

Report of the Committee of Contributors to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, appointed to enquire into the estate of the hospital, by the General Court of Contributors : held on the 5th of January, 1818.

Contributors

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Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : Printed by J. Hay and Co. ..., 1818.

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COMMITTEE OF CONTRIBUTORS

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TO

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh,

APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO

THE ESTATE OF THE HOSPITAL,

BY THE

GENERAL COURT OF CONTRIBUTORS,

Held on the 5th of January,

1818.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY J. HAY AND CO.
KIDDRY STREET,

1818.

REPORT

COMMITTEE OF CONTROLLERS

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

THE STATE OF THE INFIRMARY

GENERAL COURT OF CONTROLLERS

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY J. W. ARNOLD,
ROBERT STREET.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of GENERAL COURT of CONTRI-
BUTORS, 5th January 1818.

“ THAT a Committee be appointed, before whom shall be laid all Accounts, Books, and Records, relating to the management of the Infirmary, in the preceding year; with instructions to enquire into the state of the Hospital, and any matters that have been complained of in the domestic management of the House; and to report their opinion in writing to an adjourned General Court of Contributors, to be held on the first Monday of February next.”

COMMITTEE.

The Right Honourable Lord BALGAT.

The Reverend Principal BAIRD.

Sir WILLIAM RAE, Bart.

WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT, Esq.

ALEXANDER DUNCAN, Esq. W. S.

JAMES DUNDAS, Esq. W. S.

FRANCIS JEFFREY, Esq. Advocate.

ROBERT DUNDAS, Esq. W. S.

JOHN FRANCIS ERSKNIE, Esq. of Marr.

THOMAS THOMSON, Esq. Advocate.

ALEXANDER MUNRO, Esq.

Lieutenant-General MAXWELL.

Mr WIGHAM.

Sir WILLIAM FETTES, Bart.

JOHN CRAIG, Esq. Merchant.

JOHN ARCHIBALD MURRAY, Esq. Advocate.

LEONARD HORNER, Esq.

ADAM MAITLAND, Esq. George's Square.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of GENERAL COURT of COMMONS
Held on 25th January 1818.

That a Committee be appointed, before whom shall be laid all Accounts, Books and Records, relating to the management of the Infirmary, in the preceding year; and that the Committee be empowered to enquire into the state of the Infirmary, and any matters that have been complained of in the domestic management of the House; and to report their opinion in writing to an adjourned General Court of Commons, to be held on the first Monday of February next.

COMMITTEES.

The Right Honourable Lord Brougham.

The Reverend Principal Baines.

Sir William Hall, Bart.

William Jameson, Esq.

Alexander Dumas, Esq. W. S.

James Dumas, Esq. W. S.

Francis Jervis, Esq. Advocate.

John Jameson, Esq. Esq. of Warr.

Thomas Thomson, Esq.

Alexander Murray, Esq.

Lieutenant-General Maxwell.

Mr. W. Jameson.

Sir William Hall, Bart.

John Craig, Esq. Merchant.

John Archibald Murray, Esq. Advocate.

Edward Horner, Esq.

Adam Maitland, Esq. George's square.

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REPORT.

IN reporting to the Court of Contributors, the result of the inquiries which the Committee were instructed to make into “ the state of the Hospital, and particularly into the matters “ which had been complained of in the domestic management of “ the House ;”—the Committee beg leave in the *first* place to state what has been the general course and scope of their proceedings, and the limits within which they have judged it expedient to confine their investigations.

The subjects to which the Committee conceived it to be the intention of the Contributors that their inquiries should be directed were principally three ;—namely, the state of the Hospital as to cleanliness, and other circumstances in the domestic arrangements and economy of the House, immediately connected with the personal comfort of the Patients ;—the state of the ordinary diet, as actually administered, both as to its quality and its quantity ;—and the general character and conduct of those subordinate attendants in the House, to whose personal care and attention in the absence of the Medical Officers, the Patients are principally entrusted.

In the view of obtaining the requisite information on these several heads, as well as on every collateral point affecting the actual state of the Infirmary, the Committee determined to resort to the best and most unsuspected testimony within their reach ; and have accordingly obtained the declarations of the Medical Officers who are now connected with the Establishment, or who have been connected with it within the last few years, with the exception of such only as were either no longer resident in Edinburgh, or were prevented by indisposition from attending the Committee : And in order that the examination of those gentlemen might be rendered as complete and useful as possible, the Managers were requested to depute some of their number to be present on all such occasions.

The examination of the Medical Gentlemen, connected with the Infirmary, has proved much more laborious, and has extended to a much greater length, than the Committee could have anticipated ; and on deliberately considering the import and effect of the voluminous evidence which had thus been obtained, the Committee, for reasons which appeared to them invincible, and which are referred to in some of the Minutes of their daily proceedings, determined to abstain from the examination of Nurses, Patients, and Servants. In limiting their Investigations to the testimony chiefly of the Medical Officers, and to certain written documents bearing upon the subject of inquiry, the Committee apprehend that enough has been done to enable the Court of Contributors to form a useful opinion on the main points of the case ; and in now laying the whole of the evidence before the Contributors, accompanied with such other documents as appeared to them of importance, the Committee shall confine their observations on the result of this Inquiry within very narrow bounds.

The Committee conceive it to be almost unnecessary to offer their testimony to the excellence of the medical treatment of the patients in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh ; for they believe it

to be universally acknowledged, that from the arrangements which have been long established, the patients in this Hospital receive every aid from medical skill and experience which the most wealthy individuals could have it in their power to command; and that there is probably no institution of the kind, where the prime object of healing the sick and diseased has been prosecuted with more eminent ability or success.

In evidence of this general statement, the Committee are happy in being able to concur with the Managers in appealing to the very low average number of the deaths that have occurred in the Royal Infirmary; and they have much satisfaction in directing the attention of the Contributors and of the public to that fact, not only as it bears on the medical conduct of the Hospital, but as it may serve to demonstrate, that whatever defects may have existed at any time in the domestic economy or arrangements of the House, these never have been of a nature or extent that has perceptibly interfered with the great and primary purpose of the Institution, as a receptacle for the sick and diseased among the lower classes of the community.

At the same time, on a review of the evidence, both written and parole, which has come under their consideration, the Committee are of opinion, that there have existed some errors and defects in the ordinary domestic economy of the house; and that the established arrangements have failed to prevent the occasional occurrence of circumstances injurious to the comfort of Patients, and affecting the general character and repute of this most interesting and most useful adjunct to the great medical school of Edinburgh.

In stating this as the result of their inquiries, the Committee are fully impressed with the conviction, that the evils which may have existed, have arisen even in spite of great zeal, anxiety, and active benevolence, on the part of the Ordinary Managers in the

discharge of their official duty. Of the disposition of the Managers to rectify neglects and disorders, when aware of their existence, the Committee do not entertain the slightest doubt; and it is with sincere satisfaction they have it in their power to state, that for a considerable time past, the Managers appear to have been diligently employed in preparing and introducing various practical improvements in the state and conduct of the House. Whatever defects have formerly existed, or may yet exist, the Committee apprehend that these ought to be regarded as the almost insensible growth of a system, imperfect in some of its subordinate checks and means of controul, rather than as the consequences of culpable oversight in any of the higher classes of Officers connected with the Establishment.

The particular defects to which the Committee would beg leave to direct the attention of the Contributors, as appearing in evidence, are the following:—

1. It appears, that at no very remote period, the state of the Bedding in the House was faulty; and that cleanliness and comfort in that article were not uniformly or effectually secured. To this object, however, the attention of the Managers has been directed; and the Committee have much satisfaction in reporting; that in the course of the last year such measures had been adopted and carried into execution, as appear to have left little or no ground for present complaint on this head.

2. It appears that the requisite degree of attention has not been paid to the cleanliness of the persons of the Patients; and the Committee beg leave to suggest to the Managers, that some more efficient regulation on that head ought to be adopted and enforced. They may further submit it as a subject for their consideration, how far it may be practicable to have a sufficient supply of body linen for those Patients, the scantiness of whose provision in that respect seems at present to preclude the possibility of en-

sureing personal cleanliness.—As connected with this branch of the economy of the House, the Committee may add, that in the several Wards of the Infirmary, the ordinary supply of furniture and utensils has of late been enlarged; and that a set of baths for the use of patients are in progress.

3. On the subject of diet, it appears in evidence, that although the regulations respecting it have not been reduced into tables, as in many other Hospitals, yet for many years back there has been a known system and routine for the ordinary diet of the several classes of Patients, which appears to have been adopted and continued with the approbation of the Medical Advisers of the House. It farther appears, that in the general arrangements for procuring articles of food of the best quality, there does not exist any defect. At the same time, on a review of the evidence before them, the Committee are of opinion, that in the preparation of the food of the House, as well as in the quantities of it actually served out to the Patients, the practice of late years has occasionally erred on the side of a too rigid economy;—the natural consequence of which has been to aggravate the extent and effect of those irregularities, which unavoidably attach to the daily preparation and distribution of food for some hundreds of individuals. To this important subject, however, the attention of the Managers and of the Medical Officers has been directed for a considerable time past; and the Committee shall merely express their hope, that their deliberations will lead to the adoption of regular Diet Tables, such as seem to be generally in use in other Hospitals of this description; and that in the actual administration of their ordinary diet, there will be left to the Patients, and their friends no apology or pretence for introducing into the wards supplies of additional food, in violation of positive rule, and of the injunctions imposed on the ordinary Attendants of the House.

4. On the subject of diet, the Committee beg leave further to offer it as their opinion, that in the mode of serving it out to the patients, a due degree of attention has not been paid to cleanliness and comfort. To the greater number of Patients who resort to this establishment, it is not a great deal in this respect that can be required as essentially necessary for their comfort and accommodation; and the Committee feel assured, from recent observation, that to this subject, the attention of the Managers is sufficiently awake.

5. From the concurring testimony of all those connected with the Hospital, it evidently appears, that there has existed the utmost difficulty in procuring the service of Nurses, whose character and habits are such as to ensure regularity and fidelity in the discharge of their laborious and disagreeable duties. It is unquestionably to the low qualifications of a great proportion of this class of attendants, that the most offensive defects in the state of the Hospital have been chiefly owing; and it appears to the Committee to be a subject deserving and requiring the most serious consideration, how far it may be truly practicable to engage the services of a better description of Nurses than heretofore. The difficulties which may attend the attempt, the Committee have no inclination to diminish or disguise; and without meaning to prescribe the fittest course to be adopted by the Managers, they will merely beg leave to submit, that unless the rate of wages paid to Nurses, shall exceed that of ordinary domestic servants in the middle classes of society, it will be impossible to draw into this laborious and disagreeable line of service, any individuals but such as from character and habits are nearly unfit for every other.

6. On the subject of Cleanliness and Comfort, the Committee have only further to observe, That defects in those respects appear to have existed in a greater degree in what is call-

ed the Lock Ward, than in any other part of the House. For this it would not perhaps be difficult to assign a probable cause; but the Committee feel more anxious to state it as their opinion, that it would redound to the general credit and repute of the Establishment, and perhaps to the advantage of this unhappy class of Patients, that they should be removed into a house completely detached from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

On a general review of the Evidence, the Committee apprehend, that the Contributors will concur with them in thinking, that while there appear to have existed defects in the state and arrangements of the Royal Infirmary, not undeserving of their notice, and of the serious consideration of those to whom the ordinary management of the Institution has been committed, yet that the complaints on those heads which had gone abroad, have been in some instances exaggerated much beyond what the facts now in evidence appear to justify, while in some other instances they are unsupported or disproved. In matters of this kind, a great deal of mis-statement is but too common, and must be carefully guarded against in forming a fair and useful opinion on the subject of the present enquiry; yet it cannot be either necessary or useful to disguise what appears to be the prevailing opinion of the Medical Gentlemen who have been examined, and who have recently visited other Hospitals, that not many months ago the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh was, in point of Cleanliness and general Attention to the Comforts of the Patients, inferior to most other Hospitals which they had seen; and that the improvements in its domestic economy and arrangements by which it may now challenge a more favourable opinion, have not been dated beyond the middle of the last year. At the sametime, it is fit to bear in mind, that in almost every other hospital of which the Committee have received any information, the rate of expence bestowed on the support of the establishment exceeds that of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

While such appears to be the fact, and while at the same time the Committee feel the deepest conviction, that the ordinary Managers have been actuated by a degree of zeal for the welfare of the Institution, which could not be exceeded by any other individuals in their situation, it has presented itself to the Committee, as an observation of the utmost importance, that the existing arrangements and course of proceeding in the management of this Institution, cannot possibly have been such as to bring fairly, fully, and promptly, under the notice of the Managers, the errors and defects which, from time to time, may be generated and suffered to spring up in the practical details of the Establishment. And looking, as they have anxiously done, to the real evidence of the case, as well as to the opinions of the Medical Officers of the Hospital, the Committee feel no hesitation in offering it as their opinion, that there has not hitherto existed a sufficient facility of *official* intercourse between the Medical attendants of the Hospital, and the Ordinary Managers; and though not prepared to propose any complete and regular plan, the Committee would beg leave to suggest, that the communication of the observations and sentiments of the Medical Officers, ought not to be left to depend on casual intercourse, or to be thrown into indirect and circuitous channels; but that at the stated meetings of the Managers, and certainly not less than once in every quarter, the Physicians and Surgeons of the House ought, *ex officio*, to be present, for the purpose of deliberation on the state of the Hospital; and that the Clerks, and inferior medical attendants, should be required to record whatever may, from time to time, occur to them as calling for attention or correction, in order that the information thus afforded may be brought under the notice of the Managers, with the utmost facility and certainty.

The Committee do not venture to predict, that the arrangements now suggested will of themselves be fully sufficient to pre-

vent the recurrence of those grounds of complaint to which they have adverted; and they are of opinion, that in the system of mutual controul among the inferior officers and servants of the establishment, some new and additional provisions will be required.

In speaking of the existing arrangements under which the Royal Infirmary has been governed, the Committee must be permitted to observe, that in the annual election of Managers, (when according to the Bye-laws of the Corporation, not less than four, and not more than six of their number should be changed,) the uniform practice has been to throw the whole of the change into the class of Extraordinary Managers; a description of civil officers who, by other arrangements, and in actual practice, have been reduced nearly to absolute insignificance. While the Committee, the Contributors, and the Public, cannot fail to be aware, and to acknowledge, that the present Ordinary Managers cannot possibly be replaced by others, who, as individuals, are more amply entitled to their utmost confidence and gratitude for their generous and disinterested services; the Committee are of opinion, that in the perpetual re-election of the same individuals, a great practical error has been committed; and that in the present, as in every analogous case, the natural, though perhaps unforeseen consequence of the system has been, to intercept and annihilate a great deal of individual activity and zeal which might have been brought to bear on the prosperity of the Institution; and to prevent or destroy, at numberless points, that immediate contact with the public, without which no institution, dependent on public favour and support, can hope to maintain its ground.

To this conclusion the Committee have been drawn in part, by attending to the present state of the Ordinary Funds of the Royal Infirmary; which, notwithstanding the prudence and economy employed in the management, have been found scarcely adequate to the increasing expenditure of the esta-

blishment. On comparing the actual income and actual expenditure, it manifestly appears to have been the anxious and benevolent purpose of the Managers, to extend the benefits of the Institution to the greatest number of individuals whom the House was capable of receiving; and during the last year of epidemical sickness, the demands upon the Charity have of course been more numerous and urgent than perhaps at the any former period. On this account it is not without anxiety that the Committee look forward to the possible adoption of the measures which they have ventured to suggest, and which of course could not be carried into execution without entailing on the House some increase of expenditure in proportion to the number of its patients. Perhaps, however, they might be warranted in supposing, that the actual adoption of those improvements, by attracting the increased confidence and favour of the public, might in the end,—probably within a very short period, enable the Managers to extend the benefits of the charity to a number as great, if not greater, than the most parsimonious employment of their present income could enable them to accomplish. But be that as it may, the Committee cannot conclude their Report without urging on the immediate attention of the Contributors the propriety of appealing to the public to come forward in aid of an institution so important to the health of the lower orders, and constituting so essential a part of that school of medicine for which this city has been so long and so justly celebrated.

All which is humbly reported.

WE the undersigned Members of the Committee of Inquiry, while we concur in many of the statements contained in the foregoing Report, feel ourselves called upon to record our sentiments on the following points:

1st, That when the Report mentions that there have existed some errors and defects in the ordinary domestic economy of the House, it says nothing of the rules under which that domestic economy is conducted, so as to enable the Contributors to judge of their fitness for the object in view, and of the deviations from them which are alleged to have taken place in practice.

On this head, it appears to us necessary to bring to the recollection of the General Court, that this Institution was one of the earliest of the kind in the kingdom, erected under many disadvantages; and indeed the difficulties were so great, that nothing but the unbounded patriotism of the chief Magistrate of the City and of a few noble and wealthy individuals, could possibly have overcome them. The period at which the House was erected, did not afford the opportunity of benefiting by experience. The mode of construction, and the proper manner of finishing such buildings was not then so well understood as now, but every thing essential to the recovery of the sick was duly provided. Besides, the scantiness of funds necessarily prevented that scale of accommodation which might otherwise have been adopted, but which, if attempt-

ed, must at once have precluded the extensive benefit which has been derived from the Institution; and the same cause has prevented the adoption of many improvements at subsequent periods.

The ordinary Managers are twelve in number: Of these the President of the College of Physicians, the Professor of Anatomy, one Professor of Medicine, and two Members of the College of Surgeons form a part. By the terms of the Charter, the ordinary Managers are directed to meet on four stated days annually; but it has been the practice for the Managers to meet regularly once a month; and in the course of last year, in consequence of the influx of fever Patients, it was resolved that these Meetings should be held once a week. Besides this the Managers individually and in succession, visit the Hospital at various intermediate periods.

The Treasurer (whose salary seems not sufficient to pay the clerks employed by him in the Hospital's affairs) is in use; either personally, or by means of his partner, to attend the Hospital almost daily,—and thus gratuitously to give his attention to the domestic economy of the establishment.

The Chaplain of the Hospital, instead of confining his attention to his proper duties on Sunday, is in the laudable practice of visiting all the wards twice a-week.

The Matron is, by the rules of the Hospital, bound to visit the wards every day.

The Medical Attendants consist of two physicians and two surgeons; and at a precise hour, they daily visit the patients in the Hospital; a certain number of whom are under the charge of each of those practitioners. These visits are made in presence of the house clerks, and of such of the students of the University as chuse to attend.

Besides these, there are four consulting surgeons, who are occasionally employed, and who are in use, from time to time, to visit the wards; and there are four clerks or house surgeons who constantly reside in the House; to each of whom the inspection of a certain number of wards is specially allotted. It is the duty of these Clerks to visit the patients in the wards frequently every day, and specially to attend to every thing relative to their comfort or their cure, whether it may regard medicine, diet, or cleanliness: And by regulation No. 15, it is enjoined, "That See Appendix, p. 139. upon observing any impropriety in the House, they are immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer, in order that he may either acquaint the Managers, or take such steps as he may think proper for correcting the same."

In addition to these, there are certain Physicians and Surgeons connected with the clinical Wards, and Clerks are also attached to these.

From this Summary it appears to us, that both the civil and medical administration of this Hospital, is as complete as can well be devised; and we perfectly agree in opinion with the heads of the Medical department, that if the Rules of the Institution are conscientiously observed by the different persons to whom they apply, the great objects of it must be attained.

2dly, That while the Report bears, that the complaints against the Hospital, "which had gone abroad, have been in some instances exaggerated much beyond what the facts now in evidence appear to justify, while in some other instances they are unsupported or disproved," it does not apply these observations to any of the statements, deliberately made at the last General Meeting, or to the charges afterwards given in to the Committee in writing; neither does it draw the attention of the Contributors to those charges, so as to enable them to see how little they have been supported by the proof.

Appendix,
p. 96.

Those charges, it will be in the recollection of the General Court, were of the most serious nature, and justly exciting the attention of every humane person, and every well-wisher of the Institution. In the statements regarding these, as appearing in the Appendix, "the existence of several gross and extraordinary abuses" is asserted. The food for Patients is said to be occasionally bad in quality, and in general altogether insufficient in quantity; insomuch that, in one case, the quantity was totally "inadequate to support nature;" and that if the Patient had not had supplies from other quarters "he would have died for want." The statement, that the mode of distributing beef-steaks was by throwing them on the beds of the Patients when raw, was also of a nature that could not fail to excite feelings of great dissatisfaction, perhaps even of disgust, against the management of the Hospital.

The Beds were said to be "filthy and insufficient in many instances," and the Sheets "too disgusting to admit of an attempt to describe them;" and that these were often not changed for "seven or eight weeks." That there are "no traces of the Blankets being cleaned or scoured:" That not only the bodies of the Patients, but some of the beds, are "from neglect swarming with lice;" and that Patients "have caught the itch in the Hospital." In short, that "the Medical duties were the *only* ones well performed."

It appears to us that these, which were the most prominent charges, are all of them exaggerated;—that most of them are unsupported by proof;—while there are others, and those not the least important which are clearly disproved.

3dly, It appears to us, that the Report is calculated to convey the idea, that, previous to the complaints by the junior Medical officers

in July last, no steps whatever had been taken by the Managers, calculated in any respect to improve this institution: Now we are of opinion, that the management has been all along in a gradual course of improvement, though the limited nature of the income, which on an average of years has been exceeded by the expenditure, prevented the adoption of expensive alterations. It is in evidence, that at various times improvements took place relative to the bed-steads and bedding; that water closets were introduced; and an improved washing house was fully resolved upon early in the year 1817. In the preceding year a revision of the rules of 1804 took place, and a complete set of Rules and Regulations for every department in the domestic economy of the house were prepared and promulgated by the Managers; and had the junior Medical officers duly observed these rules, by communicating the first instances of occasional neglect or inattention as they occurred, we are convinced that such remedies would have been applied, as would in a great measure have prevented the recurrence of any such incidents.

4thly, It appears to us, that the statement in the Report is also calculated to convey the idea that the ordinary diet of the Hospital is insufficient, and affords an apology for introducing into the wards additional food, contrary to the rules of the house. It appears to us, that there is no ground for this idea. The ordinary diet is declared to be suitable by the four Physicians attending in the house; and they, as well as the Surgeons, have the unlimited power, which they are in the constant habit of exercising, of ordering either additions in quantity, or a variety in the kind of food, &c. as may suit the case of each individual patient. The alterations as to diet, now in contemplation, appear to relate, not to the quantity, but to the introduction of greater variety in the stated Hospital allowances.

Appendix,
No. VI.
p. 109.

5thly, While we do not object to the suggestion in the Report for obviating the want of a facility of communication betwixt the Medical department and the Managers, which seems to be felt by a part of the Medical officers, we cannot avoid expressing our hope, that a more beneficial co-operation may take place, than an official meeting held quarterly seems calculated to produce; on this head we think, that the Report ought to have noticed the resolution of the Managers in September last, as to "the appointment of a respectable and intelligent Medical man to reside in the House, take charge of the Apothecary's department, and have a general superintendence of the House." This appointment appears to us to be precisely such as the medical gentlemen suggest, for the improvement of the communication betwixt them and the Managers; and seems well calculated to prevent the occurrence of those occasional instances of inattention, which have given cause to complaint against the internal economy of this Establishment.

6thly, It appears to us, that the Report does not point out with sufficient precision the state of the Hospital at the period when this enquiry was moved for. From the statements which were then given, it must have been inferred, that the grounds of complaint brought forward were at that moment existing. It is now however proved, not only that the whole of these matters had been taken under the deliberate consideration of the Managers many months before, and that the most expedient measures had then been resolved upon; but that the improvements required were in progress, and even in most instances carried into effect, long previous to this enquiry being moved for.

Lastly, However much we should have been disposed at the outset, to have recommended a different mode of proceeding, we earnestly join in the hope, that the result of this enquiry may

tend to attract the increased confidence and favour of the public towards this Institution, to which, upon a full review of the evidence, we conceive it in every way most justly entitled.

DAVID ROBERTSON WILLIAMSON.

WM. RAE.

GEO. H. BAIRD.

WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT.

ALEX. DUNCAN.

ROBT. DUNDAS.

JAMES DUNDAS.

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DAVID ROBERTSON WILLIAMSON.

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EXAMINATIONS, &c.

PRESENT,

LORD BALGRAY, SIR WILLIAM FETTES,
SIR WILLIAM RAE, PRINCIPAL BAIRD,
Messrs, WIGHAM, MURRAY, HORNER, CRAIG, MAITLAND, MUNRO,
DUNCAN, ARBUTHNOT, and DUNDAS,

MANAGERS OF THE INFIRMARY PRESENT.

BARON CLERK, SAMUEL ANDESON, Esq. of Mordun,
SIR WILLIAM FORBES.

SIR WILLIAM RAE, IN THE CHAIR.

READ the following Remit from the General Court of Contributors, to this Committee of the 5th inst.

MOTION.

" 1st, That a Committee be appointed, before whom shall be laid all accounts, books, and records relating to the management of the Infirmary in the preceding year; with instructions to enquire into the state of the Hospital; any matters that have been complained of in the domestic management of the house; and to report their opinion in writing to an adjourned General Court of Contributors, to be held on the first Monday of February next."

There was laid before the Committee a copy of Mr Wigham's speech to the General Court of Contributors, and a Note by Mr Jeffrey, of what he recollected to have stated at that meeting, relative to the matters connected with the management complained of. [Vide Appendix No. 1 and 2.]

Read the whole proceedings of the Managers relative to the Complaints by the Clerks, in July 1817.

SIR WILLIAM FORBES Bart of Pitsligo, examined, declares, That he has been a manager of the Royal Infirmary for about 10 years, and has paid a regular attendance upon the establishment. And being interrogated as to what passed between him and Mr Sims and Mr Cruikshanks, in the month of July last, in regard to the Royal Infirmary? Declares, That in the beginning of that month, and two days before the letter by the Clerks had been given in to the Managers, Mr Sims called upon the declarant, and mentioned, that several things were wrong, both as to the bedding and the food: That the declarant expressed his satisfaction at receiving any communication relative to the management of the Hospital, and his willingness to make the fullest investigation into the matter; and desired to be furnished with a list of some of the patients whose beds Mr Sims conceived to be in the worst state: That the declarant went to the Infirmary accordingly about an hour and a half after, and received the list from Mr Sims: That the declarant, along with the Treasurer and his partner Mr Francis Wilson, then went through the wards, and examined each of the beds contained in the foresaid list: That about six of the beds were certainly defective; one of them wanting sheets, and others being dirty; but the remainder did not appear to the declarant to be particularly objectionable, and they were chiefly in the surgical wards. The

Hospital at that time contained above 200 beds : That the declarant in consequence, ordered clean sheets to be put on several of the beds ; and, as he thinks, to about the number of six : That he found great fault with the nurses on account of the state of these beds ; and particularly enquired at them, if they had ever applied to the Matron for sheets, and been refused : That they all declared that they never had been so refused. Declares, That the declarant knew at this time that a misunderstanding subsisted betwixt the Matron and some other members of the family ; and the declarant's impression was, that the irregularity thus observable was not unintentional on the part of the nurses, with a view to attach blame to the Matron ; and this impression was founded on the fact, that on examining the closets of some of the nurses under whose charge the defective beds were found to be, he saw a supply of clean sheets. Declares, That the general understanding in the Hospital was, that every patient should have clean sheets when admitted ; and that the sheets should afterwards be changed at least every three weeks, and oftener, if necessary : That the deficiency in the foresaid six beds was applicable, in some cases, to the bedding. Declares, That when the declarant so came to the Infirmary, the dinner hour was past ; but he found, that in one ward, portions of beef for 13 persons, had been kept, by direction of one of the Clerks, for the declarant's inspection, as evidence of the diet being faulty : That the declarant examined these portions, and has no hesitation in saying, that it appeared to the declarant that they were in no way faulty as to quality, and with the usual allowance of broth and bread, of a reasonable quantity for an ordinary person : That there were 14 patients in the said ward, and the allowances for 13 were only shewn to him ; the 14th having been removed by one of the Clerks, as he was told, to shew to some person : That this portion was said to be very faulty ; but the declarant did not see it. Declares, That betwixt the date of the representation of the Clerks, and the report of Managers by the Committee in September following, the Committee had a number of meetings ; and gave directions from time to time, as to any alterations or improvements that might be necessary, but that no minutes were kept of the proceedings of the Committee : That most of the matters adverted to in the Clerks' letter, were of a nature to be judged of by ocular inspection at the time ; but that, as it had been stated by them that, from information received from the Nurses, beds in fever cases had been carried to other Wards without being aired, Mr Glover, the senior Clerk, was desired to produce evidence to that effect : That he accordingly examined several of the Nurses ; but failed to prove the statement, either to the satisfaction of the Managers, or of Mr Glover, as he himself admitted at the time : That the Committee had a communication with Drs Hamilton and Spens, as stated in their report : That on this occasion the declarant enquired at Dr Hamilton, if he had ever known an instance of infection being communicated by the removal of a bed from a fever ward to another ward ? which he answered in the negative : That there was no other communication with the medical persons connected with the house on this occasion.

Sir William Forbes wishes to be permitted to make an addition to the above, simply to state, That the alterations and improvements alluded to as having been ordered by the Committee of Managers, between the remit to them on the Clerks' letter and their Report, had all been in contemplation previously ; and that what has been done since, has been either the mere following up of these intended improvements, or the necessary consequence of them. The washing and drying house in particular, were delayed from a wish to save money, by fitting up a part of the old house, rather than erect a new building ; but which has since been found to be unadvisable, and has been abandoned accordingly.

9th January 1818.

Compeared Dr JAMES HAMILTON, Physician in Edinburgh, who being examined, declares, That he is physician in Edinburgh to the Royal Infirmary; and has acted in that capacity for 42 years past: That Dr Spens has for a good many years past been the other physician: That it is the practice for the ordinary physicians to meet daily at the Infirmary at 12 o'clock, when the one goes through the one half of the medical wards, and the other through the other half, attended by such of the Students as chuse to be present: That the cases of every patient are then examined into, and prescribed for in presence of those persons; and the prescriptions are at the moment inserted by the physician's clerk: That on an average, the declarant is occupied for an hour daily in these duties: That the declarant has occasionally attended patients at other hours; but this does not frequently occur, as the declarant's clerk is in general able to give what directions are necessary during the intervals of the declarant's absence: That Mr Welsh is the declarant's present clerk, and has been with him about four months; and previous to his appointment Mr Lee acted in that capacity for about 12 months: That such clerk is appointed by the managers: That the declarant is occasionally consulted on the appointment of such clerk.

Interrogated, If the declarant has had occasion to observe any want of cleanliness in the sheets or beddings of the patients? Declares, That there has been a good deal of this occasionally, more or less.

Interrogated, As to what period the declarant means, that this last statement should apply? Declares, That the situation of the house in the foresaid respect is liable to fluctuate: That in the course of last summer it was unusually faulty in the said respect; but it afterwards improved, and at present the declarant thinks it is good: That much depends upon the Matron, as to the internal economy of the house, which comprehends the state of the bedding. Declares, That the declarant is of opinion, that the causes which have led to the present improvement of the bedding are likely to be permanent; and this for two reasons, 1st, That a regular upholsterer has been employed to furnish the bedding; 2dly, That the managers have caused fit up a proper washing and drying house annexed to the Infirmary, so as to serve a regular supply of clean linen. Declares, That he thinks that the employing a regular upholsterer was suggested to the managers in writing by the declarant and Dr Spens, some years before it was adopted: That the date of this written application was somewhere in the year 1811: That the declarant does not think that this application was afterwards renewed by the declarant or Dr Spens.

Interrogated, Whether, previous to the month of July last, the declarant recollects of any instance of a patient lying without sheets? Declares, Negative.

Interrogated, Whether due attention was paid to the change of the bedding when injured by the urine of the patient? Declares, That in such cases the bedding was always changed: That the fault of the bedding arose from its antiquity, as being long used. Declares, That it appeared to the declarant, that the blankets in use were sufficiently clean.

Interrogated, As to the state of the sheeting from the beginning of last year till within the last three months? Declares, That it appeared to the declarant, that it was not so clean as it ought to have been, and occasionally was old and torn: That there are seven wards in the declarant's department; and he goes through them in the same order daily. Declares, That he is not aware of any particular regulation respecting the change of the sheeting of patients; it being the duty of the Matron and the nurses to attend to this particular: That when the declarant has observed any thing wrong regarding it, he has taken notice of it to the nurses, and if not remedied, he mentioned the same to the Matron. Declares, That the

the declarant's directions on these points were generally attended to; but not always.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant recollects of his having mentioned to the Matron, that the bedding or sheeting was faulty, and that the same was not thereupon remedied. Declares, That he does not recollect of such instance, but it may have happened: That it is the general impression on the declarant's mind, that within this last twelvemonth he did make such representations to the Matron, without being attended to; but whether this might have proceeded from the want of linen, or from what other cause, the declarant does not know.

Interrogated, Whether in any case the declarant complained to the treasurer or to the managers, that his directions, relative to the bedding to the Matron had not been attended to? Declares, That he does not recollect having done so: That the declarant has made observations to the treasurer and some of the managers individually, relative to the defective state of the bedding in general; but he does not recollect having stated to them his orders to the Matron respecting the bedding been disregarded.

Interrogated, As to the state of cleanliness of the patients' persons? Declares, That the women are clean enough, but among the men there are frequently instances of their not being so clean as they ought to be: That in some cases the foetor from such patients is unpleasant; but this applies only to bed-ridden patients: That it consists with the declarant's knowledge, that there are persons to whose bodies a foetor attaches, however clean they are kept.

Interrogated, From what cause such foetor in this hospital, appeared to the declarant to proceed? Declares, That the perspiration being confined, acquires acrimony; and sometimes proceeds from want of cleanliness: That free ventilation is the best remedy for such acrimony; and the declarant would, for his own comfort and safety, prefer going through the fever-wards of the Infirmary, to the going into the apartments of many private houses in this town.

Interrogated, If there is any provision for having the body-linen of the patients changed or supplied? Declares, That in general there is not; but in particular cases the Physicians order it.

Interrogated, Whether the Hospital, 20 or 30 years ago, was in a better or worse state, in regard to cleanliness of bedding and general comfort, than it has been during the course of the two last years? Declares, That at the period first mentioned the Matron, Mrs Rennie, was a person of extraordinary merit; and the declarant thinks, that the management in the foresaid respects was preferable at said period to what it has been during that last mentioned period.

Interrogated, Whether any thing has been done, calculated to render the Hospital more improved than it was 30 years ago? Declares, That he cannot condescend upon times and dates; but gradual improvements have been going on from time to time for a number of years: That among these improvements were the divisions of patients into particular wards, according to sex and the nature of the disease, introduction of water-closets, and latterly the erection of the proper means for washing and drying linen; and there may be others which the declarant does not at present recollect.

Interrogated, As to the state of the nurses? Declares, That the qualifications of nurses are particular requiring strength, attention, and temperance; and it is difficult to find persons of that description: That some of them are good and some bad: That on the whole the declarant is of opinion, that the nurses employed are as good as can be obtained; and the medical persons being constantly over them, they are kept in pretty good order.

Interrogated, Whether he knows of any case of a nurse being kept after physicians had ordered her to be dismissed? Declares, That in one instance, about three months ago, the nurse of the women's country ward was desired by the declarant to be dismissed, on account of her unfitness for the situation, from dullness or stupidity; and this was not done: That on observing this, the declarant again spoke to the Matron upon the subject, and the declarant believes the nurse was then dismissed: That the declarant does not think this nurse is still in the house; but that he understood from one of the ordinary surgeons, that when first removed from the medical ward, this nurse was put into one of the surgeons' wards.

Interrogated as to the state of the diet? Declares, That he considers it suitable to the Hospital: That he founds this opinion chiefly on the diet fixed by the tables, as he is not in the Hospital at the hour of diet being served out. Declares, That the declarant visits the lock-up ward occasionally; but this ward is under the more immediate superintendence of the clerk: That the patients might be kept more clean, and their bedding better; but the nurse is attentive, and cures are performed as quickly here as elsewhere: That there is no medical reason why such patients should not be kept clean, or why they may not have their hands and faces regularly washed: That the declarant has no reason to think that their faces had not been washed.

Interrogated, declares, That when patients are brought to the Hospital, they are frequently in a very dirty state: That they are cleaned in the ward in the best way they can; but there are no baths for the use of the patients: That the one which is attached to the house is in very bad order: That the declarant has known instances of persons coming into the house being infested with vermin.

Interrogated, Whether it consists with the declarant's knowledge or recollection, that any instance occurred of a patient becoming infested with vermin when in the Hospital? Declares, That he does not; but such a thing may happen from contact: That when patients come into the house so infested, means are used, by shaving the head, or using mercury, for the removal of such vermin.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant believes that vermin have been communicated in this way? Declares, That he believes they have; and it seems impossible to answer for the transit of a louse. Declares, That a proper bath would be a convenience in the Hospital: That there is a portable bath which is occasionally used.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant has perused and is acquainted with the statutes of the Hospital, and the printed rules and regulations relating thereto? Declares, That he has read them again and again.

Interrogated, Whether he considers said rules as sufficient for the attainment of the ends in view? Declares, That he does.

Interrogated, Whether if these rules and regulations, as therein contained, were properly and conscientiously observed by the different persons of the establishment to whom they are respectively directed, would the objects of the Institution be attained, and the comfort of the patients secured? Declares, That he thinks so.

Interrogated, declares, That when a patient is admitted, his name is inserted in a schedule filled up by the clerk, under the authority of the physician or surgeon by whom his reception is authorised: That this schedule is addressed to the Matron, to whom it is delivered: That, except in cases of accidents, patients are only admitted at 12 o'clock, so that one schedule contains the whole names of patients admitted: That it in like manner contains a list of patients dismissed.

Interrogated, Whether said schedule affords the grounds by which the Matron

is to be guided as to the diet, bedding, and other necessary accommodations of the patient? Declares affirmative.

Interrogated, Whether it consists with the declarant's knowledge, that the clerks, whether from hurry of business or other causes, do sometimes forget to mark down in the above schedule the names of patients either admitted or dismissed? Declares, That so far as the declarant is concerned, this has not happened.

Interrogated, Whether the state of the house at the present day is equal to what it was 30 years ago under Mrs Rennie? Declares, That on the whole it is equal, and in some respects better at the present day than at the former period, considering the great number of patients now admitted: That one peculiar excellence of Mrs Rennie consisted in her management of the nurses, who were consequently better then than they are now.

10th January 1818.

Compeared Dr THOMAS SPENS, Physician in Edinburgh, who being examined, declares, That he is one of the Physicians in ordinary of the Royal Infirmary, and has acted in that capacity for 15 years. And declares and concurs with Dr Hamilton, as to the general attendance and duties of the Physicians in the Hospital: That the Clerks are named by the Managers: That the declarant, on several occasions, recommended particular individuals to the Managers; and in all cases in which the declarant interested himself, the individual he recommended was appointed; but whether from his recommendation or the individual's merits he does not know: That there is no official communication held with the Physicians on the appointment of any Clerk. Declares, That Mr Cameron is the declarant's present Clerk; and has acted in that capacity for about five or six months: That previous to Mr Cameron's coming to the Hospital, Mr Sims acted as interim-Clerk for some weeks: That Mr Sims was a person very well qualified for the duties of Clerk, and was obligent and attentive to his duties, and possessed of ample recommendations. Declares, That there has been three or four Matrons in the House during the declarant's attendance; and the present Matron has been in it for four or five years.

Interrogated as to the general state of the House in respect of cleanliness, declares, That in going through the wards, the declarant's duties occupy him so entirely, that he may be said to attend to nothing else: That about seven or eight years ago, the attention of the declarant was attracted to the bedding in general as defective: That Dr Hamilton and the declarant had various conferences with the Managers, who requested that they would put their ideas upon the subject in writing: That such a statement being accordingly prepared, the same was given in by them to the Managers at a meeting held for the purpose: That the declarant is possessed of a rough draft of this memorial: That in consequence of this memorial, Committees of the Managers were appointed for each of the subjects therein discussed respectively: That soon after this, a considerable quantity of new bedding was got.

Interrogated by Mr Wigham, What was the declarant's impression as to the manner in which this representation was received by the Managers? declares, That they entered upon it with the utmost zeal, particularly as to the bedding. Declares, That Dr Hamilton and the declarant had meetings with the Committees upon these subjects. Declares, That at those meetings the Managers ap-

peared to be extremely anxious to remedy the defects pointed out, particularly as to the bedding: That on other subjects there was room for a difference of opinion, on the point of expediency; but as to the bedding there was not. Declares, That nothing particular occurred for some years after this: That in winter 1813, or 1814, the declarant having observed a deficiency of sheets, made some enquiry on the subject; when he was told that there was a plentiful supply, but that the weather did not admit of the linen being got dried; and that there was no adequate means of drying linen within the house: That the declarant mentioned this defect to some of the Managers individually; and the declarant has reason to believe, that orders were given, in consequence of this, to provide a supply of linen to any extent that was necessary: That the reason for this belief is, that on an occasion some months after this, when a defect as to the linen was complained of, the declarant was present when one of the Managers blamed the present Matron highly, for not having provided a sufficient quantity of linen after orders had been given to that effect several months before: That within a month or two after this, a very considerable supply of linen was procured: That in the year 1815, a plan was adopted for supplying each ward separately with bedding: That so far as the declarant has observed, nothing particular has attracted the declarant's attention as to the bedding, excepting, that during the last year considerable quantities of all sorts of bedding have been brought into the House: That there is no deficiency of bedding at present, so far as the declarant has observed.

Interrogated, If he recollects in the course of last summer, of being called upon by his Clerk Mr Sims, to attend to the filthy state of some particular beds? declares, That the declarant recollects of Sims coming to him one morning, and making complaints about the bedding.

Interrogated, What steps the declarant took in consequence? declares, That the declarant took no steps, understanding that Mr Sims was that day, or the day after, to make a representation to the Managers.

Interrogated, Whether he is of opinion that the bedding could be in the state represented by Mr Sims, without the declarant's observing it in going his rounds? declares, That from the nature of his visit to the patients, the bedding might be defective without his noticing it.

Interrogated, Whether, at any previous visits, Mr Sims had directed the attention of the declarant to the state of any of the beds in particular? Declares, That it is the declarant's impression, that on one or two occasions, Mr Sims may have pointed out the sheets as being dirty, but the declarant's recollection on the subject is very indistinct.

Interrogated, Whether the patients ever complained to the declarant of their sheets not being clean? Declares, That some complaints of this nature have been made to the declarant; but they were not numerous, and they occurred several years ago. That on such occasions, the declarant communicated with the Managers or Treasurer on the subject; and in consequence as he supposes of those representations, a general order was given, that the sheets of every patient should be changed in the course of every fortnight, or three weeks, or oftener if necessary; and this order was given in the year 1813 or 1814. Declares, That some of these complaints by the patients were subsequent to the date of this general order. That so far as the declarant recollects, no complaint of that nature was made to the declarant during the period that Mr Sims acted as his clerk.

Declares, That the declarant is acquainted with the diet of the Hospital as fixed by the tables, both as to the nature of the articles and the quantity.— That the breakfast and supper is the same, viz. one mutchkin of oatmeal

porridge, being a measure a fraction larger than the English pint, three gills of milk or beer, or, if preferred by the patient, five and a quarter oz. of bread instead of the porridge. That the dinner is a chopin of broth, or soup, with five and a quarter oz. of bread; and when on full diet, half a pound of beef three times a-week boiled, the meat being weighed when raw, is added. That beef tea and beef steaks are so frequently ordered, that they may be considered as part of the regular diet. That the beef steaks are a substitute for the boiled beef, the beef tea is given over and above the fixed allowance. That the weight of the meat he believes is Dutch. That the only difference betwixt full and low diet consists in the foresaid quantity of beef, none being allowed in low diet.

Interrogated as to the declarant's opinion as to the nature and quantity of the full diet? Declares, That it is the declarant's opinion, that it is a suitable diet for a general Hospital. That there are reasons why such diet should be moderate, 1st, That the patients, from their state of health, have their appetites impaired. 2dly, They are without exercise. 3dly, If too much was served out, it would lead to waste: That no diet-table could suit all cases; and the safe rule is to keep the same moderate, giving power to the Medical Officers to extend it in all cases where it may seem to be necessary: That an unlimited power in this respect is given to the Medical Department in this Hospital; and in some cases, they vary the nature of the allowance, as well as the quantity. Declares, That the declarant has examined the diet-tables of St George's Hospital, London, which has been recently published; and also the diet-table fixed by the Commander-in-Chief for Military Hospitals; as also the diet-tables of various other County Hospitals in England, and it appears to the declarant, that in comparison, the diet of this Hospital is fully equal to any of them. Declares, That the declarant and Dr Hamilton have had various communications with Managers within these six months upon the subject of diet, and that improvements are now under consideration. Declares, That these improvements do not relate to quantity, but merely to variety, and are chiefly applicable to acute cases.

Declares, That he has very seldom access to see the food served to the patients; and in particular, in the course of the last year he has not had occasion to see the porridge: That the declarant does not know the weight of meal allowed for each portion of porridge. Declares, That porter and wine are ordered by the Medical Department when necessary: That in cases of convalescence, porter is allowed over and above the ordinary diet, and in some cases wine: That the declarant considers wine and porter rather as articles of medicine than of diet. Declares, That the patients have very rarely complained of insufficiency of food; but convalescents have often asked for additional allowances before the declarant thought that such was fit for them.

Interrogated, Whether any patients, either when in the house, or afterwards, have expressed to the declarant, their feelings with regard to the diet, or other particulars in their treatment? Declares, That patients generally declare great satisfaction with their general treatment in the Hospital; and patients, after having quitted the Hospital, have frequently expressed themselves to the same effect.

Interrogated, Whether any anxiety is expressed by patients to get out of the Hospital. Declares, That on the contrary, a great difficulty is experienced in prevailing on the patients to quit the hospital after they are no longer proper subjects for the Infirmary; and when again attacked with sickness, the patients are very glad to come back to it.

Interrogated, Whether this reluctance to leave the Hospital proceeded from the patients' being destitute, and not knowing where to go, or from their feeling them-

selves comfortable where they were? Declares, That it has proceeded from them both: That a great proportion of the patients are poor, but many are otherwise; and the declarant has observed the same reluctance on the part of the latter, though not to the same extent.

Interrogated as to the state of the nurses? Declares, That they are frequently such as the declarant would not wish them to be: That it is a very difficult matter to procure nurses: That the declarant knows, that in 1811 the Managers advised with Mrs Hume, the Matron, as to this particular; and it was her opinion, that better could not be had; and that higher wages would not procure them; That the declarant is not aware, that at any particular time more inconvenience has been experienced in this respect than at another. Interrogated, declares, That when patients come into the Hospital, they are frequently in a very dirty state, and sometimes infested with vermin: That every means are applied for making such persons free from vermin so soon as the same are discovered; and it does not consist with the declarant's knowledge and recollection, that in any case such vermin were communicated from one patient to another: That the declarant has no personal access to see such cleaning, but it is his understanding and belief, that such takes place: That on very few occasions has the declarant observed vermin upon the patients in going through the wards; but the declarant cannot say, that such may not have existed, as the declarant's attention was so much occupied with his proper duties, that he rarely attends to any other particulars in going through the wards. Declares, That patients, when first admitted, are visited in the waiting-room by one of the physicians, to see if they be proper objects for admission: That they are not properly examined as to their complaints till next day; and in the meantime are taken charge of by the clerks and nurses; and a case is made out by the clerk previous to next day.

Interrogated, Whether in general, at the admission of dirty patients, their condition is materially altered at the visit next day, from what it was on the preceding one? Declares, That in general such patients are in bed; and there can be little difference in their appearance.

Interrogated, Whether there are baths for the use of the patients? Declares, That there is a bath attached to the house, which has been used within this twelve month, but it is not a good one; and a proper bath is a desideratum: That the declarant has ordered the hot bath for patients on various occasions in the course of the last year; and he believes, though he has no personal access to know, that the bath now referred to was the one made use of on these occasions: That there is one or more portable baths in the house.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant has observed any improvement in the cleanliness of the Hospital within the last four months? Declares, That the declarant has already said, that a great quantity of additional bedding has been procured within the said period; and the declarant is of opinion, that the Hospital is at present in as good a state as he ever knew it. Declares, That there has been a very unusual increase of patients during the last year, insomuch, that some additional wards had to be opened; and the number amounted on an average from 50 to 60 above the average number usually in the Hospital: That, taking into view this circumstance, it appears to the declarant, that very great exertions have been necessary; and that the Hospital is at present in a better state than ever it was. Interrogated, declares, That the declarant is acquainted with the statutes of the Hospital, and its rules and regulations: That these have been considered from time to time; and the declarant is of opinion, that they are calculated for the attainment of the end in view. Declares, That he thinks that if these rules were properly and conscientiously observed by the different persons connected with

the establishment to whom they are respectively directed, the objects of the Institution would be obtained, and the comfort of the patients insured. Declares, That the charge of the linens rests with the Matron; and the declarant understands, that two or three years ago a proportion of linen was set apart for each ward, and put under the custody of the nurses respectively. Declares, That a schedule is every day made out before the declarant leaves the house, shewing the names and numbers admitted and dismissed; which schedule is transmitted to the Matron, and forms her rule for providing the quantity of provisions necessary: That the declarant has sometimes inserted the names of patients admitted with his own hand: That it does not consist with the declarant's knowledge, that in any case the patient's name has been accidentally omitted to be inserted in said schedule; at least in so far as regards the patient's falling under the physician's charge: That the same schedule likewise contains the patients admitted by the surgeons, of whom the declarant knows nothing.

13th January 1818.

JAMES LAW, Esq. Surgeon in Edinburgh, being examined, declares, That he has been thirteen years at different times Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary: That there are six surgeons so employed, of whom there are two operating surgeons: That the declarant was first appointed in the year 1800, and continued to act for the space of six years: That during the two first, he acted as consulting surgeon, and the four last as operating surgeon: That his second appointment took place in the year 1810; and for the four subsequent years he acted as consulting surgeon, and for the three last he acted as operating surgeon: That the operating surgeons are the acting surgeons, and attend the house every day at twelve o'clock: That the consulting surgeons only attend in case of the absence of the operating surgeons, or when their presence is required, or when they chuse to attend: That there is a clerk attached to each of the operating surgeons who resides in the house: That the whole medical department of the Infirmary, including the clerks, are appointed by the Managers; and the declarant knows, that by the charter, certain medical persons do constitute part of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant is consulted in the appointment of his own clerk? Declares, That he is not; but that, on the contrary, he believes he gave offence to some of the managers, by giving a certificate in favour of Dr Tweedie to be a clerk, who was a candidate: That the appointment of this person took place: That Dr Tweedie had occasionally acted as clerk to the declarant; but the vacancy was not in his department: That the declarant cannot say from whom he got his information; but he understood at the time, that some of the managers did not wish to be interfered with in making those appointments: That what the declarant so subscribed was merely a certificate of how Dr Tweedie had conducted himself, and not a recommendation.

Interrogated by Baron Clerk, Whether the declarant did not recommend to Baron Clerk as an individual manager, Dr M'Dougal, then an apprentice to the declarant, to be appointed a clerk? Declares, That he thinks it very likely that he did; and Dr M'Dougal was appointed accordingly: That the declarant has frequently recommended young men to the managers individually, to act as dress-

ers in the Infirmary, both when one of the surgeons, and when not: That those individual managers never expressed themselves hurt by such recommendation.

Interrogated as to the state of the Royal Infirmary in point of cleanliness during the periods before mentioned? Declares, That it appeared to the declarant the sheets of patients were greatly more dirty than they ought to have been, and he wishes to apply this to the period subsequent to his last appointment, as his recollection as to the preceding is not so distinct: That about three years ago, the declarant having urged the necessity of a more frequent change, was informed that there was a deficiency of sheets, but that the managers were doing what they could to get that deficiency removed: That since then, the quantity of sheeting has been more abundant: That about a year and a half ago, the declarant made a survey of the beds, chiefly in the men's surgical Wards along with Mr Wishart; when it appeared to the declarant, that one half of the shirts were not in the clean state they ought to be; and this defect appeared to proceed in part from having been too long on the beds, and in part from being ill washed. Declares, That some of the clean sheeting when put on, appeared to the declarant to be very ill washed, and instances of this have occurred within these three months: That on one occasion about three months ago, Mr Glover, one of the clerks, having called the declarant's attention to one pair of sheets which he exhibited to him in the consulting room, informed the declarant, that one of them had been upon a boy's bed who had a sore leg, but by no means a dirty patient: That the boy had complained of the dirtiness of the sheet, and that another had been brought up which did not appear to be much better, and Mr Glover asked the declarant what was to be done: That the declarant declined to interfere, and left the Infirmary, but soon after returned, and was informed by Mr Glover, that Mr George Wood, one of the managers, had been there, and had desired the sheets to be kept until a meeting of the managers: That he, Mr Glover, got charge of the sheets, but being afraid that the Matron might get hold of them, he requested that the declarant might take possession of the key of the place in which they were, and he accordingly did so, and the sheets were produced at the next meeting of the managers, he having delivered them to Mr Glover for that purpose.

