|--------|----|----|--|
| 41,742 | 14 | 10 | New 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Consolidated Stock.          |
| 6,034  | 0  | 3  | Metropolitan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consolidated Stock. |
| 5,728  | 5  | 2  | Birmingham 3 per cent. Stock.                              |

### RAILWAY DEBENTURES.

|       |   |   |                                    |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 6,000 | 0 | 0 | London, Brighton, and South Coast. |
| 6,000 | 0 | 0 | North Eastern.                     |
| 6,000 | 0 | 0 | London and South Western.          |
| 6,000 | 0 | 0 | Caledonian.                        |
| 6,000 | 0 | 0 | Lancashire and Yorkshire.          |

### WARE FUND.

|     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 210 | 0 | 0 | New 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Consolidated Stock. |
|-----|---|---|---|

### CHAMBERLAINE FUND.

|     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 101 | 6 | 8 | New 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Consolidated Stock. |
|-----|---|---|---|



## APPENDIX.

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### PROPOSED MEMBERS' DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that I am desirous of becoming a Member of the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men and that I am in good health.

Name,

Qualification,

Address,

Age last Birthday,

Date,

---

### CERTIFICATE.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do, from our personal knowledge, recommend  
as of good health, and a proper person to become a Member of  
this Society.

Signed,

} Two Registered  
} Medical  
} Practitioners.

Date,

*This declaration to be sent, post free, to the Secretary, at the Office of the Society two clear weeks before the first Wednesday in January, April, July, or October.*



## WIDOW'S DECLARATION.

*To the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Directors of the  
Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men.*

MRS. \_\_\_\_\_ Aged \_\_\_\_\_ Years, hereby makes  
DECLARATION, That she is the Widow of \_\_\_\_\_  
who was formerly in practice at \_\_\_\_\_  
and lately residing at \_\_\_\_\_  
a Member of this Society since the year \_\_\_\_\_, and a Member at  
the time of his death, which took place on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

That she is not married to any other person.

That all the Income or Provision she has, except what is or may be granted to her from the funds of the Society, does not amount to more than £                      per annum, and that she is therefore under the necessity of soliciting the kind Assistance of the Society.

Signature,  
Address.

Date, \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATE

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, certify that we believe the above Declaration to be strictly true.

Signed

} Two Registered  
} Medical  
} Practitioners.

N.B.—If the Applicant resides in the County of Middlesex, or within the limits of the London District Post, the Declaration must be signed by two Registered Medical Practitioners. If beyond the above limits, the Declaration may be verified by a Justice of the Peace or by the Minister of the Parish in which the Applicant resides. If residing out of the United Kingdom, the Declaration must be verified before one of Her Majesty's Consuls or a Magistrate of the district in which the Applicant resides.



DECLARATION FOR CHILDREN OR ORPHANS.

*To the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Directors of  
the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men.*

\* State the Names and Ages of the That Children.

hereby makes DECLARATION,  
Mother  
is the { Legal Guardian } of\*  
Representative }

Children of the late  
formerly in practice at  
and lately residing at  
a Member of the Society since the year,      and a Member at the  
time of his death, which took place on the      of

That the said children reside with

That they are dependent on \_\_\_\_\_ for support, there being no certain Income or Provision whatever, from any source, on their behalf, except\*

\* If any child has a separate maintenance from any source it must be stated.

therefore under the necessity of soliciting the kind Assistance of the Society on their behalf.

Signature of Applicant,  
Address.

Date,

CERTIFICATE.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, certify that we believe the above to be strictly true.

Date, \_\_\_\_\_

Signed,

} Two Registered  
Medical  
Practitioners.

N.B.—If the Applicant resides in the County of Middlesex, or within seven miles of the General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, the Declaration must be signed by two Members of the Society. If beyond the above limits, the Declaration may be verified by one of Her Majesty's Consuls or Justices of the Peace; or by the Minister of the Parish in which the Applicant resides.