Interrogated, Whether the sheets of the patients in the Surgical Ward require to be changed more frequently than those of other wards? Declares, That generally speaking they do, from the nature of the malady.

Interrogated, Whether the sheets were changed when that was desired to be done by the Surgeon? Declares, That he rather thinks not always: But this only at the time aforementioned, when there was a deficiency of sheets.

Interrogated, Whether the patients have complained of the dirtiness of their sheets? Declares, That the patients have not frequently complained to the declarant; but the clerks have mentioned to him, that such complaints have been made to them.

Interrogated by Dr Hope, Whether the discharge from foul sores can be removed from linen, and by what means? Declares, That he does not know; and it is not his business to know.

Interrogated, Will fresh washed sheets, that have been soiled by the discharge of foul sores appear clean and tidy? Declares, That he cannot say: That this depends upon the practicability of removing the stains by washing; but if the stains are not removed, the sheets cannot appear clean and tidy. Declares, That the sheets of which the declarant chiefly complained as ill washed, appeared stained with grease: That the apology he understood made by the Matron for such sheets was, that they had been previously used in cases of extensive burns, where

much of the mixture applied to burns of oil and lime water had been used ; and that it was impossible these stains could be removed by ordinary washing.

Interrogated, Will not sheets retaining the stains produced by the discharge of foul sores, appear dirty and untidy after very short use, though they really are not so ? Declares affirmative, as such sheets will have the appearance of being dirty when first put on : That it appears to the declarant, that sheets loaded with grease, must feel cold and comfortless : That caustics, which are frequently used in surgery, do make stains which no washing can remove. Declares, That the defect in the sheets, which the declarant remarked as ill washed, seemed to proceed chiefly from grease, or other oily matters, having been insufficiently washed out. Declares, That such sheets as were not stained or greasy, appeared to the declarant to have undergone sufficient washing : That the declarant, in the years 1781-82, attended St George's Hospital for nearly a year as a pupil ; and during five or six weeks of that period, officiated as House Surgeon to the Westminster Infirmary ; and the declarant does not think he observed such foul looking sheets in these Hospitals as in the Infirmary : That he does not remember, whether in these Hospitals the sheets were made of bleached or unbleached linen : That the declarant had particular access as dresser at St George's, to see the state of these sheets. Declares, That about the period before mentioned, the bedding was also defective : That the declarant knows, that a considerable quantity of additional bedding was afterwards got : That in summer was a year, a considerable change in the bedding took place ; and about two months ago, the declarant saw a large quantity of new bedding lying in an empty ward, and the beds are at present all in a very respectable state, in so far as the declarant can judge.

Interrogated, Whether patients when admitted into the Hospital in a dirty state, and infested with vermin, are cleansed ? Declares, That there is no general measure as to cleansing when a patient is admitted, in so far as the declarant knows ; and he rather believes that there is none : That the declarant would not consider such a general measure as a safe one, as there are cases where such cleansing might be unadvisable : That in some cases patients are ordered to the bath on account of their filth, previous to examination of their case by the surgeons.

Interrogated, Whether there are proper accommodations in point of baths in the Infirmary ? Declares, That he never saw the baths : That he knows that there are baths for the public ; and he has heard that there are some sort of baths in the east wing, consisting of casks or tubs : That there are moveable baths which are occasionally used.

Interrogated, declares, That the declarant, at the hour of his visit, has no regular occasion to see the food of the patients, but he has sometimes noticed it when he called at other hours, particularly in the evening. That the porridge always appeared to the declarant thinner and smaller in quantity than a Scotch stomach is used to. That on one occasion the declarant having observed to a patient that his porridge was thin, he answered, that it was better than usual ; and the declarant thinks, though he cannot be positive, that this patient applied his observation both as to the quantity and quality of his porridge : That this patient was on full diet, and the instance occurred about a twelvemonth ago.

Interrogated, What is the quantity of meal used in such an allowance as that now referred to ? Declares, That he cannot say ; That he considers that a quart of porridge would not be too much for a ploughman.

Interrogated, If he considers it would be advisable to allow each patient a quart of porridge ? Declares, That he thinks it would be too much ; and he is rather of opinion, that tea and bread would be a better article for breakfast, as most

of the trades people are in use to breakfast on these articles. Declares, That in several of the instances before declared to, it did not appear to the declarant that the quantity of porridge which the patients have, amounted to a mutchkin, but that it might happen that one patient might have more and another less. Declares, That the declarant does not recollect of any instance of the patients complaining to him of the quantity or quality of the porridge served to them when the declarant was not making any enquiry upon the subject. Declares, That beef-tea is sometimes ordered for the patients; and he has sometimes seen it, and it appeared to the declarant to be thin and muddy, and not the nice clear stuff that he would wish to see; and he has had occasion to observe this more than once.

Interrogated, If he has had occasion to see the meat served to the patients? Declares, That excepting seeing it passing up the stair, the declarant has not had occasion to notice the meat. That on one occasion, one of the clerks, but who the clerk was, he does not remember, brought into the consulting room a piece of meat which he said was the allowance of one of the patients. That this allowance appeared very small, and consisted partly of bone, and partly of fat and skin. That he understood that the clerk had the curiosity to have this allowance weighed, and that it amounted from an ounce and a half to two ounces in weight: That the declarant did not understand this to be a fair specimen of the allowances made to patients in general, but merely what the clerk said a patient had received in a particular instance. That the declarant was not informed as to what patient this allowance was intended for, but he believes that he was not a surgical patient; and, according to his impression at the time, it came from the soldiers ward, but of this the declarant is nowise certain: That the declarant had no means of knowing that the portion so shown was the allowance for one patient, excepting the report of his clerk.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant, in consequence of this, examined the allowance given to the surgical patients, or to any other patients in the house on that day or any other, or if he gave directions to that effect to his clerk? Declares, That he did not. Declares, That he has occasionally ordered beef steaks for his patients. That he never had occasion to see such steaks, but has heard the patients sometimes complain of them as tough, skinny, and cold. That he remembers one case where the patient had a disease in his mouth, on one side, which impeded mastication, and where, in consequence of a consultation, beef tea and beef steaks were ordered. That in this case the patient informed the declarant that the steaks given to him were so tough that he could not eat them. That cowhead made into a jelly was then ordered. That this was not furnished, and the clerk reported to the declarant that the Matron said she could not prepare it, and instead thereof, she sent daily for two glasses of calfsfoot jelly from a confectioner, which were given to the patient. That the declarant did not consider this as an adequate substitute for what he had ordered, as the object was to restore the patient from a state of debility. That the declarant does not recollect that he made any special representation to the managers on the object of the diet thus furnished to the said patient.

Interrogated, If he remembers the patient's name, or the time the occurrence took place? Declares, That he does not; but he rather thinks it was about two or three years ago, if so long: That the operation intended to have been performed upon this patient did not take place, and he rather thinks he died in the House: That the declarant was satisfied, that if the patient had got a tender beef-steak, he could have eat it. Interrogated, declares, That on the occasion before declared to, when he made the examination of the beds along with Mr Wishart, that gentleman turned down the beds, and pointed out to the declarant

where any thing was wrong: That the number he so turned down in the long ward, amounted to from 10 to 12: That he is not sure that they looked at the beds in the short ward, or not: That all the beds which Mr Wishart so turned down, appeared to the declarant to be objectionable, either from dirt or stains.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant, when he considered the above jelly insufficient, ordered more jelly to be supplied? Declares, That he did not; and he considered the matron to be so very untractable a sort of person, that he conceived that it would be to no purpose his doing so. Declares, That it is the business of the clerk to attend to the directions of the surgeon, and he recollects perfectly of giving the foresaid directions to his clerk, and desiring him to speak to the matron, as to providing the articles so ordered; but whether the clerk put these down in his book, the declarant does not know.

Interrogated, Whether the surgeons are in the use to see the clerks mark down in the journal the surgeons orders with regard to diet? Declares, That the declarant merely gives his orders to the clerk, and the declarant takes it for granted that he enters them in the book.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant knows any instance in which he prescribed an additional quantity of such food as the house could furnish, and in which that prescription was disregarded? Declares, That he does not remember of any instance, excepting the one above mentioned.

Interrogated, Whether in any case, any patient under the declarant's charge has in his opinion suffered from the diet of the Hospital? Declares, That in the course of last summer, as he thinks, a man under the declarant's care in the surgical ward, told him that the diet was such, that he behoved to leave the Hospital, as he could not afford it: That his wife had to bring him in articles of food, and that she had to pay sixpence for being admitted for that purpose: That this man left the Hospital accordingly, when in a state when it would have been much more advisable he had remained: That the declarant communicated the circumstances of this case to one, or more of the individual Managers, Mr Andrew Wood, and Dr Davidson, as he thinks; and he afterwards heard, that the Treasurer was directed to investigate the matter; but what the result was, he he does not know.

Interrogated, Whether in general the declarant has found, that the cure of his patients has been impeded by the nature of the diet allowed in the Hospital? Declares, That he cannot say he has in general, though he has no doubt that in many cases, such as those of scrophulous cases, the cure might have been promoted by diet of a more generous sort.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant did not consider himself entitled to order a more generous diet in the cases last referred to? Declares, That he did not consider himself entitled to order more than a piece of meat daily, instead of three times a-week, in ordinary cases. Declares, That he does not consider cases requiring a more generous diet as above mentioned, are fitted for an Hospital, nor such treatment fitted for Hospital practice. That in extraordinary cases, he does not consider himself as under restrictions by the managers, as to ordering what he may consider proper.

Interrogated, Whether a mutchkin of porridge is, in the declarant's opinion, a suitable ration for an Hospital in general? Declares, That in his opinion, a mutchkin of porridge is rather too little for full diet, though more than some persons will consume.

Interrogated, If he knows that a mutchkin of porridge is the ration of the Hospital? Declares, That he does not; and he does not know what quantities of any kind of provision are allowed by the Hospital as ordinary rations, either

on full or low diet; and that he considered that as a settled point, which he had no power to regulate.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant considered himself entitled to represent any thing to the Managers on the subject of diet? Declares, That he did not think himself called upon to do so.

Interrogated, If he knew that the physicians in ordinary in the Hospital, have presented a formal Memorial to the Managers in 1811 on the subject of diet, bedding, and beds? Declares, That he did not know of it, and had never seen this Memorial; nor, in so far as he recollects, had he ever heard of it, until it was mentioned to him recently by Dr Hamilton; and, according to the best of his recollection, he was not consulted on the subject.

Interrogated, When the declarant orders wine or porter to his patients, whether he orders it as an additional article of food, or as a substitute for food, or as a medicine? Declares, That he orders it as a medicine, or cordial. Interrogated, declares, That the declarant acts as surgeon for Bridewell.

Interrogated, Whether the sick patients in Bridewell are, in point of cleanliness and attention to their comforts, in a better or worse situation than those in the Infirmary, as far as he has had an opportunity of observing? Declares, That a comparison of the two cannot with propriety be made, as the cases in the declarant's department in the Infirmary are surgical, and those in the Bridewell are mostly venereal.

Interrogated, Whether, upon any abuses or imperfections coming to his knowledge, he considered it as part of his duty, as a surgeon of the Hospital, to represent them to the Managers? Declares, That if there had been any flagrant abuses, he would have considered it his duty to have represented them to the Managers; but those observed by him being of a minor nature, he thought it enough to endeavour to correct them by notes to the Matron, or by mentioning them to the Treasurer or individual Managers.

Interrogated, Whether, in any intercourse with the Matron, she shewed any personal incivility to the declarant? Declares, That she rather seems to exhibit a wish to be over-civil to him.

Interrogated, If, when the declarant has had occasion to find fault with any thing in the domestic economy of the house, he has found proper attention paid to his remonstrance by the Matron? Declares, That he rather thinks so; but he has had very few personal communications with the Matron, except when she requires to see him, which may happen once a-year or so.

Interrogated, Were the matters complained of generally remedied? Declares, That they were generally, but not always: That instances of this last have occurred when nurses in the surgeons' ward were desired by the surgeons to be dismissed; and when the Matron, instead of dismissing them, only removed such nurses into the physicians' wards, and *vice versa*: That as an instance of this, the declarant a year or two ago ordered a nurse to be dismissed, but for what cause he does not now remember, and she has since been employed under Dr Hamilton: And there is at present a nurse in the declarant's ward, who, he understands, was previously dismissed from the medical wards: That these were the only instances of the kind the declarant knows of. Declares, That he considers the nurses in general as of a bad description; and he is of opinion, that better could be got if they were better paid: That with the exception of a few who attend in-lying ladies, the greater proportion of sick-nurses in Edinburgh are of a bad description.

Interrogated, Whether he knows of any case of the itch being communicated to any patient after being confined in the Hospital? Declares, That he knows of no such case: That the itch is not a common complaint in the house; and it is

the declarant's impression, that the servants in the house are careful in taking means to prevent the communication of such disease. Declares, That when the declarant was in London, in the year 1781 or 1782, there was an infinitely greater proportion of persons labouring under the itch in the London Hospitals than in the Infirmary of Edinburgh. Declares, That the declarant has been unwell for the last five weeks, and has not attended the Infirmary during that time. Declares, That he has perused, and is acquainted with printed statutes and rules and regulations of the Hospital, and that he considers the same calculated to attain the object in view, if conscientiously acted upon.

14th January 1818.

ALEXANDER GILLESPIE, surgeon in Edinburgh, and one of the senior surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, being examined, declares, That he has acted for the three last years in the foresaid capacity, and for two years as junior surgeon, and attends the Hospital every day at 12 o'clock, and occasionally at other times when patients require it.

Interrogated, If, in the course of that practice, the declarant has observed a defect of cleanliness in the sheets of the patients? Declares, That his observation only applies to patients in the surgical-wards, where there is necessarily much damage to sheets, from bad ulcers, and from the application necessary for those; and that from these causes the sheets cannot be supposed to be so clean.

Interrogated, Whether he has observed instances of sheets being dirty from not being sufficiently often changed? Declares, That within these six months the sheets have been very much improved, both in point of quantity and appearance: That previous thereto, it was reported to the declarant by the clerks and nurses, that there was a scarcity of sheets, from which cause they were not changed so often as they ought to have been: That sheets when put on clean, had at this time the appearance of being dirty, from the ingrained stains which remained upon them: That of late the washing has been better than formerly; and the sheets being more new, they have consequently had a better appearance.

Interrogated, If the declarant ever had occasion to see patients lying without sheets: Declares, That he does not recollect of this having happened, except upon one occasion, about two years ago; and the instance occurred in the case of a patient who had a very extensive sore, and had dirtied the sheets so much, in the course of two days, that it was found necessary to remove them, and there was not another pair to substitute in their place: That the man remained without sheets for 24 hours: That at this time the wards were much crowded, and there were a great many extra beds in use: That in the ordinary state of the wards there was always a sufficiency of sheets.

Interrogated, If the declarant sees the food of the patients? declares, That the hour of visiting is not that of diet; and the declarant very rarely has occasion to see the food of the patients; and even then he is not led to attend to it, unless his attention is particularly called to it.

Interrogated, If he knows of any instance of extraordinary neglect or misconduct on the part of the Nurses? declares, That he has occasionally heard complaints of them, both from the Clerks and the patients; and these complaints were frequently founded on the Nurses having got themselves intoxicated: That the declarant never saw any of the Nurses drunk in the forenoon; but he has observed this once or twice in his evening visits.

Interrogated, Whether he considers the Nurses qualified for their situation? Declares, That some of them are tolerably good; but in general they are bad, and not properly qualified for their situation: That the qualifications of a Nurse for a Surgical ward are very particular, and more difficult than in the Medical ward: That such a Nurse requires both activity and intelligence: That the declarant has no knowledge of the wages paid to Nurses. Declares, That the declarant has heard complaints from his Clerks at the rate of perhaps once or twice a-month, though not so often of late, as to the Nurses having taken money from patients to ensure kind offices.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant has heard complaints of the Nurses treating the patients with harshness? declares, Never.

Interrogated, Whether he has observed any deficiency in the utensils or furniture of the wards necessary for the comfort of patients? declares, Frequently.

Interrogated, If he can give any instances? declares, That the declarant has had frequent occasion to observe the want of chamber-pots, and basins for washing of sores; but which were got upon application to the house-keeper: That he considers the supply of those articles as being in general too small: That the declarant has also heard some complaints of the want of jugs, or vessels, for the patients drinking out of.

Interrogated, If he recollects of any particular instance of an unusual want of chamber-pots? Declares, That about two or three months ago, it was reported to the declarant by the Clerks, that in one ward there were only two chamber-pots: That there might perhaps be from 20 to 25 patients in said ward.

Being interrogated, Whether there are vessels for receiving the blood when patients are bled ? declares, That there are 10 vessels for that purpose of a certain measure ; and the blood is in general kept and shewn to the Surgeon ; and the declarant never saw blood in any other, excepting the foresaid tin vessels.

Interrogated, If the declarant has had frequent intercourse with the Matron relative to any matters? declares, Not lately.

Interrogated, If he stated to her any defects he found? Declares, That about two years ago, the declarant was in use to mention such defects to the Matron; and finding that she seemed to wish this to be done in the way of asking it as a favour, the declarant preferred stating such matters in the way of injunction; and these injunctions were attended to on all occasions, though sometimes it was necessary to repeat them.

Interrogated, Whether the declarant has remarked any marked improvement in the Infirmary since the period of last July? Declares, That there has been a very great improvement in the bedding in particular; but in other respects matters have remained as formerly, though perhaps there have been fewer complaints by Patients relative to their diet.

Interrogated, Were those complaints both as to quantity and quality? Declares, That they were as to both occasionally.

Interrogated, If the declarant thinks that there is any want of facility of intercourse between the Medical Officers and the Managers? Declares, That it appears to the declarant, that there is a want of some person of responsibility in the House, to whom application might be made for having defects supplied, or grievances redressed.

Interrogated, If the declarant has had an opportunity of seeing other Hospitals? Declares, That as an old army Surgeon he has seen many, and has seen all the London Civil Hospitals, and also the Glasgow one.

Interrogated, Whether, in point of cleanliness, this Hospital is equal to the generality of the other Hospital he has seen? Declares, That he thinks the bedding of the Surgeons' Ward lately got, is perhaps better than any he ever saw in any Hospital: That previous to July last, the declarant considered the bedding in the said Ward to be inferior to that of other Hospitals.

Interrogated, Whether it is consistent with the declarant's knowledge, that the sheets in other Hospitals are more frequently changed than in the Infirmary? Declares, That the beds of the former had a more clean appearance; but this might in part arise from the patient having an Hospital dress, and a more cleanly appearance in their persons, which gives the bed a more comfortable and cleanly appearance.

Interrogated, Whether the sheets have been more frequently changed since July last, than previous thereto? Declares, That he has less frequently had occasion to order sheets to be changed during the last period; but the declarant is not sure whether this has proceeded from a more frequent change of the linen, or from its being new: That previous to July, the declarant had frequent occasion to order Patients to be shifted; but as to this, much must always depend upon the state of the Patient, some requiring a much more frequent change than others.

Interrogated, If the declarant is aware of any fixed rule as to the time for changing the sheets? Declares, That he is not; but that he understood they were changed in the course of each fortnight or three weeks.

Interrogated, If he thinks that this Infirmary has kept pace with the improvements introduced of late years in establishments of this nature, consistent with the nature of the building? Declares, That considering the nature of the building, the improvements have been great; but that he considers it far behind other Hospitals, in what regards the comforts of the Patients.

Interrogated in what respects? Declares, That the Hospital dresses, furniture, and utensils of the wards, warm baths, and a change of linen for poor Patients, are all points better adjusted in other Hospitals, than in the Infirmary: That in the Infirmary, poor persons are occasionally obliged to lie without shirts, until those brought in with them are washed: That it would also be more comfortable for the Patients, if those that were able were to dine at a table in the ward, instead of the present system.

Interrogated, Whether the linen rags and bandages are in general of a proper kind, and clean? Declares, That the declarant has occasionally found a deficiency both in quantity and quality. And further declares, That since the declarant has been Surgeon, there has been a fourth more of Surgical Patients, than the allowance for which the House is calculated; and for these, extra beds behoved to be provided; and at present, the Surgical wards are very much crowded. Declares, That in the course of the last three years, as before declared to, Surgical Patients have been gradually increasing: That at present it is necessary to refuse Patients that apply for admission: That if every Patient was admitted that applied, the House would require to be three times as large as at present.

Interrogated by the Managers of the Infirmary present, If the declarant has access to know, that the Managers have shown a readiness to procure the best Nurses that could be obtained? Declares, That he has heard, that they wished to obtain better Nurses; but he has also heard the Surgical Officers have said, that it was a pity higher wages were not given, as by doing so, better Nurses might be obtained.

Interrogated, If he is aware that there is a regulation against nurses taking money from patients or their friends? Declares, That till the printed regula-

tions in the year 1816, he was not aware that there was any regulation to that effect, but since then he has understood it to be the rule. And on the subject of nurses, he has to observe, that he thinks the Matron has too much power in the keeping and dismissing nurses; and he is led to make this observation from an occurrence that happened within the last three weeks, where a nurse was removed from the Surgical Ward to one of the Medical ones, against the express wish of the Surgeons: And upon their application for her being restored, it was not attended to: That this communication was made to the Matron in writing, by Dr Craigie, the declarant's clerk: That on another occasion, when the Surgeons requested a nurse to be dismissed for drunkenness, the Matron removed the nurse down stairs to one of the Medical Wards: That this nurse was an excellent nurse in every other respect.

Interrogated, If he knows that the Hospital was infested with the itch? Declares, That there were very few instances of this kind; and the greatest care is taken to prevent it, by using the proper precautions whenever it was discovered. And the declarant adds, that it would be a great improvement to the Hospital, if proper baths were fitted up for the patients: That portable baths are at present used, which are inconvenient and objectionable, because it is indecent to the patients and uncomfortable to the rest, it being done in the open Ward.

Interrogated, If he does not know that there are water-closets for the accommodation of the patients? Declares, That about two years ago, water-closets were erected in the house, which the patients were directed to use. Interrogated, declares, That previous to July last, he observed, that measures were in progress for improving the state of the bedding throughout the house; and that this was going on under the direction of the Managers. Declares, That having mentioned in a former part of his declaration, that the appearance of other hospitals in point of cleanliness was greater than this; it in part arose from the sheets in this Hospital being half-bleached linen, instead of full bleached; and that the bedding was covered with brown linen, instead of blue and white ticking, as now used.

Interrogated, If Mr Gillespie is of opinion, that when grievances have been laid before the Managers in a regular manner, that the Managers have entered with becoming zeal in endeavouring to have them removed. Declares, That the only subject he ever brought before the Managers, was the state of the Surgical Instruments, to which they immediately attended, and ordered a liberal supply, indeed more than what was asked.

Interrogated by the Committee, If the declarant thinks that the present Funds of the Infirmary are sufficient to put the Establishment into as perfect a state as he thinks it might admit of? Declares, That he does not know what the Funds of the Infirmary are, but he is perfectly satisfied, that a very great additional out-lay of money would be required to put it into a situation to receive all the patients who apply, and ought to be admitted, and to provide more effectually for the comforts of those who are received.

Interrogated by one of the Managers, Whether in any particular case where nourishment different from the ordinary allowance of the house seemed proper for the patient, the declarant did think himself entitled to order what he thought proper, and whether that order was complied with? Declares, That he did consider himself entitled to order such additional food, and that the order was liberally complied with; and this was the case, even to the ordering of apples, grapes, oranges, and other fruit. That in this respect, he believes, a greater latitude of discretion is allowed to the Surgeons of the Infirmary, than to the Medical Officers in perhaps any Hospital. That the only remark he would make is, that in ordering beef tea, he has found his order not so speedily complied with, twenty four

hours usually elapsing before it was procured, and this he believes is owing to the want of a sufficient supply of beef for these extra purposes.

15th January 1818.

JOHN SIMS, Student of Medicine, residing in Edinburgh, who being examined, declares, That he is twenty-five years of age, and one of the Society of Friends, That he was House-Surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary, from the autumn of 1813, to that of 1815. That he was previously a Dresser in that Infirmary for upwards of four years, at which time he was apprentice to Mr Rantsom, one of the Surgeons: That during the period he was Surgeon, the average number of House patients was from 100 to 110. Declares, That the declarant, in consequence of the request of Dr Spens, as he understood, acted as Clerk in the Medical ward of the Royal Infirmary, from the 17th of June last, to the 9th or 10th of July following.

Interrogated, If the declarant was in the habit of going frequently through all the wards of the House? Declares, not through all the wards, but through the Medical wards, excepting the Clinical ward, and the Lock ward; but he went occasionally through all the wards.

Interrogated, Did he visit the wards at different times of the day? declares, That he did. How late in the evening? Declares, That about six or seven o'clock in the evening was the ordinary evening hour, but occasionally, in cases of urgency, as late as ten or twelve. Q. Did he ever observe any patient lying without sheets? A. That soon after he went to the Hospital, he saw Betty M'Donald, in the Women's Country ward, lying without sheets; and she informed the declarant, that this had been the case for three weeks. Q. Who was Clerk in this ward? A. The declarant, on the side on which this woman lay. Q. To whom did the declarant succeed as Clerk? A. Dr Howison. Q. Was there any other patient without sheets? A. Ann Duff was observed by the declarant the following day to be also without sheets: That this patient lay on the same side of the ward with Betty M'Donald and this person said she had lain without sheets for nearly the same time. Q. Did the declarant observe any sheets in a filthy state? A. Very many, and can specify instances if necessary. Q. Did that filthiness appear to arise from their not being changed sufficiently often? A. This was one cause of their filthiness: That another was from the patients getting into bed with their clothes on: That a third arose from the patients' diseases, and the applications made to these: A fourth was from their not being clean when put upon the beds. Q. Can the declarant, from his personal knowledge, state how long a patient had remained without sheets? A. From the short time he was in the Hospital, he had not the means of deriving personal knowledge on this subject. Q. Does the declarant know that the sheets of any patient remained unchanged during the whole time he was in the Hospital? A. The sheets of Bell Paterson, in the Country ward, remained unchanged during that time. Q. Can he, from personal enquiry at the patients, state, that in certain instances patients have for a great length of time had no change of sheets? A. He can; and he herewith lays a list of these on the Committee's table. Q. Did the declarant look at the beds of each of those patients at the time he received that information from them? A. He did; and the appearance of these beds supported the statement he had received in every instance. Q. Did the filthiness of the sheets appear to him to arise in any case from dirt or

grease remaining in them that might have been removed by proper washing? *A.* The filth arose from the dirt and grease; and if the sheets had been properly changed at sufficiently short intervals, the declarant believes, from observations in other Hospitals, they might have been cleaned by washing. *Q.* Were the sheets used by the same class of Patients in the Manchester Infirmary better washed than in the Edinburgh Infirmary? *A.* The sheets in the Manchester Infirmary, however long they had been used in the Institution, were always, according to his observation, white, clean, and free from stain, when put on the Patients' beds. *Q.* Does the declarant know if the sheets used in the Manchester Infirmary were made of half bleached linen, or full bleached linen? *A.* From recollection he thinks they were half bleached; but is not quite certain. *Q.* Did he observe any instances of the blankets being in a filthy state? *A.* He observed several Patients who had filthy blankets: That the declarant sees, from a book entry, which he made at the time, that the following Patients had dirty blankets viz. Christian Lindsay, Mrs Robertson, M. A. Douglas, Betty Milly, in the Women's Surgeons' long ward; and Clementina Martin and Catharine Cooper, in the Women's Fever ward; Betty Miller, Jane Taylor, and Ann Duff, in the Women's Country ward; William Hervey in the Men's Surgeon's Operating ward, Campbell Seyd in the same ward; and James Small and Robert Henderson. *Q.* Does the book, from which the declarant reads, show the date of the declarant's making the observation as to the state of the blankets, as applicable to such Patient? *A.* It does not; but they were all made on the 4th of July, in company with Dr Craigie. *Q.* Did the declarant observe any instance of the blankets or beds being infested with lice? *A.* He did not. *Q.* Did he observe any instance of a patient, who from disease had a wet or dirty bed, being allowed to remain such a length of time without a change of bed clothes and bedding, as to occasion serious inconvenience to the patient? *A.* The only instance of serious inconvenience arising from this cause, was that of the woman whom the declarant noticed in the letter which he addressed to the Managers when he was a clerk in the Hospital: That in another instance, mentioned also in that letter, a woman in the Country Ward suffered from a discharge which collected in the blankets, and proved very offensive to herself, as well as to the other patients. *Q.* When he observed the sheets or blankets of the patients under his charge to be dirty, did he give intimation to the Matron that they should be changed? *A.* He informed the Matron of some of the first cases he observed; some of which were remedied, others partially so. *Q.* Why did he not continue to inform the Matron of the necessity of changing the sheets and blankets alluded to? *A.* Because in one case the Matron did not give that attention to his complaint which he conceived she ought to have done; and as the want of cleanliness appeared so general in the sheets in the Hospital, he concluded to pass by her, and to apply to those in the higher departments of office in the Hospital. *Q.* Does he from his personal knowledge know any instance of a patient on admission, being put into the bed another patient had left, without the sheets or bedding being changed? *A.* Not from personal knowledge, in so far as regards the sheets; but concerning the beds, he observed, that Catherine Cooper, a patient in the women's fever ward, was placed upon the same bed that Margaret Shiels, another fever patient had left, without the bed going out of the ward. *Q.* How does the declarant know this? *A.* He remembered it to be the bed which Margaret Shiels had left; and he asked the nurse, who was the day nurse at the time of the woman's fever ward, by name M'Donald as he thinks, if it was not so; and she answered, Yes. That the nurse understood this to apply to the flock bed.

which the declarant laid hold of at the time. That to the best of the declarant's recollection, not more than one or two days had intervened betwixt the removal of the one patient, and the other taking possession of it, but of this he is not certain. Q. Did the declarant ask the nurse if the said flock bed had been removed, and had undergone any airing in the mean time? A. He did not; but he saw the bed in the same state in the course of his intermediate visits. Q. Were there any other instances of the same kind. A. Not that he recollects of. Q. Did he make any representation relative to this instance at the time to any person. A. He did not. Q. Does he know any instance, from his personal knowledge, of a patient having caught the itch in the House. A. The before mentioned Bell Paterson had the itch when he examined her. It appeared recent, and he did not find that she had such complaint from the history of her case, as entered in the Journal on her admission. He observed another case to his personal knowledge: That Bell Paterson told the declarant that she had caught the itch, and attributed this to the sheets; which she said were not clean when put upon her bed. Q. Was he in the habit of seeing the food of the patients at their different meals. A. He frequently saw the food of the patients at their different meals. Q. Did he ever observe the porridge of the patients to be in a fluid state in their cogs, when they were eating it. A. He has frequently; and he observed it to be general at the time he made the observation. Q. Did he ever observe any instance of the quantity served to a patient, less than the quantity fixed in the diet table, as the portion to be allowed to each person. A. He did not know what was the quantity allowed to each patient. He observed that the cogs in general were half full: That the declarant cannot say what the size of these cogs was; but it did not appear to him that the quantity of porridge amounted to a mutchkin. Q. Does he know of any table of diet which specifies the quantity of articles of food to be allowed to each patient. A. He does not: That the printed statutes of the Hospital specify the articles but not the quantity. That he did not enquire, nor does he know the quantity of diet allowed to the patients. Q. Did he consider the quantity of porridge sufficient for the class of patients, where the quantity appeared to him not to amount to a mutchkin. A. He did not think it was sufficient for those patients whose appetites were not impaired by disease. Q. Did he observe any instance of the quantity of milk or beer served out, being less than three gills? A. He did not ascertain the quantity; but from recollection he does not think, that in general it amounted to that quantity. Q. Does he know frequent instances of the milk and beer being sour? A. During the short time he was in the Hospital he did not observe the milk and beer to be frequently sour; but he observed, that the milk was sometimes very blue and sour; and that the beer was bad in quality; but it was during very hot weather he was in the house. Q. Did he ever taste the broth of the patients; and was it good in quality in general? A. He tasted the broth more than once. It had very little animal or vegetable matter in it, but it did not appear bad in quality; by which he means, that it did not taste either musty or putrid. Q. Did he observe any instances of the quantity of meat served, being less than eight ounces when raw? A. He observed several pieces that were short of that weight when boiled, which was the only shape in which he saw them. Q. Required to state particular instances. A. One piece weighed four ounces and a quarter, one four ounces and a half, one seven ounces and a half, for two days allowance; and one five ounces and a half for two days allowance; and one daily bit that weighed two ounces and a quarter; and these pieces the declarant either weighed or saw weighed. Q. Was it on one or more occasions that these weights were ascertained? A. It was on two or three occasions. Q. On those several occasions were the whole pieces of a ward weighed

at the same time? A. That several pieces were weighed at the same time. Q. Did he mark down all the pieces he weighed. A. He did not: That he marked down the heaviest and the lightest; and those instances already given comprehended both. Q. With what weights was the meat weighed? A. They were the apothecary's shop-weights: That he supposes these were Avoirdupois, as the apothecaries buy and sell their drugs by that weight. Q. Who was present at said weighings? A. To the best of his recollection Dr Lee. Q. Were these different pieces of meat ever shewn to any other person? A. He shewed two pieces to Dr Spens on one occasion, and he shewed one piece of meat to Sir William Forbes and Mr Innes, but he does not recollect the weight of that piece, and he shewed these pieces at each of their houses. Q. Does he know the distinction of daily bits of meat, and of their being by regulation one half the quantity allowed to patients on full diet? A. He knew the distinction in terms, but he was not aware that there was any real difference. Q. Has he reason to believe, that the pieces of which he has stated the weights, were daily bits, or the portions allowed to patients on full diet? A. The smallest portion was a daily bit, the others he believes was a full diet. Q. What induced him to weigh the portions above stated? A. Because it appeared to him to be insufficient for Hospital allowance. Q. Did this insufficiency appear to him generally applicable to the portions served out for full diet? A. It did. Q. Did he observe frequent instances of the meat being bad in quality? A. He did not observe putridity in the patients' meat; but one portion that he saw contained no lean, and the pieces generally contained very little lean. Q. What did they consist of? A. They generally consisted of what is called gristle, and in one instance of the salivary gland of a beeve. Q. Did any of the patients ever complain to him of the food being deficient in quantity, or bad in quality? A. That several have complained of both? Q. Were such complaints made to him without enquiry on his part, or when he had no reason to believe that they were aware of his seeking information on this head? A. They were not made to him without enquiry? Q. Does he know from personal knowledge, any instances of the nurses neglecting the patients, or treating them harshly? A. On one instance, and one only, a patient complained to him of neglect by the nurse, after the patient had undergone cupping, by leaving the ward immediately after the operation: That this was in the Women's Country Ward; and as many of the before mentioned instances of neglect had occurred there, the declarant and Dr Lee, to whom similar complaints had been made, sent a joint note to the Matron, desiring that the Nurse might be dismissed: That this happened the day before the declarant left the Hospital; and the Nurse was dismissed accordingly next day: That he was afterwards informed by one of the Clerks, but which he does not remember, that this woman had been restored; and he was informed two or three days ago by Mr Glover, that this woman was still in the Hospital: That her name is Cummings. Q. Did he observe any other instance of neglect? A. That in various instances, when the hot bath was ordered to be administered to a patient in the evening, it was not prepared till five o'clock next morning: That he does not know of any instances of severity of nurses towards their patients. Q. Did the Matron punctually observe the statute, which requires her to visit the wards every day at 10 o'clock. A. He never saw her in the wards at any time; and at that hour the Matron and Clerks were at breakfast together. Q. What hour did they go to breakfast? A. They went to breakfast at various times while he was in the house, between 20 minutes from 10, till a little after 10. Q. Was it the declarant's practice to visit his wards immediately after breakfast? A. Sometimes before breakfast, and generally immediately after breakfast. Q. Are the

Clerks in use to visit the wards after breakfast? A. That they sometimes did to his knowledge; but he cannot give a definite answer to this question. Q. When the Matron did not visit the wards herself, did she send her assistant? A. He does not remember having ever seen the Matron's assistant in any of the wards; but he once saw her in the passage between two of the wards; and in one of the instances when he complained of one of the beds, the Matron said she would send her assistant. Q. Did the Matron mention to him any thing of the state of her family at this time? A. The declarant learned from Dr Lee, that her daughter was sick; and in the instance above mentioned, in which she directed her assistant to attend to the state of the bed, the Matron said, "I cannot go; I have to go to the Links;" in the vicinity of which the declarant understood her daughter resided. Q. Did he observe the state of the Lock Ward? A. He observed that the Lock Ward was in an extremely damp situation; he was not in charge of the Lock Ward, but that he has been in it once or twice: That he did not examine the beds minutely, but generally they appeared filthy; and he applies this to the pillows and the part of the sheets that lay over. Q. When he observed the existence of the abuses he has mentioned, what course did he take to make them known to the Managers? A. In conjunction with the other Clerks, he drew up a statement of the abuses that existed; along with this, he wrote a letter to the Managers: That these were sent to their ordinary court in July last. Q. Did he make any individual application to Dr Spens, or any of the Managers? A. He called upon Dr Spens on the 5th of July, and shewed him two portions of the meat, and also the notes he had taken relative to the state of the House as applicable to about 40 patients. He told the declarant he would speak of them to one of the Managers when he came to the Hospital at 12 o'clock. He requested him to point out the filthy state of the beds of his own patients. The declarant pointed out to him at the visit the case of James Turner in the Soldier's Ward, a man who had been six weeks in the house, and who had a pair of dirty sheets which had not been changed since his admission; one of which he only used, the other he kept under his pillow, because it was too dirty to use. The declarant pulled this from under the pillow, and unfolded it to Dr Spens. In the men's Country Ward, the declarant shewed him the sheets of two other patients which were extremely dirty. In the women's Fever Ward, the declarant shewed him some dirty blankets; and in the Country Ward, the cases of Betty McDonald and Bell Paterson, before mentioned, the former of which had then a pair of ragged sheets on her bed; two servants in the Servants Ward, whose mistress had sent them in sheets to their beds; and some others, of which he does not recollect the names: That Dr Spens had some conversation with Frank, the man nurse, about the ordinary period of changing the sheets; but the declarant does not recollect what passed between them: That this exhibition took place in the presence of several of the Students. Declares, That the declarant is enabled to state the facts in this answer which he has now dictated, and in other answers already made with precision, by having recourse to a state or memorandum made out by the declarant within these few days, from notes taken by the declarant at the time that the facts occurred; and the declarant did not think himself qualified to give his declaration, without having made out something of this kind for his own information: And the declarant declines to exhibit the said state. Q. If he has any objection to produce the original notes from which said state is made up? A. He has no objection to produce the original notes relative to the subject of enquiry.

16th January 1818.

The witness again examined.—The witness exhibited various notes and writings which he had before him yesterday in giving his evidence; and which he is willing to lodge with the Committee, on condition that he shall have access to these papers at all times; and that Dr Craigie shall have access to such of the notes as were taken jointly along with the declarant; and that the whole of said papers shall be delivered up to him when the inquiry is finished; and he will lodge said papers, with an inventory thereof, as early as convenient. Q. What further took place in his communication with Dr Spens? A. The following circumstance took place at Dr Spens':—After the declarant had described to him the state of the house, as he had found it, Dr Spens said, "I have complained again and again to the Managers," and pointed to a drawer, and said, "It all ends in smoke." Q. What further steps the declarant took? A. He then called upon Gilbert Innes, in company with his friend George Millar. He shewed to him one of the pieces of meat; and also mentioned to him the state of some of the beds, and requested him to come to the Hospital and see them. This he declined; but told the declarant to draw out a statement of what he had observed, and send them to the Managers, and a committee would be appointed to enquire into them. He next called upon Sir William Forbes, with his friend Alexander Cruickshank, and shewed him one of the pieces of meat, and also the minutes of between 40 and 50 cases that he had examined. He requested Sir William to come to the Hospital to see the state it was in. He told the declarant he would come; and requested the declarant to furnish him with the names of some of the patients, whose beds were in the worst condition. About an hour afterwards Sir William came into the Manager's room, along with Henry Jardine and Francis Wilson. The declarant gave Sir William Forbes a list of names, which comprised, to the best of his recollection, nine or ten bad cases. That he asked him if he should go through the wards with him, and point out to him the state of the beds. This Sir William said was not necessary; and the declarant did not go. After that, the Clerks and the declarant drew up the statement presented to the Managers on the 7th of July: That the interviews with Dr Spens, Sir William Forbes, and Gilbert Innes, took place on the 5th of July last. Q. Does he know that the managers appointed a committee of their number to enquire into the abuses he had pointed out to them? A. He was not informed by any of the Managers, that such a committee had been appointed; but he heard that it had been done. Q. Was he examined upon any of the abuses he complained of by the Managers? A. He was not. Q. If he has had an opportunity of seeing any other Hospitals besides the Manchester Infirmary, and Edinburgh Infirmary? A. He has visited several other Hospitals; viz. the provincial Hospitals of Nottingham, Derby, Stafford, Chester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Newcastle, Glasgow, and the Hospitals Saint Thomas and Guys, and the Middlesex in London. Q. In point of cleanliness, did he think that the state of the Edinburgh Infirmary, while he acted as Clerk there, was better or worse than the generality of Hospitals he has seen? A. At the time he was in the Edinburgh Infirmary, he considered that it was inferior to most he had seen in cleanliness; but he does not consider himself intimately acquainted with any other Hospital except the Manchester and the Edinburgh Infirmary, and therefore his opinion must be considered a general one merely; and in forming it, he took into consideration the oldness of the establishments, and the consequent wear and tear of fixtures and utensils. Q. In point of general attention to the comforts of the patients, does he think the Edinburgh Infirmary any better or worse than the generality of hospitals he has seen. A. To

answer that question definitely he ought to be acquainted intimately with the state of other hospitals, which he is not, excepting the Manchester one; in which he considers that the comfort and accommodation of the patients was superior to that of Edinburgh during the time he resided in it. Q. Does he know any hospital where there is more diligent attendance on the part of the medical officers?

A. He thinks, that the statute which enforces a daily visit from the physicians and surgeons in the Edinburgh Hospital, of greater advantage to the patients than any similar rule which he has seen in the rules of other hospitals. Q. In what respects is the Edinburgh Infirmary inferior to the generality of other hospitals he has seen, in so far as regards the comfort of the patients?

A. That question he can only answer definitely, inasmuch as regards the Manchester Infirmary. He considered the Edinburgh Hospital, at the time he resided in it, as inferior to the Manchester one, in the quantity and articles of the diet, and in the cleanliness of the beds; though the bed-stocks in the Edinburgh Infirmary are superior to most that he has seen; and also, in the arrangements of the inferior servants the Edinburgh Infirmary is inferior to the Manchester one. Q. How did the comparison stand as to the quality of the diet, as distinguished from the nature of the articles used?

A. More animal food was used at Manchester than the Edinburgh Infirmary, and it varied in kind. The beer in the Manchester Hospital was of a better quality. These are the differences he recollects, exclusive of the different manner of diet of the poor of the two places. Q. Was he a candidate for the office of clerk to the Infirmary, and did not he afterwards withdraw his application?

A. He laid his application for the then approaching vacant office of physician's clerk before the managers in May last, and withdrew it at their Court in June. Q. Why did he withdraw it?

A. Because he understood that one of the motives of election was to make the situation as useful as possible in point of medical instruction; and from this it appeared that he was stepping into the place of another.

Q. Does he mean, that he was already too far advanced in his medical education?

A. He does not; he means, that as he had already filled a similar situation, he ought to make way for others. Q. From whom did he get this information?

A. Dr Hope stated to him the motives of the election by the managers; and some of his friends told him, that that point was agitated against his application. Q. When was the communication with Dr Hope?

A. In the month of April.

Interrogated by Dr Hope, Whether the statement respecting the opinion of the Managers was given by him on the first visit at which the declarant communicated his intentions of becoming candidate for the clerkship in the Infirmary?

A. The declarant does not mean to say that Dr Hope mentioned it to him as an opinion immediately received from the Managers, but as the motives of election, which were generally understood; and that this opinion was given at the first visit. Q. Did Dr Hope at that visit state to the declarant the uniform practice which he had observed to be followed by the Managers since he had become one of them, of bestowing the appointments in the medical department upon those candidates who, from the testimonials of qualification, promised to be most fit for the situation?

A. Dr Hope stated to the declarant, that the general practice was to adopt the maxim, *detur digniori*, with the exception he has before mentioned. Q. Did not Dr Hope express himself highly pleased with the testimonials which the declarant had produced; and in conversing in a friendly way with the declarant respecting the probability of his success, state as a possible objection, that it might be thought that the declarant, having enjoyed the situation of Clerk in the Manchester Infirmary for two years, the Managers might be disposed to give a preference to some other gentleman whose qualifications seemed ample and com-

plete, with the view of extending the usefulness of an Infirmary education over a wider circle? A. Dr Hope expressed himself highly satisfied with the testimonials the declarant had shewn him, and also with the information he had received from Dr Henry, and also, that there was another gentleman who had made a previous application, and was considered competent. He did not conceive that the opinion which Dr Hope gave him, in the friendly and condescending manner in which he did it, to come from the Managers; but as information, which he privately communicated. Q. As Dr Hope's memory does not serve him to know, he requests the declarant will inform him whether he apprised Dr Hope of his intention of withdrawing his application in the month of June? A. He did so. Q. What information had the declarant as to the rules and regulations of the Hospital? A. He got a copy of the history and statutes of the Hospital from the Apothecary, and he borrowed from Dr Craigie a copy of the regulations 1816, which he perused. Q. Did the declarant consider the rules there laid down as applicable to Clerks, as falling to regulate his conduct when acting as interim Clerk? A. He did not conceive himself obliged to adopt the regulations concerning clerks whilst he resided in the Infirmary, because his office was only temporary, and he was not regularly appointed to that office. Q. In point of fact, did the declarant in general observe those rules? A. He did in general. Q. Did he, in any case of the defects or improprieties before mentioned by him, follow the regulation No. 15, requiring, "that upon observing any impropriety in the House, they are immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer, in order that he may either acquaint the Managers, or take such steps as he may think proper for correcting the same?" A. He did not. Q. Was there any particular reason for his not having done so? A. He had particular reasons; because the irregularities appeared very great, and he thought it best to apply to those who were higher office bearers. Q. Had he any reason to know that irregularities existed in the Hospital before he went into it? A. From indefinite information he had; but he cannot specify any individual from whom he received such information.

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DR WILLIAM BEILBY, residing in Edinburgh, examined, declares, That he was clinical Clerk under Dr Home and Doctors Duncans, to the Royal Infirmary, in the course of the years 1814, 1815, and 1816; and he was also Clerk to Doctors Hamilton and Spens, once, for the period of three weeks, and another for a fortnight in the course of that period. Q. If he observed the state of the sheets in the house? A. I have several times observed them dirty; two or three particular instances of which I recollect. I cannot affirm that the generality of the sheets were dirty. In the Clinical Ward patients for the most part continue a shorter time than in other Wards. Q. Did the patients in the Clinical Ward complain of the dirtiness of their sheets? A. I don't recollect more than one instance of complaint being made on that head. Q. Did he observe the state of sheets in other parts of the House? A. I did not. Q. What was the disease of the patient who complained of the sheets. A. It was a disease attended occasionally with a copious discharge. Q. How long had that patient been without having her sheets changed? A. I cannot recollect. Q. Did you make any complaint on this head? A. I spoke to the Nurse about it, but to no other person. Q. Did he observe any other instance of dirty sheets? A. Yes; I remember two others; the one was the case of a boy that had a dropsy, and was using mercurial frictions; the other was the case of a person labouring under a pulmonary consumption, and

subject to very profuse perspiration ; but I made no complaint as to these two persons.

Q. Do you know whether the nurses of each Ward had a supply of sheets under their charge? A. I may almost speak with certainty, that they had not in the years 1814 and 1815 ; and I rather think they had not in the months of May and June 1816, which was the latest period I attended in the House.

Q. Were any means used to clean the patients when they were brought into the House in a filthy state? A. None, excepting in a few instances in which the warm bath was ordered by Dr Home for that purpose ; but there was no regular provision for that purpose in general.

Q. Did you observe whether any of the patients remained in the Wards in a filthy state who were brought in in that state? A. In those cases where the patient was unable to clean himself, I do not recollect any instance of their continuance in that state ; but in other cases, where they were so able, he has often heard patients reproved for neglecting to clean themselves.

Q. What was the state of the bath used for the patients? A. It was in a room on the ground floor, which had no window to it, but only an opening to the external air : The room was cold and damp ; the way to it was through a passage in which there was a very strong current of air : That the bath was frequently ordered when it could not be administered for want of water ; and even when there was water, it could not always be employed from the means of heating the water being inadequate for a second or third bath successively.

Q. Whether any means were taken for having those patients washed who were unable to wash themselves? A. I have directed the nurses in such cases to wash the patient, and have no doubt that it was done.

Q. Was the nurse in the Clinical Ward particularly attentive to the patients? A. The woman, whose name was Grant, who was nurse when first I was Clerk on the Mens' Clinical Ward was very attentive ; and I had no reason to complain of the nurse on the same Ward when I was the second time Clerk to that Ward.

Q. Had you occasion to observe the state of the nurses in other parts of the House? A. Not so much.

Q. Do you know whether patients had to wait for beds when they ought immediately to have been put to bed? A. I do.

Q. What was the nature of the delay? A. In several instances where we have had fever cases, and I have been anxious that they should be immediately put to bed, they have been kept sitting up for four or five hours ; and in other instances have lain down upon the beds of other patients : That the nurses in such cases told me, that they had applied to the Matron for beds, and they had not been given out.

Q. Was the Hospital very much crowded in all these instances? A. Not particularly, so far as I recollect.

Q. Do you know whether the nurses are very much employed at the time when the patients are conveyed from the Waiting-room to the Wards ; and did this appear to you to be the cause of some part of the delay? A. I am not aware of any particular employment the nurses have at that time, except their attendance upon the new patients.

Q. Did it appear to be connected with bringing the dinner to the patients? A. Not at all ; as the beds for fever patients ought to be taken up before the dinner bell is rung ; and the nurses never stated to him that the delay arose from their waiting at dinner, or from their other occupations.

Q. Did you observe it during all the periods of your attendance, or only during one of those periods? A. During all of them, to the best of my recollection.

Q. Have you had occasion to visit the Lock Ward? A. I have ; and when supplying Dr Bigsby, as clerk to Dr Spens, I had the care of it.

Q. What was the state of that ward? A. It was very dirty.

Q. Is it peculiarly difficult to keep the Lock Ward clean? A. I think it would require more than common attention.

Q. Have you had occasion to observe the diet? A. I have never taken particular notice of the diet, except of the full diet, or what was ordered for convalescent patients.

Q. Did you make any observations upon the full diet? and if so, relate them. A. I have ; and it appears to me, that the allowance of butcher meat for full diet, was scanty, and not sufficiently nutritious, from being overboiled.

Q. What appeared to you the quantity that patients on full diet got? A. It always appeared to me, that it was deficient in quantity ; but I have no distinct recollection of the quantity ; except on one occasion, when the allowance for five persons weighed altogether seven ounces five drams, apothecary's weight : That of these five two had what are called daily bits : That he weighed them out on this occasion at the time it was served out, having taken it from the nurse before being given to the patients. That he weighed portions on several other occasions, but cannot relate the particulars ; but

on none of those other occasions did he ever find those portions so small as in that above specified : That one occasion he remembers the weight to have been two or three ounces for each person ; but I do not remember whether these were daily bits ; but I usually made these observations on full diet days : That the proportions above mentioned were all the portions served out on that day in that ward, there being only five patients at that time on full diet : That I reported to Dr Home what I have now stated as to the weight of these proportions. Q. What was the greatest weight you found in any of these portions at any time ? A. Rather more than five ounces, apothecary's weight. Q. Whether you made any complaint in consequence of this ? A. Dr Home desired me to speak to the Matron about it, which I did : I think this took place either in January or May 1815, as I was not Clerk in the intermediate months. Q. Did you observe any deficiency in this respect when you was in the Hospital the subsequent year ? A. I did. Q. Did it appear to you, that the animal food was in general so much boiled when given to the patients, as to be less nutritious than it ought to have been ? A. It did. Q. Did you observe the beef-tea, and what was its quality ? A. On several occasions I tasted it, and thought it very poor. Q. Do you know the difference between the full diet and the daily bits ? A. I do not. Q. Did you ever see any table of diet ? A. I never did ; although I made some enquiries on the subject at Dr Home, who said he had some where an account of what the diet should be, but he could not at that time lay his hands upon it. Q. What did you understand the allowance of meat to patients on full diet to be ? A. I understood, but I do not recollect on what authority, that the allowance to patients on full diet was half a pound of meat. Q. Whether do you understand this half pound of meat was the weight when in a raw or boiled state ? A. I had no distinct information on this head. Q. Do you know whether the physician has an unlimited power to increase the diet of the patients ? A. I believe so. Q. Have you been in use to visit other Hospitals ? A. I never officiated in any other, but I have visited several. Q. Did you see enough of them to be able to draw a comparison between them and the Edinburgh Hospital, in point of cleanliness and attention to the comfort of the patient ? A. I did. Q. The witness is desired to name the Hospitals he has visited ? A. Those of the Fever Hospital in Dublin, the Newcastle, Birmingham, and Manchester Infirmarys ; and I thought the Infirmary of Edinburgh inferior to every one of them in cleanliness and attention to the comforts of the patients : I went through the Newcastle Infirmary immediately after leaving Edinburgh, and spent two or three hours there ; and was particularly struck with the difference in point of cleanliness betwixt this and that of Edinburgh : I never saw this Infirmary at any other time ; I saw the Manchester one twice, and the time I occupied there on both occasions did not exceed two or three hours altogether : I have visited the Birmingham one frequently, having resided in the town for a considerable time : I have often seen the Fever Hospital in Dublin, having resided in Dublin for some years.

Dr ALEXANDER TWEEDIE, surgeon in Edinburgh, examined : Was Clerk in the Edinburgh Infirmary for two years and three months, previous to December 1816. I was first two months Clerk to Dr Spens, then three months Clerk to Dr Home in the clinical ward, then about eight months Clerk to Mr Law, and then for about two months to Mr Gillespie, and latterly, for about fourteen months to Dr Hamilton ; I lived about two years of that period in the House. Q. Did you ever observe any patient without sheets ? A. Frequently. Q. How long did they remain so ? A. For several days, and frequently for weeks in cases in the locked ward. Q. Did you ever observe the sheets filthy ? A. I observed them frequently in a very dirty, greasy state. Q. Did this dirtiness appear to proceed from their not being frequently washed, or from being improperly washed ? A. From both causes. Q. Can you state from personal observation, how long they have remained unchange

A. There being no specific rule in the House to this effect, I cannot from personal observation mention any particular time. Q. How long, in particular instances, independent of general rules; can you state of the sheets of patients remained unchanged? A. I have known them unchanged for five or six weeks in the Surgical Ward; and in those cases from the nature of the disease, the sheets would require to be changed frequently. Q. Did you ever complain to any person of the sheets being dirty, or not properly changed? A. In several instances, both to the Matron and the medical officers under whom I acted. Q. Did you complain to any other persons? A. I did not. Q. What attention was paid to these complaints by the Matron, or by the medical officers? A. In some cases they were rectified, but in general considerable delay was experienced. Q. What was the cause of this delay? A. Upon enquiring at the Matron, she told me that it was in the first place from a scanty supply of sheets; and in the second, from their not being regularly brought from the washing. Q. What was the state of the blankets? A. In general they were not so much to be complained of as that of the sheets. Q. Have you observed them in a filthy state? A. I have; but those instances were chiefly accidental. Q. Did it appear to you that the cure of the patient was retarded by the want of cleanliness? A. Yes; and in this he particularly alludes to the Lock Ward. Q. Is it a matter of difficulty to keep the Lock Ward clean? A. He thinks not, from what he has seen in other hospitals. Q. What other Hospital he alludes to? A. The Lock Hospital in London. Q. Did it appear to you that there was any material difference between the state of the Lock Wards of the Edinburgh, and that of Wards in the Lock Hospital in London? A. Very material; I have twice visited the Lock Hospital in London, and on those occasions I did not observe any of the Wards in that Hospital so dirty as the Lock Ward in Edinburgh. Q. Do you know whether the nurses of each Ward had a supply of spare sheets under their charge? A. I have seen sheets in the presses, but I do not know whether they were spare sheets or not; when fresh sheets were ordered, the order had always to be made to the Matron; and this order had frequently to be repeated before it was complied with: That such orders were all in writing. Q. Was this order inserted in a book, or merely put upon a slip of paper? A. The usual medium for such orders was by insertion in the night book; at other times, by a marking on a slip of paper sent to the Matron direct: That these night books, not being records of cases, were either lost or destroyed.—And the preceding part of the declaration being read over, the witness desires to rectify that part of his declaration, which mentions, that the sheets were not changed for five or six weeks in the Surgical Ward; as the declarant meant to apply that statement to the Lock Ward: And farther mentions, that in the Lock Ward instances occurred, where patients remained without sheets the whole time they were in the Lock Ward: That the present nurse in the Lock ward, was also nurse at that time, to the best of his knowledge: That during the latter period of his being in the Hospital, he was Clerk to the Lock Ward for upwards of nine months. Q. Was there any bason or night stool in the Lock Ward? Answers, There was no night stool in the Lock Ward so far as he observed; and there was one bason under the charge of the nurse, which was both used by the Dressers and Clerk; and does not know whether the patients were excluded from the use of it or not. Q. Have the patients in the Lock Ward the use of the water-closet? Answers, There was no water-closet for females at that time; and such patients were not allowed to leave the ward without an order from the Clerk who had the charge of the ward. Q. Has the Clerk the chief management of the Lock Ward? A. He had, while the declarant was there; though nominally under the charge of the Physician. Q. What means did he employ to get a change of sheets? A. By an order sent to the Matron: And when this was not complied with, by reporting the state of the ward to the Physician. Q. Were patients ever removed from the Lock Ward to other parts of the House? A. When the states of sores required a better ventilated situation, or when their general health required, it they were removed to other wards. Q. What effect was their removal attended with? A. That the state of their sores, and their general health was much improved. Q. Was the ventilation in the Lock Ward sufficient? A. That it was not; but it was chiefly owing to the patients themselves, by shutting the windows when they were ordered to be kept open, and from the damp situation of the room. Q. How often

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does the Physician usually visit the Lock Ward? A. Only when requested by the Clerk who has charge of it at the time. Q. Do you know if there was any representation made to the Managers about the state of the Lock Ward. A. That he does not know if there was any separate representation to the Managers, nor to the best of his knowledge, did the Managers visit the ward when the declarant had the charge of it. Q. What was the general representations made about the state of the House to which he refers? A. That he alludes to representations made to the state of the House generally by Mr Law; and in which he understood Dr Spens concurred; in consequence of which, additional sheets were procured to the House as well as bedding. Q. Can he tell when this change happened? A. That he thinks it was in 1815? Q. Did he make representations to Dr Hamilton on the subject? A. That he did; after which Dr Hamilton visited the ward along with the declarant; and as far as he recollects, Dr Spens accompanied them? Q. Did you take pains to rectify the state of the Lock Ward when you had charge of it? A. That he certainly did. Q. When he saw patients without sheets, did he make repeated application till they were supplied? A. That he made repeated applications for them; but they were not in every instance supplied. Q. Have you ever seen damp sheets in the ward on beds? A. That he has. Q. Did this occur frequently? A. That it did not. Q. Did you ever observe vermin on the beds, or upon the persons of the patients? A. That he has, on both the beds and patients. Q. Did he ever observe this in any particular ward? A. That it was not confined to any particular ward; and it was chiefly on old patients. Q. What species of vermin were they? A. The vermin he alludes to were chiefly lice. Q. Did patients ever complain to you on that subject? A. That it chiefly attracted the attention of the nurses; and the patients did not complain of it to the declarant? Q. Does he know if the patients came into the House with the vermin upon them? A. That they frequently did. Q. Had you occasion to observe that means were taken to free the beds from vermin, where former patients had them? A. That means were generally used to free the patients from vermin, and these means were generally effectual; but he does not know as to the beds, after the beds were removed from the wards. Q. Were any regular means taken to wash or clean the patients when they came into the House? A. That no regular means were taken, unless the patients were in a state of extreme filthiness. Q. What were the means then used? A. Chiefly washing the patients, and supplying them with a shirt or shift; and their face, hands, and feet, were usually washed by the nurse; and if very filthy, they were frequently ordered to be put into a warm bath; and that this was done before they were put to bed? Q. Was this done usually in the House, or did it require an order from one of the Medical Attendants? A. That it required a special order from one of the Medical Attendants in the House. Q. Are there many cases in which it would be injurious, from the nature of the disease, or unnecessary, to have the patients cleaned or washed when they are admitted into the House? A. That from the class of patients admitted, it would be seldom unnecessary, and he believes never injurious. Q. Might it not be injurious in particular cases; such as cases of fever, or cases of inflammation, and accidents, such as fractures? A. That his former answers applied to the general case of patients; but that particular cases might occur, in which it might be injurious to the patients to have them immediately cleaned: And the witness adds, that it is the practice of other Hospitals to make it a general rule, that patients should be cleaned upon admission; and he believes it is attended with good effect. Q. Does he understand it to be a general rule in other Hospitals, that the patients are cleaned on admission, without consulting the medical officers on each particular case as to the propriety of having them cleaned or washed? A. That he understands it is; and he alludes to that of Newcastle which he visited, and only from report that of Manchester. Q. When he was in the House, did he ever observe patients have the itch while they were under the progress of cure for other diseases? A. That patients admitted for the cure of other diseases, have become affected with itch, when at their admission they did not complain of their labouring under any cutaneous affection. Q. Did they state to you whether they had it when they came into the house or that they had got it in the house. A. That they denied to the declarant that they were affected with it on their admission. Q. Did it appear to you that this denial was true, or that

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they had it previously and concealed it. A. That he cannot charge his memory with particular investigations on this point; but has frequently witnessed the fact of their becoming affected with itch during the time they remained in the house for the cure of other diseases.

Q. Do patients occasionally come into the house for the cure of the itch itself. A. That they do occasionally, but not frequently.

Q. Are particular pains taken to prevent the spreading of the disease as soon as it is discovered in the Hospital. A. That there are.

Q. Do you recollect in what wards the patients were, to whom the declarant has referred to as having become affected with the itch, in the progress of cure from other diseases. A.

That he has seen it occur both in the Surgical Ward and other wards of the house. Q. Can you mention any particular instances. A. That he cannot give any particular case, not having taken any notes of it at the time.

Q. Are shirts regularly given to those patients who need them. A. That they are given when required, to be used during the time they remain in the house.

Q. Are those shirts supplied by the Matron, on a requisition by the Clerks, or by the Physician? A. That they are supplied when a written order is sent to the Matron.

Q. When a patient has no friends in Edinburgh, or money to pay for washing, how are his body-linen washed? A. That he does not know.

Q. Are flannel shirts issued to the patients on a requisition by the Medical Officers when they think the case requires it? A. That he never knew such a requisition made; but he believes, if any thing of that sort

were ordered, it would be procured.—Q. What was the state of the baths for patients? A.

During the time I remained in the house, there was one bath situated at the east-end of the house, which was expressly appropriated for the accommodation of male and female patients; and in some of the wards I believe the Surgical slipper baths were employed when the state of the patients prevented their removal from the ward: That it was used as a hot bath, but considerable inconvenience was experienced from several patients being ordered the use of the warm bath at one time, so that one patient was obliged to wait till another had employed it; and in general it was properly supplied with water, although at times there was a difficulty experienced in getting water from a scarcity in that part of the town.

Q. Had you occasion to observe any delay in procuring beds for patients that came into the house? A. I have.

Q. From what cause did this delay arise? A. From the number of admissions upon particular days, and from pressure of business in the department of the Matron.

Q. Did it appear to you that the beds might have been furnished sooner in most instances where these delays took place? A. I cannot judge; but I have heard frequent complaints from fever patients, and those labouring under acute diseases, and frequently in cases

of accidents, of the inconvenience they felt by not being put to bed immediately on admission.

Q. Whether there were beds and bedding kept ready at the Hospital for the admission of Patients when the Hospital was not particularly crowded, and whether there was not also a bed kept in the Surgical Ward in cases of accidents? A. There were no spare

beds kept in general in the Medical Wards for the reception of patients after the hour of visit; but when the crowded state of the Surgical Wards did not prevent it, there was in

general a spare bed reserved in case of accidents. Q. How long have you known patients wait for want of beds? A. I have known fever patients remain without beds from one to

three hours after they were admitted into the wards; but this did not generally occur.

Q. What was the state of the nurses when you were in the house? A. In particular wards I have had occasion to be satisfied, as far as I observed, with the general conduct of the nurses; but with other nurses I had frequently occasion to remark impropriety of conduct.

Q. Of what nature were these complaints? A. Intoxication, and want of attention in giving the Patients their medicines as prescribed, when received from the Apothecary.

Q. Did you observe any instances of harshness in the Nurses? A. I have heard such complaints from the Patients; but these were rare, and I never witnessed such harshness.

Q. Did you ever complain to the Matron of the Nurses? A. Frequently; but such complaints were only attended to in some instances.

Q. Can you specify any particular instance where they were not attended to? A. I do not in general remember the names of the Nurses; but I recollect, while acting under Mr Law, that one Nurse named Thomson

was required by the Surgeons to be dismissed; which was complied with at the time; but she was, after an absence of several weeks, reinstated by the Matron to the situation of night

nurse in a different ward, and now occupies the situation of day nurse in one of the Medical wards: That there are several other instances which I recollect the circumstances of, though I cannot remember the names of the nurses: That it was a matter of frequent complaint with the Physicians and Surgeons; but the Matron, considering the appointment and dismissal of the nurses as her prerogative, such complaints were in many instances not attended to: That the answer made by the Matron was, that she could not get better nurses; And the declarant being desired to specify who were the nurses whom he has alluded to, as being satisfied with? A. I will give a list of them, if desired; but I cannot specify their names at present. Q. Had you occasion to observe the diet of the Patients? A. I had daily opportunity of observing the different diets of the Patients. Q. What was the state of the porridge, as far as you observed? A. It was in general in quantity, so far as I conceived, by no means sufficient for a convalescent Patient, and often appeared to me too thin; in some instances so thin as to resemble thick gruel. I judged of the quantity from its appearance in the dish. Q. Do you think that each patient had a mutchkin of porridge in the instances you observed; or had you any means of ascertaining the quantity? A. I had no means of ascertaining the quantity; but the cogs appeared in general half full: I never heard any complaints of the quality of the meal. Q. Did you ever see any table of diet, specifying the quantity of the diet allowed each Patient? A. I never could procure such table upon application to the Matron or Apothecary. Q. What was the quantity and quality of the milk? A. The quality of the milk was in general good, and the quantity seemed to be sufficient for the allowance of porridge. The Patients in general have their choice of bread or porridge for supper; but I cannot speak with certainty as to breakfast: That when the Patients took bread at breakfast, they did not appear to have a sufficiency of milk; and I had several complaints from the Patients who took bread, that they had not a sufficiency, although such were comparatively rare: That this applies to convalescent patients. Q. Did it appear to you that the quantity of meat given to Patients on full diet was sufficient? A. I heard frequent complaints from convalescent Patients, that the quantity of animal food allowed them was insufficient. Q. Did you ever ascertain the quantity, in consequence of these complaints? A. Only in two instances, in which the deficiency attracted my particular attention; the one, so far as my memory serves me, weighed under an ounce; and the other about an ounce and a quarter: These portions of animal food I preserved, and laid before the Surgeons at the next visit, and these portions belonged to Patients in the Men's Surgical ward: I afterwards had a conversation with Dr Davidson and Mr Andrew Wood, two of the Managers, on the subject of diet in general, in which I mentioned these two instances; and for some time after this there was certainly an improvement in the quantity of animal food allowed each Patient. Q. Were these portions an average specimen? A. They were not. Q. Did you see these portions brought into the ward? I did not; but got them from the Patients in presence of the nurse. Q. Do you know whether these portions were daily bits, or full diet allowance? A. I am not certain; but allow they may have been what are called daily bits. Q. Is there a difference between daily bits and full diet? A. I understand there is; but from the want of tables of diet I cannot speak with certainty as to this difference. Q. What was the average quantity of meat the patients got on full diet? A. I cannot speak with certainty as to the number of ounces which it might average; but it appeared to me greatly deficient: and I know, that in the Surgical wards in particular, beef steaks from half a pound to a pound, were frequently ordered for particular patients: And I may also state, that when the situation of patients required it, any article which would have contributed to promote their recovery, even amounting to luxury, was, if ordered by the Medical persons, furnished; and the Medical attendants had full power to increase in any individual case the allowance of the patient: And I may further state, that when representations were at any time made on the subject of diet to the Managers, a visible improvement followed; but that was in general only temporary. Q. Whether beef steaks were more frequently ordered than they would otherwise have been, in consequence of the full diet being insufficient for convalescing Patients? A. I conceive that they were? Q. Do Surgical Patients require in general a fuller diet than other Patients? A. In my opinion they do; but the diet in Surgical cases should always be regulated by the attending Surgeon. Q. Were there any plates, knives, forks, and spoons furnished to the patients? A. There

were neither, to the best of my knowledge, plates, knives and forks, or spoons, furnished to the patients. Q. Do you know whether all or any of these articles are furnished to patients in other hospitals? A. I do not know. Q. Do the patients' friends generally bring those articles? A. In general they do. Q. Have you known instances of food being brought in to the patients? A. I have frequently detected it; and I have known nurses purchase different articles of food for the patients without the sanction of the medical attendants or clerks. Q. Have you known any instances of money being extorted from the patients? A. I have, by the nurses and porters. The patients acquainted me of the fact, and I mentioned it to the medical attendants, who communicated the same to the managers by whom it was redressed. I remember in one case a nurse being dismissed by the Managers for this fault: That the porters were reprimanded, and understood were not dismissed in consequence of their long services; and I know no instance of their having done so after this. Q. When any thing improper came to your knowledge in any of the matters before declared to, did you report it to the medical officers under whom you were at the time? A. I did so in general. Q. Did you receive the regulations printed in 1816, and at what time? A. I did, before I left the Hospital, I think about three months: That there were no printed rules previous to these last, except what were in the statutes. Q. Were the regulations 1816 put into the hands of the clerks in order to be rules for their conduct? A. They were so received. Q. Were they observed? A. I can only speak for myself, and I endeavoured to observe them. Did you see the Treasurer often in the house? A. I saw him frequently; but chiefly on the days in which the Managers held their monthly meetings. Q. Did you observe the state of the diet on particular days, or of the wards, different from what it was on other days? A. On these days on which it was understood the Managers were to meet, it certainly appeared to me that the state of the Hospital in general was materially improved; but I cannot speak as to the diet of the patients. Q. Have you had occasion to observe other hospitals? A. I have been frequently in the Newcastle Hospital, and have visited some of the principal hospitals in London. Q. Did the state of the Infirmary, in point of cleanliness and attention to the comforts of the patients, appear to you superior or inferior to these hospitals? A. The domestic arrangement of hospitals I have visited certainly appeared to me superior to that of the Infirmary here; but I conceive that the attention which the patients received from the medical and surgical attendants in these hospitals was far inferior to what I had so frequently an opportunity of witnessing at the Edinburgh Infirmary. Q. How do you judge of the domestic arrangements of these hospitals? A. From the general appearance of the wards, and of the persons of the patients, and from the tables of diet, and other regulations which I saw in these hospitals. Q. How the complaints that were made by the clerks were treated by the Matron? A. In some instances the complaints were rectified, and in others I had occasion to believe that they were attributed to a disposition on the part of the clerks to find fault with the domestic economy of the house. Q. On what was this belief founded? A. I have heard it expressed by the Matron; and she expressed this when at table, and on other occasions. I have also heard her say, that any complaints sharply expressed in the order-book were shewn to the Treasurer. Q. Was the Matron in any respect neglectful of the comfort of the clerks? A. So far as I was concerned, I cannot say that I experienced particular want of comfort on her part: That the treatment of the clerks depended in some measure on the terms on which they were with the Matron. Q. Did it appear to you that the complaints made by the clerks, relative to matters occurring in the domestic management of the Hospital, affected the conduct of the Matron towards them? A. In many instances I had occasion to observe it did. Q. Did you leave the house on good terms with the Matron? A. I did, and have since visited her. Q. Had you any personal differences with the Matron while in the house. A. I certainly had occasional differences relative to the domestic management of the house; but they were not of a personal nature. Q. Did the conduct of the Matron in these respects make it unpleasant to you to complain of what you saw amiss in the domestic arrangement of the house? A. It certainly did. Q. The witness having said, that subsequent to the rules 1816 being put into his hands, he endeavoured to observe the same; did you observe the regulation respecting clerks; No. 15, requir-

ing them, on observing any impropriety in the house, immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer? A. I did not know the existence of such a rule till a short time before I left the Hospital; and I do not recollect that any circumstance occurred which required any complaint being made to the Treasurer subsequent thereto. Q. Will the instances of patients being affected with itch subsequent to admission appear in any record, and in what? A. I cannot give reference to the cases in point: That if it did not form a prominent feature of the disease for which the patient was under treatment, it was probably not recorded in the case of the patient.

23d January 1818.

Mrs JANE MONTGOMERY, Matron of the Infirmary, examined, declares, That she has been Matron of the Royal Infirmary since October 1813: That she has the charge of certain books, which she now produces; and she has no reason to suppose there is any inaccuracy in them. Q. To what cause the variation in the quantity of the daily articles of provision, which appears from the books now produced, is to be ascribed? A. To the variety in the number of patients. Q. What quantity of meal is allowed for a mess of porridge to each patient on ordinary allowance? A. I cannot precisely say; the porridge is made good, and a mutchkin is served to each patient. Q. Interrogated more particularly. A. As nearly as I can say, four stones of meal is allowed for from 108 to 112 patients daily; and it has always been nearly in the same proportion. Q. Are there any general tables of diet? A. None such were ever handed to me. Mrs Hume, the preceding Matron, acquainted me with the rules which she observed, and these I followed. Q. Do you know of any book or record, or document, in which these rules were written? A. I do not. Q. Had you occasion to see Mrs Hume, the preceding Matron, frequently, before you took the charge? A. I came to the House on a Wednesday, and Mrs Hume remained till the Monday following: That during this time Mrs Hume continued to manage the House, and I saw how this was done. Q. Whether, upon the 7th of January, when enquiries were made by some of the individual members of the Committee, relative to the quantity of meal used in the porridge, she stated, in answer to repeated questions on the subject, that the allowance of meal given was at the rate of a pound of meal to every three portions of porridge? A. My general impression at that time was, that a pound of meal would form the proper quantity for an allowance for three persons; I afterwards made an experiment on a small scale, and found that a pound of meal did form such allowance; but upon making it upon a larger scale, I found that not quite so much meal was necessary: Before this I never had made any experiment to ascertain the quantity of meal requisite. Q. Has the oat meal generally been of a good quality? A. Universally. Q. Does the oat meal entered comprehend what is used for water gruel. A. It does. Q. From whom is the meal got? A. It has been always furnished by Mr Mutter, Lasswade: The best meal is ordered, and it is paid for at the market price of the day. Q. What quantity of milk is allowed for each patient? A. Three gills for breakfast, and the same quantity for supper. Q. Whether the quantity of milk varies according to the number of patients in the House? A. We take in 58 Scotch pints of milk daily; and when this proves insufficient, it is made up by beer. Q. How does the distribution take place when there is a deficiency? A. Those on milk diet are first supplied; and the remainder is divided among the rest in such a way, as that those for whom there is not milk in the morning, shall have it in the evening; and I have never found any scarcity in this mode of distribution. Q. Do any person in the House receive milk besides the patients? A. The only other persons supplied with milk are the Clerks and Apothecaries, and the declarant herself; the nurses get none. Q. How is the milk got? A. It is got from three persons, who have supplied the House all the year round since ever I was there; and I have always found the quality unexceptionably good: That the price paid for it is 4d. a Scotch pint in winter, and 3½d. in summer. Q. What proportion of beer is allowed to patients. A. Three

gills is the ordinary allowance in the morning, and the same quantity in the evening. Q. How much is allowed to the nurses. A. A Scotch pint daily each; and in general the number is about 24; there are four men who get the same allowance of beer. Q. Is there more than one kind of beer used in the house? A. A small cask of table beer is got from time to time for the Clerks' table, the rest is all one kind of beer: The beer for the Clerks' table is not entered in the general consumpt book, but in a small book kept by me, now on the table. Q. How is the beer furnished? A. The beer comes in daily, and is furnished by Mr Campbell, brewer, Cowgate, and by Mr Dick, Robertson's close; these brewers supplying the beer day about; and sometimes beer is got from both on the same day: That the general quality of the beer is good. Q. What is the quantity of bread allowed to each patient on full diet? A. The bread is baked into leaves of 21 ounces each, and these are cut into four equal portions, and one of these portions is allowed a patient at each diet when bread is taken. Every patient is allowed three diets daily; and they have it in their choice to take either porridge, or bread and milk, or bread and beer at breakfast and supper. Q. What quantity is allowed to Clerks, nurses, and porters? A. There is no fixed allowance for the Clerks; the ordinary Nurses have each a quartern loaf and a-half, and a 21 loaf each Monday, being their weekly allowance; extra nurses have a 21 ounce loaf daily, as have also the three women employed about the kitchen: That of late there has also been from two to three laundry maids daily employed, who get a similar allowance: The porters have three quartern loaves weekly each. Q. Who furnishes the bread? A. It is furnished by Mr Aikman, Mr Hunter, and Mr Murray, each of them supplying the house week about: I have never had occasion to find fault with the quality of the bread, and have heard no complaints: The bread is the finest wheaten bread that is made in Edinburgh. Q. What quantity of meat is allowed for broth? A. It depends upon the orders of the medical gentlemen, and the number of patients: There are three coppers, the one of these is for the general run of patients, another for beef-tea, and the third for table broth, being for the Clerk's table, or for such patients as this broth may be ordered for. Q. By what is the quantity of meat put into the copper for the patients regulated? A. For every patient on full diet days, half a pound of raw meat, dutch weight, is put into the three coppers; and if there are few patients on full diet, a joint of meat boiled for the Clerk's table and the shopmen is added: That this addition may be made to it about once a week; and the purpose of this is to make the broth better on these days. Q. Does the portion comprehend skin, and bone, and fat? A. The large bones are removed before weighing; and the pieces ordered are such as have as little bone as possible; and those pieces were generally flanks and fleshy pieces: The full diet days are Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Q. What proportion of barley and vegetables is put into the broth? A. Ten pounds of barley, two and a-half of groats, two pecks of potatoes, with greens, swedish turnips and leeks, to a boiler which holds 60 gallons as she thinks. Q. Have these always been the proportions? A. They have been nearly so, as far as she could make it; but since the house has been very full, and about three or four months ago, two pecks of potatoes were substituted for two and a-half pound of groats; the same proportion of barley has been used as nearly as I could make it. Q. Do the nurses and servants and men-servants get broth from the patients' copper? A. They do. Q. Does the barley entered in the consumpt-book include the barley used for the table broth? A. What is used in this way, is taken from the girmel, without being entered in any book. Q. Is the meat used for the table broth entered in the consumpt-book? A. It is. Is there any other meat than beef used? A. Yes; beef, mutton, and lamb; and these are all entered under the head of beef: When pork is furnished by special order, it is entered separately; as are also fowls, or any other article ordered by the Medical Gentlemen. Beef is the ordinary article used for patients. Q. Do the entries comprehend the beef given to the nurses; and what quantity do they receive? A. They do; and the quantity of beef allowed to the nurses, is three pounds of beef raw each, per week, which is boiled in the patients' copper: The men-servants have a similar allowance. Q. What is the diet of a patient on full diet for each day of the week? A. The breakfast and supper have been already mentioned, and are the same for patients, whether on full or half diet. The full diet dinner on Monday,

consists of a chopin of broth, and half a-pound of meat, weighed when raw, and the before mentioned quantity of bread. On Tuesday the same quantity of broth and bread, but no meat. Wednesday the same as Tuesday—Thursday the same as Monday—Friday the same as Tuesday—Saturday the same as Monday, and Sunday the same as Tuesday.

Q. From what is the broth made upon half-diet days? A. From the meat allowed to the nurses and servants, which is only boiled on those days: That soldiers and sailors on full-diet are allowed a pound of beef each, instead of half that quantity allowed to other patients; and this beef is boiled on the days mentioned in the question: That on Tuesdays, an addition of one cow head into the patients' copper is allowed; and from these sources the broth on half-diet days, is in general better than on full. Potatoe soup has, within these three years been introduced instead of broth, the quantity of meat being the same: The quantity of potatoes that is put into the patients' copper is half a boll.

Q. Whether there is any book which shews the number of soldiers and sailors, and patients on full diet in the House? A. They are all entered in the diet-book: And the way in which the number of allowances to be provided is ascertained, is by the nurses of the ward reporting daily the number of soldiers and sailors, and persons on full diet in the respective wards.

Q. How is the meat divided? A. It is boiled in large pieces, and the witness stands over the cook while she cuts it into the proper portions as nearly as her judgment can enable her. Was the beef to be cut in portions before boiling, it would spoil the meat.

Q. Is any given quantity of meat put in for beef-tea. A. No: The beef-tea is made from large pieces of meat, which do not undergo longer boiling than the other beef furnished to the patient, whereof it forms a part.

Q. What do you understand by a daily bit; and what is the quantity thereof? A. I never understood the precise quantity of such a bit: That it meant just a little bit of meat every day: But of late, (by which she means for about these last two years), she has given, under this name, nearly the allowance of full diet. When I first became Matron, I did not give quite so much.

Q. What is the diet for patients on half-diet? A. The same as full diet, with the exception that no meat is allowed.

Q. Does the diet-book mention other articles furnished to the patients besides their ordinary diet? A. It does; and it is the uniform practice to supply patients with every article, either of meat or of drink, that may be ordered by the Medical Gentlemen, including porter, spirits, and wine:

That the wine is furnished by Bell and Rennie, who have furnished wine since ever I came to the House: I give the order for the wine when wanted, and deliver it over, a dozen at a time, to the Apothecary, who distributes it to the patients. Witness now produces a book, shewing, that the quantity got into the House in the course of the year 1815, amounting to 132 dozen; in 1816, 72 dozen; and in 1817, 96 dozen: That in the present year, there has been an order given for 24 dozen on the 8th January; at which time it appears from the consumpt-book, that she had only on hand one dozen: That she gave this order without any communication with the Treasurer, as she always does so: That the Apothecary takes in the porter and spirits. The whole wine received by her is delivered over to the Apothecary in dozens, as appears from the consumpt-book: That it also appears from this book, that 24 dozen at a time is the quantity usually ordered?

Q. How is the porridge and broth measured to the patients? A. By means of the laddle, which contains the precise quantity.

Q. Does the witness know the size of the cogs? A. She now produces four cogs of the size of those in which the broth or porridge is served out, and two of a smaller size, being that in which the milk and beer is contained.

Q. How does the witness ascertain the number of patients to be provided for with diet? A. Lines are handed to the witness daily, shewing the number of patients received and dismissed, by which means the witness knows all the patients in the House; and there are sometimes errors in the lines which are handed to her; and the witness therefore applies to the nurses to know the patients admitted or dismissed from their respective wards.

Q. Has there in any case been a short coming of broth to serve the patients. A. She does not recollect in any case of having heard any complaint on that score.

Q. What number of portions of broth were issued yesterday. A. It will appear from the book an allowance of broth is made to every patient in every ward; those on milk diet, or receiving table broth, are deducted in serving it out to the nurses.

Q. If I understand you right, the number of pa-

tients yesterday being 262, there were that number of portions of broth given out, with the exception of such patients who were upon milk diet, or who received table broth, and in the same way on any other given day entered in the book. A. This may not be quite correct, inasmuch as patients dismissed are allowed the dinner after being discharged, and those that come in, in like manner, receive dinner, though not entered in this book; which circumstance may lead to a greater consumption. Q. Can you state what was the number of patients yesterday on milk diet, or who received table broth, or what has been the average number of such patients lately. A. I cannot exactly ascertain this; but I will send a note to-morrow of the number which will then appear: The books by the medical persons shew who are upon milk diet, and who are not. Q. How many persons received broth yesterday, besides the 262 patients. A. 41 persons. Q. How much table broth is usually made. A. She never measured the pot. Q. Was the broth distributed as usual yesterday, and for some time past. A. It was distributed as nearly as possible the same way. Q. Whether the broth has been differently measured out lately by ladles, instead of pitchers. A. It was formerly by pitchers, in which way somewhat less was given to the patients in fever wards, and consequently somewhat more to those in the other wards; but in consequence of some complaints by the patients as to the quantity received by them, the precise portion has of late been measured out to each; and since then, some of them have complained, as they had not got so much as before; and now the same quantity goes to fever wards as to others. Q. Did the nurse of the Men's Surgeons Ward receive the number of portions of broth, corresponding to the number of patients on Saturday last. A. She did. Q. Did you receive any complaint of there being a deficiency in the Mens' Surgeons Ward that day. A. I did. Q. Who made that complaint. A. Mr Wigham. Q. Will you state what passed on this occasion. A. As near as I can recollect, Mr Wigham come down stairs with a pitcher, with two allowances of broth, which he stated to me was short of the measure allowed for the patients in that ward for that day. Mr Wigham supposed, that the measure given from the copper had not been exactly correct: That measure was tried and found to be correct. Mr Wigham then stated, that perhaps the measure in the ward did not correspond with that. It was produced and tried, and found to correspond with the one in the kitchen. It was then to be explained how the deficiency arose; Mr Wigham was in the ward and saw the broth served out; some of the cogs seemed to have less than others by the measure given. The patients expressed a wish to take a little more; and upon examining the nurses, I found stated to me, that Mr Wigham had desired them to have a little more; and that they should go to the Matron and ask for a little more to make up the deficiency, which I had not to give, the broth being all served out. One patient and two nurses were short of broth that day by that means. Mr Wigham went up stairs, as I was informed, and gave the patient sixpence for his deficiency of broth, and laid a shilling upon the banker for the two nurses, as was understood. Q. Did Mr Wigham, when he first complained of the deficiency of broth to you, inform you that he had ordered the nurses to give more broth than the allowance to any of the patients? A. He did not. Q. Whether, before Mr Wigham had brought down the measure, he had not applied for it to you, and carried it up stairs. A. He had. Q. Did the witness receive any letter from Mr Wigham. A. I did; and now produce the same. Q. How often is the meat brought into the House. A. Three times a-week; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and is furnished by Mr Bennet and Mr Angus week about; but she does not pay for it, and does not know the price. Q. How is the dinner served up to the patients. A. Until about a fortnight ago, those that have boiled meat the meat went up upon a tray separately from the broth, which went up first; from which each patient received their allowance, and the bread followed; but latterly, the meat is put into the cog in presence of the patient, and the broth, which is previously sent up, is poured over the meat, so as to keep it hot. Q. Are the patients allowed plates, or knives and forks, or spoons. A. I do not understand that they are allowed by the House. Q. Are there inventories of the articles in the House? A. In general there are. Q. Are they gone over regularly once a-year. A. As near as I can say they are; but amidst the various avocations this may

not always be done. Q. Have you any written regulations for your conduct, besides those contained in the statutes. A. I have none. Q. Do you act under those of the statutes. A. As near as I can. Q. Do the inventories state the number of sheets in the House? A. They do not; and she considers this impossible, from the constant changing of them; and there are no books that shew the quantity in any given time; but the cloth-book shews the date and quantity of cloth got in. Q. Do you keep a stock of shirts and shifts for the use of such patients as may need them? A. I keep a few of each. Q. Do you keep any flannel shirts or jackets? A. I keep a few. Q. When a patient is without money or friends, how do they get their shirts washed? A. They are washed by the House. Q. When a fever patient has recovered, are the clothes which he wore when admitted, fumigated, or otherwise purified, before they are returned to him? A. I cannot answer this question; but if the clothes were fumigated, I think I must have known it.

28th January 1818.

Mr JOHN HENRY WISHART, surgeon, Edinburgh, examined; Has been consulting surgeon for three years to the Royal Infirmary. For about two years after my appointment, my duty consisted in visiting such patients as the physicians directed should be seen by a surgeon; and since then, my duty has been to attend consultations and operations when summoned, or to take charge of the House in absence of Mr Law, or Mr Gillespie; and Mr William Wood acts in the same capacity. I attended the Hospital full three years, from 1798 to about 1801, and during that time I acted for six months as a dresser, and as clinical clerk for three months, at two different times; at which times Dr Hope acted as physician to the Clinical Ward. Q. Had you occasion to see other hospitals in the intermediate period of your not being engaged at the Infirmary of Edinburgh? A. I first went to Dublin, where I remained for three weeks, and visited all the hospitals there; and in particular, was frequently in the Military Hospital there. In 1802 I went to London, where I attended the London Hospital, as a student for six months: That the students in this hospital were about 30 in number, and there being no house surgeon, it was the practice for two of the students to act as house surgeon, and reside in the house alternately. I had afterwards occasion to see the hospitals of Berlin, Dresden, and Vienna, where I resided for eight months, and attended the General Hospital there as a stranger student; and afterwards saw the hospitals of Padua and Venice. In 1805 I again attended for some months, the hospitals of Guys and St Thomas in London. Q. From your various opportunities of observation now mentioned, will you state to the committee your opinion as to the comparative state of those other hospitals and the Edinburgh Infirmary in point of general appearance and arrangement, as connected with the comfort and accommodation of the patients? A. I can state it as my opinion, that in point of cleanliness and appearance of comfort, the Edinburgh Infirmary appears to me to be inferior to most of the other hospitals that I have seen; and I apply this observation more particularly to the London Hospital, as to which my experience has been greater. Q. In what particulars do you conceive the Edinburgh Infirmary inferior in point of cleanliness? A. I mean the general appearance of the hospital, including the bedding and sheets. Since the month of August last, there has been a considerable improvement in the bedding, meaning the mattresses; and during the same period, there has been some improvement on the sheeting, particularly in the medical ward; though I consider there is still room for improvement, from having had occasion within this last fortnight to order clean sheets for two patients, one of whom

had only been in the House about a week; the other mentioned, that the sheets had been in the same state when first put upon his bed, but did not mention how long they had been on. Q. What led you to look at those sheets? A. In the course of the visit I turned over these sheets, but not with the view of ascertaining their state; one of these pairs of sheets appeared to have been insufficiently washed, the other exhibited large spots of grease or dirt; and these last sheets were these which the patient mentioned, were in the same state when put upon his bed? Q. Did it appear to you, that those spots were indelible, or that they might have been removed by proper washing? A. I certainly think they might have been removed by proper washing; I am not aware of any spots that are indelible from the effects of disease, or the remedies applied to such in an Hospital: The patient was affected with a disease in the hip, which could not have occasioned these appearances observed on the sheets. Q. Have you examined in any other Hospital, the sheets that had been used by patients labouring under foul sores? A. In the London Hospital I have seen the sheets served out to patients on their first admission, which appeared to me to be clean; I cannot say whether they had been used by patients labouring under foul sores, but I think it highly probable that they had been used in the ordinary way as other Hospital sheets; and I do not think it likely that new sheets would always be used, as the funds of the Hospital were very limited, and some of the wards in consequence shut up. Q. Do you know whether the matter composing the discharges from foul sores is soluble in water, or in the substances commonly used in washing? A. I do not think that the matter could be removed with washing or boiling with soap; but I conceive that means might be used, different from common washing, for the removal of such stains. Q. Have you any actual knowledge of such stains being removed by washing in any way? A. I have no actual experience, having never seen sheets washed. Q. Will you state to the Committee, what particular observations as to the cleanliness of the sheets, prior to the period of the observations referred to in the preceding question? A. In the month of September last, on the day subsequent to an inspection by the Managers, a patient complained to me of a pair of sheets being dirty; upon which either Dr Craigie, or Mr Glover the Clerk, pointed out another pair which were much worse; and as Dr George Wood was then at the Infirmary, I sent to him, who went into the ward; and on seeing the sheets, he directed the Clerk to lock them up till the next meeting of the Managers. The defect which appeared in these sheets arose entirely from grease; and one of the sheets had been given to the patient that day, as he stated. Q. Which of the sheets was that now mentioned? A. It was the least objectionable of the two. Q. Have you had any further observations on this head? A. I have no further cases to state in particular, nor have I had occasion to order the removal of any other sheets than those mentioned; and it was not part of my ordinary duty to attend to this particular. Q. Are there any other particulars connected with cleanliness in the Hospital, which you consider as worthy the attention of the committee? A. There was almost a total deficiency in the necessary utensils; particularly in chamber-pots. I cannot say how many there were, but there certainly was not one for each patient. I have observed of late a greater number; and have no doubts that there is at present a chamber-pot for each patient. The utensils for bleeding were sufficient; and I cannot condescend on any other article connected with cleanliness, in which there was a defect. Q. Are there any water closets? A. I believe there are. Q. What is the general appearance of the patients? A. They appear to have a less cleanly look now than they had 20 years ago; by which he means, patients at that time were of a higher class, or more respectable appearance. Q. Have you had occasion

to observe any thing relative to the bedsteads in this hospital? A. The bedsteads I consider to be good, and equal to any hospital I have seen, and superior to the London ones, which were made of wood when I saw them. Q. Do you consider the present state of the bedding in general in the Surgical Ward to be good, or equal to what you have seen in other hospitals? A. I have not examined the beds in detail, the matter not being properly in my department; but so far as I know or have observed, the bedding is now generally good in the Surgical Ward. Q. Have you attended to, or made any observations upon the diet of patients in the Infirmary? A. From the hour of the visit, the Surgeon has not occasion to see the diet, unless on particular occasions: I have seen what was stated to be the portion of porridge allowed for a patient on full diet; and it appeared to me to be quite insufficient in point of quantity, and certainly thinner than working people are accustomed to. Q. Do you allude to any one particular portion, or generally to the portions served out in the Infirmary? A. I allude to a particular portion which was shewn to Sir William Forbes. Q. When did this happen? A. This happened about two months ago. Q. Where did you see this portion of porridge? A. At my own house. Q. By whom was it brought to your house? A. The porridge was brought to my house by Mr Wigham and Mr Cruickshanks; who mentioned, that the quantity shewn was the portion allowed to one patient. Q. Did it resemble the quantity which you have seen served to patients in the Hospital? A. I have not particular occasion to attend to the porridge served to the patients in the Hospital. Q. Was there any thing in the appearance of this portion that led you to doubt its being an entire portion? A. Nothing; and I think the skin of it would have been broke, if any had been taken out; and it was not of such a consistency as to have admitted of its being taken out, a portion taken off, and the remainder replaced, without its being observed. Q. In what was it contained? A. In one of the ordinary cogs of the Hospital. Q. Was the porridge now alluded to so thin, as to have admitted of a portion being removed when first put into the cog, without this being observable on the surface? A. I do not think a portion of it could have been removed without its being observable. Q. Have you ever seen the serving out of the porridge to the whole patients? A. I have not, nor have I had occasion to see their diet served at any time; and my only source of information relative to a deficiency of diet, has been from the complaints of patients, who frequently said, that they could have eat more. Q. Did you think yourself entitled to order additional diet of any description when you deemed that to be requisite? A. I consider myself entitled to order a patient full diet. Q. Have you been in use of ordering whatever articles of diet you thought proper for the patient? A. I have ordered patients a bit of meat extra at dinner. Q. Have you ever ordered any liquids for your patients different from milk and beer? A. I have ordered porter, wine, and tea. Q. Do you know what quantity of food is served up as full diet? A. No; I have applied to the clerk for a table of the diet of the House; but understood there was no table of the diet of the House at all. Q. Did you ever enquire at the Matron or Managers on this point? A. I did not; but desired the clerk to apply to the Matron about a fortnight ago; and he reported that he had not been able to obtain any table. At present two of the regular clerks are sick; and the one to whom I have now referred was an interim-clerk, and from that circumstance I have not the same assistance in procuring information as to the practice of the House that I would otherwise have.—And the declaration being read over to the witness, he observed, What I have said above refers to the ordinary diet of the House, which I do not conceive I am

entitled to alter; but in any particular case, I may order any diet which may be necessary in the circumstances of that case; and this order is inserted in the prescription-book, along with the other medical prescriptions of the day. Q. Did you instruct your clerk to do any thing more than enquire for a diet table? A. No. I have been three years in this House, and have never seen any diet-table, nor did I know the extent of the allowance of diet. In most other Hospitals that I have been in, the diet-table is hung up in the Hospital. Q. Did you, on becoming surgeon to the House, take any measures to inform yourself of the extent of the diet allowed? A. As I had no charge of patients at that time, I did not consider it my duty to ascertain that point. Q. Did you take any measures on this point subsequent to your appointment, and when? A. I made the inquiries already mentioned for the first time on my taking charge for Mr Law about a month ago.

Feb. 4, 1818. Q. Have you seen the meat served out to the patients in the London Hospital? A. I have. Q. Are the joints or pieces of meat brought up into the wards and cut there, or is it divided into portions for the patient, before being brought up? A. I have seen the meat brought up into the wards in joints, which are cut by the head nurse, and the portions given to the patients; and there are scales in the wards on which the portions may be weighed. Q. Whether in the London Hospitals the meat is used in making broth or beef-tea before it is served to the patients? A. I am not able to answer that question. Q. Did the meat you saw there appear to be juicy and nutritive? A. It did; and such as I would have no objection to. Q. Have you heard complaints made by the clerks and the medical attendants relative to the food given to patients? A. I have. Q. Have you heard such complaints previous to the month of July last? A. I do not recollect the precise time when such complaints were made. Q. Who were the clerks and medical men who made these complaints? A. Mr Law, Mr Gillespie, Mr Glover, and Dr Craigie. Q. Do you know upon what these complaints were founded? A. I do not, when these gentlemen had taken the charge, I have seen specimens of the portions of food that were brought into the consulting-room as having been complained of, but I was not in the wards when the said portions were given to the patients. Q. What sort of food do you allude to? A. Animal food principally. Q. Do you recollect seeing any thing else besides animal food? A. I recollect within these two months, of seeing a portion of bread brought into the consulting-room, which was complained of, not on account of its quality, but as said to be deficient in quantity. It was said to be the allowance for three patients, and was in one piece. Q. Do you know the actual quantity? A. I do not. Q. You having said that you sent for a diet-table, was you aware at the time that no printed table existed? A. I was not aware that none such did exist; but I had heard the ordinary surgeons say, that they had never seen such a table, and my object was to ascertain the amount of the allowance to which each patient was entitled. Q. When did you first act as senior surgeon? A. I do not recollect the precise time; but it was within these two years, and upon an occasion of Mr Law going to Bath; at which time I acted about a fortnight. Q. Did you take any measures at that time to acquaint yourself with the diet of the house? A. At that time I had the assistance of the regular house surgeon or clerk, to whom I applied when at a loss about the diet of the house. Q. Did the house surgeon acquaint you what the diet of the house was? A. He gave me every information of what I required. Q. Was you ever shewn out of the Infirmary a piece of bread, said to be a portion for a patient? A. On one occasion one portion was shewn to me at my own house, and this was at the same time that I saw the portion of porridge. Q. Who brought the portion? A. Mr Wigham. Q. Being shewn a loaf cut into four

portions, and being asked, Whether the portion so shewn at his house, was equal to one of those portions? A. It was, and my impression is, that it was equal to about half a two-penny loaf; and I do not consider one of the portions now shewn, as sufficient allowance for a patient not on low diet. Q. Did Mr Wigham say, how he had got possession of the bread? A. He said, he had got it from a patient in one of the wards of the Hospital. Q. Do you consider the Infirmary at Edinburgh equal or superior to other Hospitals you have mentioned, in point of medical attendance? A. I consider it superior, in having a daily attendance of medical persons, which is not the case in many other Hospitals; and in particular, in the London Hospitals, when I was there. Q. Do the medical gentlemen attend the Infirmary in consequence of an order from the Managers, or is such attendance voluntary? A. I consider it as a part of the statutes. Q. Do you know any rule in the London Hospital as to sheets being changed at any given time? A. I am not aware what the rule was. Q. Were the sheets made of bleached, or half-bleached linen, in the London Hospital? A. I cannot answer this with confidence, as my memory may be incorrect. Q. Do you remember, if there were knives and forks, plates and spoons, allowed by the house, used by the patients in the London Hospital? A. My impression is, that they used them; but how furnished, I dont know.

30th January 1818.

MR WILLIAM WOOD, Surgeon in Edinburgh, examined: I am one of the four junior Surgeons of the Royal Infirmary; and I have been eight or nine years in that capacity, and I have frequently attended the Hospital before that period; and excepting for two years that I was in London, I have been constantly about the Hospital, since I was sixteen years of age, and for some time acted as Clerk, though I did not reside in the house. Q. Have you had occasion to act as Surgeon? A. I have occasionally for short intervals, in absence of the senior Surgeon. Q. Have you had occasion to observe the state of the bedding in the Hospital? A. I have seen it; but have not made any particular examination of it. Q. As far as you have had occasion to observe, did the sheets appear to you to be clean, and that they were properly changed? I have observed sheets stained and dirty, in the Surgical wards; but I never observed them in a state positively objectionable, or such as could have led me as senior Surgeon to have made a complaint regarding them. Q. Have you frequently seen the sheets of patients? A. I have; on occasion of consultations, the patients are frequently in bed, and on these, I necessarily behoved to see the sheets. I have also seen them in particular cases, when I was making enquiries for my own information. Q. Do you know if patients are duly supplied with sheets? A. I have not access to know about this from my own observation, but I have heard the Clerk say, that there was a deficiency of sheets; but I was not acting Surgeon at these times, and it was not my province to enquire into the matter. Q. Are you of opinion, that if there had been dirty sheets during the period of your holding the situation of Surgeon, you must have observed it? A. There might have been, without its coming to my knowledge. Q. Has your attendance at the Hospital been frequent? A. Since the beginning of September last, owing to an accident I met with, I have been seldom there; previous to that I was frequently there, though not so often even then as I was a year or two before, in consequence of a change in my duties as surgeon. Q. Have

you had occasion to observe whether due attention was paid to the cleanliness of the patients? A. I have remarked considerable difference in individuals. I have complained; and seen the other surgeons complain of individuals not keeping their persons and their sores clean, when in a state of health sufficiently enabling them to do so. With respect to those confined to bed, I have certainly seen many miserable looking creatures when in the waiting-room, who afterwards appeared more clean and comfortable when put into bed; in some cases, other patients confined to bed appeared less clean than they ought to have been; but I know nothing of the means that either were, or by the rules of the Hospital ought to have been taken, for making them more clean. In cases of this nature, particularly objectionable, I have seen surgeons order patients to the bath; and I would have thought it my duty to have given this order in all cases of a similar kind. In general, it is the duty of the nurses to see the patients kept clean. Q. Do you know how often the sheets were changed in the Hospital? A. I do not. Q. Did you ever attend to the bedding of the patients? A. Not particularly. Q. Do you know whether there are any, or what means are used for airing the bedding. A. I do not know. Q. Do you know whether the nurses in each Ward have a supply of spare sheets for the patients? A. I do not; but I have heard that of late they have. Q. Do you know whether they had formerly a supply of spare sheets? A. The sheets were not under the immediate charge of the nurses till an alteration was made in the regulations some time ago. Q. Had the nurses before that time spare sheets in the Wards for the patients as far as you observed? A. I believe that there were no spare sheets kept in the Wards by the nurses, but that all the sheets were under the immediate charge of the Matron? Q. Do you know whether patients, who ought to have been put to bed immediately, were frequently obliged to wait before they were supplied with sheets? A. I have had no opportunity of knowing this, and therefore cannot answer the question. Q. Can you state from your own observation, whether, since the regulation was made, there has been a sufficient supply of spare sheets in the Wards? A. I cannot say what number of sheets have been put under the charge of the different nurses, or whether it corresponded to the number of patients in the Wards; but I have understood, that each nurse has a supply, though this I do not know from my own observation, as I never saw the nurses stores of sheets? Q. Had you occasion to see whether the Wards were provided with necessary utensils? A. I cannot say. Q. Were you in the habit of seeing the food of the patients at their different meals? A. I was not; but I have seen it on a few accidental occasions, and have seen the porridge of the patients occasionally, but seldom. Q. Had you means of judging of their quantity or quality? A. Of their precise quantity I know nothing, having merely seen them in their cogs, but the quality appeared of a proper consistency. I never attended to the quality of the milk. Q. Have you had occasion to see the beef tea? A. I do not recollect to have seen it. Q. Have you had occasion to see the dinner of the patients? A. No; at least in such a way as not to be able to form any opinion about it? Q. Have you heard any complaints relative to the diet of the patients? A. I have heard the clerks in reporting to the surgeons, complain occasionally of the beef tea not being sufficiently strong. Q. Do you know what is the table of Diet in the Hospital? A. I do not. Q. Did you ever enquire for a table of diet? A. I did not. Q. Can you state what the full diet in use in the Hospital is? A. I cannot. Q. Have you had occasion to attend to the conduct of the nurses? A. Not particularly. Q. Had you occasion to attend to the Lock Ward? A. Not at least for two or three years past. Q. What was the state of the Lock Ward at that period? A. I conceived the ward itself in a bad situation; not,

in my opinion allowing a sufficient ventilation. I merely went there to examine particular cases when ordered by the physician; and in some I had occasion to observe that there was not a sufficient attention paid to the cleanliness of the patient. Q. When you visited the Lock Ward, were the patients supplied with sheets? A. Those that I examined had; but cannot speak generally, as I only attended to particular cases. Q. Have you any general observations to make connected with this enquiry? A. I do not know if it falls under this enquiry, but I think it right to state, that I have on many occasions induced persons to go into the Hospital, much against their prejudices. I have always found these were soon removed; and that the patients have almost invariably been thankful for the attention paid to them. Q. Are you acquainted with any other Hospital? A. I attended Guy's Hospital in London for a year, from 1803 to 1804, as a student. Q. According to your recollection, do you think that the state of the patients in point of comfort and cleanliness, was better or worse in Guy's Hospital than it has been in the Edinburgh Hospital? A. Better. Q. Do you refer chiefly to the state of the House, bedding, and sheets, or to the state of the cleanliness of the patients themselves? A. To both. Q. Do you know whether the sheets in Guy's Hospital were made of bleached or half bleached linen? A. To the best of my recollection they were bleached; and I may add, that Guy's Hospital is a more modern structure, and the floors being made of wood look better. Q. Did you ever attend any other Hospital? A. No.

WILLIAM C. MACDONALD, apothecary to the Royal Infirmary, examined. I have been apothecary for about 14 years. Q. What are the books kept in your department? A. A day book is kept, in which are inserted all the orders from the physicians or surgeons, from which the diet book is made out and sent to the Matron daily. There is also a wine book and a register, all which are kept by order of the Managers; and I keep several other books for my own satisfaction. The night books, written by the Clerks, contain prescriptions or orders for the night, which are afterwards to be entered in the Journal. Q. Have you any charge or superintendence of the diet of the patients? A. I have no special charge of the diet, further than to see that the physicians and surgeons orders are put into the hands of the matron when any alteration is made in the diet by them; but I have no concern whatever with the ordinary diet of the house. Q. Do complaints from the Clerks regularly pass through you? A. All written complaints to the Matron should come through me, and various instances will be found in the books; and it is my practice to transcribe them *verbatim*, so as there may be no mistake as to the terms. The Clerks also occasionally write notes to the Matron, which are sometimes sent directly to the Matron, and there are some matters which are also communicated directly to the Matron, without passing through me. That these complaints are in general in the shape of requests, that some things should be attended to which may have been neglected, though they might occasionally be written in stronger terms. Q. As the wine book now produced does not sum up the quantity of wine used in the course of the year, can you say what was the quantity used last year? A. From a state I lately made out, and which I now show, it appears that the quantity of foreign wine served out to the patients during last year, amounted to 1119 bottles;—of home made wine, being currant

wine, 209 bottles;—porter, 8122 bottles. Besides those quantities, there was betwixt 30 and 35 gallons of spirits used that year, but of this two-thirds was used by way of tinctures. I will transmit a note shewing a state of the expenditure of these articles for ten years past. The spirits and water are of a precise strength, the strength of the spirits being got for tinctures is from eight to nine over hydrometer proof, and the toddy is consequently comparatively strong. The porter is Scotch porter of the best quality.

3d February, 1818.

MARY MANNERS, cook in the Royal Infirmary, examined: Has been 21 months cook to the Infirmary. Q. What quantity of oatmeal do you employ for any given number of patients? A. A pound for every three portions. Q. Have you always been accustomed to use that proportion of oat meal? A. Not always; but of late we have done it. Q. How long has it been since there has been any difference in the proportion of meal? A. I think about a month or a fortnight; but I cannot say the time precisely. Q. Do you weigh the meal, or see it weighed? A. Either Mrs Montgomery's assistant or I weigh the whole of it in her presence; and Mrs Montgomery or her assistant see it put into the pot. Q. Can you state what quantity of oat meal was used for three, or any other number of persons, when you first came to the Hospital? A. I cannot answer the question distinctly, but I think it was a pound of meal to five persons. Q. What quantity of porridge does each patient get? A. A mutchkin. It is measured out with a mutchkin ladle, which is well heaped; and those on double allowance get two mutchkins. Q. Has it been always done so? A. Of late it has, but before it was not measured; but care was taken, that every patient should have a full half cog, each cog containing a choppin. Q. How do you ascertain that the measure gives out a mutchkin, if the porridge is thick, so as to stick to the ladle? A. What is heaped above the top, more than compensates for what sticks to the sides; and the patients are well satisfied at present. Q. Were they dissatisfied formerly? A. I never heard any complaints of their being dissatisfied. I am so much engaged with my own business as not to know what passes in the wards. Q. What allowance do the soldiers get? A. A chopin of porridge each. Q. What is the ordinary average of the number of portions of porridge. A. About a hundred. To-day the number was 113; and it is sometimes 90, sometimes 80, and sometimes 89. It is commonly more in the evening than the morning, though it is sometimes less. Last night there were 100 to the best of my recollection. Q. Of what consistency is the porridge made? A. They are very thick at present; formerly they were thinner. Q. How are the porridge in the Infirmary, compared to those which you got at home early in life? A. I have been at service all my life, and always got tea; and I do not remember what kind of porridge I got in my father's family previous to going to service. Q. What portion of beef is put into the boiler in making beef-tea, according to the quantity required? A. This depends upon the quantity of meat there is for the patients on full diet, or for the nurses; but we always study to make it good. Q. Is the meat from which beef-tea has been made given to the patients? A. It is; and this beef does not undergo more boiling than the beef

put into the broth. Q. How much beef is usually put into the pot for the patients' broth. A. It is usually from a stone to twenty-five pounds. Q. Is there any difference in the quantity of meat put in according to the number of patients who receive broth? A. We always put in as much as we can get.

4th February 1818.

Q. What quantity of barley is usually put into the broth? A. Fourteen pounds; three pounds of groats is put along with the barley. Q. Have you been always accustomed to put 14 pounds of barley into the broth? A. Not always. Formerly we put in eight pounds, which was the case from the time I came, till last summer; and it was afterwards increased to 10 pounds about three months ago. We have only one kind of barley. Q. Do you use one or two pots for the patients? A. We use two pots; a large copper and a small one. Q. How long have you used the two pots? A. We have used them for about a fortnight; but am not certain of the time. Q. What quantity of potatoes do you put into the pot? A. Two pecks. Q. Have you been always accustomed to put in two pecks? A. Not always; it was done for about two months ago. Q. Was the same quantity of barley and groats put into the broth after the potatoes were added, that were usually put in before the potatoes were used? A. Before the potatoes were put in, there were four pounds of groats and ten pounds of barley put into the broth; and since the potatoes have been put in, there have been three pounds of groats and 14 pounds of barley put in. Q. What quantity of potatoes are used for potato soup? A. Nine pecks. Q. What quantity of meat is put into the soup? A. On the Tuesday there is put in a bullock's head, and from nine to 12 pounds of beef; and on Friday, from 20 to 24 pounds. Q. What is the quantity of table broth made in the House? A. There is as much as serves the Matron's family, and from nine to 12 patients. Q. Were there two pots used for making broth for the patients on the Monday before last? A. That she does not recollect. Q. Were the changes made on the broth which you have mentioned in consequence of experiments made by the Managers, and directions given in consequence? A. They were.

3d February 1818.

Mr JOSEPH BELL, Surgeon in Edinburgh, examined. I am one of the four junior Surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, and have been three years in that capacity; and for about 10 years previous I attended the Hospital as Student and Dresser, and during one course as Clinical Clerk. Q. Have you had occasion to act as Surgeon to the House? A. I have not. Q. Have you had occasion to observe the state of the bedding in the Hospital? A. I have not. Q. Have you had occasion to observe the state of the sheets in the Hospital? A. I have; but only when my notice was specially called to it. Q. By whom was your notice called to the state of the sheets? A. By the attending Surgeons I think; both by Mr Law and Mr Gillespie. Q. Has this occurred frequently? A. I cannot say frequently; I think about three or four times. Q. In what state were the sheets upon those occasions? A. They had the appearance of being imperfectly washed; being discoloured, or having a greasy appearance. Q. Did you

observe whether the sheets had an unctuous feeling? A. It did not amount to that, but they had not the feel of rough clean linen. Q. Do you know whether these sheets had been long in the beds, before your attention was called to them? A. My recollection only serves me for one instance, when I was told that the sheets had been put on, either on that or the preceding day, I cannot speak to other instances. Q. Have you lately been in the habit of attending the Hospital frequently? A. I have not for some months past. Q. Have you had occasion to pay attention to the diet of the House? A. I have not, or to observe the patients at dinner. Q. What appears to you to have been the state of the Hospital, with regard to the cleanliness and attention to the comfort of the patients, during the last three years during which you have held the situation of junior surgeon, compared with what it was 10 or 12 years before, when you attended it as dresser and Clinical clerk? A. I cannot make a satisfactory comparison, because I did not attend to these particulars at the first mentioned period so as to have a distinct recollection of it. Q. Have you attended other Hospitals? A. I have those of the London Hospital, Guys, St Thomas's, Bartholomew's, and the Lock Hospital. Q. Whether do you consider these Hospitals superior or inferior with regard to the diet, cleanliness, and comfort of the patient? A. It is my general impression, that in the London Hospital patients are more comfortable than in the Royal Infirmary; but in the latter, they are more comfortable than in the other Hospitals above mentioned. Q. How many patients were there in the London Hospital when you attended it? A. The number was stated to be about 250, but some of the wards had been shut up in consequence of the deficiency of funds, as I understood: It was reckoned, that if all the wards were occupied, the house could contain 400 patients. Q. What is your opinion of the medical and surgical arrangements of the Royal Infirmary, compared with any Hospitals you have had an opportunity of seeing? A. Here they are decidedly better. Q. Have you been accustomed to be much in the wards of the Infirmary? A. No; unless during the hour of the visit, or at consultations.

28th February 1818.

MR WILLIAM M'DONALD, apothecary, again called in and examined;—I now produce the following abstract of wine, porter, and spirits.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

EXPENDITURE of WINE, PORTER, SPIRITS, &c. in the ROYAL INFIRMARY,
for ten years preceding 1818.

	PORTER.		PORT WINE.			DOMESTIC WINE.			WHISKY.	GIN.
	Doz.	Doz.	Doz.	Doz.	or	Doz.	Doz.	or	Gallon.	Gallon.
1808.	917	5	102	7	24	28	6	14	50	12½
1809.	667	6	125	5	10	24	4	4	50	12½
1810.	656	2	83	6	19	35	9	16	43	7
1811.	657	0	87	0	0	39	3	0	32	5½
1812.	603	0	53	11	0	60	0	0	27	9
1813.	564	0	47	7	0	40	5	0	37	5½
1814.	619	2	64	3	7	20	3	12	53	8½
1815.	909	8½	126	11	16	35	3	4	58	7
1816.	712	2	82	7	2	51	1	19	46	3½
1817.	676	10½	93	3	8	17	5	12	44	6½
	6983	0	865	3	8	352	6	3	440	77½

Average for each year :—

Porter,	doz.	698	3½ ¹⁰
Port Wine,		86	6 8 ⁰⁰
Domestic Wine,		35	3 3 ¹⁰
Whisky,	gal.	44	
Gin,		7½	

N. B. It has not been thought worth while to add the fractional part of spirits, amounting to only a few bottles transferred from one year to another as stock on hand. An addition to this account of extras might be fairly made of strong ale for the last two years. Also of Fruits, Jellies, &c. all distributed by the Apothecary.

W^M. C. M'DONALD.

From this it appears, that in formerly stating the quantity of spirits used in 1816, the quantity of gin, being $6\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, was not given, owing to my not having the documents at hand. Q. Have you occasionally seen patients have bread collected by them, being more than they had been able to consume? A. The patient being occasionally worse than ordinary, and not being able to consume the usual allowance of bread, I have certainly seen several instances, more than one or two allowances accumulated by them in their presses, which I generally ordered down stairs, except perhaps the allowance for the last meal? Q. Have you looked into the diet book, and can you say, whether the physicians and surgeons of the house are in use to order extra articles of diet when they think it requisite. A. They are all in the habit of ordering such articles. Q. Have you access to know the size of the cogs used by the patients? A. I have just now in presence of the Committee measured four of the larger cogs, and two of the smaller. I found the larger to contain eleven gills each, being three gills more than a Scotch chopin; and the smaller five gills each, being one more than a Scotch mutchkin. Q. Are wine, porter, and spirits served out as an article of diet, or as a medicine. A. That depends upon the view of the physician or surgeon. All articles served out by the apothecary cannot be considered as medicine, as I sometimes serve out jellies and fruits. Q. Does it frequently happen, that a large quantity of wine is ordered to a single patient? A. The average quantity may be from six to twelve ounces; but sometimes, according to the state of a patient, from sixteen to twenty, or twenty four; and sometimes even more is given. Q. Are chronic, as well as all other diseases, admitted into the Hospital? A. The Hospital is chiefly a receptacle for acute diseases; but chronic diseases are admitted when there is any prospect of relief to the patient from the accommodation and treatment they may receive in the house? Q. Is it the practice in the Edinburgh Infirmary to draw up from time to time a tabular view, distinguishing the different diseases of the patients admitted during a given period? A. It is not consistent with my knowledge that such view is made up; but it may be made out from the register where the diseases are all entered. Q. On what recommendation are patients admitted? A. It is understood to be on the recommendation of respectable house-holders; but so far as I know, there is no difficulty made in the admission on any recommendation, provided the patient is a fit one for the Hospital. Q. Is a preference given to bad cases? A. I certainly understood this to be so in urgent cases. Q. Are moribund patients admitted? A. Patients are admitted who occasionally die a few hours after coming into the house; and no patient is ever refused in that state.

5th February 1818.

WILLIAM CAMERON, one of the physician's clerks of the Royal Infirmary, examined. Q. How long have you been clerk to the Infirmary? A. Six months. Q. Have you attended the Infirmary during that period? A. I have attended, and lived in the house, with the exception of one month, when I was absent on account of fever. I am clerk to Dr Spens, and Mr Sims was the acting clerk immediately previous to my appointment. Q. Can you speak with regard to the state of all the Wards in the House during that time. A. Only with respect to

the Medical Wards. Q. What has been the state of those Wards with respect to cleanliness. A. Since I have come to the Royal Infirmary I have uniformly found them in a very clean state. Q. Have there been any changes made upon the sheets and bedding during that period. A. There have been several new sheets of late in the other Wards: And in the Russian, and short soldiers and sailors Wards, the whole bedding have been new. Q. What proportion of new sheets have been brought into the other Wards. A. In the men and women's fever Wards the sheets have been chiefly new; and some new sheets in the other wards; but I cannot with accuracy speak as to their number? Q. About what time did you observe new sheets put on the beds. A. From the time I came to the Infirmary, I have occasionally observed new sheets; and in the men and women's fever wards, the new sheets were put there about the month of December last; and the Russian Ward was opened about October when I was absent; and the short soldiers and sailors wards were opened about the same time. Q. What has been the state of the beds and bedding with respect to cleanliness since you came to the Hospital? A. All very clean. Q. What has been the state of the nurses during this period? A. The nurses have been all very good, with the exception of one woman who was nurse in the women's country ward, but is now removed; and I do not know whether she is in the house or not at present. Q. Have you paid attention to the state of the diet? A. I have not paid sufficient attention, to enable me to speak with accuracy on this point. Q. Do you possess, or have you seen a table of diet? A. I have never seen a table of diet. Q. Do the Clerks breakfast and dine with the Matron? A. They do. Q. Is the Matron ready to give information with regard to the diet of patients, or any thing else that the clerks may wish from her? A. She appears always ready to give every information that is required of her. Q. Have you seen the dinner served up to the patients? A. I have. Q. In what order is the dinner served up? A. The broth is carried up in pitchers, and is served in what are called cogs: The meat is then brought up on a board, cut into portions for each patient. Q. How is the meat conveyed from the boards to the patients? A. I have seen the patients eating their meat from their cogs, but I never saw it taken from the board and delivered to them. Q. Did you go through the house with a member of this committee on Saturday last, the 31st of January? A. I did. Q. Do you recollect observing the nurses putting the meat into the cogs from the boards? A. I do not recollect this circumstance. Q. Do you know whether they put it from the boards with their hands? A. I do not. Q. Do you recollect asking the patients in the men's Country Ward where their meat was? A. I do. Q. Do you recollect when a patient shewed his meat on this occasion? A. I do; and it was on the window sill under his hat: It did not appear to have been among the broth; but this was a quarter of an hour after the dinner had been served up. Q. Were any questions asked at this man as to the reason of his having meat in this situation? A. None such were asked at this man: On this occasion I asked the patient next to the one now referred to, where his meat was? and he answered that his wife was destitute, and she was coming to get it. I did not see where the man's meat was. Q. Do you recollect asking another patient in the same ward where his meat was? A. I recollect asking the question; but I do not recollect the answer, nor of having seen the meat. Q. Are you quite certain that you did not see the portion of meat belonging to the last mentioned patient in any situation? A. I do not recollect seeing it. Q. Do you recollect whether the

bread had come up at that time? A. I do not recollect of having seen any bread in the ward at that time. Q. What interval is there usually between the broth and the meat coming up. A. I have not observed the period particularly; but it must be as long as may afford the nurse time to go down stairs and bring the meat up. Q. When is the bread usually brought up? A. I do not know. Q. Are there any plates, spoons, knives and forks, furnished to the patients. A. The House does not furnish knives and forks, but plates and spoons have been furnished lately. Q. Were there any plates or spoons furnished at the 24th of January last. A. I do not know the exact time; but I think they were furnished about the end of January last. Q. Were there any plates and spoons furnished previous to that time? A. As far as I know there were not: I have seen several patients with knives when passing through the wards, but did not know where they got them. I have not seen any with forks, nor have I observed plates or spoons. Q. Have you often observed the patients' diet? A. I have not. Q. Do you consider that as falling under your department? A. I do not; and I consider that as belonging to the department of the Matron and nurses. Q. Have you seen beef steaks served out to the patients. A. I have seen them in a raw state on a board; but never saw them served out. Q. Do you know that the beef steaks are thrown, either raw or dressed, upon the beds of the patients. A. I never saw this done. I think it proper to add, my attention is so much occupied with my own proper duties, that I have paid very little attention to the diet. Q. Were the bedding and sheets in proper order when you entered into the Infirmary as a clerk in the end of July last. A. So far as I recollect, they were. Q. Have you had occasion to see the sheets when put upon the beds. A. I have seen them frequently put upon the beds; and they appeared to me to be properly washed and cleaned. Q. Have you had occasion to examine any other Hospital than that of Edinburgh. A. I have not. Q. During your residence in the Infirmary, have the patients expressed themselves satisfied with their treatment. A. All those whom I have asked have expressed themselves satisfied. Q. When you see any thing wrong in the domestic management of the house, do you communicate the same. A. I do immediately make such communication to the Matron; and such wrongs have, in every case, been immediately remedied since I came to the House. Q. Are the Physicians in use to order extra articles of food; and are such usually furnished. A. It is the practice to give such orders, and I understand that these orders are attended to; but I do not consider it my duty to see that such orders are obeyed, as the Physician himself generally enquires into this.

5th February 1818.

Mr FRANCIS WILSON, Writer to the Signet, examined. Q. Do you hold any official situation in the Royal Infirmary? A. I do not; but I assist the Treasurer, who is my partner in business, as a writer to the Signet. Q. How long have you assisted the Treasurer in performing his duties to the Infirmary? A. I became his apprentice in the year 1798, and as such, and afterwards as his partner, I have been in the habit of assisting him in his duties as Treasurer, down to the present time. Q. Do you perform the greater part of the duties of the Treasurer? A. If the question means the act of keeping the Treas-

surer's books, I do perform the greater part of the duties ; but I have not been in the habit of attending regularly the meetings of the Managers, although during the years of my apprenticeship I was in the Hospital daily. Q. Were you regularly appointed by the Managers to assist the Treasurer ? A. I was not. Q. What emoluments are paid to you or the Treasurer ? A. I receive nothing : The Treasurer's salary is £40 a-year for every expence. Q. What other salaries are paid ? A. To the two ordinary Physicians, each £30 ; The Apothecary £62 : 2s. per annum ; the Matron £35 per annum ; the Clerk to the corporation £15 per annum ; to the Accountant to the Corporation £12 : 10s. per annum ; and no change has taken place on these salaries for the last 20 years, excepting the Matron. Q. Have the statements of Revenue and expenditure been printed annually, and circulated ? A. No ; but annual statements made up by the Clerk from the Accountant's report, are submitted to a Committee of the General Court of Contributors. Q. Are any articles of consumption or furniture supplied by contract ? A. It has not, generally speaking, been the practice to contract for the great articles of consumption in the Hospital ; and this I know the Treasurer did upon the principle, that articles of the first quality of their kind was of greater importance to the Charity, than a low price ; at the same time every exertion was used to obtain the articles at as moderate a price as possible : For the year 1817, or at least from the month of March, beef was furnished by contract at the price of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per pound, of $17\frac{1}{2}$ cunes. Q. Does the contract specify the kind of meat that is to be ordered ? A. The contract does not specify the particular pieces of beef to be ordered ; but the Matron has the power, and in practice gives directions for the pieces she wants. Q. Are any advertisements made previous to the contract being entered into ? A. As it is not the practice, generally speaking, to contract, there is no advertisement ; but when contracts are made, I have been in the practice of writing to a few of the respectable butchers for offers to serve the Infirmary ; and I have occasionally taken the benefit of the advertisements inserted by other charities ; and in particular, Heriot's Hospital. Q. In what manner is the bread furnished ? A. For the year 1817, a deduction of five per cent was made from the assize price. Q. Are there any printed or written regulations for the conduct of the Matron besides those of the statutes ? A. I never saw any other. Q. Has the Matron the power of ordering any quantity of meat she thinks necessary ? A. She has. Q. Was there any regulation with regard to the quantity of meat that the Matron should use in making broth and beef-tea ? A. I never saw any printed regulation ; but I have occasion to know, that each succeeding Matron was instructed as to the quantity used by her predecessor in office ; and I have now known five Matrons in the Infirmary ; and this answer I apply generally to the diet. Q. Do you know any instance of an ordinary Director, not one of those who come in from official situations, being replaced, except in consequence of death, or resignation ? A. I cannot charge my memory so as to answer distinctly this question : but that will appear from the minutes of the Managers. Q. Do you believe that there have been frequent instances of such a change in the ordinary management ? A. I do not believe that such changes have been frequent. Q. Do you know whether it ever was proposed to appoint visitors to assist the Managers in the inspection of the Infirmary ? A. I never heard of such a proposal until a few days before the meeting of the Court of Contributors on the 5th of last month, when I heard it out of doors, from persons not connected with the Managers. Q. How frequently do the Ordinary Managers, or any Committee of them, meet at the Infirmary ? A. The stated meetings of the Ordinary Managers are twelve in number in each year, being on the first Monday of every month ; but they meet frequently at intervals for the business of the Hospital, and the Managers individually visit the Hospital very frequently. Q. Is any book kept in the Infirmary, in which individual Managers, when visiting the House, can mark down their observations or suggestions, so as to bring them regularly under consideration of the Managers ? A. There is ; but the visiting Managers are not in the practice of inserting the observations made at each particular visit in this book, particularly where they find the state of the Hospital in proper order ; but in general they minute in this book the result of their visits during the

month; but in the event of any thing being found improper, I have no doubt that the visiting Manager would consider it his duty to insert his observations of such impropriety the day he observed it, with a view that it might be corrected. Q. Is any book kept in the Hospital in which the Physicians and Surgeons can enter complaints or suggestions so as to bring them under consideration of the Managers? A. None that I know of, so as to bring any complaint immediately to the Managers; that in practice is always done by letter. Q. Is there any books by which the Physicians and Surgeons can bring any complaint under the view of the Matron? A. There is, through the medium of the diet book, whatever may be the nature of the complaint. Q. Is any book in which the Clerks can enter complaints, so as to bring them under the notice of the Treasurer? A. None that I know of. Complaints, when made, are either personally to the Treasurer, or by letter. Q. What means of offering complaints have they to the Matron? A. Independently of personal communication they have the diet book above mentioned, which book is made up in the Apothecary's shop from the journal kept by the clerks to the respective medical practitioners, and which journals are duly sent to the Apothecary's shop. Q. Have the clerks any regular means of access to the Managers, in case their complaints should be neglected by the Treasurer, or thought by him to be unfounded? A. Certainly, by a written application. Q. Are the clerks informed that they are expected so to apply to the Managers, there being no direction for it in the printed regulations? A. I cannot positively say that the clerks receive such information; but cannot doubt but the mode of application would naturally suggest itself to any gentleman holding the situation of clerk. Q. Do you remember going to the Hospital in the course of last summer or autumn, with Sir William Forbes, upon complaint that the beef then in use was bad? A. I recollect the circumstance distinctly, though not the precise day. Q. Will you state what took place? A. I accompanied Sir William Forbes to the Hospital, about, or a little after three o'clock in the afternoon, and we found in one of the wards the portions of beef had not been given to the patients, in consequence, as the nurse stated, of directions from one of the clerks. We examined the beef, and could discover nothing faulty in it; on the contrary, it was exceedingly good. Sir William Forbes, I think, suggested, that the portions of meat thus found to be unexceptionably good, should be given to the patients; but I offered my opinion, that as it was cold, it would probably please the patients of the ward, a female one, better, if they were ordered tea early; and upon Sir William's acquiescence, I gave directions accordingly. Q. Do you recollect of going to the Hospital with Sir William Forbes, during the last Summer or Autumn, on a complaint of Mr Sims the interim clerk, as to the sheets then upon the beds of the patients? A. Perfectly. Q. What took place on that occasion? A. I accompanied Sir William Forbes and the Treasurer to the Hospital, when Mr Sims was sent for to the Managers' room, and he put into Sir William Forbes' hand a slip or slips of paper, upon which the names of patients, the sheets upon whose beds were said to be in a dirty state; the number I think was between 20 and 30 names, but I cannot positively state the precise number, having kept no memorandum at the time. We visited the bed of each of these patients, and examined them minutely; the result of the whole of which examination was, that we found five or six of the beds, chiefly in the surgical departments, and occupied by patients afflicted by sores, in a state which induced us to desire the nurse to change the sheets. Q. Have you reason to know how many sheets were washed, or blankets scowred in the course of last year? A. I cannot positively state what number of pairs of sheets were washed during that period without reference to the Matron's books, from which this will appear; but I know, that during the above, 1791 pairs of blankets were scowred, or at least charged for as being so scowred, by the scowrer; and my reason for being thus particular as to the number of blankets scowred arose from matter of curiosity in checking the Matron's annual accounts, having heard it asserted at the meeting of the court of contributors, on the 5th of last month, that the blankets of the Hospital were never scowred or cleaned. Q. Have you occasion to know what was the daily average of patients, and of the family entertained in the House during the last year? A. Of patients, betwixt 209 and 210, and of family between 45 and 46, this average is made up from the Matron's daily re-

view book of patients, by taking the total number of patients in the Hospital as upon the last day of each month, adding these totals and dividing by 12. Q. Is there any book or document in the Hospital by which it can be ascertained how many of the patients have had full, low, or milk diet, or how many have had porridge on any particular day? A. There is none, although that might be ascertained, in so far as respects full diet from the diet-books; but these being books of mere daily reference, have not, so far as I know, been preserved with regularity. Q. During your acquaintance with the Hospital, have you been accustomed to visit the wards, and to make enquiries at the patients as to their treatment? A. I have uniformly found the patients express themselves as satisfied with their treatment. As an exception to this general rule, I upon one occasion found a person in the sailors' ward, who complained of want of attention on the part of the nurse, which I immediately investigated, and found that he had no cause to complain. Q. Whether the general answer to the last question extends to the patients in the servants' wards, and the lock ward, as well as to the other patients of the House? A. It does. Q. Have you heard any of the clerks complain of dinners provided for them by the Matron? A. I have; but principally through the physicians and surgeons, arising from the clerks having complained to them. Q. Have you reason to know whether these complaints were will or ill founded? A. When these complaints were made to me, I had communication with the Matron regarding them; and upon several occasions she has produced to me the cold beef, or other species of butcher's meat, of which the clerks had complained the preceding day; and I do not remember, in any one instance, that I ever found the meat in a state which should have caused complaint. These complaints began in the years 1815 or 1816, and ceased about six months ago. The person who chiefly complained on this score was Mr Law's clerk. Q. Were the clerks ever present on any of these occasions? A. Not that I recollect; for had I considered the complaint worthy of serious investigation, I would have submitted the same to the Managers. Q. Are you the person to whom complaints are usually made? A. They are equally made to me and the Treasurer, Mr Jardine, when either happen to be at the Hospital. Q. At one time when the complaints were made by the clerks, were the bills of fare submitted to the Managers? A. Those of eight or ten days were, and they appeared unexceptionable. Q. Has the Matron, in so far as you are aware of, any interest not to order a sufficient quantity of meat, or not to see that it is of the best quality? A. She has none that I am aware of. Q. Does she receive any perquisite from tradesmen? A. None that I am aware of, nor do I believe any such is given. Q. Has she any interest, so far as you are aware of, to withhold from the patients any quantity of meat that may be ordered for them? A. None. Q. Have you examined any of the diet-books, and could you state any of the varieties of food that have been ordered by the medical attendants? A. I have very frequently examined the diet-books, and I can state generally, that the medical attendants are in use of giving directions for comforts of every kind, over and above the usual diet of the Hospital provided for the patients under their charge; indeed I know that they are not limited in any way as to this matter. I cannot state from memory particular instances; but I have known veal, pork, chicken, and fruits ordered. Q. Was any new bedding introduced into the Hospital during the year 1816, and were additions made from time to time since that period? A. I know that a quantity of new bedding, including sheets, was obtained during 1816; and since that time additions were made to it. Q. What number of beds was new bedding got for? A. I cannot say; but it was considerable; and a considerable quantity has been also got in 1817, during which additional wards have been opened. Q. Can you furnish the committee with a statement of the times in which the new bedding was furnished? A. The vouchers for 1816 are sealed up, and therefore I cannot get access to them; but I have the vouchers for 1817, and will send a note shewing the same. Q. Was any improvement adopted in the mattresses? A. In the course of last autumn ticking of blue and white was introduced for covering the mattresses, in place of brown linen as formerly, and the cover so made as to admit of the wool or hair, being more easily taken out for the purpose of being cleaned, and the ticking washed. Q. Has any improvement been at-

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tempted in the mode of washing, and when? A. In 1816 a washing and drying hoase was suggested by the managers; but owing to a difference of opinion as to the proper situation for it, it was not built until last Autumn. I think the contract was made in August, and the Contractors were bound to have it finished by the 20th of October.

Q. Does this wash-house occupy the place where the former baths for patients were? A. It does; there was formerly one wooden bath situated there, which was occasionally used both as a hot and cold bath.

Q. Were these baths complained of? A. I have heard them complained of as not convenient; and I know that it was in contemplation some time ago, to erect baths upon a better principle for the patients, but the bath was used when required.

Q. Is any new bath now erecting; and when was the erection thereof resolved upon? A. There are baths fitting up within doors at present, and an estimate was obtained in the month of August or September: The delay in executing them has arisen in consequence of improvements and proposed alterations by Dr Hope.

Q. Has the subject of diet been under consideration of the managers? A. It has, and is now: A memorandum by the Physicians, as appears from the minutes of the managers, was referred to a committee on the 3d November 1817.

Q. Was the plan of having an Hospital Inspector in contemplation, and when? A. I know that it was, in particular during the last Autumn; because I framed the draft of the report of the committee, in consequence of instructions from such committee, in which the employment of such an officer was recommended to the managers.

Q. Were these remedies adopted so soon as complaints were made, or that it occurred to the managers that these were necessary? A. They were.

Q. Were these remedies in the course of being applied, previous to its being known that any enquiry was in contemplation on the part of the contributors? A. All of them were.

Q. When was such inquiry first heard of, or suspected by you? A. upon the 30th of December last, when I was waited upon by Mr Wigham, who paid to me for behoof of the infirmary, nine or ten donations of £5; and upon which occasion he stated to me, that he intended to ask or solicit some of his friends to attend this noble court of ours, as he was pleased to term it.

Q. Previous to this, had the managers come to the resolution of visiting the Hospital weekly? A. It appears from the minutes of the 22d December last, that a resolution to that effect was entered; but I know that a resolution by the managers to go through the House, had been come to some time before, and had been acted upon.

Q. Can you say on an average, how often you might be in the Hospital yourself weekly? A. Four or five times a week, and frequently oftener.

Q. Do you know the capacity of the cogs employed to contain the porridge and broth of the patients? A. Upon an average, what is called a choppin cog, will contain two mutchkins and a half, and the mutchkin cog, used for beer and milk, will contain from six to seven gills.

Q. Do you know how many boilers are used in the kitchen? A. Three for making broth; Two are for patients, and One for table broth.

Q. Do you know how much the boiler for patients broth contains? A. Betwixt 50 and 60 gallons; but I do not know exactly.

Q. Do you know whether any additional pot has been used lately for patients. A. I do not know, but I know that many patients have been of late served with table broth; and this information I got from the matron.

Q. Do you know on what terms the beef and bread were contracted for previous to the year 1817? A. It was provided in the same manner before 1817, as I have already stated with regard to 1817; but the prices I do not recollect.

Q. Has there been a contract made for the beef and bread for the present year? A. For the beef for twelve months, for the bread for three months; for the beef 3½d. per lb. of 17½ oz. for the bread a fraction less than 3s. 7d. per peck loaf.

Q. Are there printed regulations for the conduct of the Clerks? A. There are; and he now produces them.

Q. Are there printed regulations for the conduct of the nurses hung up in the wards? A. There are, and I now produce a copy of them.

28th February 1818.

The witness again called in and examined. Does it consist with your knowledge, that the late Matron kept a book, containing recommendations to nurses? A. It does; and I now lay the same upon the table; and this book shews in some cases the reasons of their dis-

missal. In this book I observe a nurse of the name of Alison Kerr, who was recommended by Dr Simpson and Sir John Marjoribanks, was in Bridewell when sent for;—a circumstance which proves how easily the most respectable persons may be deceived. Q. Among

Mr Montgomery's papers, have you found any state of the dinners given at her own table to the Clerks and Apothecary? A. I have, and now produce the same, commencing 31st January 1816, and ending the 20th or November same year. Q. Have you any state shewing the number of sheets washed in the year 1817? A. The washing-book of the Matron contains this; and the number washed during the 1817 was 3,357½ pairs. Q. Have you compared the consumpt-book kept by the Matron, with the quantities contained in the accmpts certified by her for the year 1817? A. I have, and the result is as follows!—

BREAD.

	Quart. loaves.	21 oz. loaves.
Received,	3167	45946
Issued by Matron to patients, nurses, &c.	2860	45363
	307	583

This balance is used at the Matron's table, consisting of herself, the Apothecary, and four Clerks, and occasional extra allowances to family servants, which is not limited to a fixed quantity, and not entered in the daily consumpt-book.

MEAL.

	Bolls.
Received,	84
	Stones. lbs.
Issued by consumpt-book,	670 9
Which at 8 stones per boll, is	83 6 9
	1 1 7

BARLEY.

	Cwt.
Received,	35
Deduct delivered in January 1818,	3
	32
This barley is purchased by the cwt. of 112 lbs. of 16 oz. whereas by the consumpt-book it is issued in lbs. of 17½ oz. inde, to reconcile, deduce	-
5376 oz. being 1¾ on 32 cwt. or 336 lbs, or	3
	29
Used by daily consumpt-book for patients' broth, independently of table copper,	23 26
	5 86

Used in table copper from 1½ to 2 lbs, per day.

BEEF.

	Stones. lbs.
Received,	1241 14
Used,	1249 13
Excess,	7 15

Q. Can you give any explanation relative to this excess in the beef? A. The excess is accounted for by the butcher's accounts, containing furnishings in the end of December 1816, of 46 stones 14 lbs.; from which must be deducted the quantity furnished in January 1818 of 24 stones 9 lbs.: The difference 22 stones 5 lbs. from which the above excess being deducted, there remains an actual deficit of 14 stones 6 lbs.; which deficit is wonderfully little, when it is considered that there must have been a few stones of beef in the larder on the 1st January 1818; and considering that the beef in the Hospital is

weighed out in very small quantities, whereas the furnisher weighs at once in large quantity. Q. Does it consist with your knowledge what steps have been taken by the Managers, to increase the funds of the Hospital? A. Independently of the general anxiety on the part of each Manager to obtain donations, I may mention in particular, that in the year 1804, they obtained an authority from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for a general collection at the church doors over the kingdom, and which was obeyed, with the exception of a very few presbyteries. In the year 1810 the Managers divided themselves into classes, and made a domiciliary visit throughout the city of Edinburgh; and I may add, that very considerable sums have, from time to time, been received under gifts from estates of *ultimus hæres*, &c. under the controul of the Right Honourable the Barons of Exchequer. In short, I have reason to know, that the Managers have at all times, during my acquaintance with the Hospital, been zealous and active to increase the funds of the Charity, by every means in their power. Q. Do you know where the sheets were washed previous to the building of the present wash-house? A. By a person of the name of David Morehead, who resides near Colinton. Q. Do you know the process by which they were washed? A. I never saw the process; but I always understood that soap and potashes were used in it.

6th February 1818.

Mr JAMES RUSSELL, Professor of Clinical Surgery in Edinburgh, examined. Q. How long have you been connected with the Royal Infirmary, and in what capacity? A. From the year 1777 to the year 1800 I attended in rotation with the rest of the College of Surgeons: In 1800 and 1801, or about that time, I had the charge of the Surgical department, as attending Surgeon along with Dr Wardrop; and ever since that time I have been a Clinical Lecturer in the surgical department. Q. What was your impression previous to 1801 or 1802, of the general management of the House as to cleanliness, diet, and the attendance of the nurses? A. Previous to my appointment as attending Surgeon with Dr Wardrop, my opportunities of observation were but occasional; but during the two years I held that situation every thing appeared to me to go on well; my attention of course was chiefly directed to the medical state of the patients, but I heard no complaints, and observed nothing that called for censure. The articles of diet which we ordered, were, so far as I knew, regularly supplied, and the nurses seemed in general to be pretty good, although there were then occasional irregularities and misconduct. Q. Can you recollect who was Matron during this period? A. I cannot correctly; a very excellent person, Mrs Rennie, had recently before held that situation, but whether she had then retired, I cannot recollect; but this will appear from the books. Q. Can you speak to the condition and management of the house since you ceased to be one of the attending surgeons? A. Not by any means with the same accuracy; my duty as Clinical Lecturer, only requires a single visit each day; and my attention on that occasion is almost exclusively directed to the state of the patients, as to their health and medical treatment. Q. Can you say generally, Whether there have been more complaints as to the management of late years, than during the period of your attendance? A. Within this twelvemonth, or thereabouts, I have certainly heard more complaints in the Consulting room from the Clerks, addressed in my hearing to the attending surgeons, and relating sometimes to the sheets of the patients, and sometimes to their diet; and in particular, I have heard the Clerks complain excessively of the badness of their own food, which they said was putrid: The attending Surgeons seemed generally to support the Clerks in those complaints, in so far as concerned the patients; and I have seen once or twice, the sheets exhibited which were so complained of; and also on one occasion a piece of bread, which the Clerks displayed as insufficient in quantity, though the quality appeared to be excellent.

About a fortnight or three weeks ago, two nurses from the Surgeon's Ward, came into the Consulting Room, and exhibited rather triumphantly, a piece of meat, which I think they said was an allowance for three of them for two days, and complained that they could not cut it; I did not know when it had been dressed, nor did I examine its quality farther, than to see that it looked dark, and not very inviting; I think one of these nurses is named Grant, and is a person well thought of by the Surgeons. Who were the attending surgeons and the clerks at the time of these complaints? A. Messrs Law and Gillespie were the surgeons, and Dr Craigie and Mr Glover were the clerks; and I have no knowledge of the justice or grounds of the complaints except their information. Q. From your experience and observation, does it occur to you, that there is any defect in the arrangement or system of communication among the different office-bearers of the House? A. I think it might be of advantage if the Medical Attendants had more frequent, easy, and familiar intercourse with the Managers. The Managers, so far as I know, have always shewn the most prompt attention to any suggestions made by the Surgeons in the way of memorial; but I think it might be of use, if they had the opportunity of stating to them in conversation, those details and more minute suggestions which occasionally occur, though not of sufficient importance to be embodied in a written statement. I am aware that the Medical Officers may be admitted to converse with the Managers if they chuse to request it; but I think that this requires a formal application; and that it would be better, either that the Managers should require the attendance of the Medical Officers at their ordinary meeting, or that there should be some regular times fixed for their coming together. Q. Do you know how many of the Ordinary Managers are at present medical gentlemen? A. I think there are five; and I believe the charter requires that number; and with a view to what I have stated above as to the communication with the Managers, I think it right to say, that it is what has occurred to me in the course of my present examination; and I did not come prepared to make suggestions upon the subject, though the ideas had previously occurred to me. Q. Does it consist with your knowledge, that the Medical or other Managers are in the habit of consulting the Medical Officers in private, on the affairs of the Hospital? A. I know they have done so occasionally. Q. Have the Surgeons a power of regulating the diet of the patients under their charge? A. I understand that the Managers fix the general diet of the House; but the Surgeons certainly have power to make such alterations in that of every particular patient as they may see fit; this power, of course, is frequently exercised, and is understood to be always complied with. Q. Has it occurred to you, that there is any way by which nurses of a better description could be got for the Hospital? A. I have certainly been of opinion, that by raising their wages, which are now much below those of sick nurses in private families, a considerable improvement might be affected: I know also, that this has been a subject of consideration among the Managers, with several of whom I have conversed with regard to it; and though I find that different opinions are entertained on the subject, I am still of opinion that the experiment should be tried: I think also, that the nurses ought to be more immediately under the controul of the Surgeons, so as not to be removed from one ward to another against the inclination of the Surgeons, as may now be the case. Q. Do you conceive their would be any advantage in making Clerks more immediately under the controul of the Medical Attendants than they now are? A. I am of opinion that it would be desirable, to the effect at least of enabling the Medical Attendants to dismiss them, when dissatisfied with their conduct, without a complaint to the Managers; and I rather think, that they ought also to be consulted about their nomination. Upon this subject, however, I am aware that there is a difference of opinion, and that some of the Medical Attendants do not wish to take that responsibility. Q. Have you known any instance of a Clerk having been retained in his situation, after he had been desired by the medical attendants to be dismissed? A. I do not recollect any case of the kind.

10th February 1818.

Mr BENJAMIN WELSH, one of the Physician's Clerks of the Royal Infirmary, examined.

Q. How long have you been one of the Clerks? A. I was appointed on the beginning of November last; but from the 20th of October I attended in place of Dr Lee, and lived in the House during part of that time, with the exception of the last week, when I was indisposed.

Q. Can you speak with regard to the state of all the wards of the House while you have been in it? A. Only with regard to the state of the Medical Wards.

Q. What has been the state of the Medical Wards with respect to cleanliness? A. I can only speak as to Dr Hamilton's patients: I have occasionally seen dirty sheets, but not very frequently; but the wards were otherwise in good order, according to my judgment.

Q. Were the sheets which appeared dirty near the close of the period at which they were about to be changed? A. I seldom enquired how long they had been using; but when I observed them dirty, I ordered them to be changed, which was uniformly done; and I always saw it was done either at the time, or came back afterwards and saw that it was done in the course of the same day.

Q. Was it part of your duty according to the regulations of the House, to see this done? A. I got orders from the Managers to see that every new patient got clean sheets. I did not get orders to look after the sheets afterwards, but I considered it as part of my duty to do so.

Q. Can you speak with respect to the personal cleanliness of the patients? A. I have in several cases seen the linens of the patients in a dirty state: And if I had seen the body of the patient dirty, I would have considered it my duty to order the nurse to get him cleaned; and also to have ordered a clean shirt for him, if I found it necessary.

Q. Are you able, in the various duties you have to perform, to ascertain whether the persons of the patients are clean? A. I cannot speak accurately as to the state of the patients: I usually saw the hands and the breast of the patient, though not always, unless when they were in a convalescent state.

Q. Do you know whether patients are generally cleaned when they come into the House? A. I would certainly have considered it my duty to have ordered a patient to be cleaned if I saw him very dirty, and have done so.

Q. Have there been any changes made in the bedding since you came into the House? A. There have; and these consisted of new sheets, and some new mattresses: And now two new wards have been opened, and the sheets of these wards are mostly new.

Q. Can you speak with regard to the state of the nurses? A. I think several of them are indifferent. I have often heard Mrs Montgomery express a very anxious wish to get good nurses.

Q. Has the Matron shewn herself desirous to remove the cause of every complaint made to her by you? A. Every thing that I have asked of the Matron has been most punctually attended to.

Q. Do you know whether provisions are brought into the House for the patients by their friends? A. I have occasionally instances of this; but chiefly tea, jelly, biscuits, and things of that sort. I have seen the remains of fresh herrings in the wards, and I was very much displeased with it.

Q. Have you known potatoes or bread brought in? A. I have been told, that such have been brought into the House, but I do not recollect of seeing this on any occasion.

Q. Would you have considered it wrong? A. I would; and I have always found fault with the patients when any thing was brought in, even tea.

Q. Could they be brought in without your observing it? A. I conceive it perfectly possible.

Q. Have you observed the porridge in the Hospital? A. I cannot speak particularly with regard to them; but I have heard no complaints from my patients with regard to the porridge, so far as I recollect; and when I saw them in passing through the wards, they appeared to be good; but I paid very little attention to them.

Q. Have you ever tasted the porridge or broth? A. I have not; and I did not consider it part of my duty to attend to the common diet of the House; but when Dr Hamilton ordered any extraordinary article of diet, I considered it my duty to enquire if it was got.

Q. Have you had occasion to see the patients at dinner? A. Very seldom, as that was the time I rather avoided going through the wards, that I might not disturb the patients.

Q. Have you ever attended any other Infirmary? A. I have not.

Q. Are the clothes worn by fever patients at the time of their admission fumigated, or otherwise purified, previously to their being returned to them at their dismissal? A. I do not believe that they are.

Q. Have any complaints been made to you of any irregularities having taken place in the wards under your charge during the night, since you came to the

House? A. There have. Q. Of what nature? A. Patients have complained to me of having been disturbed by other patients quarrelling in the night time, and by patients quarrelling with the nurses. And the witness having further stated, that patients and nurses have on several occasions complained of being disturbed in the night time by an individual whom he named, the Committee are of opinion, that the investigation of this matter ought to be delayed until the individual referred to should be examined, or until it appear that said individual is not to be examined. Q. Have you ever received complaints of nurses being drunk? A. I have. Q. Did they appear to you to be well founded? A. They did. Q. How many instances of this do you recollect? A. I recollect of two distinctly; upon one of these the greater part of the patients in the ward agreed in opinion, that the night nurse was drunk, and had given abusive language to a patient: That in the other, as I was informed, the day nurse had taken up the poker and threatened to strike a patient; this occurred in the Soldiers Fever Ward, Mr Cameron, whose patient the man was I believe; and she was removed from this ward, and put up to the Surgeons Ward; I do not know the name of either of these nurses. Q. Did you ever see any of the nurses in a state incapable of doing their duty? A. No; I have seen nurses when they appeared to have been drinking; but they were not in a state incapable to attend to their duty.

11th February 1818.

Dr JOHN GORDON, Physician in Edinburgh, examined. Q. What opportunities have you had of being acquainted with the economy and domestic management of the Royal Infirmary? A. My best opportunities have been since my appointment as one of the junior Surgeons of the House, about three years ago, which situation I still hold: Previous to that time, I had occasion to see a good deal of it since 1802, both as a Medical Student, Dresser, and Clerk. I was Dresser for six months about 1804. I was not one of the Clerks appointed by the Managers, but acted as Clerk about 1805 to Dr William Brown, then one of the Surgeons of the House, who took charge of the Surgical cases in the Medical Ward. Q. What is your impression as to the state of the Hospital, particularly within the three last years, as to the cleanliness and personal comfort of the patients? A. I really think there is considerable room for improvement in both particulars. I am, of course, best acquainted with the state of the Surgical Wards; but I do not confine my observation to them, having very generally made it my business in my daily visits, to go through such of the other Wards as contained cases that attracted my attention; and I have in this way frequently visited them all, with the exception of the Lock Ward, which I cannot say I have inspected for years. Q. Can you mention any particulars in which you think there is, or has been any neglect of cleanliness in the management of the House? A. I have observed in particular, that the sheets and pillow cases were frequently extremely dirty, and this chiefly within the last three years; by which I mean to say, not only that I have had more opportunities of observation within that period, but that in point of fact there has been a greater want of cleanliness during that time than before. Within these last six months there has been an improvement in this particular, but at the beginning of last year, I do not think it had begun. The late improvement is no doubt considerable; but I still think that there is much room for objection, even as things now are. The sheets were sometimes objectionable, apparently from having been used too long without washing. In other cases they appeared unclean, or imperfectly washed, when first put on the beds, and this last was the case chiefly in the Surgical Wards. It did not appear to me, that the dirty state of the sheets of the first description, was owing to any particularity in

the diseases of the patients, it being a general soiling arising from too long use. With regard to the last description of sheets, they had generally the appearance which would be produced by putting sheets, to which portions of grease were attached, into hot water, and in this way, diffusing the grease over the whole surface, no sufficient washing being afterwards used to remove it. There were also separate marks of stains, independent of the general blackness; and on smelling the sheets, I was struck with the heavy odour, as if from an ill washed sheet; and though I have made no experiments on the subject, and am aware that stains from sores and ointments are sometimes very difficult to remove, it was, and is my impression, that this might have been more effectually done, than it seemed to have been in those cases. I beg leave to add, that the occurrence of such stains might be very much prevented by a better supply of pieces of wax cloth for patients with sores or filthy discharges; at present there are only three or four of a small size in the surgical ward, containing upwards of 30 patients, and in the same proportion in the other wards. I think it right to say, that this suggestion has occurred to myself; I have no reason to think, that any application has been made on the subject by the attending surgeons to the managers, and I have no doubt, that if it were made, it would be immediately complied with. When I observed the sheets in an improper state, I did not myself order them to be removed, not conceiving that I had any right to do so. I have mentioned the circumstance in conversation to Messrs Law and Gillespie, the attending surgeons, though not in the way of information, as I was aware they had themselves observed it, and understood they had frequently spoken on the subject to the Matron, with whose attention to their requests they seemed dissatisfied. With regard to the cases of distress in the medical wards, I felt unwilling to speak of them to the physicians, as not being within my proper department. Q. Was there any thing else that struck you as defective in cleanliness, besides what you have now mentioned: A. I have also observed the body linen of the patients, and parts of their persons, in a filthy state. Sometimes they came into the house in very dirty linen, which was not changed; in other cases they were supplied with a shirt belonging to the house, which was generally very clean good, and well washed, and I know no instance in which such a shirt has been ordered and not supplied. I am not aware there is any regular system or practice of examining the patients as to the state of cleanliness on their admission, or for washing or shifting them when required; nor can I exactly say within whose duty such examination should fall; but I should think, that it would belong to the clerks to attend to it. It falls naturally to the nurse to observe the state of such patients, and if any thing occurs to her to be necessary, I conceive she should apply to the clerks to learn, whether there would be any medical objection to such washing or shifting; but I do not know whether the nurses have any directions to attend to these particulars. I have no doubt that the dirtiness of the sheets is frequently occasioned by this dirtiness in the persons of the patients, and unless they are drilled into it by the nurses, I am aware that many of them would as soon lie in dirty sheets as in clean. I am of opinion, however, that it is often of great importance to their health that they should be clean; and I should think it of great importance that it should be made the duty of some person to attend to this, both on their admission and afterwards; and, in particular, I think it would be of advantage, if the clerk of the ward was directed to inspect the condition of every patient in this respect at his first visit after their admission. Q. Have you ever had occasion to know that any of the patients were infested with lice or other vermin while in the Hospital? A. I have never observed any lice upon their persons while patients were alive. Q. May instances of uncleanness in the patients escape the notice of

the Medical Attendants? A. Yes they may; I have known such instances to occur; and I think it not surprising that they should, considering how much the minds of Medical Gentlemen must be occupied with the cases of their patients during the period of their daily visits. This remark applies particularly to the physicians, who have less occasion to see the sheets and body linen of the patients exposed. Q. Ought such instances to be unknown to the clerks? A. Such instances have escaped the notice of the clerks to my knowledge; though there is less reason in their case for their not being observed than applies to the physicians. Q. Is it the duty of the nurses to observe such instances? A. Yes. Q. What has appeared to you to be the state of the nurses within the last three years? A. Within the last three years I do not find that they are improved, but rather the contrary; though my general impression with regard to them, collected from observation, not only during that period, but for a considerable time prior, is, that they are unfit for all the duties required of them. Q. Does this apply to the surgical wards, or to all the wards of the house? A. It in general applies to the whole wards of the house, but I have more knowledge of the surgical wards; I have, however, observed exceptions to this. Some of the nurses have appeared to be discharging their duties well. Q. Have you had occasion to see the diet of the house? A. Very frequently. Q. Have you had occasion to see the patients at dinner? A. Frequently. Q. Have you observed the broth, and what was its quality? A. I have, and its quality in general was not good. I have tasted it repeatedly, and it seemed to me to be defective in nutritious matter, and too thin. Q. Was it deficient in barley and vegetable matter, or in animal matter? A. I think it was in general deficient in barley, and also in animal matter. This applies to the general state of the broth, but sometimes they contained a greater portion of these ingredients, though hardly in any instance such a quantity of either as I should conceive sufficient for proper nutritious broth for the persons to whom it was given. Q. On what days have you tasted the broth. A. On no particular days of the week. It depended on accident. I sometimes tasted it once a week, sometimes two or three days following. Q. Are you aware that the broth differed in its composition different days of the week? A. I am not the least aware of any such difference on any particular day; though undoubtedly the strength was not always the same. Q. Do you know whether the patients suffered in consequence of the broth being in your opinion too weak? Q. I do not know of any instance of this. Q. Do you think that the patients' recovery would have been more rapid if the broth had been more nutritious? Q. I have no doubt whatever, that the recovery would have been more rapid, in every instance in which the diet, including such broth, had been prescribed by the medical attendant. Q. Have you seen the broth in other Public Institutions? A. I have; I recollect of having seen and tasted the broth in one of the Public Kitchens, and the broth in Bridewell. Q. How did that appear comparatively with the Infirmary? A. It appeared to be better, in so far as it seemed to contain more animal matter, and certainly had more vegetable. Q. Are you of opinion, that the average of broth for patients in the Infirmary, independent of cases in which table broth may be expressly prescribed, ought to be equal to that in Bridewell or the Public Kitchens. A. It ought to be superior, in my opinion, to that made in Bridewell; for although it appeared to me much better than in the Infirmary, yet I do not think it is of sufficiently good quality for the common diet of the patients of the Royal Infirmary. Q. Were you in the Infirmary on the first Sunday of January last, the day before the head court of contributors was held? A. I was. Q. Did you taste the broth on that day, and what was its quality? A. I did; and it seemed to me a fair average specimen of the bad qualities of the broth which I have already spoken to. Q. Have you ever tasted the broth in the kitchen? A. No, It has al-

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ways been in the wards. q. Can you draw any comparison between the broth in the Royal Infirmary and that in other Infirmarys? A. I have not tasted the broth in any other Infirmary, and can draw no such comparison. q. Have you had occasion to observe the dinner served up to the patients on full diet? A. I have. q. How was it served up? A. Diet consists of several articles. The portions of meat, forming a part of it, seemed to be brought into the wards upon a board, and from that were distributed by the nurse to such of the patients as were confined to bed, while others went themselves to receive it at the dressing-table from the nurse. q. Had the patients in general plates? A. No; they had cogs in which the broth had been, or was at the time; some of them had emptied the cog and put the meat into the cog; with others, broth was still in the cogs. q. Do you know the custom, as to whether the broth or meat is served first? A. I do not know what the custom is; but it seemed to me in general, that they had received broth in these vessels before the meat was brought. q. Do you know whether it has been the custom to put the meat into the broth, or to eat it separately? A. I have never seen the patients put the meat into the broth; sometimes they put it into the cog from which they had ate their broth; and sometimes placed it on a bit of bread; and sometimes on a little table which happened to be beside them. q. Had all these patients cogs in which they might have put their meat? A. That I did not observe particularly; but I should suppose they had. q. Did you know or observe any patient who got boiled meat who did not get broth? A. No. q. Had the patients knives, forks, or spoons? A. Not in general; I have occasionally seen a horn, or a pewter spoon used by the patients. q. Did you ever see the patients eat their broth in any other way than with a spoon? A. I have; according to my observation they were generally drank. q. How did they take their porridge? A. I do not recollect ever having seen a patient in the Royal Infirmary eating his porridge. q. Do you know that knives, forks, and spoons are furnished in other Hospitals, and in what Hospitals? A. I have no doubt, from the information I have received, that they are furnished by most of the other Hospitals in Great Britain, though I have no direct means of knowledge relative to that point. q. What other Hospitals in Great Britain have you visited? A. All the great Hospitals in London; the Hospitals at York, Newcastle, and Glasgow; but never saw the patients at dinner in any of them. q. Did you make any observation on the quantity or quality of the animal food given to patients in the Infirmary? A. I have. In point of quantity, considering the nature of the broth which accompanied it, it seemed to me small. It appeared also too often in a dry and cool state. And as to quality, not unfrequently mingled with too much fat, gristle, and membranous substances; and of course containing too small a proportion of muscular fibre. q. Did you observe the quantity and quality of bread? A. The quality of the bread has always appeared to me to be of the very best; but still, considering the composition of the broth, I have thought its quantity too little. q. Have you heard the patients express themselves dissatisfied with the diet of the Hospital? A. When I have been observing their fare, some of them have sometimes on those occasions, voluntarily complained to me, both of the quantity and quality, but most frequently on those occasions of the quality of the diet; although in general they have made no complaint on the subject. q. Does any thing else occur to you as to the diet? A. The beef tea, when prescribed, appeared to me to be too weak; and the beef steaks prescribed in particular cases, not selected with that care which seemed to me of great importance in these instances; containing too large a proportion, of the whole quantity prescribed, of fat, membrane, and other matters different from the animal fibre. q. Have you particular access to know the nature of

the diet usual among the lower orders in Edinburgh and its vicinity? A. I have no particular access to know this; meaning, by lower orders, the class of society below servant. Q. Do you know whether animal food is generally used among the lower orders who reside in their own houses, particularly in making broth? A. I do not know; but I have always understood a small quantity at least of animal substance of some kind or another, was employed by them in making broth. Q. On the whole, do you consider the full diet of the Infirmary exceptionable? A. Yes, both as to quantity and quality; but I should think there was less reason for objection in point of quantity, were the quality better; and this applies to what I have already said relative to the broth and beef. Q. Do you consider that a Board, whereof the President of the College of Physicians, the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, one Professor of Medicine, and two Members of the College of Surgeons, are members, qualified to judge of a suitable Hospital diet? A. I should think, that any Board comprehending such individuals as members, would be abundantly well qualified to judge relative to that matter. Q. Are you acquainted with the rules and regulations of the Hospital? A. I have thought it only necessary for me to be particularly acquainted with the regulations relative to the duties of the junior Surgeons; though I think I have a general information of the regulations relative to the duties of the other Medical Officers, and of the clerks and servants of the house. Q. Is your information such as to enable you to judge how far these rules, if conscientiously discharged, are sufficient for accomplishing the great object in view by this institution? A. I am disposed to answer, that these rules, even if quite conscientiously discharged by all parties, are hardly, in my opinion, sufficient to insure a right domestic economy in an establishment of this nature. Q. What do you consider requisite to render the establishment such as you conceive it ought to be? A. I should conceive that more express regulations are necessary, in the first place, with respect to searching the cleanliness of the patients. 2d, With respect to the ability, good conduct, and temperance of the nurses; and, *lastly*, with regard to the quantity and quality of the food, I should also think it of the highest importance, that a system of more constant inspection should be maintained over the whole departments of the House, by persons appointed by the Managers, or otherwise, for that purpose, and in whom they could entirely rely for the faithful performance of that duty. Q. Do you mean by inspection, medical inspection? A. No; general inspection, by a committee, from which I see no reason for excluding medical men. Q. Do you conceive there is sufficient facility of communication between the Managers and the medical attendants? A. I hardly think the communication is sufficient: It is perhaps too much restricted by understood rules, though there is no medical person who has not access to the Managers, on any occasion he may think of importance to the house, by observing the rules alluded to. Q. To what rules do you allude? A. The surgeons of the house understand it to be a rule, that any communication which they may have to make to the Managers, must be made in writing through the medium of the Clerk or Treasurer, and that they cannot appear before the Managers directly, to save the necessity of that communication. Q. Do you know if this is the understanding of the Physicians? A. I do not know. Q. Do you know on what this understanding is founded? A. I do not know; I believe it to be from an uniform practice. Q. In any case, where you observed any thing wrong, have you made any remonstrance, either to the Managers as a body, or to them individually? A. No; I have not: I have made no remonstrances with respect to cleanliness, for the reasons mentioned formerly; and with respect to other circumstances, I have been deterred from complaining, in the *first* place, From the hope that the subjects of complaint would attract the notice of the Managers themselves; 2dly, From a feeling, that being only a junior

medical attendant, my remonstrances might possibly be interpreted into premature interference; and, 3dly, From a fear, that my complaining might be considered as a hasty implication of the attention of the visiting Managers of the Infirmary to the duties of their office: As I have reason to believe, however, that the defects I have spoken to in the domestic economy of the house, have been more minutely known to me than to my medical brethren: I do sincerely regret, that I allowed myself so much to be influenced by these feelings, and did not directly communicate my observations to the Managers; feeling perfectly satisfied, from my knowledge of their humanity and general care for the interests of the house, that they would not have listened with inattention to any remonstrances I should have had occasion to make. Q. Have you ever had occasion to do duty as attending surgeon in the surgeon's ward, since your appointment as one of the junior surgeons? A. I have not. Q. Have you been in the practice of attending the physicians in their regular visit, since your said appointment? A. No. Q. Have you been in the habit of accompanying the medical clerks in their rounds? A. No: My visits to the house have generally been made at the usual hours of attendance, from twelve to one. When the whole of that hour was not occupied in the surgical wards, I have generally visited such of the other wards as contained cases about which I felt an interest. In those visits, I have carefully avoided any interference with the physicians employed in going their rounds, and have never been accompanied with a clerk, unless when I was uncertain as to the place of the patient I wished to see. I have often, however, remained in the Hospital till after two o'clock, and not unfrequently have made visits before twelve in the forenoon, as well as in the evening. My object in soliciting the situation I at present hold in the Infirmary, was my improvement in medicine in general, not surgery in particular. The situation was granted me in the most liberal manner by the Managers, and I shall ever feel grateful to them, for the opportunity of professional instruction which has thus been afforded me, in an Institution which, so far as my knowledge extends, is, in point of medical arrangement, inferior to none either in this country, or on the continent.

12th February, 1818.

Dr ANDREW DUNCAN, physician in Edinburgh, examined, states, The day after the last general court of contributors, I sent a note to Mr Wigham, stating, that considering Mr Wigham's motives to be honourable, and that he wished for useful information, I thought proper to mention that I considered that he had been much misinformed as to the Hospital, and that I could give useful information if examined before the committee. Q. Desired to state what you think it would be of importance that the committee should know? A. I attended the Hospital as Clinical physician since the year 1774, and have had, for upwards of 20 years past, the charge of the Clinical Wards, and given lectures for some months every year. I was also twice a Manager, for a year at a time, as President of the College of Physicians. With respect to the diet, it is the same which was in use in the time of Drs Clerk and Dr Drummond, and afterwards in the times of Drs Stedman and Hope. It consists with my knowledge, that the diet was approved of by all those physicians; and in particular I know, that Dr Stedman, when he wrote the history of the Infirmary, bestowed much pains in making inquiries on the subject. To me, the three different kinds of diet appear

highly proper for an hospital. q. What table do you refer to? A. I refer to the printed table of diet appearing in Dr Stedman's history of the Infirmary.

q. Have the three kinds of diet been observed in the Infirmary? A. I do not know whether they have been generally observed; but I have been in use to order these different kinds of diet to patients.

q. Have you seen any table of diet or regulation which fixes the proportion of meal for a given number of patients? A. I have not seen any table fixing the quantity.

q. Have you seen the porridge of the patients? A. Very frequently. I generally go to the Infirmary when doing duty as Clinical Professor, either before, or immediately after my own breakfast, and in this way I have often occasion to see the porridge in the Clinical Wards.

q. What is your opinion of the quality of the porridge? A. It appeared to me to be very good, as also the milk. I have tasted the milk repeatedly, and was led to do this in consequence of Dr Hamilton having mentioned that there was better milk in the Infirmary than in any private family in Edinburgh; and I found the milk very good, though not better than in my own family.

q. Had you any occasion to judge of the quantity? A. I had not, but I never heard any patient complain of having had too little.

q. Did you ever enquire at any patient whether he had enough? A. I have often asked patients if they had eat all their porridge, and they frequently answered that they had not. In cases of extraordinary appetite, I have ordered double allowance of bread. I recollect of having done this in one instance in the present winter, when a patient having a keen appetite said he thought he had too little bread.

q. Have you seen the beef furnished to patients? A. I have frequently seen the beef steaks, and the beef was good. The way in which I came to see the beef was, that the steaks are dressed in the ward. I think this a proper practice, both because the patient gets the steak hot, and because he can have it at such time as his appetite may best incline him to take it. I have known many cases where the patient could not eat his dinner at the regular diet hour.

Q. Where did you see the beef lying? A. It was lying on the table in the window, where it is usually placed when brought up to the ward. I never saw them thrown upon the beds of the patients, and I do not believe that any such practice exists.

Q. Did you ever see a nurse give the steaks to the patients in a raw state? A. I never did. I have seen the nurses feeding the patients with the steaks when dressed; and on these occasions the steaks were always upon a plate or dish of some sort or another.

Q. Do you know if the patients ever cook the steaks themselves? A. I do not know; but I believe they occasionally do. I recollect of one case, where a patient dressed pork steaks for himself; and in this case, besides these steaks, I ordered eggs, cheese, and double allowance of full diet.

Q. Do you speak to the diet and beef steaks in all the wards, or only as to the Clinical Wards? A. I speak only as to the Clinical Wards.

Q. Is there more attention paid to diet in the Clinical Wards than others? A. I do not consider that there is. There is no particular table of diet for the Clinical Wards more than the others, but from the cases being selected, more particular diet may be ordered.

Q. Were the Clinical Wards more frequently visited since you have been physician, than the other wards. A. I can only speak as to my own practice, which has been to visit the wards very frequently. I remember, that in one course some years ago, I visited those wards three times every day for three months; and my principal object was, during these private visits, to enquire at the nurse relative to the state of the patients, and to give directions respecting them, and I have always visited them twice a-day when lecturing during the present winter. I left the evening visit to my clerk. I had thus occasion to see the beds and persons of the patients. Ever since I attended in the Hospital, I have uniformly told the students in lec-

turing, that cleanliness, cool air, and diluent drinks, were highly essential in the cure of diseases, particularly of fever; and that strict attention had been paid to these circumstances in the Clinical Wards while under my care. Q. Do you know if there was any general rule for supplying sheets in the Clinical Wards at stated periods, independent of special directions by the physician? A. I do not know what the practice was in this respect. Q. Was you frequently in use to order sheets to be changed as being dirty? A. Sometimes, but not frequently; and I have found in some cases that sheets had been changed where it had become necessary from the peculiar state of the patient, without having given any directions to this effect. Q. Have you had occasion to order clean linen for patients? A. Frequently; and when ordered, it has always been supplied by the House. Q. Generally speaking, do you conceive that patients remain a shorter or longer time in the Clinical wards than in the other wards of the House? A. I do not know; but I have often applied to the ordinary physicians to take convalescents into their wards, that I might have a variety of cases to lecture upon. Q. What is the usual number in the Clinical wards? A. The allowance is ten men and ten women; but we usually take in as many as the wards will contain, which is from 12 to 14 each. Q. Do you think that as much attention has been paid to the cleanliness and comfort of the patients during the last three years as formerly? A. I do. Q. Are students who attend the Clinical wards as frequently attacked with fever as some years back? A. I think they are not; but I do not attribute this either to cleanliness, cool air, or diluent drinks, but to the introduction of fumigation by muriatic acid gas, which I have had carefully performed in my own wards every morning. Q. When patients are brought into the house with vermin seen upon them, are any means used to get rid of them as far as is possible? A. Certainly. Q. Are patients regularly examined when they come into the house as to this cleanliness of their persons? A. They generally are; and in the Clinical wards always. This is done by the physician himself, or his clerk and nurses. Almost the whole patients are in the lowest rank of life, and very frequently come in very dirty. Q. What rules do you conceive it would be prudent to give to nurses generally respecting the cleaning of the persons of patients on their first admissions? A. I think it would be extremely difficult to lay down any general rule; but I am of opinion, that the nurse ought to report to the physician, if she discovers any want of cleanliness about patients, which may escape his own observation, and to take his directions accordingly. Q. Would it be prudent to empower the nurse to wash every patient when admitted? A. I think it would not. Q. Are you of opinion, that when the physician's clerk visits a patient for the purpose of taking his case, on his admission into the hospital, that it ought to be an imperative duty with the clerk immediately to direct the person of the patient to be as effectually cleaned by washing, or otherwise, as can be done consistently with the disease under her labours? A. Certainly; and I have uniformly given directions to that effect to the clerks in the Clinical wards. Q. Have you any thing to state as to the nurses. A. There are two nurses; a night and a day one to each Clinical ward. In general I have found them very attentive and humane; and only on one occasion have I found it necessary to have a nurse turned off, which was about ten years ago. Q. Do patients on leaving the house, or afterwards, express their gratitude for the treatment they had experienced in the house. A. Frequently; and I have an hundred times in the street got the blessing of patients, for the care they had met with in the Infirmary. Q. Do the foregoing observations apply exclusively to the Clinical wards; or have you ever paid any attention to other parts of the house. A. I have not the same opportunity of knowing the circumstances of other wards, as of the Clinical wards; but I have every reason to believe, that in

these also, every thing is done that can contribute to the comfort or cure of patients. In going to the Clinical wards I have to pass through the Men's Country ward; and in selecting patients for the Clinical wards, I have occasionally been in all the wards; and it appeared to me, that in general these were all in good order. Q. Have you inspected the sheets and beds in other wards? A. I have occasionally seen them, but I have not particularly inspected them. Q. Have you seen much of the Surgical ward? A. I have seen less of them than of the other wards, as I rarely select surgical cases for the Clinical wards. Q. Have you seen patients in other wards when at diet? A. I have not. Q. When you directed any thing to be corrected, did a ready compliance appear to you to be given to it by the Matron? A. There always was; and I never found one instance to the contrary. Q. In the course of your experience in the Hospital, did you ever observe, on the part of the Managers, any disinclination to investigate every matter connected with the good of the Hospital, or to apply remedies where the same appeared expedient? A. I never did; but when I was myself a Manager, I suggested the great advantage which, in my opinion, would result from the establishment of two additional branches connected with the hospital; one for convalescents, the other for incurables; but to these the state of the funds was an unsuperable objection; and I doubt much if it will ever be possible to execute them, unless by very large legacies left for that purpose. I was perfectly satisfied, that the reason for not adopting these improvements were substantially good. Q. Do you think, that there is sufficient facility of communication between the medical Officers and the Managers? A. I think there is the utmost facility of communication betwixt them. Q. What other Hospitals had you occasion to see, and when. A. I have seen formerly many of the principal Hospitals in Britain; at London, Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, York, and Newcastle; and in the years 1814 and 1815 I saw the principal hospitals in London, York, and Newcastle, in company with the principal physicians and surgeons; and the Glasgow hospital last summer. Q. How does the Edinburgh Hospital, in your opinion, stand in comparison with those? A. I think the Edinburgh Hospital is not inferior to any of them in attending to the comfort and recovery of patients. Q. Do you think the Edinburgh Hospital equal with those you have mentioned in the construction of the house. A. It is inferior to some of them in that respect, particularly to the Glasgow Hospital? Q. Do you consider the Edinburgh Hospital as equal to the others you have mentioned in cleanliness of the beds and bed-linen? A. To the best of my recollection it is not inferior to any of them. Q. Do you consider it equal to the others in point of the cleanliness of the persons and body linen of the patients. A. I never saw enough of the others to be able to judge on this point. Q. Do you consider the Edinburgh Hospital as equal to the others you have mentioned in medical attendance. In many of the other hospitals the physicians only attend certain days in the week, but in the Edinburgh Hospital the medical practitioners regularly attend every day; and in my opinion there is not an hospital in Europe in which the sick poor have a better chance of recovery than in the Infirmary of Edinburgh.

12th February 1818.

The Rev. JAMES PORTEOUS examined. Q. What situation do you hold in the Royal Infirmary? A. Chaplain, which I have held for seven or eight years past. Q. What are the nature of the duties? A. When I was first appointed, the duty

consisted in preaching to the patients on Sunday afternoon, and visiting the dying through the week; I have since extended this duty, by making it a practice to visit all the wards of the Infirmary twice a-week. *Q.* What is the object of these visits? *A.* For prayer, pointing out passages of scripture, and speaking a word of comfort to the dying. *Q.* From the nature of your intercourse with the patients, do you think it likely, that they would communicate to you any complaints relative to their treatment in the Hospital, in the hope of your interference for their relief? *A.* Most naturally. I have always endeavoured to soothe them, and speak kindly to them under their affliction; and many of them have called upon me when dismissed, to receive aid when they cannot work, or to carry them to distant places. *Q.* Have patients ever made complaints to you of their treatment in the Hospital? *Never*, except once, about a year ago, a man from Dundee observed that the broth was at times thin, but far better than he could afford at his own house. This patient spoke very favourably of the Hospital in all other respects. *Q.* Have you recommended patients for admission to the Hospital? *A.* Frequently; I have sometimes sent three in a week, sometimes more. *Q.* Did such patients while in the House, or after dismissal, ever express themselves to you relative to their treatment in the House, and in what way? *A.* On no occasion did they make any complaint, but on the contrary, expressed their contentment and gratitude for their treatment; and I have often heard patients from a distance say, that if they had money to spare, they would leave a part of their means to the Hospital, as a mark of gratitude. *Q.* Have you ever had occasion to see the diet of the patients served out to them? *A.* Never served out; but I have seen them at their diets. *Q.* What is your opinion as to the quantity and quality of the diet, so far as you could judge? *A.* The quality always appeared to me to be the best. I have examined the meal, and other articles, and I have seen the Matron send back milk when it appeared to her to be objectionable. As to the quantity, I have always understood that it was what was ordered by the Managers and Medical gentlemen. I have no means of judging personally, further than having seen broken bread near the patients, and also some in the Matron's pantry, which she told me had been brought down from the wards unconsumed. *Q.* Have you seen the patients at dinner? *A.* No; the usual hours of my visits are from 9 to 12 in the forenoon, and in the evenings I attend when called upon. *Q.* Have you ever had occasion to see the portions of porridge or bread served up for breakfast? *A.* I have not. *Q.* Have you ever examined the state of the sheets or bedding in the wards? *A.* For these two years back, I have looked at them more particularly, and they appeared to me to be much the same as they are now, the colour of the new sheeting is whiter than they were formerly, and all along they appeared to be of a degree of cleanliness, suitable to an hospital. It is difficult in many cases to keep the sheets clean in an Hospital. I have seen instances of sores that would have required a change of sheets twice a day. *Q.* In so far as you have observed during these two years, do you think that the sheets in general have been often enough changed? *A.* As far as I have observed, I have reason to think they have been changed as frequently as was judged necessary, or as ordered by the medical attendants. *Q.* Do you know the conduct of the nurses? *A.* In general they conduct themselves properly; and I find them always at their posts when I go through. I know that the present Matron dismissed several nurses shortly after her appointment, which made a deep impression upon them; and I have not seen any of them intoxicated since that time; but I have before. *Q.* Do you find the Matron disposed to attend to any suggestion made by you relative to the Hospital of patients? *A.* Most readily.—She is in use to consult me respecting the affairs of the house. I see her frequently, and we are in good habits; and it appears to me that she studies every thing for the good of the house.

18th February 1818.

Dr JAMES HOME, Physician in Edinburgh, and Professor of Materia Medica, and one of the Professors who gives Clinical Lectures, examined. Q. In what manner and how long have you been connected with the Royal Infirmary? A. I have been acquainted with the Royal Infirmary for nearly forty years, having attended it as a student; and since the year 1798, I have been a Clinical Professor, and have delivered fifteen or sixteen clinical courses. Q. Is your knowledge of the state of the Infirmary since you were Clinical Professor confined to the Clinical Wards, or does it extend to the other parts of the House? A. My attention is solely confined to the Clinical Wards, and to the economy of the House in so far as connected with these Wards. Q. Have you at any time been a manager of the Infirmary? A. During the three years that I was President of the College of Physicians, which I believe were the years 1810, 1811, and 1812, I was a Manager *ex officio*. Q. While you were Manager, had you occasion to inspect the other parts of the House frequently? A. I had, along with the other Managers. Q. What has been the state of the bedding in the Clinical Wards while you had the charge of those Wards? A. Previous to my being a Manager, the bedding was in what I conceive not to be a good state; but while I was a Manager, several Committees were appointed, some of them at my own suggestion, and one in particular, to consider the state of the bedding; and in consequence of the report of that Committee, the bedding was considerably altered; since which time, I conceive it to be in excellent order. I am in the habit of giving to the young gentlemen appointed as Clinical clerks certain written directions, of which the following is one, marked No. 13. "They are requested to examine the state of each bed; and should any thing appear amiss, they are immediately to communicate this to the Matron." In consequence of which, although frequently interrogated on the subject of it, I have never received but the most favourable account of the state of the bedding, meaning the mattress. Q. In what state do you conceive the sheets to have been in the Clinical Wards, in point of cleanliness? A. Previous to the period at which I was manager, I conceived the sheets to be not in so good a state as they have been since; but since that time, I think they have been in an excellent state. Q. Have you never observed any of them when first put upon the beds, to be very much stained or soiled with greasy matter? A. Frequently; but on pointing these out to the nurses, they always said that these stains could not be removed; but in other respects, these very sheets appeared to me perfectly clean. Q. Have you observed any change in the state of the sheets since last summer? A. They are now whiter, and look better. Q. Are you aware, or have you observed, that any considerable number of new sheets have been got since last summer? A. I have no opportunity of knowing this; and I cannot say whether the difference in their appearance is owing to their being new sheets, or to the old sheets being better bleached. Q. Do the patients in general remain long enough in the Clinical Wards to require a change of sheets, before they are discharged or removed to other wards? A. Many of them remain for three months, others for a shorter period; some only a few days. Q. Do you think that the sheets of those patients that remain for several weeks in the Clinical Wards, have been frequently enough changed? A. I have no doubt that the Clinical clerks, according to the directions given, see that the sheets are changed when necessary; and I myself order them frequently to be changed; so that in some cases they have been changed every other day. Q. Are you acquainted with the diet of the patients? A. I am. Q. Do you take pains to make your Clinical clerks acquainted with it? A. Certainly. In the regulations before mentioned, communicated by me to the Clinical clerks, the following regulation stands under No. 11:—"The clerks are requested to pay particular attention to the diet in point

" of quantity and of quality, as contained in the annexed Table No. 3. Should any defect in either respects be observed, they are immediately to be communicated the same to the Matron; and in case no attention be paid by her, they are requested to inform Dr H." And in order to impress that and other regulations on the minds of the clerks, I am generally in the habit of making the clerks copy them; and for some years the table of diet, No. 3, was pasted on the board of the port-folio, containing the Clinical cases, which is as follows:—

DIETS IN THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

LOW DIET.

BREAKFAST.—Three gills of milk or of beer, and about five and a half ounces of avoirdupoise of bread; or, in room of the bread, a mutchkin or so of oatmeal porridge, weighing 20 oz.

DINNER.—A choppin or so of broth, and 5½ oz. roll avoirdupoise.

SUPPER.—The same in every respect as breakfast.

FULL DIET.

The addition of ½ lb. of boiled beef three times to the dinner in low diet; otherwise these two are the same.

Nota.—When full diet is not particularly mentioned, low diet is understood. Sometimes in cases of great debility and weakness of the stomach, a bason of beef-tea is prescribed for dinner; and in this case the broth is taken away. When the patient is ordered to have a piece of boiled beef, or a piece of steak daily, either of these is understood to be half a pound, and is added to the dinner in low diet.

Q. How was that table of diet made out. **A.** I have had the table for 15 or 16 years, but have no recollection from whom I received it; but I have shewn it to Dr Spens and the Matron, who have acknowledged its accuracy. It occurs to me, that I might have copied the table of diet from the publication containing the statutes of the Royal Infirmary; but on now inspecting the publication which is on the table, printed in 1778, I find that this cannot be the case. In the table of diet in the statutes referred to, there is low, middle, and full diets, and no quantities are specified; whereas in that which I have now shewn to the Committee, there is only low and full diet, and the quantities are specified. **Q.** Are you aware when any change took place? **A.** No; the table I have referred to is the only one I ever knew. **Q.** Do you know what quantity of oatmeal is used in making porridge for any given number of patients? **A.** I do not know. **Q.** Have you seen the porridge of the patients? **A.** I was in the habit very frequently, after coming out of my class in the College at nine o'clock, to call at the Infirmary, and also of calling occasionally in the evening; and at these times frequently saw the messes of porridge; and they appeared to be good and ordinary porridge. This can only refer to the Clinical Lectures delivered during the winter courses; but occasionally during the summer courses I go there in the evening, and sometimes then see the porridge. I did not lecture in the winter 1816-17, but I lectured last summer; at which time I occasionally saw the patients get their porridge. **Q.** Have you tasted the broth of the patients? **A.** I have. **Q.** Did you think them of suitable quality? **A.** In general they were of good quality; but at times it has been reported to me by the Clinical clerks, that the broth was not so good; and upon tasting them I have found this to be the case; and particularly, when Dr Beilby was Clinical clerk some years ago, some complaints were preferred by him of the badness of the broth, which, on tasting, I found very watery. I complained to the Matron, who told me, that such things would sometimes occur; but to her certain knowledge, at these times there had been no alteration in the usual quantity

of the ingredients last summer. Also some complaints were made of the bad quality of the broth, and which, on tasting, I also found not of proper strength and watery. I again complained to the Matron, who promised to pay particular attention to correct or to prevent such from occurring again; and at the same time she said, that she could not answer for the uniform attention of her servants any more than private families could. Q. Are you aware that the quantity of meat put into the broth on any particular day, depends on the number of persons to whom the boiled meat is to be served? A. I am not. Q. Did you observe whether the broth, during the last two or three years, had in general a sufficient proportion of barley and other vegetable substances? A. When I was a manager, a committee to examine into the state of the diet was appointed, since that time the broth has been better in general, and particularly so during this winter clinical course which commenced on the first of February, until which time I had no opportunity of seeing it since my former clinical course. Q. Have the patients the same kind of broth every day of the week? A. No, two days of the week they have potatoe soup, which I tasted yesterday, and found most excellent, although it was taken from the pot half an hour before the time of serving it. Q. Have you ever tasted the potatoe-soup after being served out to the patients in the wards? A. Never; but I presume what I tasted yesterday would not be so good as when distributed to the patients. Q. Did you ever observe the potatoe-soup in the wards? A. I did not. Q. Did you ever taste the broth in the wards, unless when it was complained of? A. I have done so four or five times in my life. Q. Have you observed the patients at dinner? A. I have. Q. Do you understand that the half pound of meat given to the patients on full diet, according to the table you have referred to, is half a pound before it is boiled or after? A. It is half a pound before being boiled? Q. What portion of the patients in the clinical wards are usually on full diet? A. About one-fourth, including those who are on beef-steak. It of course varies very much at different times. Q. What proportion of the patients in the Clinical Wards, are upon beef-steak? A. Usually a very small proportion; not probably above three or four. Q. What has appeared to you to be the quality of the beef-steak? A. It seemed to me very good. Q. Have you ever received any complaints as to the quality of the beef-steak? A. I have once received a complaint from Dr Beilby of a beef-steak being tough; but I had no opportunity of seeing that steak at the time, and I do not recollect whether any other patients were ordered beef-steak at this time. Q. Do you remember of any complaint relative to the beef-steak being made to you last summer? A. I do not; but there might be so. I remember some complaint being made respecting the small quantity of meat given to the patients; upon which I went to the Matron, and she mentioned, that differences in the quantity assigned to each patient, might at times take place, as it is impossible to divide accurately the meat into the proper quantity; but that she was sure the whole quantity for the patients had been put into the pot on the days complained of. Q. Do you recollect some years ago, 1815, five portions of meat having been shewn to you by Dr Beilby, being all that were served for the Clinical Ward that day? A. I do not recollect; but it may have been so.

19th February 1818.

Q. Have you seen the dinner served to the patients? A. I have. Q. How is the meat given to the patients by the nurses? A. I cannot say; but when in the patient's possession, it has been, generally upon a plate or a saucer, or in one of the vessels that had contained the broth. Q. Did the patients eat their meat with knives and forks? A. Not generally. Q. Have you seen the beef-steaks in

possession of the patients, dressed or undressed? A. I have seen them both dressed and undressed in the possession of the patients, who were eating them on plates or saucers. Q. Is it the practice to throw the beef-steaks, either raw or dressed, upon the beds of the patients? A. I never saw them thrown on the beds of the patients, and never knew or heard of such a practice in the Hospital. Q. Do you consider, that you have such opportunities of observation, as to enable you to say how it is done? A. I have been very seldom in the wards at that time, or of seeing the actual delivery. Q. On those occasions do you think, that if the meat had been thrown raw on the beds of the patients, it would have escaped your observation? Certainly it could not; and I should have thought it a most beastly practice. Q. Do you think yourself at liberty to increase the usual allowance of food when you think a patient requires it; and do you frequently do so? A. I consider the diet entirely under the controul of the physician, and therefore do frequently increase or diminish the quantities in each particular case; so that in some cases patients have been put upon a diet of animal food daily, and sometimes an allowance of three patients daily, with wine, eggs to breakfast, and cheese to supper. Q. Do you consider the allowance of food for full diet, conjoined with the power of unlimited increase in particular cases by the medical attendant when he sees fit, a proper one for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh? A. Considered as a general allowance, and as an object of economy to an Hospital, and with the physician having the power of increasing the full diet in point of quantity, I think that the present allowances under the article of full diet are sufficient. Q. Do you occasionally order table broth for your patients? A. I do. Q. What regulations are there for keeping the patients clean? A. I do not remember the particular regulations of the nurses in that respect; but I give always in charge to the clinical clerks, to see that the regulations for nurses hung up in the wards are properly attended to; and on the admission of a patient into the clinical wards, the clerks are particularly desired to see the patients if possible before being placed in their bed, washed, and body linen given, if that of the patient is dirty. Q. Do you think it would be prudent to give the nurses orders to wash all patients indiscriminately on admission, whatever their disease or condition may be? A. I have long considered, that the entrance to an Hospital ought to be through a bath; and accordingly, while a Manager, I proposed such a regulation, but was told they had no funds for that purpose. In defect of a bath or baths, the clinical clerks are desired, immediately on the admission of a patient, if circumstances do not prevent it, to order his whole body to be washed, and to see this done; but I conceive it would be highly improper, to intrust nurses with the power of washing indiscriminately all patients on their admission, in hot or in cold water. Q. Are you of opinion, that all patients should be cleansed upon coming into the house, with the exception of cases where there may be particular reasons against it? A. Certainly, under the inspection of the clerks. Q. Are you of opinion, that any other regulations are expedient for promoting the cleanliness of patients on their admission? A. Could the funds of the Hospital afford it, it would be most expedient and most comfortable for the patient, to have their dress completely changed on their admission. Q. Do you think that the shirts of the patients are washed or changed often enough? A. Whenever the body linen of the patients in the clinical wards is observed in an improper state by the clinical clerks or myself, it is ordered to be changed; and should the patients be unable to procure a change, a shirt is ordered from the house. Q. Does it occur to you, that any thing else is expedient for promoting the cleanliness of the patients? A. A larger supply of water would contribute very much to cleanliness; as it frequently happens, that there is such a deficiency of water, that the patients are unable to get it in sufficient quantity for the most necessary purposes; and where

baths are ordered, they must very frequently be delayed for the want of water:

Q. Have the nurses, during the last year or two, been better or worse than they were a few years back? A. For three or four years past, they have been better than formerly, but there is still much room for improvement. Q. Can you say any thing with regard to the state of the nurses in the other wards? A. No; I cannot. Q. Do you know whether, in the changes which are made at the usual election of Managers, the change is made from among the ordinary or extraordinary Managers? A. Always amongst the extraordinary Managers, except in the case of one of the ordinary Managers, viz. President of the College of Physicians. Q. Do the extraordinary Managers in general, attend or take any part in the ordinary management of the Hospital? A. I believe not.

Edinburgh, 20th Feb. 1818.

Dr DAVID CRAIGIE, one of the Surgeon's Clerks to the Royal Infirmary. Q. How long have you been in that situation? A. I have been in this situation since January 1817; and previous to that time, attended the House as a student, for more than two years. Q. Did you in July last subscribe a statement to the Managers of sundry abuses in the Hospital? A. I did subscribe such a statement. Q. Who drew up said statement? A. I believe the statement, to the best of my knowledge, was drawn up by Mr Glover and Mr Sims; and after being subjected to the examination of the whole of the gentlemen, it was corrected in those parts where it seemed requisite. Some alterations were made in consequence of objections which I myself stated; but the paper was not even then in the condition in which I should have wished it; as the objectionable parts however were connected rather with the manner than the matter which it contained, I considered them of less consequence. Q. Have you yourself observed the state of the bedding previous to July last? A. Upon one or two occasions I examined the mattresses, particularly in the Surgical Wards, and found them considerably dirtied with discharges of various animal matters. Q. How many were in that state? A. Perhaps two were, and more to the best of my observation, were pretty much soiled with purulent matter; and perhaps four or five with urinary discharges. Q. Did the patients, at that time lying in the beds, labour under diseases producing those discharges? A. They did in some cases, but in others not. Q. Did you on those occasions examine the other beds in the Wards? A. The occasions above observed occurred at different times, in the course of my official duty, and when I was not making any particular examination relative to bedding; but I do not recollect to have examined any of the other beds very particularly. Q. At the time of examining the beds, in order to make up the statement laid before the Managers; did you inspect all the mattresses in the Surgical wards, or what proportion of them? A. To the best of my recollection Mr Sims and I examined nearly one half of the beds in the House, while Dr Lee and Mr Glover examined the other. So far as I recollect Mr Sims and I examined the Women's surgeons ward, the Women's operation ward; the Men's surgeon's ward; the Men's operation ward, one side of the long Soldier's ward, part of the Servant's ward, and one side of the Women's country ward; and, on the whole, may have examined about from 60 to 70. Q. Were any, or what number of mattresses were objectionable on that occasion? A. I do not now recollect what proportion I myself saw; or if I saw any of these mentioned in the memorial. Q. Do you know the state of the mattresses at present? A. I have been unwell from the 28th of December last, so that I know nothing of the state of the Hospital at present; but previous to that I know, that the mattresses in the surgical wards, and in some medical wards, were new, and in consequence of that were in good condition. Q. Have you known any instance or instances of a patient, on admission, being placed on a mattress that had been used by another patient labouring under fever, or other contagious disease, without the mattress having been properly aired or fumigated? A. In one instance of an accident being brought in at night, a bed was brought into the

Operation ward; I was in the ward at the instant, and suspected from the short time which the nurse employed in getting it, that it was brought from the fever ward; which upon examination I found to be the case. It was instantly ordered back again, which I understood was done. Q. Was the patient in the operation ward put upon the bed that was so brought into it? A. To the best of my recollection he was not. Q. Have you seen any patients in the House, without sheets on their beds? A. I have seen several instances of patients without sheets, but not two in any one ward at one time. Q. Do you know whether any of these patients had remained long without sheets? A. In some cases only one night; in others two. Q. Do you know why these patients were without sheets? A. Upon examining the nurse of the ward, it sometimes appeared that clean sheets had not come in from the washing, in consequence of which I did not think it necessary to trouble the Matron with a request for them; but in other cases, when I understood from the nurse that the Matron had a supply of clean sheets, I requested sheets to be sent up to the patient requiring it. In one or two instances in which the patient had a single sheet, I did not think it necessary to interfere. Q. Did these circumstances happen when the House was unusually full, or the weather particularly unfavourable for drying linen? A. To the first part of the question I may answer, that during the greatest part of last summer the House was more than usually crowded, especially in the surgical wards. With regard to the latter part of the question, I did not pay sufficient attention to the state of the weather. Q. In your applications to the Matron for clean sheets, did you ever get an answer from her that she had no sheets to give? A. I do not recollect of any such answer being given. Q. What was the state of the sheets in point of cleanliness last summer, so far as you had occasion to observe? A. In many instances they were by no means clean in appearance, and when more closely examined, appeared stained with different soiling matters. Q. Does this refer to their state when they were first brought to the wards? A. In some instances the sheets that were brought in from the washing exhibited a dark appearance, and seemed likewise stained. Q. Did that dark state appear to you to arise from imperfect washing? A. So far as I am capable of judging I thought it did. Q. Do you know whether the appearances alluded to are removable by the ordinary modes of washing? A. The means by which it appeared to me these appearances could be removed cannot perhaps be classed under the ordinary means of washing. Q. What are the means to which you allude? A. Stains produced by pure oil I have more than once removed, by employing either of the fixed alkalies, not in a very concentrated state, with regard to the stains produced by the *linimentum aquæ calcis*. I am not acquainted with the effect of chemical agents. The stains of the compositions which painters employ if recent I have likewise removed with the volatile oil of turpentine; and being aware of the analogy of composition between these substances, and many ointments and plasters used in surgical practice, I have thought that the oil of turpentine might likewise be advantageously employed in removing stains produced by these latter substances. Q. Do you know any agent by which the stains of the nitrate of silver may be removed? A. None so far as I know. Q. Are stains, produced by dark coloured tinctures mixed with metallic salts, removable? A. I do not know of any agent that can remove such stains; for the metallic salts act in general as mordants upon the vegetable colours, fixing them permanently. Q. Whether the stains produced by the various morbid discharges from the animal body can be removed by the ordinary means of washing? A. The stains produced by these discharges cannot be thoroughly removed by such means. Q. Have you frequently seen the sheets brought up to the wards in a damp state. A. I have not seen them frequently; but I have seen them once or twice in this state, and in which cases I ordered the nurse to air them at the fire. Q. Do you know whether it is the invariable practice of the nurses in such cases to air the sheets before the fire? A. I do not know. Q. Have you frequently seen sheets in a dirty state, arising from their not having been frequently enough changed? A. I think I have seen sheets in that condition more than once, though not frequently; and this in cases in which there was no particular discharge to require more frequent changes than usual: But it is proper for me to add, that at that time the Matron's attention was in some degree occupied by the illness of her daughter, who resided about Burntsfield Links, and who was then dying. Q. Do you know whether

the nurses have extra sheets in their possession to be put upon the beds when necessary?

A. In general they have. Q. Do you consider it to be the duty of the Clerks to examine the beds of the patients, and order the sheets to be changed when they think it requisite?

A. So far as the state of the patients' bed-linen is connected with the medical or surgical of their complaints, it appears to me to be the duty of the Clerks to attend to that. Q. If you observed the sheets to be dirty, did you consider yourself empowered to order them to be changed? A. The Physicians and Surgeons I understand to be empowered by the gentlemen who have the charge of the management to order a change of sheets when requisite; and I considered myself as having this power delegated to me only as acting under another gentleman. Q. In the instances of dirty sheets complained of in the statement to the Managers, which you signed, were any of them in the wards under your charge? A. I do not now remember, unless so far as is stated in the memorial; in looking at which, I find one, which I remember with certainty was under the charge of Mr Gillespie, for whom I was acting as Clerk. Q. In cases in which you may have ordered sheets to be changed on account of being too dirty, were those orders promptly complied with? A. There were few cases in which I conceived it necessary to order clean sheets; and in these the requests were not always quickly complied with. Q. Did you ever find it necessary to repeat your requests? A. Not so far as I remember. Q. Did you ever observe new or clean sheets put upon beds previous to the Managers visiting the House, which sheets were taken off shortly afterwards, and replaced with such as had been previously used? A. I have observed that distinctly, only upon one occasion, which was the day before the statement by the Clerks was given in at the regular monthly meeting of the Managers: On that occasion several new sheets were sent up to the Surgical Wards on the day previous to the monthly meeting of the Managers, and some of those sheets were removed soon after, as I understood, for the purpose of being hemmed or marked, or for some other purpose with which I was satisfied at the time. Q. Do you know that patients have been put to inconvenience from the want of chamber-pots in the wards? A. I know that they have; and I have several times had complaints preferred to me about that. Q. Do you know how many chamber-pots were in the Surgical Wards at these times? A. I do not. Q. Is there a water closet at the door of the wards, to which patients not bed-ridden ought to retire? A. There is a water closet as near the ward as is thought compatible with the comfort of the patients; which closet they are understood to use when they require it. Q. Are fresh scoured blankets furnished to each patient on his admission? A. The blankets, when first issued to the patients, appeared in general clean; and I did not enquire whether they were fresh scoured or not, as I understood them to be so. Q. Were the blankets in the wards usually in a sufficient state of cleanliness? A. They came of course to be dirtied, as the patient was using them; but in general, they appeared sufficiently clean for common purposes. Q. Does any regular examination of the persons of the patients take place on their admission, for the purpose of determining whether they ought to be put into the bath or otherwise cleansed? A. I am not aware that any regular examination is understood to take place. Q. Do you consider it as the duty of the Clerks to order the persons of the patients to be cleaned when the Clerks think it requisite? A. As a branch of Medical police, I think it requisite that the persons of patients be cleansed as often as the Medical Attendants see requisite, and may be ordered either by the Surgeon or the Clerk acting under him. Q. In point of fact, was such cleansing frequently ordered while you acted as Surgeons Clerk to the Hospital? A. In every case requiring it, and in which the circumstances of the patient could bear it, I ordered immersion in the Tepid Bath; and it was a common practice with me to order the feet to be washed. Q. Have you frequently seen lice upon the persons or beds of the patients? A. In a few cases I have witnessed that: Whenever I observed them on the heads of the patients, I ordered the hair to be cut off. I do not remember to have seen them on the bed-clothes, except in one or two cases. In one of the cases, the patient, in consequence of a severe fracture of the thigh, could not be moved so often as others; and when these vermin were detected, the bed-clothes were ordered to be changed. Q. Did cleanly patients complain of lice being upon their beds or blankets? A. Not that I remember. Q. In your examination of the great number of beds along with Mr

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Sims, alluded to in the former part of your evidence, previous to the 7th of July, did you find any of the beds swarming with lice? A. Not so far as I remember. Q. Have you any reason to believe that any patients have caught the itch in the Hospital? A. Cases of scabies, or itch, have occurred in the persons of patients after entering the House; but I cannot speak as to the source of the contagion. Q. Have such instances been frequent or rare? A. They were rare, comparatively with the number of the patients in the House. Q. Were pains taken, immediately on the discovery of the complaint, to remove it, and to prevent its communication to other patients? A. Whenever I observed it on the patients under my own charge, I took the usual means of eradicating the disease. Q. Are patients who are able, frequently in the habit of visiting their friends in the town, were they might contract the disease; or are patients in the habit of being visited by their friends in the House? A. Patients who are able, are occasionally permitted to go out of the House; and some of them are frequently visited by their friends in the House. Q. Have the nurses in the wards under your charge, conducted themselves properly towards the patients? A. Complaints have occasionally been made by the patients against the nurses, but I have seldom found these well-founded. These complaints, which I in almost every instance was convinced were ill-founded, related principally to harshness. In the course of 12 months attendance, I have very rarely found the medicines ordered to the patients neglected to be given them. I have occasionally seen nurses affected by spirituous liquors, but never to such an extent as to unfit them for duty. Q. While you resided in the Hospital, did you ever see a table of diet, specifying the portions of food to be given to patients on full diet? A. I have never seen such a table. Q. From your daily intercourse with the Matron, had you full opportunity of knowing the diet of the house? A. With regard to the quantity of the diet, we had sufficiently frequent opportunities of knowing. I never enquired about the quantity of porridge, but I understood from the Matron, that the quantity of animal food allowed to each patient upon the occasions alluded to, was eight ounces three times a week. Q. Have you frequently seen the porridge after being served in the wards? A. I have frequently seen them in the course of my duty. Q. Did each patient seem to you to receive about half a cog full at breakfast, and the same quantity at supper? In general they did; but it is necessary to say, that patients have often complained of the small quantity of their porridge; and upon slight examination, I thought there was scarcely the measure mentioned before in the instances alluded to. The examination however was, as I have mentioned, slight, and rather with a view to satisfy the patient, than because I conceived it my duty, unless when the circumstances of the patients required a more copious and nourishing diet than the full diet of the House. Q. Did the porridge in general appear to you to be of the consistency that porridge is usually made in Scotland? A. In the early part of my attendance, instances often occurred of the patients complaining that the porridge was thin; and upon examination in a few of these, I have found them so: Such instances I have not observed so frequently during the latter part of my attendance. Q. Did the broth in general seem to you to contain a sufficiency of animal and vegetable matter for the patients in an hospital? A. In general it did. Q. Has the butcher's meat in general appeared to you of good quality? A. In general it did, though occasional complaints were made, that the meat was somewhat tainted, and contained a greater quantity of bones than it ought to have done. I have seen instances of the latter very seldom. With regard to the former complaint, I had no evidence, as the food was consumed before I had an opportunity of seeing it. Q. Have you seen the portions of meat so frequently in the wards, as to be able to say whether in general they would have weighed eight ounces when raw? A. I have not seen them so often as to conjecture their weight with any certainty. Q. Were the portions of meat mentioned in the statement by the Clerks of the 7th of July, weighed in your presence? A. A considerable number of them were, but not the half. Q. Do you know whether the pieces denominated in that statement, pieces of boiled meat, were portions for patients on full diet, or daily bits? A. I do not remember at this distance of time; but upon consulting the statement, I find that they are called in general full diet allowances. Q. Do you remember where, and at what hour those portions were weighed? and by what weights.

A. They were weighed in the respective wards to which they were sent at the usual hour of dinner; but I do not know by what weight. Q. Can you state the particular portions alluded to in the statement which you saw weighed? A. I cannot state with certainty the particular portions. Q. When four pieces are stated as weighing one pound one ounce, how many ounces do you understand these four pieces to have weighed? A. I do not remember; but my understanding is, that they weighed 17 ounces. Q. What has in general been the quality of the beef-tea? A. I have not examined it particularly. Q. Have you reason to believe, that articles of food are frequently introduced into the wards by their friends? A. Patients have often acknowledged to me, that articles of food have been brought in to them; but I am not capable of speaking as to the frequency of such occurrence. Q. Do you know any instance of a patient dismissed for drunkenness, having been afterwards appointed as a nurse? One instance of that kind I met with. Q. Have you any reason to know, that the Matron knew that this person was dismissed for drunkenness? A. The Matron I believe, was perfectly unaware of the cause of the dismissal. Q. Were you examined by the Managers respecting the facts set forth in the statement by the Clerks, of the 7th of July? A. I was not. Q. Was you present at any of the examinations? A. I was not. Q. Have you attended to the quality of the milk? A. I have not attended particularly to it.

[26th February 1818.

Mr CHARLES HASTINGS, Student of Medicine, and one of the annual presidents of the Medical Society. I was House-Surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary for three years and a half, previous to Christmas 1815. I was about six weeks Clinical Clerk to Dr Home of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, in the month of June and July last. Q. Were your duties confined to the Clinical wards under Dr Home's charge. A. They were confined to the Clinical wards; but my particular attention was confined to the Women's Clinical ward. Q. Were you in the habit of frequently visiting the other wards of the house. A. I was occasionally in the habit of going into the other wards. Q. Did the Clinical wards appear to you to be kept in better order in point of cleanliness than the other wards. A. They did. Q. Were the sheets in your Clinical words liable to be dirtied by discharges from sores. A. There was no case of sores while I was Clerk in the ward. Q. When you visited the other wards, did the sheets often appear to you in a filthy state. A. The sheets, on a comparison with those I had been in the habit of seeing in the Worcester Infirmary, appeared dirtier. Q. Were the sheets soiled throughout, or did the filthiness arise from stains. A. The sheets in the Clinical wards appeared to me dirtier throughout, than those I had been in the habit of seeing at Worcester Infirmary; but I cannot speak specifically as to the sheets in the other wards, as I only observed them in walking through the wards. Q. Were the sheets in the Worcester Infirmary of half bleached or full bleached linen. A. As far as I can recollect they were all full bleached linen; but of this I cannot be certain. Q. Do you know whether there was any difficulty in the Worcester Infirmary of washing the sheets that were stained with discharges from sores, or the medical applications. A. In all bad surgical cases we defended the sheets by means of oiled silk cloth. In a few instances where the sores were very extensive, portions of the sheets have been discoloured, but this discolouration was only partial. Q. Was there in general a large proportion of surgical cases in the Worcester Infirmary. A. The general number of patients was 62, and the general proportion of surgical to medical cases was as 6 to 4. Q. Did you observe the diet of the

patients in the Clinical wards of the Royal Infirmary. A. I did. Q. Did it appear to you to be good in quality, or otherwise. A. It did not appear so good as that I had been in the habit of seeing at the Worcester hospital. Q. Did you taste the broth frequently. A. Three or four times during the time I was in the Hospital; the first time in consequence of a complaint from a patient. In the broth I could not detect the presence of animal matter; and it appeared to me to taste like a decoction of barley, with a small quantity of other vegetables. Q. Had you any complaints about the beef-tea. A. Two of the patients complained to me of their beef-tea being weak. I tasted it, and found it weak, with fat swimming upon it. I mentioned the circumstance to Dr Home, who spoke to the Matron about it. For two days it was improved, but I afterwards observed it not so good again. Q. Did you observe the quality of the meat to be inferior. A. In one case of convalescence, when Dr Home ordered a beef-steak, a piece of boiled beef of very inferior quality was served up. I mentioned this circumstance to Dr Home. Q. In what respect was it inferior in quality. A. It was very coarse, and very much boiled, as if it had been used to make broth or beef-tea. Q. Did you observe upon any other occasion the beef to be inferior in quality? Q. It was generally of a coarser nature than I have been in the habit of seeing given to convalescent patients at Worcester. Q. What was the usual number of patients on full diet in the Clinical Wards? A. In my Ward, generally from one to three out of fourteen. Q. Did you ever see the dinner distributed to the patients in the Clinical Wards, and how was it distributed? A. I did. In the Clinical Wards the patients generally received their meat in a wooden cog, or in a saucer. Q. Did you ever see the patients in the other wards eating their meat without using a cog, plate, knife and fork? A. I never saw them eating their meat in this way. Q. In the Worcester Hospital, are the patients supplied by the house with plates, knives, forks, and spoons? A. The Nurse of each ward supplied the patients with these articles, for which she received from sixpence to a shilling from each patient on their dismissal. Q. Have you seen any other Hospitals, besides the Worcester Infirmary, and the Edinburgh one. A. I have seen several, at different periods from 1810 to 1815, namely, Oxford, Manchester, Birmingham, and Gloucester; in London, the Westminster Hospital, Saint Georges, Saint Thomas, Guys, Saint Bartholomew, London, Middlesex, and Mary-le-bone Infirmary. Q. Do you consider the Edinburgh Infirmary, in point of appearance of cleanliness, and attention to the comfort of the patients, equal to the generality of other Hospitals that you have seen? A. When I first went into the Edinburgh Infirmary, it struck me that it was inferior in cleanliness to any other Hospital I had seen. Q. In what did the inferiority consist? A. The bed linen appeared to me dirtier, and the whole house had not so cleanly an appearance. Q. Did the persons of the patients appear to you dirtier than in other Hospitals? A. They did. In the Worcester Infirmary, patients before admission, were obliged to deposit a change of linen, in order that they might be kept clean, and to have their shirts washed once a week, and they are not admitted without such provision. Q. Do you know the average proportion of deaths in the Edinburgh Hospital, in relation to the number of patients, when compared with any other Hospital? A. I do not. Q. Do you know the amount of the expenditure of the Worcester Infirmary? A. I do not.

27th February 1818.

LEONARD HORNER, Esq. a Member of the Committee, examined. q. Have you ever seen the dinner in the Royal Infirmary served? A. Having been informed by Mr Glover, one of the clerks of the Hospital, that it was the usual practice for the patients to eat their meat without the use of a plate, knife, and fork; and being desirous of ascertaining from personal observation whether such a practice existed, I went to the Infirmary on Thursday the 4th of December last, which I was told was a full diet day. I called for Mr Glover, and desired him to take me to one of the wards where the meat was served out. He took me to the men's Surgeon's Ward. When I entered it, I observed a man serving out broth from a tin pitcher into the cogs. Shortly after, a person brought into the ward a small tray containing several pieces of boiled beef, and a few pieces of raw beef. I touched the beef, and it was nearly cold. At the end of about 20 to 25 minutes, a woman, who I was told was the nurse of the ward, came into it with some loaves in her apron. Each of these she divided into four portions, as far as I recollect. The bread appeared to me to be of the best quality. I tasted the broth, which I thought rather poor; and it was not thick of barley and vegetables. The nurse placed the portions of bread upon a board, and at one end of the board the foresaid tray containing the meat. She took the board up under her arm, and beginning at the right hand side of the ward from the fire-place, she took with her hand a portion of boiled meat from the tray, and put it into the hand of the patient, who was standing by his bedside, together with a little salt and a portion of bread; to another, she gave a portion of raw beef likewise into his hand; and so generally throughout the ward. Some of the patients did not receive any meat at all; and where they were not standing by their bed, she put a piece of bread upon the bed. I did not see any plate, knife, or fork in the ward, except the knife with which the nurse cut the bread; and one patient took from a small cupboard near his bed, a small basin, and received the raw meat in it. In some cases, the nurse put the meat down upon a little table, or chair, near the bed of the patient. q. Was it by appointment you went to the Hospital? A. It was; because I was desired by Mr Glover to come on a full diet day; and I fixed the said Thursday. q. Was the broth given sooner than the other articles? A. It was given 20 minutes at least before the bread and the beef. Having asked, in the interval, one of the patients sitting by the fire, whether he had not bread with his broth; he answered, Yes; but it is often long of coming after the broth, and we like to eat the broth warm. q. In what manner did the patients eat their broth from the cogs? A. The greater number had horn spoons; I observed one or two metal spoons. q. Did you observe what became of the cogs after the broth was consumed? A. I observed the patients bringing them to the place from whence the broth had been distributed before the meat was served out. I did not observe the cogs made use of by the patients in receiving their meat. q. Did you see them eat their meat? A. No; because I went away almost immediately. q. How many patients appeared to receive raw beef? A. There were from six to eight pieces of raw beef on the tray, so far as I can recollect. The pieces of beef were long slices rolled up. q. Did it appear to you that there was any thing to prevent the patients from receiving the meat in their cogs, if they chose it? A. Certainly not. q. Did you see the dinner served in any of the other wards? A. No; because I understood they were all distributed at one hour when the bell rang; and I never was in the Hospital on any other occasion when the dinner was served. q. Have you since had an opportunity of seeing other Hospitals? A. Having been unexpectedly obliged to go to London since this inquiry commenced, and being aware that some of the strongest subjects of complaints that

had been brought forward were the filthy state of the sheets, and the want of the most necessary utensils for the use of the patients at their meals, such as plates knives, and forks, and spoons, it occurred to me that I might in some degree forward the objects of the committee during my stay in London, by enquiring at the Hospitals there, whether or not the complaints above stated are defects that are very capable of being remedied in such establishments; whether the sheets may not be so soiled as to make it impracticable to clean them; and whether it may not have been found in the practice of other Hospitals, inconvenient and unnecessary to supply the patients with the utensils above alluded to. With this view I visited four of the Hospitals, and I put the following questions to the person who was pointed out to me in each as most capable of answering them correctly. 1st, Whether the sheets that are stained with discharges from foul sores and ulcers, with ointments, or other applications, are frequently returned from the washing without the stains being removed. 2d, Whether sheets are ever laid aside before they are worn out from their being so stained with matter that cannot be got out of them by washing, as to render them offensive. 3d, Whether the patients are supplied with plates, knives and forks, and spoons. On the 5th instant I went to the Middlesex Hospital, and was introduced to the Matron by Mr Charles Bell, one of the Surgeons. She stated to me, that the sheets are always returned from the washing quite clean, the stains being always removed. She called one of the nurses, who confirmed her statement, and added, that she had given out the week before a pair of sheets that had been used by a patient who had been severely burned, and which were as filthy as if they had been soaked in a pot of dirty grease, and that they were returned quite clean. The sheets are washed by an ordinary washerwoman at Somerstown. I looked at some new sheets in the Matron's room, and at some washed sheets: The new were half-bleached linen, the same as the new sheets I lately saw in the Infirmary; the washed sheets were quite free from stains, except in one or two instances, when I saw some marks about the size of a half-penny. I looked at some of the sheets in the care of the nurses in the wards, and they appeared to me to be well washed and free from stains. The Matron stated in reply to the 2d Query, what was to be expected from her answer to the first, that the sheets are never torn up until quite worn. To the 3d Query, That the house does not furnish knives and forks, and spoons. That it is considered a better arrangement, as affording a greater security against breakage and loss, for the nurse of each ward to supply these utensils, for which the patient on dismissal pays a shilling to the nurse, but that many are so poor and friendless, that even this small fee is not exacted from them. This is at the discretion of the nurse; and she has no remuneration from the House. I was in the Hospital at the hour of dinner, and went through all the wards, except the fever ward. There was a table in the middle of each ward, which was covered with a table cloth; and the patients who were not confined to bed were sitting at the table. They had their soup in a white earthen-ware basin, their meat was in an earthen-ware plate, and they had each a knife, fork, and spoon. The patients in bed had their dinner given to them by the nurse; and they had also the same utensils. Q. Can you state the average daily number of patients, and the annual expenditure of the Middlesex Hospital? A. I think the Matron stated about 160 patients, as the average number, but I took no note at the time on this point; and I know nothing about the expenditure; but I received a printed report of the expenditure for 1816, which I now lay on the table. On the 7th instant, I went to Guy's Hospital with Dr Marcet, one of the physicians to the Hospital. In this Hospital, the bed-linen of each ward is under the care of the head nurse

of the ward or sister, as she is called, and they each look after the washing of their own sheets. I spoke to two of the sisters, who both agreed, that however much the sheets are stained, either with the discharges from sores, or with the applications, they are always removed in the washing, with the exception of the stains from caustic. They are for the most part washed out of the house, but one of the sisters I spoke to, is in the habit of washing those that are particularly dirtied by sores or applications. Her process is, after the sheet has been well boiled and washed, to rub all those places where a stain remains with soft soap and powdered pearl ash, to roll it up, and keep it so for a quarter of an hour, and then wash it thoroughly out. She finds every thing yield to this except caustic, which is never got out. The sheets are made of half bleached linen, and they are never laid aside until they are worn out. By the regulation of the Hospital, there must be for each patient in each ward, a tin pint jug, a white earthen-ware plate and pint basin, a knife, fork, and spoon. They are desired to bring them if they can, but the sister is expected to be provided with a sufficient supply of these articles, for such patients as do not bring them, but without any remuneration from the patient. The expence of washing, and these expences of plates, &c. are defrayed by the sister, who receives 2s. 9d. from each patient on admission. A table is spread in the ward, for such patients as may not be confined to bed. Q. Do you know the revenue of this Hospital, or the annual expenditure? A. I do not; I have understood there is no statement of income and expenditure published, but it is believed to be very richly endowed, and that few alterations have taken place for many years. On the 9th instant I visited St George's Hospital, and was introduced by Mr Brodie, one of the surgeons, to the Chaplain who resides in the Hospital, and who has a particular superintendence of the domestic economy, and to the Matron. The Matron stated, that it sometimes happens that sheets are returned from the washing without the stains being removed, but not often: That these are not the stains of caustic which are easily distinguished; but what they arose from she could not say: That she has occasionally torn up a sheet for bandages on account of the stains in it having a very disagreeable appearance, but very rarely. I visited four of the wards, and made the same enquiry at the nurse in two of the wards. The one stated, that with the exception of caustic, all other stains are removed in the washing. The other said, that the stains from the sores are always removed, but some of the applications leave stains which cannot be got out, as caustic and Friar's balsom. In each of the wards, I saw several pairs of sheets hanging upon screens before the fire to air. They appeared to me to be well washed, and I did not observe any stains upon them. The house supplies a pint jug, a white earthen ware plate, and pint basin, a knife, fork, and spoon for each patient. I saw the patients at dinner. Those who were not confined to bed were sitting at a table in the middle of the ward, which was covered with a table-cloth. On the 10th instant I went to the London Hospital with Dr Yelloly, one of the physicians, who introduced me to the Matron. She stated to me, that it frequently happens that sheets are returned from the washing without the stains being removed: That she has sent them back to be washed over again, and that they have been returned with the stains remaining; she could not tell whether they were the stains produced by discharges from sores, or by the applications. She has occasionally laid aside a pair of sheets on account of the stains having a disagreeable appearance; I asked her whether the stains left in the sheets, rendered them offensive to the patients. She answered, that they never had a bad smell, and only left a coloured stain. She particularly mentioned that the oil applied to patients with burns, cannot be got out of the sheets. This account of the sheets was confirmed to me by a nurse who has been

seven years in the Hospital; who added, however, that the stains left were occasioned by the applications, and that of discharges from sores always came out. I put the same questions to another nurse, but before she answered, the Matron said that that nurse had only been a short time in the house, and therefore could not answer from experience; but recollecting herself, she said "she has been some years a nurse at Guy's, and therefore can probably speak from her experience there." The nurse replied, that at Guy's, they never found any difficulty to remove any stains, by means of soft soap and pearl ash, except stains from caustic. I saw some sheets in the wards, hanging on a screen before the fire. They did not appear to me to be well washed, having stains; and one sheet was very much stained with what appeared to me like the discharge from a sore. The House supplies a jug, bason, plate, knife, fork, and spoon, for each patient. For this purpose, an allowance is made to the Nurse by the house; formerly the Nurses were remunerated by the payment of a shilling from each patient, but as this practice was found liable to be abused, it was lately discontinued. There is no table in the wards at which the patients dine.

The Middlesex, Saint George's, and the London Hospital, are supported by voluntary contributions. Q. Did the sheets that were hanging up to air, appear to have been damp? A. They did not appear damp, and I was told they were hung up to air. Q. Did you observe, whether in those Hospitals tables of diet were hung up in the wards? A. I have already stated that my attention was confined to the sheets, and the supply of plates, &c. I did not enquire about the diet, and I did not observe any tables of diet hanging up in the wards. Q. Have you had access, and occasion to look through the books of the Edinburgh Infirmary, and what was your impression as to the Matron's correctness? A. I examined particularly the consumpt book, and the daily review of patients, and my impression was, that they were kept with a great degree of regularity, and nothing occurred that led me in the most remote degree to suspect any dishonesty on the part of the Matron.

28th February, 1818.

Dr BAIRD, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, one of the committee, examined. Q. Was you present in the Infirmary on the 8th of January last, along with Mr Horner and Mr Wigham, when questions were put to the nurses relative to the number of portions served out on the preceding day? A. I was, and a note was taken down of the number they gave. I do not remember whether that number comprehended the portions given to servants in the House. Q. Was any enquiry made as to the number of patients on full or extra diet on that day? A. There was not. Q. Do you think that such statements by nurses are implicitly to be relied on? A. I do not; because having visited the Hospital along with Mr Wigham on a subsequent day, with a view to ascertain the number of portions of porridge, the number of beef steaks, and other articles of allowance served out, we found their recollection as to these particulars, with regard to the preceding day, so indistinct, that we reckoned it necessary, in order to obtain a more accurate account than could then be obtained, to desire each of the nurses to pay particular attention to the number of portions of each kind respectively served out on the day we were giving them these directions, and that we would call next day to receive the account from them. They promised to pay attention accordingly, and Mr Wigham and I called next day as we had pro-

posed. We found, however, that even then, the accounts of the portions served out to their different wards could not be relied on with perfect confidence, for having written down the answers which each nurse gave with respect to her own ward, we repeatedly found, that when we afterwards read them over to her, or questioned her farther on the subject, she stated different numbers of portions from those she had first mentioned. I left the Infirmary on the occasion, with the impression that no calculation made with respect to the object we had in view, could be depended on as correct. Q. Had you any particular access to know the character of the late Matron? A. When I was minister of Dunkeld, Mrs Montgomery was Housekeeper to the Duke of Athol there, and I resided for several years in Dunkeld House at that time; I had in these circumstances full opportunity of observing the conduct, and knowing the character of Mrs Montgomery; and I considered her as a person of the strictest honesty in the management of every matter under her charge, and as having a very anxious desire to do the duty of her department at all times faithfully and acceptably to the family. I know also that the family entertained the same opinion of her as I have heard them often express.

28th Feb. 1818.

Dr HOPE, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, examined. Q. How long have you known the Infirmary? A. I first attended the Infirmary as a student for some years, and during part of that period, I was a Clinical Clerk; I afterwards attended the Hospital as one of the Clinical Physicians, and since then, as a Manager. Q. When did you become a Manager, and from what cause? A. I became a Manager in January 1816, in consequence of holding the office of President of the Royal College of Physicians, which office lasts for two or three years. Q. Does it consist with your knowledge, that it has been found difficult to remove the stains in Hospital sheets, occasioned by the discharge of sores, the applications thereto, or other causes? A. It does; but all stains are not equally difficult to be removed; I would divide them into three classes: The first comprehends the stains that are indelible by any means that will not destroy the texture of the linen; this is the case with stains occasioned by the nitrate of silver commonly called lunar caustic: The second comprehends those that will not yield to the ordinary process of washing carefully conducted, and with the usual materials: They sometimes proceed from applications or remedies, such as coloured vegetable decoctions, or tinctures mixed with earthy and metallic salts, which act as mordants, and fix the colouring matter, or from oil, mixed with lime, resinous, earthy, and metallic matters; or from the morbid discharges of sores when the matter of the discharge has been completely dried, and from such discharges when blended with the different applications. The third class comprehends stains which may be removed by the ordinary process of washing, when carefully performed, such as mere oil or grease, vegetable, or animal mucus, vegetable decoctions, some morbid discharges recently applied to the linen. In all Hospitals, much difficulty has been experienced in removing stains; and in some Hospitals their endeavours have been attended with more success than in others, in consequence of improved methods employed; and with satisfaction I learn from the statement given to the Committee by Mr Horner, that the stains, with the exception of those from lunar caustic, are removed in Guy's, and the Middlesex Hospitals in London: and I have also been informed, that they are removed at the Infirmaries of Leeds and Sheffield, but that they are not removed in some of the other Hospitals in London, nor in those of Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol, and Liverpool. Chaptal, an eminent French chemist, in a paper in the *Annales de Chemie*, alludes to the great difficulty, and what was at that time deemed the impracticability of removing the stains of the second class from the sheets of Hospitals, and de-

scribes a process by means of soft soap, caustic pot ash, and steam, by which, but not without much labour and repeated application of these agents, the stains were removed from the sheets of the Hotel Dieu. Q. Are the substances you have stated to act as mordants, of frequent use in Hospital practice? A. I believe they are. Q. Might not many of the stains which are difficult to remove when allowed to dry, be easily got out if the sheets were soaked before the staining matter got dry? A. I think they would; but I believe that is in general, impossible to be done in Hospital practice. Q. Is it your opinion that any great proportion of sheets used in an Hospital are likely to be so dirtied or stained that they cannot be cleansed by the ordinary process of washing by soap and good rubbing? A. As the sheets of surgical patients are more liable to be stained than those of others, the proportion of stained sheets must very much depend on the ratio which the surgical bear to the other patients in the Hospital. Q. Would you consider that sheets so stained when brought from the washing, should be termed filthy? A. I think not; for though they are not pleasing to the eye, yet as the 'colouring matter is fixed in them, I do not reckon them more dirty than a spotted handkerchief. Q. Are the applications to burns that stain the sheets difficult to be removed? A. I believe the stain occasioned by the *linimentum aquæ calcis*, commonly called Carron oil, particularly when blended with the discharge from the burnt surface, cannot be removed without much difficulty. Q. Have any means been adopted in the Royal Infirmary, for the more perfect washing of the linen? A. There have. A new wash-house having been constructed, I suggested the erection of an apparatus, upon the principle recommended by Chaptal, consisting of a system of boilers, to furnish at the same time steam and hot water; steaming tubs; and tubs for soaking the sheets in Alkaline leys, and of a washing machine; in the hopes that by using the materials of a strength not to injure the cloth, but too great for the hands, and of a boiling temperature, the stains might more effectually be removed than they hitherto had been. Q. When did you make this suggestion? A. Soon after I became a Manager, probably about eighteen months ago. The subject of providing a washing house was frequently discussed by the Managers, and some of them visited the washing houses established at the Public Charities in Edinburgh. In these conversations I recommended the trying of the French mode; but knowing that it was practised for the purpose of bleaching in the West of Scotland, I went in October, when in the West Country, on an excursion on which I set out in the beginning of Autumn, to examine the establishments, where this method is practised; and on my return, finding the building for the washing and drying house completed, I proposed the plan before described, which was adopted, and which I trust will be found effectual. I also suggested the plan for drying the linen in the Laundry, which has already answered the purpose completely; but which has nothing peculiar or uncommon in it. Q. Do you know whether the present washing-house was ordered to be built, previous to the statement made by the clerk in July last? A. I know that the subject of building it was much discussed long before; but I believe that the order for commencing the erection was not given till some time in July last, after the said statement was made. Q. Do you know in what manner the sheets were washed previous to that statement being given in? A. The sheets were washed at some miles distance from Edinburgh, and I do not know in what manner. Q. What time did some of the Managers view the washing establishments in this city connected with the public charities, as before mentioned. A. To the best of my knowledge it was about the close of the year 1816 or beginning of 1817; but I cannot speak more precisely. Q. Can you state any cause for the delay in commencing the building of the said new wash and drying house? A. I believe various causes concurred: 1st, A difficulty in fixing on the proper situation for the establishment. 2^d, The consideration of the expence which it would cost: And 3^d, Because any change of the internal economy of the House should not be made without maturely considering all its bearings. Q. Were you led to suggest those improvements in consequence of your personal knowledge that the process of washing in practice was not sufficient to clean the sheets thoroughly? A. The plan of erecting a wash-house did not originate with me; but in the course of the business I was led to suggest Chaptal's method, from a conviction that the linen

would be better washed by it than by any other which I knew. Q. Is it your opinion, that considering the usual diseases in the Infirmary, any great proportion of the sheets could not be cleaned by the ordinary process of washing by soap and water, and good rubbing?

A. Considering the number of patients labouring under surgical diseases, whether in the surgical wards or elsewhere, and the variety of means of stain, and also considering that the same sheets must be used many times before they are worn out, the number of stained sheets must be considerable; but to any thing like the exact number I cannot speak.

Q. Have any baths been erected for the use of patients? A. The establishment for washing occupies the ground on which the bath-room previously stood, and there is a plan now going forward of forming baths in a convenient situation, which I think completely well suited for the use of the patients.

Q. Do you know if any deficiency of water is experienced in the Infirmary? A. The Infirmary is supplied with water from three sources; the first is a pipe communicating with the reservoir on the Castle Hill, and furnishes two cisterns on the eastern ground-floor, and two cisterns on each of the floors above, near the doors of the wards: The second is a smaller pipe communicating with the reservoir at Heriot's Hospital, and supplies one cistern in the western wing: The third source is a deep pump-well, used to obtain water for the public baths. When Edinburgh at large suffers from a scarcity of water, the Infirmary shares that sufferance, and now and then a particular cistern at the door of the wards may want water from some inattention generally on the part of the patients.

Q. What do you understand to be the power of the clerks and nurses respectively as to cleaning the persons of patients when first admitted? A. I think much attention ought to be paid to the cleanliness of the patients on admission; and I am decidedly of opinion that the nurses should not have orders to wash all patients indiscriminately, and that their directions for doing so should proceed from the clerks; and I believe that the power now lies with the clerks, where it ought to be. Q. No such direction being given to the clerks in the printed regulations 1816, do you know whether they have been regularly informed after their election, that this duty was expected from them?

A. As I consider the attention to the cleanliness of the patients a part of the medical attention, I presume that it belongs to the medical attendant to give to his Clerk his instructions upon that point. Q. Are you acquainted with the diet of the Hospital?

A. With the diet in general I am. Q. What is your opinion regarding it? A. I conceive that, keeping in view the ordinary food of the poor in Scotland, the state of sickness, disease, and confinement without labour of patients, and having a due regard to economy, which forbids any more costly fare than is necessary, I think it proper and suitable, as fixed by the regulations, and the experience of about two-thirds of a century, in my opinion, proves it to be so. Cases certainly do often occur where a greater allowance of food than that prescribed in the regulations is both acceptable and necessary, and the medical attendant has the unlimited power to order whatever he thinks fit; and of course he very frequently exercises that power. Q. Do you know the proportion of meal to water used in making porridge, previous to July last?

A. I do not. Q. Do you know the proportion of meat, barley, and vegetable to water, used in making broth, previous to July last?

A. I do not particularly. Q. Have any changes been under consideration relative to diet, and from what time? A. At different periods, the dates I cannot specify, the Managers and Physicians have had under consideration the diet of the House; and the changes in contemplation relate principally to increasing the variety of food, rather than the quantity. The use of potatoes in particular has been under consideration, in addition to the form of potatoe soup under which they have been introduced for two or three years.

Q. Have interim orders been given by you relative to the broth? A. Mr Anderson and I directed various trials to be made; and in consequence of these trials, in the beginning of winter we gave interim orders respecting the broth; and we found that the broth so made was palatable, and as we conceived quite suitable for the ordinary broth of the Hospital.

Q. Previous to July, were you in the habit of visiting the Infirmary at the hours of breakfast, dinner, or supper? A. I was, during the periods of attendance allotted to me, in the habit of visiting the Hospital about the dinner hour, but not at the hour of breakfast or supper.

Q. Did you upon those occasions taste the food of the patients in the wards? A. I did

not taste them in the wards, but generally tasted them in the kitchen, pantry, or the Matron's room. Q. During the months in which it was your duty as a Manager to visit the wards, do you recollect how often you visited them. A. I cannot specify the precise number of times; and during July I am not sure that I visited it at all, having at that time been much in the country. Q. Did you know previous to the day on which this Committee was appointed, whether the patients had plates, knives, forks, and spoons, to use at their meals? A. I believe the House did not furnish, of late years, any of these articles to the patients; but I understood that the house furnished cogs of different sizes to the patients for receiving their food; and that most of them were in possession of saucers and spoons; and many of them knives belonging to themselves: And I understand that it is the practice of a great many Hospitals not to furnish such articles. Q. Have the Managers lately ordered any supply of plates, knives, forks, and spoons, for the use of the patients? A. They have ordered pewter plates and spoons; but I cannot say as to knives and forks. Q. Can you say what is the loss of weight in boiling any given quantity of meat? A. I cannot speak from actual experiment; but an accurate estimate was made by Professor Wallace, of the Royal Military College, near Bagshot, in February 1816, from which it appears, that beef boiled in pieces of ten pounds weight, lost at an average $26\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If such pieces be cut up into portions of half a pound each, and left for sometime exposed to the air, the loss, I presume, must be two or three per cent more, though that I have not tried. It is also to be observed, that the amount of the loss of weight in boiling, must vary according to the length of time which the meat is boiled. The loss also varies considerably in different pieces; and what is above stated, is the average of many pieces. In roasting and baking, the meat loses considerably more than in boiling. Q. Has the subject of having better nurses been under consideration of the Managers, and at what time? A. I believe for years, and before I was a Manager, the subject of the nurses has been very much under discussion; but in consequence of the diversity of opinion, and the difficulty of forming a proper one, no particular steps that I recollect have been taken. Q. Has the subject of a Governor to the Hospital been under the consideration of the Managers; and from what time? A. Ever since I became a Manager, the plan of having a person, with a suitable salary, who should do the duties of Apothecary; but who from his character and age should command the respect, and have in some measure the superintendence of the Clerks; and who should relieve the Matron of part of her duty; and who in a word, might have the superintendence of the internal police of the Hospital, has been in contemplation. It was strongly recommended to the Managers by a Committee of their number upon the 6th of October last, though previous to that time the Managers were looking about for a fit person. Q. When these improvements you have mentioned were taken into consideration or commenced, was any idea of a public enquiry into the affairs of the Hospital known or suspected? A. Not in the most remote degree, so far as I know. Q. At what time was such a proceeding known to you or to the other Managers so far as you know? A. At a meeting of the Managers on the second or third of January last I first heard of the circumstance, and do not believe that it was known more than a few days before to any of the other Managers. Q. Can you state what led to the rule relative to the Clerks, which enjoins, "That upon observing any impropriety in the House, they are immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer?" A. Some circumstances had occurred, of which the Managers would have been glad to have had immediate information; and to facilitate the communication of every information, they directed that the clerks should instantly give notice to the Treasurer of any thing improper that came to their knowledge, in order that he should immediately call a meeting of the Managers; or, if the matter were of minor magnitude, take proper measures himself. Q. Do you recollect any instance of a meeting of the managers having been called by the Treasurer for the purpose of laying before them a complaint that had been made to him. A. Several. Q. Do you know that any deviation from the rule applicable to nurses, which enjoins that they are to be particularly careful that the patients do not receive food or drink of any kind from their friends or visitors, has been sanctioned or winked at by the Managers. A.

I do not know that the Managers have sanctioned any deviation; but I believe that tea has been brought into the House without any fault being found. I know that such of the Managers as I have conversed with disapprove, as I do, most highly, of food being brought to the patients by their friends or visitors, who, from mistaken kindness, are often anxious to convey articles very prejudicial to the patients. This also sometimes arises from patients who desire more food than their medical attendant thinks proper for them, and who complain when they do not receive that variety to which they may have been accustomed, but which, on many occasions, might be very hurtful to them. Q. Are you acquainted with the diet of the lower orders in Edinburgh and its vicinity; meaning such as live in houses of their own, and who are inferior to servants? A. Not minutely; but I know, that from conversing with individuals of that description, that they use, during many months in the year, very little, if any animal food, and that potatoes form a great part of their subsistence. Q. When you visited the Hospital previous to July last, did you usually go through all the Wards, including the Lock Ward. A. In my visits through the month, I usually went through all the Wards excepting the Lock Ward, though on each particular visit, I did not go through every Ward. Q. Did you usually at those times look with attention at the sheets on the beds of the patients? A. I can say positively that on some of the visits, I looked very particularly at the state of the sheets. Q. Did you generally find sheets in as good a state in point of cleanliness, as you thought they might reasonably be expected to be? A. As these visits must have been made twelve months ago, I do not recollect of any thing particularly impressing my mind as being deficient in this respect. Q. Were you in the habit of asking the patients individually, whether they had any cause of complaint? A. I was in the habit of asking the patients individually, as I went along the Wards. Q. When you made those enquiries, did you send the nurse out of the Ward. A. I did not; but the nurse was in general, in distant parts of the Ward, though occasionally she was at hand. Q. Are you of opinion that it would be very desirable to have the patients now received into the Lock Ward, removed to a separate House, or to a separate Hospital. A. The subject of the Lock Ward has been one of much discussion among the Managers, but principally before I became a Manager; but much diversity of opinion has, I know, been entertained, both among medical men and others respecting it. For myself, I would be glad to see it removed from its present situation. Q. Are you of opinion that it would conduce to the recovery of several of the patients to have the wards ventilated during winter by means of air heated to a moderate temperature? A. So far as mere ventilation is concerned, I think the Edinburgh Hospital well ventilated by the windows in the wards being opposite to each other, and the larger wards having a door at each end. I have no doubt that heated air might add to the comfort of some patients, though I cannot say certainly to their recovery; but such a plan appears to me quite impracticable in the present building. Q. Has the tenth rule under the head, "Internal economy of the family," which directs, "that the Matron shall make an inventory in the month of August yearly, of all the furniture and utensils then in the House, which shall be compared with the utensils themselves, and with the inventory of the preceding year, by a committee of the ordinary Managers who are to make a report of their opinion concerning it, to the first meeting of the Ordinary Managers in October thereafter," been regularly enforced while you have been in the management? A. I do not know that the Matron has made such inventories; and during the two years I have been a Manager, I have not been a member of any such committee; but I know very little of the transactions of the Hospital at that period, having each of the years been in the country during the autumn? Q. Are you aware, whether the Managers, who by the statutes are required to be changed annually, have been generally selected from the Ordinary or Extraordinary Managers of the preceding years, excluding the Managers *ex officio*? A. The changes that have been made in terms of the statutes have taken place among the Extraordinary Managers? Q. Are the Extraordinary Managers called, except on very special occasions? A. I believe not. Q. Have you seen any other Hospitals besides that of Edinburgh? A. I have seen many other Hospitals; but none of them particularly for a great length of time. Q. Have you of late made any comparison betwixt the Edinburgh and other Hospitals, from materials furnished from printed or written state-

ments? A. I have. Q. How does the comparison stand in point of facility of admission?

A. I know no hospital to which admission is more easy than that of Edinburgh, and few if any where the facility is so great. Every person of respectability is entitled to recommend, whether a contributor to the Hospital or not, and patients are admitted whatever their disease be, with the exception of insanity, and in every stage of their disease, and without any restriction in regard to their clothing or linen, nor is any money payment made.

Q. How does the comparison stand in point of relative expenditure? A. I can speak generally now from a comparison of a considerable number of Hospitals, and I find that the expence for each occupied bed is far greater in all the English Hospitals that I have examined than in Edinburgh;—in some instances it is nearly double, and in one more than double. In Guy's Hospital I have reason to believe, that an income of £20,000 is expended on the care of about 400 patients, which is at the rate of £50 for each bed. In the Manchester Infirmary, it appears from the annual reports, that on an average of the four last years, the yearly expence of each occupied bed considerably exceeded £60; while in the Edinburgh, during the same period, it was £28:5:4. In the Infirmary of Glasgow, it was for the same years a mere trifle greater than that of Edinburgh. From all which I infer, that no where that I know, are the funds of an hospital employed to dispense so largely the blessing of health, in proportion to their amount. Q. How does the comparison stand in point of numbers cured and dead, when contrasted with the number admitted? A. In relation to the number of deaths, the comparison can only be instituted between Hospitals that receive as Edinburgh does, all descriptions of infectious and dangerous diseases. Having got the returns for three consecutive years previous to 1817, I shall make the comparison conform to that period. The result has been, that the average for these particular years, for

Edinburgh is	1 Death in	15½
Glasgow,	Do.	12½
Guy's Hospital,	Do.	10½
London Hospital,	Do.	7½

With respect to the number of cured, I cannot speak at present, not having data to form a calculation. From the smaller proportion of deaths to those admitted in Edinburgh, I think it may be concluded, that there is none of the above Hospitals in which every thing that relates to the well being and the recovery of the sick poor, is more successfully attended to than in Edinburgh; and perhaps in some of the richer London Hospitals, more attention may be paid to external appearance than to the circumstances most essential to the final object of the institution. Q. Have you reason to know that the proportion of casualties and severe accidents is equal in the Edinburgh Infirmary to the proportion of such cases in those Hospitals where you have stated the proportion of deaths to be much greater? A. I have had no opportunity of comparing the casualties in these different Hospitals. Q. Are you aware that the London Hospital is in the immediate neighbourhood of the London docks, where severe accidents are of frequent occurrence? A. I am aware that the London Hospital is not far removed from the London docks; and I am aware that the Edinburgh Infirmary is not far removed from the Leith docks. Q. Are you aware that it is one of the provisions in the will of Guy, the founder of Guy's Hospital, that from among patients presented for admission, the worst cases must be selected? A. I am acquainted with that regulation; and I believe the same rule is observed in the Edinburgh Hospital. Q. May there not in your opinion be a greater proportion of dangerous diseases in the above mentioned Hospitals than in that of Edinburgh? A. As the Edinburgh Infirmary admits patients labouring under every dangerous disease, and in all stages of it, I am not aware that the London Hospitals alluded to should be different in that respect from Edinburgh. Q. How does the comparison with other Hospitals stand in point of diet? A. I have examined the diet-tables of many Hospitals, and from the different nature of the articles, as well as the different habits of the countries, it is not easy to draw a comparison. In most points, I think the allowances of Edinburgh fully equal to those of the English Hospitals. In one point, I observe a material difference: the broth which is given but seldom in many of the English Hospitals, if made according to the receipts contained in their printed papers, is incomparably

stronger than in the Edinburgh; but I am of opinion, that if the same receipt, as for example, that of Manchester, were transferred to that of Edinburgh, it would be most culpable extravagance, and probably not beneficial to the patients; but it may be very proper to make the soup in that Hospital very strong, as the patients are probably more accustomed to the use of animal food than those in the Edinburgh Hospital are. Q. Do you know the weight of meat, barley, and groats, and the quantity of other vegetables which are put into the copper containing 60 gallons, in which the broth of the patients of the Edinburgh Infirmary are made? A. To the best of my recollection, the quantity of meat in general is from 22 to 24 lbs. 14 lbs. of barley, 3½ lbs. of groats, 2 pecks of potatoes, and a quantity of greens and Swedish turnips; and when the boiler is brim-full, I know that this makes a palatable broth, and in my opinion quite suitable for the Hospital. Q. Has any change been made in the ingredients or their quantities within the last few months? A. I think early in the month of November the quantity of groats, which had been greater, was diminished, and the potatoes substituted in their place, because after several trials, Mr Anderson and I thought that broth so made, was better tasted, and as nutritious. The potatoe-soup we found of excellent quality. Q. Is the broth now better in quality than it was in November, December, and January? A. I believe that it was the intention of Mr Anderson, as it was mine, that the broth should be no better now than it was in November. Q. Has there been any additional proportion of barley allowed since January last? A. The object has been to keep the proportion of the barley nearly the same as in November; and as more broth is now made than in the beginning of that month, a larger quantity of barley is now used. Q. Is there a greater number of patients at present than in November, December, and January? A. I do not know the exact number of patients at this moment; but a fortnight ago I believe there were more patients than in November; but do not know exactly the comparison between what it was a fortnight ago, and the intermediate time. Q. Have the managers given any directions, or have they intended that the ingredients should be different in quantity now, from what they were in November? A. As the matter of the broth has been left to Mr Anderson and myself, I can say confidently, that the Managers have given no directions to that effect, and that we have no wish that they should be different in quality now, from what they were in November after our trials were made. Q. How does the comparison with other Hospitals stand as to implements, or any other points you may think proper to state? A. In Edinburgh, wooden cogs of a larger and smaller size, were the only utensils furnished until lately, when plates and spoons were added as before mentioned; but the patients in general, I believe, were in possession of spoons, saucers, and some of them had knives. I have understood, that several of the London Hospitals do not furnish such utensils, but they are found by the nurses to whom a small fee is paid by the patient. On some occasions the patients are desired to bring these articles along with them. The Hospitals at Birmingham, Bristol, and Liverpool, furnish no knives, forks, or spoons: That at Sheffield did not furnish knife, fork, or spoon, till about a twelvemonth ago. The Glasgow Infirmary does not furnish knives or forks. Manchester and some others furnish them. Q. Do you know any Hospital where the meat has been in the practice of being distributed to the patients at their dinner without their being in possession of a plate? A. I do; and that is Edinburgh, which furnishes cogs in place of plates for receiving the food? Q. Have you any access to know the practice in military hospitals relative to the use of sheets in venereal cases? A. I have been informed, for I can only speak from information from gentlemen who have acted as deputy-inspectors of hospitals, and regimental surgeons, and in particular from the deputy-inspector of hospitals at present on the Scotch Staff, that while they have the most pointed directions with regard to attention to cleanliness, and are anxious to observe them, it is frequently the practice to permit the patients undergoing a course of mercury to lie in blankets without sheets. The patients in general are pleased with this permission; and many of the surgeons are of opinion, that it is favourable to the progress of the cure, in consequence of the greater warmth, particularly in cold or damp situations.

A P P E N D I X.

No. I.

MR WIGHAM'S SPEECH, at the General Court of Contributors, 5th January, 1818.

IN rising to move for a Committee to examine into certain abuses which exist in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, it seems necessary for me to make a few preliminary remarks; particularly with regard to the ground on which I have thought it my duty to bring forward such a motion, as well as to state the evidence which I have been informed may be produced, that extensive abuses have existed, and still continue to exist, in the internal management of that Institution.

Connected, as I have been, in a manufacturing concern for upwards of 14 years, occasional complaints have been made to me by those in the Company's employment of certain hardships they had experienced when patients in the Royal Infirmary, particularly with regard to the allowance of food. Imputing these complaints to a desire to get money, or some other interested motive, they received little attention from me; nor did I entertain any suspicion, that extensive evils did exist, till during the few weeks in 7th month (July) last, when my friend John Sims resided in the House, in the capacity of Clerk to one of the ordinary Physicians. During that period I examined some of the linen and beds, which were in a state too disgusting to admit of an attempt to describe them here; but as there was a pretty minute detail of the state of the Wards at that time laid before the Managers, signed by all the Clerks then in the House, together with a letter that my friend John Sims addressed to the Managers, which contained many valuable hints upon Hospital duties in general, and pointed out very distinctly many of the abuses, with their causes, which then existed in the Royal Infirmary,—I was hopeful the Managers would, in consequence, have adopted efficient means to have rendered some improvements they at that time, or soon after made permanent. I thought little more of this establishment till I had occasion, towards the end of 9th month (September) again to visit the Infirmary, along with another gentleman; on which occasion we witnessed some of the sheets in a state similar to those I have mentioned. This fresh spectacle of filth, together with a recent instance of a workman of ours, who was taken into the House in a rheumatic fever, having solicited his shop-mates to collect a little money for his support: This man (Leitch) had no relations to administer to his wants, and his money being all spent, he

found, when the fever subsided, the quantity of food allowed him totally inadequate to support nature; and he declared, but for the assistance of his fellow-workmen, he believed he should have died for want. These circumstances induced a more particular enquiry as to the quantity of food which forms the common diet of the House. For this purpose, attended by my worthy friend Alexander Cruickshank, we repaired to the Infirmary about nine of a morning in 10th month, (October) when we saw the porridge, bread, &c. served up to the patients in two wards; which appeared to us very equally apportioned; but I was much surprised to witness the pitiful quantity of porridge and bread given to each patient, with a limited quantity of milk and beer; the latter of very poor quality, being, to appearance about half an English pint.

But I did not rest upon these observations, or any which it was in my power to make, in forming the opinion of the necessity of further enquiry. I have been informed of a great number of persons who have recently been patients in the House; all of whom declare, that they found the victuals allowed them quite too little to satisfy their appetites; and had it not been for relations or friends, who regularly brought them food, (which is contrary to an express rule of the Hospital) they must have suffered in the extreme. The next prominent abuse which appears to exist in the Royal Infirmary is the general filthy state of the linen, and the scanty manner in which the patients are supplied with a change of it. This is an abuse which I have, with some other gentlemen present, witnessed,—not in a single instance, but in many cases. I have besides received statements on this point, which, while it is most positive, it is likewise most disgusting.

I have been informed, that patients have lain seven and eight weeks without a change of sheets, and in some instances a longer time; and that the sheets which others have received when admitted, were most offensive. I have not been able to discover any traces of the blankets being cleaned or scoured.

In the Royal Infirmary there seems no attention paid to the state of the patients body linen, neither when they are taken into the house, nor during their stay there. Their hands, face, and feet are seldom washed, unless when they can perform these services for themselves. It has been stated to me, that some of the beds are swarming with lice; and patients are said to have caught the itch in the Hospital.

I am informed there is but one towel for the use of the patients in each ward, which hangs generally behind the door. There are no spoons supplied for the patients, nor any knives, forks, or plates for those who are allowed meat to dinner; and that their mode of living possesses nothing of modern improvement or comfort.

There are also statements with regard to the Nurses; which above all others make enquiry necessary.

It is to be doubted if there is any part of the internal affairs of the House properly conducted. I have never however heard the least complaint against any of the medical gentleman. Their duties are the only ones which are acknowledged to be well performed. It is known to individuals in this room, that several medical gentlemen who have visited many hospitals of the same kind, both in England and upon the continent, have declared, that they thought the internal appearance of the Royal Infirmary inferior to any they had seen.

After having thus briefly stated abuses which I am informed many persons have seen in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and which may be legally proved, I have only to add, that they would never have been stated to this Court by me, had it not appeared absolutely necessary for the cause of humanity to do so.

However unwilling I have felt to introduce these particulars, it seemed necessary they should be mentioned, to warrant the motion which I am to submit to this General Court of Contributors. It would be painful to me to have a duty to perform that may be construed into a reflection, or produce any uncomfortable feelings to the present Managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, particularly as they are all persons of the first respectability; and many of them are known to be gentlemen of extensive benevolence. With the exception of one most respectable Director, I have not the honour of the least acquaintance with any of the others. I feel nothing but perfect respect for every individual of their number; and without the aid of Visitors, I should not expect any other set of gentlemen who could be named to manage the affairs of the Hospital with perfect success.

The statutes provide, that all the accounts, books, and records relating to the management of the Infirmary during the preceding year; likewise whatever proposals are made for bye-laws, shall be laid before this Court; and that this Court shall also appoint a Committee of their number, to examine all the books and papers laid before them; and to report their opinion thereon in writing on the day to which the General Court shall adjourn.—It is therefore my intention to move, That a Committee be now appointed for these purposes, with special instructions to enquire into the state of the Hospital, and the abuses that have been complained of, in the domestic management of the House; and to report to a General Court to be held on the first Monday of February ensuing.

I hope and trust, after what has been stated, every individual present will concur in the sentiment, that it is incumbent upon this Court to institute a fair and impartial investigation into the state of the Royal Infirmary.

If these charges are unfounded, let them be exposed as they ought. If they are true, it is high time remedies should be provided. I shall close these remarks with a sentiment expressed by one who is deeply interested in the welfare of this Institution, and friendly to the cause of humanity in general. It is a sentiment in which we shall be all agreed:—viz.

“ If there be one Hospital in the kingdom which should be more perfect than all others in the general system of management, and in all its minute details, the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary should be that one. It should be the perfect model from which the numerous Students of Medicine resorting hither from nearly every part of the world, may derive a knowledge of the best organized system, and the most correctly executed plan which the united wisdom and experience of the present benevolent age can devise.”

In proposing a Committee I have been anxious to make it such a Committee as to remove the possibility of doubt, that it will do justice to every person concerned.

That from delicacy to the Directors they are not personally included in the Committee; but persons who are most nearly connected with them are named upon it. This will be evident from the list which I am now to read; and I trust, although I have no authority from those gentlemen connected with the Directors, to include their names; yet I think it will be considered as a mark of respect to the Directors, and to them, which is justly due to their character. Though I believe, I may truly say, there is not one name in the Committee whom any person can believe will act from any motive but a wish to promote the prosperity of this Institution.

No. II.

NOTE of Mr JEFFREY's Statements at the General Meeting.

Monday, 5th January 1818.

MR JEFFREY stated, among other things, that most of the particulars that had been mentioned by Mr Wigham, had been reported to him by persons of such respectability, and with such means of information, as had made it difficult for him to believe that their information was altogether erroneous; and that, in corroboration of their general statements, persons of unquestionable veracity, had assured him that they had themselves ascertained, by personal inspection, the existence of several gross and extraordinary abuses.—In particular, that when beef steaks were allowed to any patients, it was quite usual to carry them up to the Ward in a raw state, and to throw them in that state on the beds of the persons for whom they were intended, without plates; and that they were left to get them cooked at the Ward fire as they best could, and afterwards to eat them with as little assistance—there being neither plates, knives, forks, nor spoons, provided for any of the patients: That it had been stated to him, on the same authority, not only that the bedding was filthy and insufficient in many instances; but that there never was more than one small hand-bason, and one towel in use for all the patients of a Ward, frequently amounting to 20 or 30; and that there were a similar penury of chamber-pots: That the consequences of this neglect went in some instances so far, that he had heard that the bodies of the patients were occasionally infested with lice.

That he had also heard it mentioned, as a thing quite notorious, that the friends of the patients openly brought in to them supplies of food and provisions;—which proved, either that what was furnished in the House was insufficient, or that there was a gross neglect in allowing these superfluities, which could not but be generally pernicious.

That the quality of the food provided for the patients was said to be occasionally bad, and the quantity very often insufficient: That he really believed, though he knew nothing whatever from his own observation, that most respectable people would come forward and testify to the existence of all these abuses; and therefore, though he was perfectly certain that no blame could attach to the Managers or the Medical Attendants, and trusted, indeed, that many of these imputations would be found to have originated in misconception, it was impossible for him not to wish for an enquiry, and, in so far as in him lay, to insist for it.

F. J.

No. III.

STATEMENT by J. A. MURRAY and L. HORNER, Esquires.

Wednesday, January 7, 1818,

The following Members of the Committee, who supported the motion for enquiry at the general court of Contributors, observed, that they had no opportunity of recording in the minutes of the general court, what those of them who had spoken had said. That although they had been informed from various quarters, that there were abuses in the Infirmary which demanded enquiry, nothing had ever reached them, which in the most remote degree affected the character or conduct of the Managers; and they had the most perfect conviction, that nothing could arise in the course of the enquiry which would have that tendency.

JOHN A. MURRAY,
LEONARD HORNER.

No. IV.

7th July. 1817.

LETTER from the CLERKS of the INFIRMARY, with relative Statement of Complaints, laid before the MANAGERS of above date, and Committee appointed to enquire into the same.

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, July 7, 1818.

GENTLEMEN,

Impressed by a strong sense of duty, we beg to lay before you the following statement. Had our duty been in the least doubtful, we might have been somewhat guided by the 15th regulation, which you have put into our hands. Our reason for not bringing a similar statement earlier before you, was our ignorance.

After our appointment, we were occasionally troubled with the complaints of one or two patients; we thought this might arise from discontent; these however multiplied as the patients became acquainted with us, and as their confidence in us increased. Still, though we occasionally observed abuses, we thought they might be of rare occurrence, that they might arise from some fault of the nurses, or weakness of the patients, till at length complaints came from every quarter of the house, from patients the most decent and reserved, as well as from others; from those under the care of the most assiduous and most anxious nurses, as well as from those under the worst and most drunken. We were thus reluctantly induced to make enquiries at all our patients concerning the general state of their diet, and to examine their bedding. This we did on the 4th and 5th inst. in company with Mr Sims, our temporary colleague, not individually, but two by

two; a Physician's and a Surgeon's clerk taking the reports together. Having thus, Gentlemen, explained to you the cause of our enquiries, we beg to lay the result before you.

We have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient servants,

(Signed)

WM. GLOVER.

ROBT. LEE, *M. D.*

DAVID CRAIGIE, *M. D.*

STATEMENT, &c.

Having inspected the state of the bedding and bed linen, and made some enquiry concerning the food, on the 4th and 5th inst. we beg leave to lay before you the following statement:—

Of 114 patients, whose sheets we inspected, 33 were extremely filthy and oily; 22 were dirty; five had each only one sheet; one had only half a sheet; and two had no sheets. The blankets of 22 were very dirty. The examination of the bedding was necessarily more limited, in consequence of the patients lying on them; but 11 of them were found extremely dirty; and some of them were soaked with purulent matter.

Betty McDonald, Women's Clinical Ward, has been in the house upwards of three weeks, and has had no sheets on her bed; uses her own pillows.

John Graham had no sheets for eight days after he came in.

Donald Grant, Men's Surgeon's Ward, has been in the house two days and a half, and has had no sheets.

Christian Lindsay, Women's Surgeon's Ward, had one sheet changed in six weeks.

Betty Miller, Women's Surgeons' Ward, had bed-linen sent in from her master's family, who were shocked at the state of the house-sheets.

Jean Taylor, Women's C. Ward, has been in the house nine weeks, and had no change of sheets.

Bell Paterson, Womens' C. Ward, had been in the house nearly three months, and has had no change of sheets or blankets; and has been attacked with itch since admission.

Ann Duff, Women's C. Ward, had no sheets for a month after she came in.

William Bell, Soldier's Ward, has been in the house 15 weeks; had a change of sheets once, about six weeks ago.

James Turcan, Soldier's Ward, uses only one sheet, in consequence of the other being so dirty; has had no change of linen during six weeks.

James Donaldson, Men's Surgeons' Ward, was 10 weeks in the Country Ward and had no change of linen.

John Reid, Men's Surgeons' Ward, has been five weeks without a change.

Robert Turnbull had his first pair a month.

James Brown, Men's Fever Ward, has been 12 days in the house, and has caught itch since his admission.

James Condie was in the house during two months a short time ago; during the whole of which time he had no change of sheets.

Mrs Sutherland, Fever Ward, has been only a few days in the house. Her bed was brought from the Country Ward; the nurse being in the habit of obtaining beds from the Country Ward, or from whatever other ward she can find them; and states positively, that the nurses of the Women's Country Ward occasionally receive beds from the Fever Ward.

Margaret Trotter, Servant's Ward. The sheets are so filthy, that her mistress, who perceived the uncomfortable appearance, provided her with sheets from home, which she has been using constantly since her admission.

In the Lock Ward there are at present 13 patients. Two of these are obliged to sleep in the same bed, for want of the hair and straw mattress. Another of them has got no straw mattress. One admitted four days ago, has not yet been provided with sheets; and another, who was admitted some days before, is in the same situation. For want of beds at the time of admission, three were forced to sleep the first night they were in the house in the same bed with another patient; one for two nights, and another for four. Helen Robison has been only five days in the house, and the sheets are black and filthy.

John Baxter, Sailors' Ward. The bed on which this man lies was occupied several months by a venereal patient of the name of Leitch, and was directly removed from below Leitch to Baxter, without being aired. The nurse states, that except when patients die, the beds are never removed from the ward to be aired.

Peter Murray, Mens' Country Ward; admitted yesterday, and slept last night between two blankets.

Edward Conelly, Mens' Country Ward, who has been eight weeks in the house, has had only one sheet for about a week, which was the first change since admission.

Helen Sutherland, Women's Country Ward, utters serious complaints against the nurse, and they appear to be well founded.

Hugh McPherson, Mens' Surgeon's Ward, has had no change of bed-linen since the 26th May.

A girl of the name of Fleming, in the Women's Fever Ward, has got itch since her admission about 14 days ago. Janet Thomson, Country Ward, three months in the house, no change of sheets, and has got itch since admission.

Of 104 patients, 47 complained that the meat was tough, in small quantity, and occasionally old and putrid; 44 of the weakness and thinness of the broth; 61 of the milk being skimmed, watery, and occasionally sour; 52 complained that the pottage was small in quantity, and thin; 59 of the weakness and occasional sourness of the beer.

Many, in consequence of the insufficiency of the diet, were in the habit of bringing food into the house.

William Harvey, Men's Operation Ward, has been six weeks in the house, gets at present full diet, and a steak in the intermediate days; says, the steak is generally so bad that he cannot eat it; that the porridge are composed of barley meal mostly; that they are thin; that yesterday morning they were so thin and bad, that the whole ward refused them; that the beer is most unaccountably bad, and the milk extremely sour.

John Laing, Men's Operation Ward, gets common diet; says, the wooden vessel is not half full of pottage, the milk is sour, the beer as bitter as can be, that the broth are not very good, and have very little barley in them.

Campbell Seyd, Men's Operation Ward, has been 18 weeks in the house; says, the steak he is ordered daily, is hard, tough, and bad-smelled, variable in quantity, never exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Is a miller to trade, and thinks the pottage, which are bad and thin, are chiefly composed of barley meal; the beer very bad, milk sometimes very bad.

Alexander Hall, Men's Operation Ward, has been two weeks in the house; is ordered full diet; the meat of which is very bad in quality, and often does not take the beer, through the apprehension it may injure him; complaints against the broth, porridge, and milk, of the same description as the other patients.

Daniel Campbell, Men's Operation Ward, says, that the meat smelled on Monday.

William Robson, Men's Operation Ward, confirms the same; and states, it made him sick.

Thomas Adam, Men's Surgeon's Ward, states the same.

Scott Robinson, Men's Surgeon's Ward, mentions it was so bad, he could not take it on Monday.

Christopher Briggs, Men's Fever Ward, complains that the meat is seldom above two ounces, often black and putrid; and last Monday was full of large maggots, which were also seen by the nurse, and others in the ward.

John Baxter, Seamen's Ward, has been 13 weeks in the house; is ordered 2 lb. beef-tea daily, which he declares is little better than greasy water; says, that the meat on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, is generally good, but

in small quantity; on the four remaining days of the week, it is uniformly bad, but in larger quantity.

In reference to the case of Mrs Sutherland of Women's Fever Ward, and the general distribution of bedding in the Lock Ward, it requires to be mentioned; that it appears from the testimony of several of the nurses, that the beds from the fever wards—* [circulate indiscriminately through the whole house; and during the last five months, several patients, originally affected with local diseases, were attacked, after admission, with continued fever, which in one case proved fatal. Upon other occasions, patients admitted at the visit have not unfrequently to wait till the afternoon, sometimes to 10 p. m. for beds; and particularly, some of us recollect, that fever patients in a state of great debility, have been obliged to stretch themselves upon two chairs till that hour; while others have laid down for days upon the straw mattress, without any bed.]

In the foregoing statement, it may be remarked, that the observations as to the state of the diet are taken from the mouths of the patients. On the 4th inst. we tasted the broth, and could not discover the presence of either meat or fat in it; we also tasted the beer, and found it extremely weak and sour. We have observed the wooden vessels for receiving the allowance of porridge, which did not half fill each, and was so thin as to be little different from water gruel.

The following exhibits the Weight of the Full Diet Allowances on the 5th inst.

MEN'S SURGEON'S WARD.

								lb.	oz.	dr.
4	Pieces	boiled	meat,	weighed,	-	-	-	1	1	1
4	Ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	3
4	Ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1
4	Ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6

MEN'S OPERATION WARD.

4	Pieces	boiled,	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4½
5	Ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7
3	Beef-steaks,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6½
2	Steaks,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	7

WOMEN'S OPERATION WARD

5	Full Diet allowances,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	6	1 scr.
3	Beef-steaks,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that the above is a correct statement of what we observed and heard from the patients.

Royal Infirmary,
(7th mo) July 7, 1817.

WM. GLOVER.
ROBERT LEE, M. D.
DAVID CRAIGIE, M. D.
JOHN SIMS.

To the Managers of the
Royal Infirmary.

* The paragraph within the brackets I do not subscribe to.

No V.

MR JOHN SIMS, Respecting Internal Management of the Hospital.

To the MANAGERS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY.

7th July, 1817.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING some time ago wished to fill the office of Physician's Clerk in the Royal Infirmary, and on waiting upon you to inform you of my intention to offer for the present vacancy, I found that your motives of election were the following. 1st, Superiority of qualifications. 2d, If two or more candidates equally qualified, priority of application. 3d, To render the situation as extensively useful to the community.—From my having filled a situation somewhat similar at Manchester, three of the Managers suggested, that the last of the motives would operate against me. Soon after I made my offer, I intended, if this opinion should gain ground, rather than stand in the way of any other person, to withdraw my offer; which proving to be the case, I accordingly withdrew it, and entirely relinquished the object.

The late Clerk being obliged to leave Edinburgh prior to the appointment of a successor, I was requested by Dr Spens to officiate in the interim, and entered on the duty on the 17th ult.

Having repeatedly heard most unpleasant accounts of the internal state of the house, and having now the opportunity, I became desirous of ascertaining their truth or falsehood; in order that if false I might be able to contradict them, and if true, examine their extent, and report them to you for amelioration.

After I had been in the house two days, I observed that Ann Duff, a patient in the country ward was laying between blankets, and had no sheets on her bed. This patient was afflicted with an offensive discharge, which, accumulating on the blankets, greatly annoyed herself and neighbouring patients. I informed the Matron of this, and it was altered for the time.

On the evening of the 21st, turning over the bed-clothes of another patient in the same ward, I discovered that the sheets were extremely filthy, and the bed soaked through with urine, in which she had lain for several nights. Considering the Matron as the mistress of the nurses, I immediately went down stairs and informed her of it, at the same time requesting to go and examine it herself, in order that she might properly reprimand the nurse: She told me she had things of her own to attend to; she was going out to the Links, and therefore could not go. This would not have occupied her more than 10 minutes.—The state of the bed was rectified.

The day following, I observed two other patients in the same ward, one who had been in the house three weeks, had lain without sheets ever since her admission, none having been presented her: The other was lying with only one sheet, which was the remainder of a pair she had had during nine weeks. From the reception I met with the preceding evening from your Matron, I ceased to apply to her any more, and began to reflect upon the most proper means of relieving this serious evil, which was daily more and more exposing itself to my view. The magnitude of the task appeared to increase with my continuance in the Infirmary; and I frequently resolved to begin formally to possess myself of a statement of facts, which seemed impossible without the assistance of some others in the house; till at length observing, that the three other clerks were equally, if not more disposed to undertake it, I mentioned my views on the 3d instant, and shewed them a sketch of the plan I had framed, which, with some alteration, we adopted the following morning. For my own part, I went reluctantly about the duty; but the state of each succeeding bed operated as a powerful inducement to make some effort, however feeble, to remedy it; and also

the knowledge, that my temporary connection with your institution would cease in a few days, and then the opportunity would be withdrawn from me. Notwithstanding this, I could scarcely have thought of representing them to you, had I not for several years been observing hospital practice, and been also engaged in hospital duties in an institution where the system of management is widely different. I had thus the means of comparing the two with each other.

The chief facts contained in our statement, are those concerning the beds; but the almost uniform report of the patients respecting their diet must render their testimony of considerable weight; which, together with the extensive opportunities of your clerks, and my own more limited observations, cannot fail to substantiate it.

Our enquiries of the patients having occasioned a considerable sensation through the House, I became desirous that members of the Institution in the higher departments of office should have an opportunity of confirming them before any change took place. With this view, I waited on Dr Spens on the 5th instant, and explained our proceedings; and at his visit pointed out to him the filthy state of the beds of his own patients, which he can confirm. I also waited upon Gilbert Innes, and explained to him some of the circumstances; and afterwards upon Sir William Forbes; who, in company with Henry Jardine and Francis Wilson, visited the Hospital in the afternoon, but not before several changes had been made in the beds, and a considerable amendment of the dinner, as stated by the patients.

In looking over the statutes of the Royal Infirmary, I do not find that the ordinary period of changing the bed linen of the patients is mentioned; but from our statement it will appear, that many have laid in them 6 weeks, and some near 3 months. In the Manchester Infirmary, the following rule was strictly enforced.

Rule 117, "That the sheets of the patients remaining in the Hospital for a length of time, shall be changed once a fortnight, or oftener if necessary, the rest of the bed clothes once in two months, and, where the patients have sores which require it, once a month."

The filthy state of the sheets may arise from their not being properly washed, and from the patients getting into bed with their clothes on. It is in vain to state the impossibility of cleaning the sheets properly; it is done in private houses, and I have known it done with Hospital sheets. Two regulations were strictly attended to in Manchester. 1st, Not to allow the patients to get into bed with their clothes on: 2d, Not to allow the patients to lay on the bed with their shoes on.—If clean sheets were given to the patients, and these two rules enforced, a considerable change would soon manifest itself.

The statutes do not mention the quantity of meat to be given out to each patient: The portions which I saw weighed from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 oz. The common diet of the house, consisting of meat three days in the week, at Manchester, was 8 ounces of boiled Mutton, beef, or veal, with broth, pudding, and roots. In the broth which I tasted I could not discover the presence of animal matter; it appeared to be little more than a decoction of barley. The Manchester form is the following, "for every gallon of broth put in 3 pounds of mutton or veal, or 2 pounds of lean beef over the common allowance of meat." Perhaps the parallel between the diet necessary for the Edinburgh Hospital, and that at Manchester, cannot be a just one, owing to the difference in the mode of subsistence of the poor. However that may be, the difference cannot be so great as is here represented; and having stated my views of the grievances above, I offer with much diffidence my sentiments concerning their cause.

One of the principal causes appear to me to be, that the Matron does not visit the Wards sufficiently often. It seems, from the testimony of the nurses, that she seldom visits the Wards; and when she does, she does not examine the state of the bedding. I have been in the house near three weeks, and have not seen her in any of them, though I have been visiting them at most hours of the day. In the statutes under the head "Matron," I find the following: "5. She shall go the round of all the Wards every day at 10 o'clock of the forenoon, to examine their state, and to correct what is amiss; and the like round of the Wards is to be made by her at some other time of the day, when her other business can best allow."—I do from experience know, that nothing is of more importance to the comfort of the patients, and the domestic economy of an Hospital, than the most rigid at-

tention to a salutary regulation of this kind. I conceive that the Matron is the responsible mistress of the nurses; and by thus daily visiting the Wards, she can alone know their dispositions, and that they attend properly to their duties. As the comfort and accommodation of the patients is the first care in the domestic management of an Hospital, a daily visit from the Matron to them appears her leading duty; and if her other duties take up too much of her time, she should be relieved of those, but by no means send a deputy to do this. A regulation of this kind was strictly attended to by the Matron at Manchester, and with the most beneficial effects.

Another cause exists in the defect in the statute concerning House Visitors. I approach this subject with increasing diffidence, and with all becoming respect for your experience; as nothing can contribute more to the welfare of the whole establishment, than an almost daily inspection into its every part, and having witnessed the beneficial results of this practice, I will compare the two plans.

When I waited upon one of your body, he stated to me, that at their visits they made a point of inquiring of the patients concerning their treatment; and that they almost uniformly replied they were well used. It appears to me, that the patients scarcely know that they have a right to complain; and from the infrequent visits of the managers, they are kept in awe by the nurses, and forget their grievances from time to time.

At Manchester, the most effectual means are taken to impress upon the minds of the patients their right of complaining, and to elicit from them the least cause of dissatisfaction. At their admission, the following among other rules is read to them: "Should any of you not obtain the things above mentioned, or have any other cause to be dissatisfied, you have a right to complain to the House Visitors, or to the Weekly Board, which meets every Monday in the Board Room at 11 o'clock; where you will be heard with attention, and your grievances redressed, if reasonable."

These rules are hung up in the Wards, and are constantly before the patients; at their dismissal they are again questioned by the board whether they have any complaints to make.

Your statute under the head "Visitors," says, "1st, Each two ordinary Managers shall visit the Infirmary at least once in the month, for which they are appointed Visitors, there to examine the Matron's accounts, and the conduct of all the officers, servants, and patients in the Infirmary, and to write down and subscribe a report of what they observe, in a book to be kept for the purpose."

Rule 17th, Of the Manchester Infirmary, runs thus:—"That the Secretary send letters every Friday to seven subscribers residing in Manchester or Salford," in the order in which they stand, requesting their attendance on the Monday following, at the weekly Board, there to take upon them the offices of Inspectors and House-visitors for the Infirmary, Dispensary, and Lunatic Hospital, for the ensuing week, and that some of them visit both Houses, and enquire whether the rules concerning Officers, Servants, and Patients have been observed; particularly, whether the Patients have been duly attended by the Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecary, House-Surgeon; whether prayers have been duly read, whether the Patients or Servants have been guilty of swearing, drunkenness, or any immorality or indecency, &c. to enter their observations in a book, and attend to make their report at the next weekly Board.

The following letter is sent to each of them.

Form of a Letter to be sent weekly to seven Subscribers or Benefactors, residing in Manchester and Salford, to request they would take upon themselves the office of Inspectors or House-Visitors.

Manchester Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital,

18

Sir,—In pursuance of the rules of this Charity, I am to acquaint you, that you are by rotation desired to attend the Weekly Board, on Monday next, precisely at eleven o'clock, to take upon yourself the office of Inspector or House-Visitor for the ensuing week, together with MESSRS.

Secretary.

The Board being fully persuaded that nothing will contribute more to the welfare of this Charity, than that the office of Inspector or House-Visitor be duly and properly executed, you are earnestly desired to visit the Infirmary this week, as often as possible, and to pay particular attention to the following things: viz.

You are requested to order the Nurses and Servants out of each ward when you enter it, and each Patient to be by his or her respective bed side, and to see if any be absent.

To examine the provisions, and taste the bread and beer.

To see if all the wards are clean, and free from impure smells.

To ask the Patients if they are well used, and whether they are duly attended by the Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecary, House-Surgeon, Matron, and Nurses.

To see if the linen and bedding on the beds be clean and proper.

To enquire of the Apothecary and Matron, whether they have any complaints to make against any of the Patients or Servants in the House, for improper behaviour.

To go through the whole House, to be attentive to its cleanliness, regularity, and economy, and to report in the Visitors' book, (which always lies on the table in the Board-room) the state in which you find every one of the above-mentioned articles—and to set down whatever else shall appear to you proper to be reported;—You are likewise requested to do the same in the Lunatic-Hospital; and it is particularly desired, that you will attend the Board on the Monday following, at eleven o'clock.

In addition to this inspection of the trustees, a consultation of the Faculty was held monthly, whose duty, amongst other things, was to observe the general order and cleanliness of the House, and to suggest improvements on the economy of the House; the report of whose proceedings was read and taken into consideration at the next weekly board.

In the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, a similar plan is in use: Their statutes state, that in addition to the court of managers, 36 visitors are annually appointed from among the contributors; whose duty it is daily to inspect the house, and report to the court of managers. I received this information from a friend of mine who has filled this office.

The superiority of the two latter modes of inspection cannot fail to be striking.

Many other circumstances have fallen under my observation during my short residence in the Royal Infirmary; but my time is so limited, that it does not allow me to mention them in this paper.

It may be asked, why I should interfere with the ordinary progress of things in your Infirmary? My answer is plainly this, That I could not witness such an addition to the unavoidable suffering of your patients, without making some effort, however feeble, to report it to you. And I repeat, that had I not been previously engaged in Hospital duties, I should have been deterred from the greatness of the undertaking and its apparent invidiousness.

The change which has already been effected since the 4th instant in the diet and beds afford great satisfaction; which is even expressed on the countenances of our patients, and is a confirmation of the rectitude of our proceeding.

Permit me to state to you with deference, that no temporary alterations will answer on the present occasion: There has been a continued system of disorder, and some radical cure is necessary. This will not be effected unless the matron is more active in the discharge of her duties in the wards, and a more frequent inspection is made into the conduct and management throughout.

I now take leave of the subject for the present. And subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend,

JOHN SIMS.

ROYAL INFIRMARY,

7th month 7th 1818.

No. VI.

MINUTES of the Meetings of the MANAGERS, relative to the Statement and Letters No. 4 and 5.

7th July, 1817.

THE Treasurer stated to the meeting, that he had just now received two letters addressed to the Managers, one from Mr Sims, an interim clerk in the house, and the other from Messrs Glover, Lee, and Craigie, clerks in the house, in which they stated a variety of complaints relative to the bedding and internal arrangement of the House, which appeared to be of a very serious nature.

The Managers appointed Sir William Forbes, Bart. Mr Anderson, and Mr Wauchope as Committee to make enquiry into the circumstances, and to report with their first convenience.

4th August, 1817.

The Committee appointed at last meeting to take into consideration the letters from Mr Sims and the clerks of the house, and to make such investigation as should seem to be necessary, reported, That they had immediately taken the matter into their consideration, and would report as soon as possible.

1st September 1817.

The Committee appointed at the Meeting, on 7th July last, to take into consideration the letters from Mr Sims and the clerks of the house, and to make such investigation as should seem to be necessary, reported, That they were still engaged in making the necessary investigations, not having yet been able to complete them, so as to enable them to frame so full a report as they considered to be necessary on so important a subject; but they had no doubt they would be enabled to do so in a few days, when they would call an extraordinary Meeting for the purpose of laying it before the Managers.

6th October 1817.

The Meeting having resumed consideration of the report of the Committee on the letters of Mr John Sims, and the clerks of the house, approved of the same, and directed that it should be engrossed in the minutes; and the Committee was requested to make such improvements in the state of the bedding, or otherwise, as to them should appear proper. The Managers desired that the Physicians might be requested to draw up a report as to the present diet of the patients, and suggest any improvements which appeared to them be to proper, adverting in the report to the quantity of wine and porter consumed in the house.

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE of the MANAGERS of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, appointed by the General Meeting of 7th July 1817, to investigate into the State of the Establishment, in consequence of Letters. of date the said 7th July last, addressed to the Managers of the Institution, by the acting Clerks to the Physicians and Surgeons.

The Committee have perused with attention the letters of date 7th July last, from Mr John Sims, interim acting Physicians' Clerk, and from Drs Robert Lee and David Craigie, and Mr William Glover, the other clerks resident in the Hospital, in regard to the internal management of the Institution; together with a letter

from Mrs Montgomery, of date the 10th of that month, and have had frequent meetings, with a view to investigate the alleged irregularities therein mentioned.

The points to which the attention of the Managers appear to be called, are,

1st, The state of the bedding, particularly of the sheets.

2d, The assertion that, upon several occasions, patients admitted have remained for a considerable time without being furnished with sheets, or other proper bedding.

3d, That upon some occasions, when a patient died, the bedding formerly used by such patient was again made use of without being properly aired, and that bedding was occasionally taken out of the Fever Wards, and put into other wards, without the same being properly aired.

4th, That the patients, (at least a few of them) complained, that the butcher's meat was tough, in small quantities, and occasionally old and putrid. That the milk was skimmed, watery, and occasionally sour; and that the beer was weak, and frequently stale.

5th, That one or two of the patients stated that the pottage was thin, and chiefly made of barley meal.

6th, And in general, that the quantity of food distributed to the patients was too small.

And it is stated in the letter of Mr Sims, that one of the principal causes of the state of the bedding appears to be, that the Matron does not visit the wards sufficiently often, or in terms of the statute, by which she is required to visit the same every day at 10 o'clock of the forenoon, and again, at some other time of the day, when her other business can best permit.

These points, your Committee have investigated to the utmost of their power.

And as the state of the bedding was in a great measure attributed to a neglect on the part of the Matron, in the performance of the very necessary duty of regularly visiting the wards, as enjoined by the statutes of the Institution, the attention of the Committee was directed in the first place to that point.

Mrs Montgomery, the present Matron, of whose fidelity and anxious wish for the good of the Institution the Committee believe the Managers are perfectly sensible, had lately the misfortune to lose her only child, who died at Burrow-muirhead, in the neighbourhood of this city. During her last illness, her mother was in the practice of frequently visiting her at that place. Owing to this, and from the distress of mind in which she was at the time, it cannot be matter of surprise, if her visits through the wards were not so regular as formerly, or as they ought to have been. But as soon as the circumstances came to the knowledge of your Committee, they directed the duty to be done by two of the most confidential servants in the house, in order that as little injury might be done to the Institution as possible, from the want of the Matron's regular visits.

The Committee have frequently visited the wards themselves, and inspected with care the state of the bedding.

They beg to report, That they found some of the bedding in their opinion faulty, and in many instances the sheets in particular seemed to be soiled or dirty, and that too when they had been newly washed and put upon the beds.

This appearance the Committee found arose from the imperfect manner in which the sheets had been washed, after having been upon beds occupied by patients affected with sores, in the cure of which oils and ointments of various descriptions had been used.

Your Committee, after investigating and considering the matter fully, were of opinion, that the evil could only be corrected by the establishment of a washing and drying house for the linen of the Hospital. Therefore, in consequence of the powers devolved on them, your Committee gave directions for the erection of

the necessary accommodation for these purposes, and which is now in progress at the east end of the House; and they flatter themselves, that the most happy and beneficial effects will result to the Institution, from the washing and dressing of the linens of the establishment. And your Committee are also of opinion, that it may enable them to carry into effect a plan, which, in the course of their investigation; has appeared to them as one that will be of great additional benefit to the institution; viz. that of more frequently washing the covers of the bedding, previously removing the wool and straw, and sorting and cleansing them, before replacing them into the bedding, after the same has been washed. Your Committee are also of opinion, That a very great advantage may be derived from blankets being more frequently scoured than what has hitherto been the practice of doing. They are aware that the accomplishment of these objects will be attended with very considerable expence to the institution; and they are aware also, that the limited state of the funds do not permit the Managers to adopt many improvements which they might wish to do; but, in a matter of such consequence to the Hospital, in every point of view, your Committee would recommend making every exertion to follow out improvements that may be of such essential advantage to the health and comfort of the patients.

Second Point.

2d, The assertion that, upon several occasions, patients, after being admitted, remained a considerable time without being furnished with sheets, or other proper bedding, came next under the consideration of the Committee.

The Committee regret, that any thing of this nature should have happened in this Hospital, especially after the regulations and arrangements made by the Managers, that every ward in the house should have, within itself, an ample supply of linens; so that, for every patient admitted, there might be a certainty of an immediate supply of clean linens. These linens are under the charge of the nurse of the ward; who is directed to supply, as required, every bed in the ward with clean linens, and to apply to the Matron for an additional supply when necessary. The Committee have not been able to trace, notwithstanding the crowded state of the Hospital for some time past, that any ward had been deficient in linens, or that any nurse had made any application in vain to the Matron for a supply, although the system was only in the course of carrying into effect this summer. To prevent, however, any thing of a similar nature occurring hereafter, the Committee would beg leave to propose to the Managers, that it should be one of the instructions to the Clerks, that

“When a patient is admitted, the clerk of the physician or surgeon under whose charge such patient is to be, must attend the patient, until he or she is placed in the proper ward, and until a bed, properly furnished with blankets, sheeting, &c. is made up for such patient. For this purpose, no clerk, whether physician's or surgeon's, is to leave the house until he himself sees this necessary duty performed.”

Third Point.

3d. The Committee, after full investigation, could not discover, that upon any occasion, when a patient died, the bedding formerly used by such patient was again made use of before being aired, or that bedding was occasionally taken out of the fever-ward, and put into other wards without being properly aired.

This part of the investigation the committee were at great pains to conduct with the utmost accuracy; and for that purpose they examined Mr Glover, the senior clerk, Mrs Montgomery the Matron, and six of the nurses; several of whom have been from 14 to 20 years in the house. The result was completely satisfactory to your committee; and distinctly established, that with the solitary instance of one straw mattress, said to have been taken from the fever-ward to another ward; and

Nurses Examined.
Men's Fever Ward.
Women's ditto.
Night Nurse do.
Men's Operation do.
Soldiers do.
Lock Ward.

that circumstance, if true, which was by no means distinctly established (and as Mrs Montgomery positively denied all knowledge of it), was said to have happened late at night upon the occasion of an accident, and was immediately sent back without being used; but in no other case does it appear to have happened, and indeed it could not well take place, as it was clearly established by the testimony of the nurses, that they were in the uniform practice of taking the beds that were no longer in use to the Matron, by whose express directions they were placed in the airing rooms, and never could be used till properly cleaned and aired; and upon this point your Committee have the satisfaction to state, that Dr Hamilton assured them, that he was not aware that in any instance infection had ever been produced in the House by means of the bedding or otherwise; which circumstance completely repels the assertion relative to the bedding being taken from the fever ward to any other.

The above investigation, your Committee may observe, was conducted in the presence of Mr Glover, who was desired to call in and examine such nurses as he thought were most likely to establish what the clerks had stated.

4th and 5th, State of butcher's meat, milk, beer, and pottage.

Upon the 5th of last month, a complaint was made to the Treasurer in regard ^{4th and 5th Points.} to the butcher's meat in use in the Hospital on that day. And accordingly, he waited upon one of your Committee (Sir William Forbes, Bart.), who accompanied him to the Hospital; when they found that the butcher's meat, as also the bread and beer were unexceptionably good. Since that time, your Committee have made like investigations, and they can discover no ground for complaint.

The quantity of food distributed for each meal to the patients has remained nearly the same since the commencement of the Institution. The Committee, however, at a meeting they had with the physicians to the Hospital, requested them to consider the regulations respecting the diet of the patients, and to suggest any alterations which they might consider to be necessary. It was a matter of great satisfaction to the Committee in that conversation, to find, that the Physicians expressed themselves as well pleased with the present internal management of the House.

Deeply sensible that the prosperity of the institution depends upon the regularity of the internal management, cleanliness, and comfort of the patients; the Committee, after the fullest deliberation, are of opinion, that that only can be effected by the appointment of a respectable and intelligent Medical Man to reside in the House, take charge of the Apothecary's department, and have a general superintendence of the House. This person, the Committee would suggest, should not be under 40 years of age; and if he has been accustomed to the practice of a military or naval Hospital, he would, in their opinion, be better qualified for such a situation.

Were such a person obtained, the Committee anticipate the greatest benefits to the Hospital. And although a larger salary must no doubt be given than that to the present Apothecary, (whose services would not then be necessary), yet such expences would, in the opinion of the Committee, be fully compensated by the advantages which would infallibly result to the institution.

WILLIAM FORBES.

SAM. ANDERSON.

JOHN WAUCHOPE.

3d November, 1817.

The Managers directed that the clerks of the house should be ordered to be in attendance at their meeting on Monday next; that the purport of the report, by the Committee on Mr Sims' letter, and their letter of complaint respecting the state of the bedding of the house and diet of the patients, might be communicated to them, with instructions as to the manner in which they ought to conduct themselves in representing any thing irregular in the House, should there occur at any time room for a complaint on that ground.

10th November, 1817.

A draft of certain regulations respecting the internal management of the Hospital was laid before the meeting. Sir William Forbes, Bart. Mr Innes, Dr Wood, Mr Wauchope, and Mr Anderson, were appointed a Committee to consider the same and report their opinion.

The Clerks to the House having been called in, the Preses stated the purport of the report of the Committee on the letters received from them and Mr Sims, and pointed out the duties to be observed in future by them.

1st December 1817.

The Managers having taken into consideration the report by the Physicians of the House respecting the diet of the Patients, and having conversed with Drs Hamilton and Spens, who were in attendance, on the subject, they approved of the same.

22d December, 1817.

The Treasurer stated, that he had called the Meeting at the desire of the Physicians of the House, in consequence of the demand for the admission of fever patients into the House still increasing. The Physicians stated, that there were in the House 100 patients of that description; and that, from the accommodations of the House it could not admit of a greater number, the more especially that the fever was tedious, with the immediate danger of relapse should the patients be dismissed immediately after recovery.

It having been explained, that most of the fever patients had been sent to the House by the Society for the Destitute Sick, Mr Anderson and the Treasurer were requested to wait upon Mr Plenderleath the Treasurer of the Society, and to inform him that it would be necessary, before any farther fever patients were sent to the House, that he or some of the Directors should wait upon the Physicians of the House, and arrange as to the possibility of accommodating them.

The Managers agreed, that such of their number as could make it convenient, should attend at the Hospital every Monday at one o'clock, to concert with the Physicians the best means of accommodation for fever patients; and that their visits through the house should take place weekly instead of monthly, as at present.

Extract from a REPORT by MESSRS ANDREW WOOD and SAMUEL ANDERSON, two of the Managers, to a General Meeting of the Managers, held on the 2d day of October 1815, relative to an accusation of Agnes Bryce against the Matron.

" They will only further add, that in the course of this investigation they had occasion to converse with the Physicians, Surgeons, and Clerks of the Hospital;

who state, that the situation of the Hospital, as to the bedding and general system, is in a better situation than it has been for some time past. They have obligingly promised to consider with attention the present existing regulations connected with their several departments, and to favour your Committee with such remarks as occur to them thereon; and to suggest such improvements as may appear to be for the advantage of the Institution; and which your Committee shall take an early opportunity of submitting to your consideration.

No. VII.

REPORT.—Sub-Committee on Sheets, &c. in the Royal Infirmary,

Royal Infirmary, 7th February 1818.

The sub-Committee (Dr Baird, Convener, Mr Robert Dundas, and Mr Maitland), appointed to enquire and report as to the sheets, blankets, and other bedding in the Infirmary, beg leave to Report:

1. That they met in the Infirmary of this date, and proceeded to the duty entrusted to them.

2. They found from Mrs Montgomery (the Matron)'s information, that when she entered on her office a few years ago, she received no list from Mrs Hume her predecessor, of the quantities of sheets, blankets, mattresses, or pallasses, at that time in the Hospital; and that she herself has never had any means of making up an exact state of the quantities of these articles at any time since that period. But that,

3. According to the most correct computation she can now make, there are 550 pairs of sheets at present in use; a very large proportion of which are *new*: That there are 200 pairs in the course of making up from linen already received by her, and that these will be gradually introduced instead of other pairs, (some of which are already much worn) as they progressively become unserviceable.

4. That the sub-committee inspected some of these new sheets that were lying made up and ready for use; and they were of opinion that they were excellent in quality, and very suitable as to fineness of fabric.

5. They learned from the Matron, that the old sheets are employed for rollers and other Surgical purposes, and were occasionally, (when fit for it), made into shirts and shifts for the patients.

As to the mode of supplying the wards with clean sheets, the Committee were informed by the Matron,

3. That previous to last year, the nurses had no spare clean sheets under their care, but that they received them from time to time as they required them, by application to her.

2. That in the course of last year, however, it was determined to place under the care of each nurse, as many pairs of clean sheets, and as many pairs of spare blankets, as should be equal to half the number of patients in the ward, so that she might have it in her power at all times to command a prompt supply of these articles.

3. The Matron at the same time explained to the Committee, that she had not yet been able to carry this new regulation FULLY into effect; and that this was owing to the unusually great pressure of patients on the House,—to the sickness of several of the domestics,—and to the alteration in the system of washing, (with which the new regulation was to be considered as connected), not being yet completed.

4. The Committee, on going through the wards found, that the nurses had generally a certain quantity of clean sheets and blankets in their presses, though not the *full* proportion required by the new regulation.

5. The Matron also stated, that the change of the sheets on the beds of the patients, was made at the discretion of the nurses, subject to such orders as they might occasionally receive from the Physicians and Surgeons; that she had reason to believe, that the sheets of cleanly patients were in general changed at least once in three weeks; but that patients labouring under running sores, or any other disease by which the sheets were liable to be soiled, had them changed as often as necessary, even to the extent of a daily change.

This statement corresponded with the information received from the nurses.

6. The Committee found, that two roller towels made of coarse linen, and seven feet long, by 18 inches broad, are kept in each ward for the use of the patients and nurses; and they were informed, that these are changed generally twice in the week, and oftener, if the nurses find it necessary.

As to BLANKETS,

They Report,

1. That the Matron, as in the case of the sheets, could give no accurate account from any documents in her possession of the quantity of blankets in the House, either at present, or at any time during the last three years, but that, as nearly as she can calculate, there are 637 pairs; and that of that number, about 130 or 140 are *new*, and are preparing for coming gradually into use when they may be needed for such as are in a bad state.

2. That a supply more or less of blankets has been got every year since the Matron came to the House, but that a much greater proportion than was formerly usual, has been got *lately*, and that chiefly from the late great increase in the number of patients.

3. That the sub-committee inspected the new blankets that were lying ready for use, and considered them of an exceeding good and proper quality.

As to COVERLETS.

The sub-Committee were told by the Matron, that there were 300 in the House, and that 30 or 40 of these were new, and lying prepared for being applied gradually to use when required. They seemed to the sub-committee unexceptionable and proper for the purpose.

As to MATTRESSES and PALLASSES.

The sub-Committee found, That a very large proportion of them had been got new during the last year, partly as they were informed from the Blind Asylum, and partly from a respectable upholsterer; and they appeared on examination to be good, and of an improved form.

The above is signed by us as our joint Report.

GEO. H. BAIRD.
ROBT. DUNDAS.
AD. MAITLAND.

No. VIII.

LIST of PATIENTS admitted into the ROYAL INFIRMARY of EDINBURGH, for Ten years previous to 1st January 1818.

Years of admission.	Total admitted, exclusive of those remaining in the Hospital annually.	Cured.	Relieved.	Dismissed with advice.	Dismissed as improper.	Dismissed as irregular.	Dismissed as by their own desire.	Died.
1808	1787	1279	144	77	65	17	91	121
1809	1646	1184	138	36	75	22	105	109
1810	1854	1375	143	59	55	29	68	108
1811	2146	1712	131	58	52	26	55	121
1812	2018	1572	148	33	57	22	66	88
1813	1774	1352	174	28	84	9	86	96
1814	1884	1280	198	26	73	23	118	108
1815	1628	1065	168	46	82	37	135	111
1816	1798	1189	183	49	79	34	127	123
1817	2250	1506	234	4	51	135	110	142
Total from 1808 to 1817, both inclusive,	18785	13514	1661	416	673	354	961	1127
Average for above period,	1878 ⁵ / ₁₀	1351 ⁴ / ₁₀	166 ³ / ₁₀	41 ⁶ / ₁₀	67 ³ / ₁₀	35 ⁴ / ₁₀	961 ¹ / ₁₀	1127 ⁷ / ₁₀

Edinburgh, 26th February 1818.

ALEX. BOSWELL.

No. IX.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the ROYAL INFIRMARY of EDINBURGH, during the last Eleven Years, From 1st January 1807, to 1st January 1818.—Drawn up agreeably to the Form sent by Mr Boswell in January 1818.

CHARGE.

	1807.	1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.	For the Years 1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1817.
To Rents and feu-duties, and To Interest on bonds, and from banks,	£ 534 2 0	£ 534 15 8	£ 522 7 0	£ 450 0 0	£ 450 0 0	£ 455 0 0	£ 754 13 9	£ 455 0 0	£ 855 0 0	£ 550 6 9	£ 599 1 4
To Legacies,	1223 1 2	1385 1 2	1459 4 4	1466 7 7	1239 7 8	1120 11 8	1137 5 0	1435 3 7	1325 16 6	1230 7 9	1420 5 5 ³
To Donations,	200 0 0	204 13 9	180 0 0	18 0 0	28 0 0	48 18 10	153 5 4	50 0 0	364 9 2	0 0 0	590 0 0
To Annual Subscriptions, To Clerk's Boards, Stu- dent's tickets, &c.	298 16 0	111 9 0	71 11 0	56 8 6	607 16 8	165 10 6	102 11 7	665 16 6	514 14 1	83 11 0	198 16 0
To Soldiers and Sailors,	365 6 6	431 3 6	598 17 6	706 18 6	551 12 6	536 2 6	423 16 0	514 12 6	417 18 0	483 10 6	481 19 0
	1632 9 6	1417 9 2	1634 17 0	1417 10 0	1670 15 6	1639 10 4	1712 16 6	1997 17 4	1860 8 0	2013 17 0	2010 13 0
	275 19 8	685 10 1	970 13 0	1109 11 2	984 7 0	930 18 10	560 3 6	553 11 4	462 16 3	124 0 10	250 15 5
Total Income,	£ 4529 14 10	£ 4770 2 4	£ 5437 9 10	£ 5224 15 9	£ 5531 19 4	£ 4896 12 8	£ 4844 11 8	£ 5672 1 3	£ 5801 2 0	£ 4485 13 10	£ 5551 10 3 ³

DISCHARGE.

	1807.	1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.	1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1817.
By Ordinary Expenses of the House, including Salaries and Wages,	£ 3150 8 3	£ 3414 2 11	£ 3414 0 5	£ 3621 4 10	£ 3403 13 8	£ 3634 8 9	£ 3541 7 1	£ 3544 0 4	£ 2538 15 3	£ 2853 10 3	£ 3078 2 6
By Medicines, including Wine, &c.	565 11 5	966 7 3	1111 8 1	1022 9 6	965 16 10	1008 12 9	892 7 2	1008 16 1	1333 2 10	1070 4 11	1000 7 8
By Buildings and Repairs,	831 5 11	129 10 8	373 4 4	396 6 6	217 12 6	332 12 6	407 2 5	312 2 0	283 1 0	393 19 0	339 19 7
By Furniture, . . .	272 9 4	159 5 2	242 2 0	227 11 2	292 1 4	203 16 6	213 14 6	365 0 2	455 4 11	228 6 1	657 5 8
By Incidental Charges, . . .	54 15 7	122 5 5	53 4 10	61 13 11	134 18 2	85 2 11	99 3 10	92 4 2	93 11 5	132 2 3	237 13 6
Total Expenditure,	£ 4374 10 6	£ 4791 11 5	£ 5193 19 8	£ 5329 5 11	£ 5014 2 6	£ 5264 13 5	£ 5153 15 0	£ 4622 2 9	£ 4703 1 5	£ 4678 2 7	£ 5313 9 1

Edinburgh, 5th February, 1818.
JAMES BRUCE.

No. X.

LIST of DONATIONS received by the Treasurer to the ROYAL INFIRMARY of EDINBURGH, during the period from 1st January 1817, to 5th January 1818 inclusive.

1817.

Jan. 2.	Gifted by the Barons of Exchequer, from the estate of a bastard deceased,	£30 0 0
— 28.	Donations from Adam Rolland, Esquire,	10 10 0
Feb. 3.	— Mr Robert Ponton,	2 0 0
— 11.	Gifted by the Barons of Exchequer out of the estate of Janet Boyle	10 0 0
May 21.	Donations from the Royal College of Physicians,	5 0 0
— 24.	— the parish of Legertwood,	1 1 0
July 24.	— L'Abbe Defour, by the hands of Sir William Forbes and Company,	10 0 0
Oct. 3.	— an Old Friend to the Institution,	20 0 0
— 6.	— A. Cruickshanks, Nicolson Street,	5 0 0
—	— John Wigham, Jun. Lothian Street,	5 0 0
— 8.	— A Female Patient, as a mark of her gratitude for the benefits she derived in the Royal Infirmary, by the hands of Mr James Feggans,	20 0 0
— 25.	— William Gibb, manufacturer,	5 0 0
—	— James McDonald, ditto,	5 0 0
Nov. 7.	— Samuel Anderson, Esq. banker,	10 0 0
Dec 31.	— Sir John Hay, baronet,	5 5 0
	Eleven Individuals, at £5 each,	55 0 0
		<hr/> £198 16 0

1818.

Jan. 1.	Ad. Maitland, Esq. of Dundrenan,	5 0 0
— 2.	Twenty-five Individual subscriptions, at £5 each, excepting one at £10: 10s.	130 10 0
— 3.	Twenty-nine Individual Subscriptions, at £5 each,	145 0 0
— 5.	Thirty-eight Individual Subscriptions, at £5 each, excepting three of these at £5: 5s. each,	190 15 0
		<hr/> £670 1 0

No. XI.

ABSTRACT of the Quantity got for the ROYAL INFIRMARY, of the following ARTICLES of MAINTENANCE, and the Average price in the year 1817.

Articles.	QUANTITY.	Average Price.
1. Bread.	45,946 Loaves 21 ounces each, the Peck-loaf weighing 2 ⁷ / ₈ ounces at various prices, - - -	£ 0 4 10 per peck loaf.
	3167 Quarter standard Wheaten loaves at ditto, -	0 1 2 ⁵ per qr. loaf.
2. Beef.	1241 Stones 14 lbs. preceding 8th March at various prices, thereafter at 4 ¹ / ₂ d. per lib. per contract,	0 0 4 ¹ / ₂ per lib.
	<i>Nota.</i> —There were, besides, Nolts' heads, veal, mutton, Sheeps' heads, lamb, Lambs' heads, and Pork at various prices.	
3. Meal.	84 Bolls at various prices, - - -	1 12 8 per boll.
4. Barley.	35 cwt. 1 : 5, - - -	1 5 0 per cwt.
5. Groats.	8 Bolls at various prices, - - -	1 18 6 per boll.
6. Beer.	159 Barrels at 10s. - - -	0 10 0 per barrel.
	1308 Gallons at various prices, - - -	0 1 3 ¹ / ₂ per gallon.
7. Porter.	672 Dozen, at 3s. 6d. - - -	0 3 6 per dozen.
8. Port wine.	96 Dozen, at various prices, - - -	2 10 3 per dozen.
9. Milk.	21,163 Pints at various prices, - - -	0 0 3 ¹ / ₂ per pint.

Edinburgh, 30th January 1818.

JAMES BRUCE, *Accountant.*

No. XII.

REPORT of the Committee of the Royal Infirmary.

Edinburgh, 26th January 1818.

The general Court of the Corporation of the Royal Infirmary, held on the 5th January current, having remitted to us to revise the proceedings of the Managers and the Treasurer's accounts during the year 1817, and to report our opinion, with a state of the Infirmary stock to the next general Court of Contributors; and the Managers having accordingly laid before us the record of their proceedings for last year, and also the books of accounts kept by Henry Jardine, Esq. the Treasurer, of the Infirmary's stock, with a note or abstract thereof made out by Mr James Bruce, accountant, signed by Mr Jardine and one of the Managers, we make the following Report:—

That from the said books and abstract it appears, that the gross and nett stock of the Infirmary, as it stood on the 1st day of January current, consists of the following particulars:—

Principal sums constituted by bonds bearing interest to the		
Royal Infirmary,	£21,573	17 3
£5000 Capital stock of the Royal Bank of Scotland, cost	5,333	6 8
	<hr/>	
	£26,907	3 11
£100 of yearly feu-duties, the subjects whereof cost	1550	0 0
A part purchase money of Prieston and Hillfield,	7451	6 7
Arrears at 1st January 1818,	291	19 8 ¹
Balance of deposit account in the Royal Bank		
at do.	£645	18 0
Ditto of ditto, with Sir William Forbes and Co.		
at do.	2666	4 9
	<hr/>	
	3312	2 9
Balance due to Treasurer at do.	1553	19 1 ⁶
	<hr/>	
	£1553	19 1 ⁶
Nett Stock at 1st January 1818,	37,958	13 9 ⁷
	<hr/>	
	£39,512	12 11 ¹
	<hr/>	
	£39,512	12 11 ¹
There are besides:—		
The estate of Redhill Pen in Jamaica, mortified by Dr Ker; the rent whereof, payable in London annually, is £350.		
The price of building the Royal Infirmary, the Lodging, the New Wards, the New Bagnio, with the additional repairs per last year's		
account,	£25398	7 0 ⁵
And during this account for additional buildings and repairs,	339	19 7 ⁶
	<hr/>	
	25738	6 7 ¹¹
	<hr/>	
Nett stock at 1st January 1818,	37958	13 9 ⁷
Ditto at 1st January 1817,	37249	7 7 ¹
	<hr/>	
Increased this year, when compared with the last,	£709	6 2 ³
	<hr/>	

We, Members of the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose of examining the Treasurer's accounts for the year 1817, by the Committee named by the general Court of Contributors, held on the 5th of January 1818, having perused and revised the said accounts, are of opinion, that the same are properly stated and instructed.

W^m. FETTES.
JOHN CRAIG.
JAMES DUNDAS.
ALEX. DUNCAN.

No. XIII.

QUESTIONS to MRS MONTGOMERY, and ANSWERS thereto.

Have you any *written* or *printed* table of diet, which specifies;

1. The weight of Meal allowed to each Patient in making the porridge.
2. The allowance of Milk and Beer.
3. The weight of Meat for full diet.
4. The weight of Bread at each Meal.

MRS MONTGOMERY will be so good as answer the above Questions, the former Questions put to her on this subject, not having been sufficiently distinct.

14th January 1818.

ANSWERS.

MRS MONTGOMERY received her Instructions in regard to the quantity of diet to be allowed to the Patients from the former Matron, Mrs HUME, and is not possessed of any printed or written table.

QUERY 1st.

MRS MONTGOMERY cannot specify any exact weight of Meal allowed for the porridge of each Patient; but the quantity of porridge is a mutchkin to each Patient on common diet, and on full diet when particularly ordered a chopin.

QUERY 2d.

Three gills of Milk or Beer is the ordinary allowance for breakfast and supper, and any additional allowance as ordered by the Medical Gentlemen.

QUERY 3d.

One-half pound weight raw Beef, boiled in the soup, three times a-week, in addition to their *other diet*, viz. broth and bread.

And in particular cases, when ordered by the Medical Gentlemen, they have Fowls, Pork or Mutton Steaks, Eggs, Cheese, Fish, Beef Steak, Beef tea, Table broth, Puddings, &c.

QUERY 4th.

The first allowance of bread to each meal to a Patient on common diet, is $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and when ordered Soldier's allowance, 7 ounces; or any additional quantity that may be ordered by the Medical Gentlemen.

Addition to Dr SPENS' Declaration.

Dr S. begs leave to state, in reference to the evidence given by him to the Committee on the 10th inst. that he avoided taking cognizance of the circumstances mentioned to him by Mr Sims, because he thought it unnecessary for him to interfere at that time: That on different occasions, subsequent he thinks to 1814, when he spoke about the bedding, particularly the sheets, to Managers individually, to the Treasurer, or Matron, he was informed that there was plenty in the house; but, excepting the difficulty of drying in winter time, he got no satisfactory reason why they were not so employed as to obviate cause of complaint: That as he never saw vermin on any patient in the waiting room, he could not ob-

serve any improvement in that respect when he visited the patient next day to prescribe for his disease: And that the difficulty with respect to Nurses has of late been greater in consequence of the frequent occurrence of fever among them, and of other circumstances which have increased the demand for them.

SIR,

Edinburgh, 23d January 1818.

In answer to the question of the Committee relative to Mr Sim's memorial of 7th July last, I beg leave chiefly to refer to the evidence I have already given; and have only to add, that I now recollect, but not distinctly, that at my visit on the same day on which Mr Sims called on me, I saw several instances of beds with dirty sheets, as pointed out to me by him; and one bed, I think, without them. The memorial is here enclosed. And I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

TH. SPENS.

Desired to read the Letters and Memorial presented by Mr Sims and the clerks on the 7th of July, and to state, whether, as far as is consistent with his knowledge, the statements contained in those letters were well or ill founded.

Dr Hamilton having been equally ignorant of the investigation mentioned in the above letters, and of the transmission of the memorial to the Managers of the Infirmary, cannot state consistently with his knowledge, whether the statements contained in these letters were well or ill founded.

JAMES HAMILTON.

EDINBURGH,
10th Jan. 1818.

No. XIV.

Produced by Mr HORNER.

Edinburgh, 16th January 1818.

Mr Horner begs leave to lay before the Committee the following Minute of what he stated to the Committee yesterday, relative to the character of Mr John Sims.

He stated to the Committee, before the examination of Mr Sims was begun, that when he first heard, in November last, of the complaints that are now the subject of the Committee's inquiry, he heard them with great doubt, being always impressed with the belief that every thing was conducted in the Royal Infirmary in the best possible manner: That he therefore made particular inquiry into the character of Mr Sims, and that the information he received was satisfactory in all respects: That as many members of the Committee might not have had an opportunity of satisfying themselves on this head, he thought it of great importance that they should see some of the testimonials which Mr Sims had received from the persons under whom he had studied: That he had requested Mr Sims to give him some of these testimonials to read to the Committee.

Mr Horner then read to the Committee the testimonials, of which the following are copies.

I. COPY of a LETTER from Mr RANSOME, Surgeon in Manchester, to the Trustees of the Manchester Infirmary, dated 4th 8th month, 1813.
GENTLEMEN,

As my late apprentice, John Sims, is now a candidate for the situation of house-surgeon to this Infirmary, it is only doing justice to his worth to state my opinion of his professional and moral qualifications.

During upwards of four years he has been constantly in attendance as my dresser in the Infirmary. He has assisted me in all my operations, and witnessed in such cases both the surgical and medical treatment. In prescribing for my out-patients, he has officiated as my clerk, and frequently visited the home-patients in my districts. In the discharge of these duties, the suffering objects of his care bear ample testimony to his humanity, skill, and attention. In addition to these, he has had free access to the public practice of the five other surgeons to these charities, and acquainted himself with their several modes of treatment.

He has seen the treatment of accidents of almost every description, which at this Infirmary, from the various machinery employed in the town, are often of the most alarming and peculiar kind; hence he has obtained a knowledge of those prompt and vigorous measures which can alone render a surgeon useful on such melancholy occasions. His education has not been theoretical, but practical; and I can safely aver, that he has seen and assisted in more practical cases than usually fall to the lot of young men at his age.

In my private practice he has been materially useful, evincing the benefit he derived from the valuable course of education afforded him, and the correctness of his own judgment.

The winter before last he attended the surgical and anatomical lectures of Mr Cline, senior, Mr Cline, junior, and Mr Astley Cooper, the midwifery lectures of Dr Haighton, and the lectures on experimental philosophy of W. Allen.

On his return from these, he assisted Mr Ainsworth and myself in those dissections which were required for the anatomical and surgical lectures we delivered; in these he displayed the accuracy of his anatomical knowledge, while it afforded him the best opportunity of becoming more intimately acquainted with practical anatomy, and of fixing more forcibly on his mind his previous studies.

These are his professional qualifications;—his moral are equally high; and I can say with great truth, that during a residence of more than four years in my family, his conduct has always merited my warmest approbation. His disposition is amiable, while the ardour he feels in the discharge of his professional duties promises him a high rank in his profession.

With such qualifications, may I be permitted, Gentlemen, as one of your surgeons, and who feels deeply interested in the usefulness of your institution, to point him out as in every degree competent to the office of house-surgeon, and one upon whom I am confident you may rely for the conscientious discharge of its duties.

I am, with great respect,

Your Friend,

(Signed) J. A. RANSOME.

II. CERTIFICATE from Mr ASTLEY COOPER, on the occasion of Mr SIMS offering himself as Candidate for the situation of House-Surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the professional zeal and ability of my young friend *John Sims*.

His opportunities of obtaining information, which have been very great, he has employed in the best possible manner; and he is exceedingly well acquainted with anatomy and surgery.

In short, the Governors of the Manchester Infirmary will best consult the interests of the institution in electing him house-surgeon.

(Signed) ASTLEY COOPER.

London, August 3. 1813.

III. COPY of an ADDRESS from the Surgeons of the Manchester Infirmary, Dispensary, Lunatic Hospital and Asylum, to the Weekly Board of Trustees.

To the WEEKLY BOARD.

Infirmary, August 7th, 1815.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr John Sims, late House Surgeon, being about to retire from the Infirmary, we the undersigned Surgeons to the institution, feel ourselves impelled by a sense of duty to the charity, and of justice to so deserving an officer, to solicit for him some *substantial and lasting mark of approbation*.

We have much satisfaction in stating, that during the term of his engagement, his whole time has been devoted to the duties of his office; in which throughout he has conducted himself with strict propriety and unquestionable ability; and we think it would be conducive to the best purposes of the institution, to hold up his example to the imitation of his successors in the office of House Surgeon.

(Signed) WILLIAM SIMMONS,

GAVIN HAMILTON.

A true Copy,

JOHN THORPE.

(Signed) WILLIAM SIMMONS,

JOHN ATKINSON RANSOME.

JAMES AINSWORTH.

ROBERT THORPE.

IV. COPY of a Letter addressed to Mr JOHN SIMS, by JAMES HIBBERT, Esq. Treasurer to the Manchester Infirmary, transmitting a vote of thanks from the Trustees to Mr SIMS.

Manchester Infirmary, &c.

Weekly Board, 14th August 1815.

SIR,

I have great pleasure in conveying to you the inclosed unanimous vote of thanks of the Trustees of this Institution; passed at the Weekly Board of this day, for the many faithful and valuable services which you have rendered to the Charity. I can truly say, that in all my observation, I never witnessed a more sincere heartfelt vote: It was not a mere common expression; and had it been considered practicable by the Board, it would have gladdened it to have voted a mark more solid,—more durable it could not be: But you, Sir, are well aware it has very many considerations to attend to, that must be brought in general view.

I have to join my own best thanks to those of the Board, and to add my sincere wishes for your health; and in regard to your prospects in life, I have no hesitation to say, that the same steadiness of conduct and good judgment that I have so often seen exercised, cannot fail to secure to you that situation and respect in Society that will be satisfactory to yourself, and most pleasing to your friends.

I am truly, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) JAMES HIBBERT.

To Mr JOHN SIMS,
Late House Surgeon, of the Manchester Infirmary.

No. XV.

EXTRACT from the MEMORIAL of Dr HAMILTON and Dr SPENS to the Managers, alluded to in Dr SPENS' evidence.

It is indispensibly requisite that the Hospital should be well ventilated; and it is also highly desirable that they should possess the means of ensuring a just temperature of heat, and of varying the temperature, according to the circumstances of the patients, or the state of the weather.

The windows in the old part of the House are now in a bad state, and none of them are well constructed. On this subject, reference may be made to a paper of Sir George Paul's in the 19th vol. of the Transact. of the Society for encouraging Arts and Sciences, from which the following evident positions are taken:—

1. That a certain, and frequently renewed supply of vital air is essential to the purposes of animal life; and the more regular and uninterrupted that supply, the more favourable will it be to health.

2. Where the quantity of atmospheric air introduced into an apartment, is less than nature has bestowed in free circulation, her purpose is in a degree counteracted; and though the breathing of impure air (*i. e.* air despoiled of its natural proportion of vital air,) for a short time, may not produce an immediate sensible effect, an injury may arise to the constitution, proportionate to the extent of that time.

3. In rooms from which currents of fresh air may not be excluded, they may be so injudiciously directed as to be useless and injurious.

Sir George's plan of ventilation is ingenious: *1st*, By introducing currents of fresh air by the windows, by means of an improved mode of hanging the upper sash, by which the current is turned upwards to the ceiling, and prevented from descending on the patients. *2dly*, By an improved stove;—but see Sir George's paper, it being rather too long to quote.

It is difficult to preserve a just and comfortable temperature in large open wards during cold weather; but if practicable in any degree, it would be a great improvement. A judicious management of heat also produces an artificial ventilation. The heat, when thrown on the surface of the floor, rarifies the lower atmosphere of the ward, where the noxious air, specifically heavy, is chiefly lodged; but when rendered artificially light, it mounts upwards, and escapes by the windows or ceiling.

No. XVI.

COMMUNICATION from J. F. ERSKINE, Esq. of Mar, one of the Committee.

I have been in the habit of sending patients to the Royal Infirmary ever since the year 1770; and without exception they have declared that they were remarkably well treated, and in some clinical cases, most uncommon attention has been paid to them. Last year a Northumberland woman was in the Infirmary for cataract, and expressed herself to me extremely grateful for the attention she met with. Not more than three, and I think only two of all the patients I have sent have died, and these were very desperate cases.

No. XVII.

LETTER from MR CRUICKSHANK and MR WIGHAM
to HENRY JARDINE, Esq. Treasurer of the
ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Alexander Cruickshank, Nicolson street, and John Wigham, Junior, 12 Lothian street, beg to enclose £10, or £5 each, which they request the Treasurer of the Royal Infirmary to place to account of the funds of the Institution. They have been very much struck by the very limited quantity of food which is served up to all classes of patients; a quantity which appears to them to be quite insufficient for support, in all cases in which a restricted regimen is not ordered by the Physician. It is the earnest wish of A. C. and J. W. that every person received into the Infirmary of Edinburgh, should, in future, receive a sufficient allowance of plain food; and that this may be rendered practicable, they will use their best endeavours, in the humble sphere in which they move, to interest the inhabitants of this city on behalf of an Institution which, as a charity, is certainly of the very first importance.

In this way they hope to be able to induce some portion of the public to come forward with liberal subscriptions; and indeed they cannot doubt, that the citizens of Edinburgh will meet any reasonable demand which shall be made upon them, as soon as they know what has been stated by a highly respectable character, one of the Directors, that from want of funds, this valuable Institution could not be conducted upon a more liberal plan, unless the patients were reduced nearly one half of their number.

Edinburgh 6th of the 10th month,
(October) 1817.

No. XVIII.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EDINBURGH and
GLASGOW INFIRMARIES, presented to the Committee by
JOHN CRAIG, Esq. Member of the Committee.**

		Average of Patients.	Whole Expenditure.	Expence of each occupied bed per annum.
Edinburgh,	1814	159	£4622	£29 1 0
	1815	158	4703	29 15 0
	1816	162	4678	28 18 0
	1817	209	5313	25 8 0
				113 2 0
				£28 5 6
Glasgow,	1814	119	£3209	£26 18 0
	1815	140	3549	25 7 0
	1816	155	4579	29 10 0
	1817	154	4936	32 1 0
				113 16 0
Average of four years,				£28 9 0

No. XIX.

TABLE made up from the Consumpt Book kept by the Matron.

Average quantity consumed on each day of the several months.								
1817.	Average number of Patients in the house on each day of the several months.	Lbs. of meal, 17 and a-half to each.	Leaves of bread 12 oz. each, one-fourth of which is the allowance to each patient on each meal.	Milk, Scotch pints.	Beer (Gallons)	Lbs. of beef (over 12 and a-half oz. each, including bones.	Lbs. barley for the broth.	Lbs. groats for the broth.
January,	186	21 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	6	56	8	4
February,	181	21 12 $\frac{3}{4}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	6	58	8	4
March,	200	25 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	8	4
April,	191	24 7	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	8	4
May,	194	26 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	4
June,	196	27 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	4
July,	204	27 12 $\frac{3}{4}$	125	58	7	55	8	4
August,	191	27 0	118	58	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	4
September,	199	28 1	115	58	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	8	4
October,	192	39 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	117	58	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	54	8	4
November,	237	41 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	8	56	8	4
December,	235	43 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	138	58	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	5

From January to May, and in November and December, potatoes are substituted twice-a-week for the barley and groats.

N. B. The increased quantity of food on Monday is on account of the allowance to the Nurses being distributed on that day.

No. XX.

COPY of the MATRON'S Consumpt-Book for January 1818, and a Column shewing the number of Patients in the House on each day.

		Patients in the House.	Quartern loaves for Servants.	Meal.	Loaves of Bread.	Lbs. of Beef.	Lbs. of Barley.	Lbs. of Groats.	Scotch Pints of Milk.	Galls. of beer of 16 ch. each.
1818.				st. lbs.						
January	1	233	23	2 12	140	60	{ Potatoes		58	8
	2	234		2 8	140	74	{ 10 2½		58	8
	3	240	23	2 9	140	51	{ 10 2½		58	8
Sunday	4	240		2 10	140	76	{ 10 2½		58	8
	5	236		2 10	176	57	{ 10 2½		58	8
	6	235	23	2 9	138	46	{ Potatoes		58	8
	7	242		2 12	145	61	{ 10 2½		58	8
	8	247	23	3 8	140	56	{ 10 2½		58	8
	9	252		4	139	70	{ Potatoes		58	8
	10	255	23	4	145	57	{ 10 2½		58	12
Sunday	11	258		4	145	81	{ 10 2½		58	12
	12	260		4 4	183	61	{ 11 2½		58	12
	13	251	23	4 4	146	49	{ Potatoes		58	12
	14	251		4 4	140	46	{ 11 2½		58	12
	15	252	23	4	140	62	{ 10 2½		58	12
	16	255		4	137	65	{ Potatoes		58	8
	17	253	23	4	140	72	{ 10 2½		58	12
Sunday	18	254		4	143	84	{ 10 2½		58	12
	19	264		4	173	63	{ 10 2½		58	12
	20	263	23	4	139	52	{ Potatoes		58	12
	21	263		4	138	54	{ 10 2½		58	8
	22	262	23	4	137	60	{ 10 2½		58	12
	23	260		4	144	82	{ 8 pks. potatoes		58	12
	24	260	23	3 8	144	58	{ 2 pks. potatoes		58	12
							{ 10 2½			
Sunday	25	265		3 8	136	85	{ Potatoes		58	12
							{ 10 2½			
	26	262		3 8	180	53	{ Potatoes		58	12
							{ 10 2½			
	27	262	23	3 8	142	50	{ 9 pks. potatoes		58	12
	28	265		3 12	130	64	{ Potatoes		58	8
							{ 14 3			
	29	272	23	3 13	136	58	{ Potatoes		58	12
							{ 14 3			
	30	268		3 12	144	77	{ Potatoes		58	12

N. B. The increased quantity of bread on Monday is on account of the allowance to the Nurses being distributed on that day.

No. XXI.

MINUTE of the INFIRMARY COMMITTEE.

29th January 1818.

As the adjourned meeting of Contributors stands fixed for Monday next, previous to which it is impossible to conclude the enquiries, the Committee directed the convener to communicate this circumstance to the general meeting, to request, that the meeting of contributors, at which the report is to be received, may be adjourned till the first Monday in March.

The Committee are of opinion, that they ought to proceed with the examination of the medical persons, and others connected with the House, now in Edinburgh; and it would then become a matter of consideration, how far it was necessary to obtain written statements from any individuals who may be absent.

The Committee were of opinion, that the enquiry ought not to be extended in general to the examination of nurses and patients; but reserving for after consideration how far, in any special case, such evidence may not be allowed.

The Committee agreed to refer to a sub-committee, consisting of Dr Baird, Mr Robert Dundas, and Mr Maitland, to make enquiries in the house relative to the quantities of sheeting in the Hospital during the last three years respectively; as also the manner in which the different wards have been supplied during that period with sheets; and to extend their enquiries to the blankets and bedding.

No. XXII.

MINUTE of Infirmary Committee.

PRESENT.

SIR WILLIAM FETTES,
SIR WILLIAM RAE, Bart.
PRINCIPAL BAIRD,
Messrs THOMSON,
MURRAY,
CRAIG,
ERSKINE,
JAMES DUNDAS,
ROBERT DUNDAS,
MUNRO,
DUNCAN,
WIGHAM,
ARBUTHNOT.

24th February 1818.

This Meeting having been called for the special purpose of taking into consideration what further evidence should be gone into in this enquiry: After fully

deliberating thereupon, Resolved, *nem. con.* That the evidence of the Medical persons who have been, and who remain to be examined, together with the evidence furnished by the books of the Hospital, and the examination of such Members of the Committee as may be deemed proper, will afford a sufficient view of the state of State of the Hospital for every useful purpose; and that any enquiry into particulars which could not be accomplished without the examination of persons in a rank of life to whom implicit credit could not be given, when not under the influence of an oath, would be inexpedient, as unduly lengthening this investigation and leading to no very satisfactory result.

W.R.

No. XXIII.

MINUTE of Committee.

27th February 1818.

The Meeting having been called for the special purpose of determining whether the proof fell to be printed, were of opinion, That neither the Committee nor the Contributors could be able to form a correct opinion upon the result of the enquiry, without seeing the evidence in print; and they therefore came to a resolution to that effect; and remitted to the Convener and Mr Murray to revise the proof sheets: And if it should appear to them, that any passages ought to be expunged, resolved, that a meeting of the Committee should be first called, in order to submit the same to their consideration.

No. XXIV.

MINUTE of Committee of CONTRIBUTORS to the Royal Infirmary.

28th February 1818.

The Committee resolve, That with the exception of such explanations from the witnesses already examined as the Committee may deem requisite, it is unnecessary to lead any further parole evidence, unless the Managers should find it necessary to request the examination of other witnesses.

The Committee being further of opinion, that if no more parole proof is to be adduced, they will be able to make their report in time for its being taken into consideration by the Contributors, on Monday the 16th of March next; they direct the Convener to communicate these particulars to the General Meeting of Contributors on Monday next, and request of them to make an adjournment ac-

cordingly, and in the mean time, to say what number of copies of the Report and proceedings they would wish printed for their information.

Farther, That the Convener should submit the propriety of the Meeting coming to some resolution calculated to defray the expence of the Report; and for this purpose, as also in order to exclude from the next General Meeting all persons not Contributors, the Committee would suggest, that at said Meeting, Contributors should only be admitted on tickets to be issued by the Clerk and Treasurer; and that a copy of the Report and proceedings should be delivered along with such tickets, on payment of 5s. each. Any surplus arising from this fund to be applied to the objects of the Institution.

The Committee farther direct the Convener to enquire at the Managers in writing, whether they have any evidence they wish to have adduced.

W. R.

No. XXV.

NOTE given in to Committee by JOHN WIGHAM, junior, with Resolution of Committee thereon.

28th February 1816.

John Wigham, junior, stated, That as the Committee had almost exclusively confined the evidence to the Medical Gentlemen connected with the Hospital, a number of whom, however, as would be seen by their evidence, had not had many opportunities of seeing or examining the food furnished to the Patients; under this impression, he had formerly proposed, that some Patients and other persons, who had an opportunity of being well acquainted with that, and other matters relating to the domestic management of the Infirmary, should be examined: That he is now ready, both to declare what he had personally seen, and to lay before the Committee the sources of his information.

The Committee being of opinion, that the investigation above proposed by Mr Wigham would lead to a deviation from a rule deliberately taken by the Committee, not to examine Nurses or Patients; and that such investigation appears unnecessary for any practical purpose, while it would unavoidably lead to an opposite proof,—and thereby materially prolong this enquiry, resolved to refuse Mr Wigham's request.

No. XXVI.

REGULATIONS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY,

10th February 1818, produced and referred to in my declaration.

(Signed) FRANCIS WILSON.

REGULATIONS RESPECTING CLERKS.—1804.

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary, in naming the clerks to the Ordinary Physicians, Clinical Physicians, and Surgeons, delegate to the gentlemen so appointed a sacred and important trust; which, so far as the sphere of their action extends, involves the comfort and welfare of the patients, as well as the prosperity and reputation of the Hospital. Deeply sensible of the truth of this observation, they lay before their Office-bearers in question the following regulations for their conduct, to which they expect due deference will be paid.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The gentlemen acting as Clerks, shall at all times behave with politeness and civility to one another, and to the other Office-bearers who live in family with them; and, by an interchange of good offices, study to support harmony among themselves, and to promote the great purpose of the charity—the good of the patients. In the necessary intercourse with the nurses and inferior servants, they shall observe due discretion; and with respect to the patients, they shall conduct themselves with humanity and attention.

They must never be all absent from the Hospital at one time; for this purpose they shall not engage in practice or other business out of the Hospital that may interfere with their duties there, unless at the instance of the attending physicians or surgeons; and they shall not attend classes or societies without the permission of the Managers, giving notice to them at their meetings in November and May what classes or societies they wish to attend during the ensuing season.

They shall be careful to insert, distinctly and accurately, the names of the patients admitted or dismissed, in the paper directed to the Matron, and signed daily by one of the Ordinary Physicians for this purpose. As this is a matter of considerable importance to the charity, the smallest neglect in this particular would be attended, if not with loss, at least with confusion in the other departments of the House; as it is from these lines that the Matron is enabled to regulate the particular diets of the different wards, and the distribution and return of the bedding. They shall be careful also to mark opposite to the name of each dismissed patient, the date of his or her admission, in order that the general register of the House may be accurate. And they are authorised to admit patients on sudden emergencies, although the Physician and Surgeon are not present.

They shall state in their respective Journal Books an accurate account of the cases of the patients that fall under the care of the Physician and Surgeon with whom they are connected in the business of the House; and they shall accompany the Physician and Surgeon in their daily visits to read these accounts, and to write the reports and prescriptions dictated by the Physician or Surgeon.

They shall go round the House at intermediate hours, observing the general good order of the wards, particularly in the evening, when they shall inquire into the state of the patients whose cases may be urgent, and learn whether the prescriptions of the day have been

complied with, and according to their best discretion give what further orders may seem necessary, writing these in a book kept for the purpose, which they shall be careful to send to the Apothecary's shop as nearly as may be by a certain hour.

They shall transcribe into the *Legers* such cases as are selected by the Practitioners of the Hospital for this purpose, each recording the cases that have been under the treatment of the Physician or Surgeon whose Clerk he is.

They shall lay the *Legers* before the Committee appointed by the Managers to superintend the transcription of the cases at their monthly meetings; and they shall deliver them, when filled up, as well as the Journal-books that are no longer in use, to the same Committee, or to any person authorised by them to receive them.

On the evening preceding the first Monday of every month, each Clerk shall deliver to the Physician's Clerk an exact account of the number of Patients in his department, arranged according to the printed form prepared for the purpose.

PARTICULAR DUTIES.

THE PHYSICIAN'S CLERK.

From the above lists, and from a similar one in his own department, the Physician's Clerk shall make out a corresponding general list of the Patients in the Hospital, specifying the Medical Ordinary Patients who paid money at admission, and the number of Surgical Patients who have been received in consequence of accidents. To this list he shall prefix the number of persons in the family, and their station, on the information of the Matron. He shall lay a copy of this list before the Managers, and give another to the Matron for her use.

He is also to transcribe into the *Leger* such of the cases of the Male Clinical Patients as are selected by the Clinical Practitioners for the purpose of transcription.

SECOND PHYSICIAN'S CLERK

Shall transcribe into the *Leger* the cases of the Female Clinical Patients that are pointed out for that purpose.

THE SURGEON'S CLERK

Has, under the direction of the Ordinary Surgeons, the charge of the Surgical Instruments, of which he is to keep an exact inventory, giving a copy of it to the Treasurer.

He shall at all times have an assortment of bandages in readiness, particularly of those necessary in capital operations.

When directed, he shall call a consultation of Surgeons, and affix in the Student's waiting room notices of intended operations.

He is to superintend the conduct of the dressers, to perform the lesser operations, or direct them to be done by the dressers. He is to study neatness in dressing, instructing the Dressers in this necessary art.

He shall keep a book in which the Surgeon shall inscribe a monthly report of the behaviour of the Dressers; which book he shall lay before the Managers at their meetings.

He shall at stated hours electrify Patients for whom electricity is ordered.

He shall take a particular charge of Patients in other departments, who may require Surgical assistance, pointing them out to the Surgeon, as may be necessary.

THE SURGEON'S SECOND CLERK

May be entrusted with the charge of the whole, or of any part of the above particular duties, under the sanction, and with the approbation of the attending Surgeons.

CLINICAL CLERKS.

They shall receive from the Treasurer journal books, for inserting the cases in their department, which when completed they are to deliver to the committee appointed by the Managers to superintend the transcription of the cases, or to the person authorised by them to receive the same; and as the delivery of these journals have of late not been so regular as it ought to have been, the Clinical Physicians must in future pay particular attention to see that this regulation is strictly complied with.

REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE APOTHECARY,—1816.

1. He shall from time to time purchase, and have at all times in readiness, such utensils and simple medicines, and prepare such quantities of the compound ones contained in the Edinburgh and Hospital Pharmacopœia, as may be necessary for the practice of the House.

2. He shall dispense the medicines prescribed by the Physicians and Surgeons for the patients.

3. He shall receive the journals from the Clerks immediately after the visit of the respective physicians and surgeons; and shall transcribe from them into a book, the prescriptions of the day, with their signatures, under the name of each patient for whom they are ordered; and shall cause the same to be prepared or made up with due attention and dispatch, taking care that such medicines as are ordered to be taken immediately, shall be sent to the proper ward within one hour after they are ordered, or sooner, if required, by a written note; and to prevent any mistake, he shall carefully compare the medicines so prepared, with the transcript of the prescriptions in the book. And in order that he may have a reference to the journals, to correct any error that may occur, he shall not return them to the Clerks, till he has visited the different Wards, as after directed.

4. Every medicine that is dispensed, shall have the date of the prescription, the name of the patient for whom it is prescribed, and the time and manner of using it, affixed to the paper, box, pot, phial, &c. into which it is put. And this signature is always to be continued, however frequently the same medicine is renewed to the same patient. And the signature is to be renewed when so far defaced as not to be easily legible.

5. He shall put, or cause to be put, the medicine for each patient into the nurse's basket of the Ward to which the patient belongs; and shall, after the nurses have taken their baskets with the medicines from the shop, and distributed them to the individual patients, visit the different Wards, and give the necessary instructions at the bedside of each patient who has been ordered medicine, how, and when these are to be used.

6. He shall transcribe into a book, all alterations ordered in the journals by the Physicians and Surgeons, on the diet, &c. of the patients; and immediately after visiting the different Wards, transmit the same to the Matron: and he shall also give as early notice as possible, by a line transmitted to the Matron, of any change in the diet, &c. which it may be necessary to make for the day.

7. He shall make out a note from the journal, of what patients are immediately ordered bleeding, or any other lesser operation; and transmit it with as little delay as possible to any of the Surgeon's Clerks;—or in the event of their absence, to any of the other Clerks who may be in the House at the time; and who shall, upon receiving such notice, be answerable for the proper performance of such lesser operations.

8. He shall also transcribe all these lesser operations that are ordered in the journals, to be performed in the course of the day, or before the ensuing visit, into a book, to be kept in the shop for the inspection of the Clerks and Dressers, before five o'clock, P. M. of the day on which the order is given.

9. He shall keep a regular cash book, in which he shall enter the money he may from time to time receive from the Treasurer, and the particular articles purchased and paid for by him.

10. He shall keep a warehouse book, in which the quantity or number of whatever is purchased or given shall be set down as a charge, to be discharged by a counter-account of those articles that are given into the shop; and every article of medicines, simple or compound, and of utensils, shall have a separate account.

11. He shall insert into a book to be kept for the purpose, the precise quantity of spirits that shall be used from time to time for tinctures, &c.

12. He shall annually, on or before the 1st of April, make up an exact inventory of all the utensils and medicines in the shop and warehouse, and deliver the same to the Treasurer, in order that it may be examined and compared by a committee of the Managers.

13. He shall enter into a book all the medicines and utensils which may be gifted to the Infirmary.

14. He shall be careful in collecting medicinal plants in the proper seasons.

15. He shall be particularly careful to keep the shop orderly and neat.

16. He shall also keep a book, in which he is to insert the name of every patient, for whom the Medical practitioners shall prescribe either port wine, domestic wine, or porter, the Ward in which such patient is, the name of the Medical Practitioner who has ordered the same, and the precise quantity ordered every day; and which book he is to lay before the Managers at their stated monthly meetings.

17. He shall keep the general register of all the patients admitted annually into the Hospital, inserting every day the date of their admission or dismissal, and whether dismissed,—cured,—relieved,—by desire,—for irregularity,—improper,—or dead; and for which purpose he will receive from the Matron the daily admission and dismissal lines; and he shall digest the whole into a table, and transmit the same to the Treasurer, on or before the first of February annually.

18. He shall have the custody and charge of the whole journals and legers kept by the several Clerks in the House, which he is to take care and receive from them so soon as they are completed, and regularly enter them in a catalogue or inventory to be kept for that purpose; and he is upon no account whatever to permit any of the journals or legers to go out of his custody, without the special permission of the Managers. He is likewise to furnish the different Clerks with blank journals and legers when necessary, always taking a receipt in writing for the same, and taking care that they be returned to him when completed.

19. He shall be permitted to employ two young men to assist him in the shop, who shall sleep and board in the house, and for whose conduct he shall be answerable; but, previous to employing them, must state to the Managers his wish to do so, and particularly mention their names, age, and the education they have received.

20. Upon observing any impropriety in the House, he is immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer, in order that he may acquaint the Managers thereof, or take such steps as may be proper for correcting the same.

REGULATIONS respecting CLERKS.—1816.

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary, in naming Clerks to the Ordinary Physicians, Clinical Physicians, and Surgeons, delegate to the gentlemen so appointed a sacred and important trust, which, so far as the sphere of their action extends, involves the comfort and welfare of the patients, as well as the prosperity and reputation of the Hospital. Deeply sensible of the truth of this observation, they lay before their Office-bearers in question the following Regulations for their conduct, to which they expect the strictest attention will be paid:—

GENERAL DUTIES.

1. The gentlemen acting as Clerks shall, at all times, behave with politeness and civility to one another, and to the other office-bearers who live in family with them; and by an interchange of good offices, study to support harmony among themselves, and to promote the great purpose of the charity, the good of the patients. In the necessary intercourse with the nurses and inferior servants, they shall observe due discretion; and with respect to the patients, they shall conduct themselves with humanity and attention.

2. They must never be all absent from the Hospital at one time; for this purpose, they shall not upon any account engage in medical or surgical practice or other business out of the Hospital; and they shall not attend classes or societies without the permission of the Managers; giving notice to them at their meetings in November and May what classes or societies they wish to attend during the ensuing season.

3. They are, upon no account whatever, to be absent from the house for more than one day, without the permission of the medical practitioner under whom they act; and if they wish for leave of absence for more than one week, they must give notice to the Treasurer, in order that the permission of the Managers may be obtained; and failing doing so, they shall be considered as having left the house, and their places immediately filled up: And if any person shall act for, or as assistant to any clerk, without the special permission of the Managers, or Physicians or Surgeons, such person shall thereby be rendered incapable of being elected a clerk, or of holding any other situation in the Hospital afterwards.

4. When any of the clerks shall be under the necessity of leaving the house before the expiry of their time (i. e. two years from the date of their appointment,) they must give at least one month's intimation of their intention to the Treasurer.

5. They shall be careful to insert, distinctly and accurately, the names of the patients admitted or dismissed, in the paper directed to the Matron, and signed daily by one of the Ordinary Physicians for this purpose. As this is a matter of considerable importance to the charity, the smallest neglect in this particular would be attended, if not with loss, at least with confusion in the other departments of the House, as it is from these lines that the Matron is enabled to regulate the particular diets of the different wards, and the distribution and return of the bedding. They shall be careful also to mark opposite to the name of each dismissed patient, the date of his or her admission, in order that the general register of the House may be accurate. And they are authorised to admit patients on sudden emergencies, although the Physician or Surgeon be not present.

6. They shall insert in their respective Journal Books an accurate account of the cases of all the patients, immediately upon their admission, that fall under the care of the Physician or Surgeon with whom they are connected in the business of the House, in order that the case may be ready for the inspection of the Physician or Surgeon next day at 12 o'clock, so that he may have an opportunity of making himself acquainted with the nature and history of the symptoms, before he visits the patient; and they shall accompany the Physician and Surgeon in their daily visits to read these accounts, and also write into the journals the reports and prescriptions dictated by the Physician or Surgeon.

7. They must be careful to mark on the first page of their journals the date of the commencement and termination thereof, with the name of the medical practitioner who has the charge of the patients; and when the case of the patient is transferred to a new journal, they must insert therein all the medicines, together with the diet the patient has been ordered at the date of transferring the case from the old to the new journal.

8. They shall affix to the bed of each patient under their charge when admitted, the name of the patient, and date of admission; and if a surgical patient, the name of the dresser to whose care the patient is entrusted.

9. They must be very careful also to insert in the respective Journals, the orders of the Physicians and Surgeons for wine and porter, with the precise date and quantity of such order; as also the date when either the wine or the porter has been increased, diminished, or stopt, so as to check with the account of wine kept by the Apothecary.

10. They shall go round the House at intermediate hours, observing the general good order of the wards, particularly in the morning betwixt 8 and 11, and in the evening betwixt 6 and 8, when they shall inquire into the state of the patients under their care, and learn whether the prescriptions have been complied with; and, according to their best discretion, give what further orders may seem necessary, writing these in a book kept for the purpose, which they shall be careful to send to the Apothecary's shop about 8 o'clock P. M.

11. They shall carefully transcribe into the Legers the whole cases contained in their Journals, each recording the cases that have been under the treatment of the Physician or Surgeon whose Clerk he is, except such cases as are considered unnecessary by the medical practitioner.

12. They shall lay the Legers before the Managers at their stated monthly meetings; and they shall deliver them, when filled up, as well as the Journal-books that are no longer in use, to the Apothecary, to whom the charge of the same is committed.

13. When any dissection is ordered, either by the Ordinary Physicians, or Clinical Physician, their respective clerks shall give immediate notice in writing to the Senior Clerk of the Surgeons, that he may acquaint the Surgeon whose duty it may be to superintend the same.

14. On the evening preceding the first Monday of every month, each Clerk shall deliver to the Senior Physician's Clerk an exact account of the number of patients in his department, arranged according to the printed form prepared for the purpose.

15. Upon observing any impropriety in the House, they are immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer, in order that he may either acquaint the Managers thereof, or take such steps as he may think proper for correcting the same.

16. The clerks, immediately upon being elected, and before being received into the house, must pay one year's board per advance to the Treasurer, as the same shall be fixed by the Managers.

PARTICULAR DUTIES.

PHYSICIAN'S CLERKS.

The Senior Physician's Clerk shall make out a general list of the patients in the Hospital, specifying the medical ordinary patients who paid money at admission, and the number of surgical patients who have been received in consequence of accidents. To this list he shall prefix the number of persons in the family, and their station, on the information of the Matron. He shall lay a copy of this list before the Managers, at their stated monthly meetings, and give another to the Matron for her use.

SURGEON'S CLERKS.

1. They have, under the direction of the Ordinary Surgeon, the charge of the Surgical instruments, of which they are to keep an exact inventory, giving copies thereof to the Treasurer, upon the 1st of January and 1st July annually.

2. They shall at all times have an assortment of bandages in readiness, particularly of those necessary in capital operations.

3. When directed, they shall call a consultation of Surgeons;—and they shall affix in the Student's waiting-room notices of intended operations and dissections the day previous to such operation, except on emergencies.

4. They are to superintend the conduct of the dressers. They are to study neatness in dressing, instructing the dressers in this necessary art; and are to be careful that there be no waste of caddis, strap, or other materials used by the dressers.

5. They shall keep a book in which the Surgeon shall inscribe a monthly report of the behaviour of the dressers; which book they shall lay before the Managers at their stated monthly meetings.

6. They shall, at stated hours, electrify patients for whom electricity is ordered, each taking this duty during the week in which he is not employed in taking charge of the admission of the surgical patients.

7. They are to take charge of such of the medical patients as shall be considered by the Physicians to require surgical assistance: The Clerk to the Senior Surgeon taking charge of the Senior Physician's patients, and the Clerk to the Junior Surgeon taking charge of the Junior Physician's patients, upon receiving a report in writing from the respective Physician's Clerks.

8. They are to visit the patient immediately upon such intimation, and at that time enter into a book, to be kept for that purpose, a short account of such patient, with any prescrip-

tions they may have made, or assistance they may have afforded, and report the same to the respective Surgeons at their next visit.

9. They are to take charge of all dissections under the direction of the Junior Surgeons, and perform such part of the dissection as shall be entrusted to them by the Surgeon; but no dissections whatever are to take place without a regular order from the Managers, and they are to be conducted with the greatest decency, and the body to be left in a proper state for interment.

10. They are to perform the smaller surgical operations, such as bleeding, cupping, &c. when ordered by the Physician or Surgeons, or to see them performed by the dressers, upon being satisfied that they are properly qualified to do so; taking care that none but themselves or the dressers, if properly qualified, perform these operations in the Hospital.

CLINICAL CLERKS.

They will receive from the Apothecary journal-books and legers, for inserting the cases in their department; and shall transcribe into the leger the cases of the whole patients that are inserted in their journals; and when these journals and legers are completed, they are to deliver them to the Apothecary, who is authorised to receive the same. The Clinical Practitioners are particularly requested to see that this regulation is strictly complied with.

REGULATIONS respecting DRESSERS.—1816.

1. Every half year, in the months of May and November, dressers and supernumeraries will be appointed by the Managers to dress the patients in the Hospital.

2. In the election of dressers, preference will be given to those supernumeraries who are attested by the Surgeons to have been diligent in their office.

3. No Student can be appointed a dresser, unless he has had a ticket for attending the Infirmary for six months at least previous to the election.

4. Students who wish to be elected dressers, must apply by letter to the Managers before the 1st of May and 1st of November; in which letter they must mention the course of education they have received, with the date and number marked on their tickets.

5. Both the Dressers and the Supernumeraries must attend every day at the time of dressing; and the Supernumeraries shall assist the Dressers occasionally, when required so to do, and shall officiate for any of them who may happen to be absent.

6. The Dressers, in rotation, shall each, for the space of a month, dress the Patients in the venereal ward.

7. The Dressers shall, also in rotation, two at a time, for the space of a fortnight, attend in the Hospital every day at five o'clock afternoon, to receive directions from the Surgeon's Clerk respecting the surgical assistance which particular patients may require, and to perform blood-letting, cupping, and other smaller operations; and shall on no account leave the Hospital, without having performed the duty prescribed; and, if necessary in the ab-

sence of the Surgeon's clerks, they are to apply to either of the Physician's clerks for assistance or directions.

8. Each dresser shall have an apron with a pocket and sleeves, a box for clean dressings, and a small pail for the dressings removed, to be provided by the House.

9. Every dresser shall have all the things necessary for dressing ready in his box, before the ordinary hour of attendance, and shall order the nurses to carry off the former dressings, &c. immediately after the work is finished.

10. Each dresser shall apply the dressings, and perform the less important operations, under the direction of the Surgeon in attendance, when desired so to do.

11. When any Surgeon is performing an operation or dissection in the Theatre of the Hospital, such dressers as he may think it proper to employ, and only those, shall attend in the area of the Theatre and serve as assistants, having each his particular charge assigned him by the Operator; the principal part to be assigned to the dresser under whose care the patient is or may have been.

12. Every dresser, if he has regularly and faithfully discharged the duties of his office for the space of six months complete, shall have a certificate of his diligence, and of the time he has officiated; but not otherwise.

13. Before any new elected dressers enter upon the duties of their office, each of them shall sign an obligation, inserted in the book kept by the Surgeon's Clerk for certifying their behaviour, engaging to comply with all the regulations respecting dressers, and faithfully to discharge the duties of the office to the utmost of his power.

REGULATIONS respecting STUDENTS.—1816.

1. No Student who has not previously taken a ticket for ordinary attendance in the Infirmary, can, on any pretence whatever, have the privilege to hear the Medical Prescriptions, or Clinical Lectures, or to attend Operations, Dissections, or the like in the Hospital.

N. B. The Fee for an Annual Ticket is £5 : 5s.—for a perpetual Ticket £12 : 12s.

2. The Students shall be allowed the use of the Journals for taking copies of cases, every day from 11 till 12 o'clock in the forenoon, and from 4 till 7 in the afternoon; but the Student receiving the books shall leave his name with the Apothecary, and shall be considered as answerable for them till they be restored: And the books shall not, on any account or pretext whatever, be carried out of the Hospital, or be written upon, or otherwise defaced.

3. Students attending the Physicians or Surgeons, during their visits, are to behave with decency and propriety, keeping their hats off, at all times avoiding doing any thing that may disturb the Physicians, Surgeons, Clerks, or Patients.

4. Every Student must keep his hat off while he is in the Operation Room, both that it may not obstruct the view of others, and as a mark of respect to the Operator ; and all noise of any kind, in the Operation Room, must be carefully avoided, as it cannot fail to be both unpleasant to the Operator, and hurtful to the Patient.

5. Students, when visiting the Wards, are on no account to tease the patients with unnecessary questions, or offer any advice or opinion to them relative to their diseases, as patients have left the House, in consequence of unguarded expressions used in conversation, by their making inquiry into the nature of their disease.

6. Students are on no account whatever to go into the Waiting Room.

7. If any Student shall be guilty of infringing any of the above Regulations, which the Managers flatter themselves every gentleman attending the Hospital will see the propriety of, he shall forfeit the benefit of his ticket, and the privilege of ever attending the House in future.

REGULATIONS respecting NURSES.—1816.

1. The Ordinary Nurse of each ward, shall take care that all dust and nastiness be removed out of it each morning before nine o'clock, and shall keep it neat and clean at all times.

2. The nurses are to be careful in preserving fresh air in their respective Wards, by keeping the upper sashes down, and likewise in preventing or correcting tainted air, according to the directions they may receive from the Physicians or Surgeons.

3. Every ordinary Nurse of each ward shall receive from every patient, when admitted into the ward, or their friends, a note in writing, of the clothes, money, &c. brought into the house with such patient, for which they shall be answerable ; and they are to deliver to the Matron a duplicate of such note immediately upon receiving the same.

4. Every ordinary Nurse of each ward shall give to the patients under her care their diet whenever it is brought, from the kitchen, according to the list delivered with it. She is to make the patients' beds, to give them the drink allowed them when they ask it, and to assist them otherwise as they stand in need of her help. She is to give or apply the medicines for each, at the times and in the manner marked on the signatures of each, and is to ask directions from the Apothecary or Clerks, whenever she has any doubt about the orders for the medicines, diet, &c.

5. At seven in the morning each nurse is to bring her basket to the shop, with all the boxes, pots, phials, &c. belonging to her patients that are empty, or are nearly so, and to return at ten for such of the medicines as are to be taken at intervals in the course of the day ; and at two, when the shop bell rings, for the remainder of the medicines in use ; and for such new medicines as may have been ordered at the visit ; and again, when the shop bell rings in the evening, for the medicines, &c. that may be prescribed in the evening journals.

6. They are to give particular attention to the bedding of the patients, (for which they are always answerable) especially when they labour under contagious diseases, or sores, and see that the same be kept clean; and that, immediately after the dismissal of a patient, the same be returned by them to the Matron.

7. They are to be attentive to the state and symptoms of the patients, especially if these be of an uncommon nature, that they may be able to report them distinctly to the Physician, Surgeon, or their Clerks: And if any threatening symptom occur, they are immediately to give notice to the respective Clerk, or in his absence to any other Clerk of the Hospital they can find.

8. They are to be particularly careful that the patients do not receive food or drink of any kind from their friends or visitors; and likewise, that they do not convey out of the Hospital, by means of their friends or visitors, what of their diet they are unable to consume.

9. If they discover the friends of the patients guilty of either of the preceding practices, they shall not fail to report them to the Matron or Clerks.

10. The Nurses are always regularly to carry back to the Matron what share of diet the patients do not consume.

11. Any Nurse who shall be found to have been guilty of bringing in, or having caused to be brought into the House, either for their own use or for the use of any patient, any spirits, or improper articles of diet; or of carrying out of the House any articles of provision, such as broth, &c. or any articles of furniture, as sheets, blankets, bedding, &c. they shall instantly be dismissed the House, and such wages as may be due to them forfeited.

12. Any Nurse of the Hospital who shall, on any account whatever, demand, or, when offered, take any money, fee, or reward, or under any pretext borrow any money or clothes from any patient or other person, they shall instantly be dismissed the House, and such wages as may be due to them forfeited.

NOTE.—It is particularly requested of the Patients, that if they see any of these regulations not strictly observed, they will give immediate notice thereof to the Matron, Apothecary, or Clerks, as their own comfort materially depends upon a due observance of them.

COMPARATIVE STATE OF DIETS OF DIFFERENT HOSPITALS.

FULL DIET.

EDINBURGH.	LONDON.—ST GEORGE.	GLASGOW.	MANCHESTER.	HARDWICK FEVER HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.	NEWCASTLE.
BREAKFAST. 1 Mutchkin Porridge, 3 Gills milk, or beer, or 5½ oz. fine bread, Milk or beer as above.	BREAKFAST. Four days, a pint of water gruel. Three days, a pint of milk porridge.	BREAKFAST. Porridge, quantity not limited, with half mutchkin of sweet milk, or one mutchkin of butter milk or beer.	BREAKFAST. A pint of milk or drink porridge.	BREAKFAST. Bread, half lb. brown. New milk, 1 pint.	BREAKFAST. <i>Sunday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.</i> From one to one and a half pint milk porridge 1 oz. one pint barley pudding with milk. <i>Monday and Wednesday.</i> —From one to one and a half pint of rice gruel or rice milk. <i>Thursday.</i> —A pint of Panada.
DINNER. <i>Sunday and Wednesday.</i> 1 Chopin broth, made with beef & bones, barley, potatoes, groats, and ½ gill table. 5½ oz. of bread. <i>Tuesday and Friday.</i> Potatoe soup, with beef, ox head, and bones. Bread as above. <i>Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.</i> 1 Chopin broth, and 8 oz. of butcher meat boiled in the broth, or beef steak.—Bread as above.	DINNER. Four days. Six oz. of mutton or beef, boiled, and half a pound of potatoes (or, in place of potatoes, rice or o- ther vegetables.) Three days. A pint and a half of rice milk.	DINNER. <i>Sunday.</i> Broth made with barley, vege- tables, and the drippings of the meat roasted during the week, with one-tenth of a quartern loaf to a man, and one-twelfth to a woman. <i>Monday.</i> Beef boiled, 8 oz. to men, 6 oz. to women; bread as above, or po- tatoes. <i>Tuesday.</i> Broth made with beef, barley, and vegetables; bread as above. <i>Wednesday.</i> Same as Monday. <i>Thursday.</i> Potatoe soup, with cows' heads, bones, &c. <i>Friday.</i> Same as Tuesday. <i>Saturday.</i> 6 oz. cheese to men, and 4 oz. to women; bread as above.	DINNER. <i>Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.</i> 8 oz. boiled mutton, beef or veal, with broth, pudding, and roots. <i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.</i> 12 oz. of rice or flour pudding, with roots.	DINNER. Half lb. Beef. Half lb. Bread.	DINNER. <i>Sunday.</i> —1 pint broth, with 8 oz. boiled meat. <i>Monday.</i> —12 oz. rice or bread pudding. <i>Tuesday.</i> —the same with Sunday. <i>Wednesday.</i> —4 oz. boiled meat, with 8 oz. flour pudding. <i>Thursday.</i> —6 oz. baked meat, with po- tatoes or vegetables. <i>Friday.</i> —the same with Monday. <i>Saturday.</i> —4 oz. boiled meat, with a pint of broth. Each person is allowed 12 oz. bread, and one and a half pint beer daily.
SUPPER. The same with breakfast.	SUPPER. Four days, a pint of broth, with oat meal. Three days, a pint and half of milk porridge. Twelve ounces of bread, and two pints of small beer, every day.	SUPPER. Same as breakfast.	SUPPER. A pint of milk porridge, with 1 oz. of butter, or occasionally 3 oz. of cheese. Every day, bread sufficient, without waste, and beer not exceeding 1 pint.	SUPPER. 4 oz. Bread. 1 Pint new milk.	SUPPER. 1 pint of broth and vegetables, or 1 pint milk porridge, or barley pudding, or gruel.

NOTE

BY

LORD PRESIDENT of the Court of Session.

HON. BARON CLERK RATTRAY.

Sir WILLIAM FORBES, of Pittsligo, Bart.

GILBERT INNES, Esq. of Stow.

ANDREW WOOD, Esq. Surgeon.

JOHN WAUCHOPE, Esq. W. S.

Reverend Dr DAVIDSON.

Dr RUTHERFORD, M. D.

Dr GEORGE WOOD, M. D.

SAMUEL ANDERSON, Esq. Banker.

Dr MUNRO, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, M. D.

Dr HOPE, Preses of the Royal College of Physicians, M. D.

The Ordinary Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

IN answer to the request of the Committee of Enquiry, as to how far the Managers have any evidence to offer, they beg leave to state, That, under a confident persuasion of nothing having been proved which can materially affect the management of this institution, they are desirous that the defence of that management should rest, not on any thing like exculpatory proof, but solely on the evidence which those, who have made so strong an appeal to the Public, have found themselves in condition to bring forward in support of the charges exhibited by them. The Managers therefore decline adding to the trouble of the Committee by adducing further evidence.

Under the reservation of receiving explanations from witnesses already examined, the Managers would have wished to suggest a further enquiry on several points appearing in evidence; and in particular, as to the disturbance given to patients by an individual at unreasonable hours of the night, as mentioned by Mr Benjamin Welsh. For the same reason, however, which have led the Managers to decline offering additional evidence, they are disposed to pass from urging any further investigation, either on this or on any other point.

Before making their report, it is presumed, that the Committee would wish to have such explanation relative to the charges as the Managers may be disposed to suggest. Under this impression they shall now submit the following very brief observations.

1st, By the terms of the Charter, the Managers are prohibited from encroaching on the capital stock of the Corporation, "on any pretence whatsoever."

On an average of the last ten years, the income of the Hospital has amounted to £4786:17:2, while the expenditure has been £4912:11:11. The deficiency has been supplied by taking a part from donations made to the Hospital within the year, and thus not brought into capital.

2dly, The principle which has guided the Managers in the application of these means, has been to render the object of the institution as extensively useful as possible. The result of the system so adopted is manifest from the table before the Committee; which shews, that 18,785 persons were admitted to this charity in the course of the last ten years, and that out of this number 13,514 were discharged as cured, 1661 dismissed as relieved, and only 1127 died, being on an average of these ten years, somewhat less than one in sixteen and a half.

It further appears in evidence, that from an average of three years preceding the 1817, the number of deaths in the Edinburgh Hospital was one in fifteen and a half; in Glasgow Hospital, one in twelve and a half; in Guy's Hospital, one in ten two-thirds; and in the London Hospital, one in seven and a half. The Managers have been led to allude to the comparative mortality in these Hospitals, in consequence of the Committee having entered into an enquiry, leading to a comparison between them and that of Edinburgh on other points; and they beg to add, that there may exist circumstances, of which however they are not aware, that may account for the greater mortality of the London Hospitals.

3dly, In other Hospitals, with which it is attempted to draw a comparison with Edinburgh, the object seems to be to render a small number of patients as comfortable as possible. In Guy's Hospital, £20,000 per annum appears to be expended in the treatment of not more than double the number of patients taken care of in that of Edinburgh: And in Manchester, about which so much has been said in the course of the investigation, it appears from the printed reports of the four last years, that the annual expence of each occupied bed considerably exceeded £60, while that in Edinburgh did not amount to one half of that sum.—Arrangements connected with such Hospitals cannot fail to be attractive to young men of the medical profession who look not to expence;—but the principle acted upon by the Infirmary here, that of curtailing all expences not essential to the purposes of cure, and thereby rendering the charity more extensively useful, cannot fail on reflection to appear not only more wise, but far more humane.

4th, All the essential points connected with the general welfare of the Hospital are found indisputably to exist in the Infirmary of Edinburgh. The proper choice of medical men,—the regular hours of their attendance,—the excellence of the instruments for operations,—the free ventilation of the house,—the quality of all articles of medicine or provisions, supplied at regular periods, and from the most respectable dealers.

The quantity of ordinary diet necessarily must be ascertained by medical experience. That of Edinburgh has been approved of by some of the first medical characters of the former, and of the present day. It is nearly equal to all, and in some instances more liberal than that of many other Hospitals; and where in any case it is thought advisable to increase it, the medical attendants have unbounded power in point of extent. That such power is fully exercised is proved by the diet-book; which shews, that, exclusive of extraordinary allowances of the ordinary food, all sorts of meat, fish, fowl, jellies, fruit, &c. are in use to be ordered: As also, by the accounts of the apothecary, which prove, that independent of 86 and a half dozens of foreign wine, and 35 dozens of home-made wine, the average number of bottles of porter made use of annually for the last ten years, has amounted to 8376 bottles, which would be sufficient to afford half a bottle of porter daily, to above one fourth of the whole patients in the house.

5th, It would far exceed the bounds of this note to scrutinize the evidence, as to how far the quantity prescribed has always been duly furnished, by those who had no interest to withhold it.

On a fair view of the evidence which has been led on this head, it seems apparent, that those who speak unfavourably on this point, had very partial means of information; and that they prove nothing more than that, on some insulated occasions, the broth and porridge appeared to them more thin and weak than they thought these ought to have been;—occurrences which, if true, are obviously unavoidable in so extensive an establishment.

There is no point on which the complaints of patients ought to be received with more caution than on that of diet, and especially where such complaints come from servants; many of whom, accustomed to grumble even at their master's fare, can ill brook the moderate allowance of an Hospital diet. In answer to such complaints, the Managers would offer the real evidence arising from the difficulty experienced in prevailing on patients to quit the Hospital;—the readiness with which they return when again indisposed;—the satisfaction and gratitude so uniformly expressed by patients, and more particularly to the Chaplain in their dying moments;—and the legacies and donations which the Hospital

has been in use to receive from persons who have enjoyed the benefit of it. On the 18th of January last, while the proceedings of the Committee were in progress, a donation of £21 was received as an acknowledgment for the attention and care experienced by a servant, lately a patient in this Hospital; and it will be seen that, among the donations of 1817, there is one of October 8th, "from a female patient, as a mark of gratitude for the benefit she derived in the Royal Infirmary, £20."

6th, The aggravated and offensive charge,—that of the patients being fed like wild beasts in cages, having their meat thrown upon their beds when raw,—stands unsupported by any evidence; and it would seem, that the information on which so extraordinary a charge was made, warranted no statement beyond the fact of beef steaks being delivered undressed to the patients, in order, not only that these after being prepared by the nurses may be served out to the patients hot in the ward, instead of being brought from a distant kitchen, but that patients may have these steaks dressed at such times as their appetites may most incline them to eat;—an arrangement agreeable to the patients, and conformable to the directions of the medical gentlemen of the House.

7th, With respect to knives, forks, and spoons not being furnished by the house, it will be seen that this practice, adopted for the purpose of avoiding the expence and dilapidation attending such articles, is usual in most other Hospitals. In the Hospitals of Bristol, Liverpool, and even Birmingham, none of these articles are furnished. In Glasgow, no knives or forks are supplied; and in the London Hospitals, such articles are furnished by the nurses on payment to them of a fee by the patients;—a practice above all to be deprecated. In truth, as the friends of patients readily supply them with all that is requisite on this score, no inconvenience is experienced from this source. The honourable member of the Committee who has stated, that he saw the patients of the Edinburgh Infirmary on one occasion at dinner, observed that most of them had spoons; and had he remained long enough to have ascertained the whole objects of his visit, he would have seen that there was no deficiency of knives, in so far as truly necessary.

8th, As to the cleanliness of the patients' persons, it does not occur that this can be placed on a different footing from what it stands at present. It may answer in Bridewell to cut off the hair, and to plunge indiscriminately all who are admitted into baths; but to give a general order to that effect to nurses in an Hospital, would to a certainty doom a proportion of the patients to death. The medical attendants have full power to order what they may deem necessary on this head, and it can with safety rest in no other hands.

9th, As to the cleanness of sheets, much evidence has been led, and the fair result appears to be, that the sheets were for a time imperfectly washed; for as to the number, it appears that no fewer than 3,357 pairs were washed in the course of the last year, being certainly a fair proportion to the number of beds. But although the same person has been employed for upwards of twenty years to wash the sheets of the Hospital, during the greater part of which time it was understood that he had given satisfaction in the performance of the work; the Managers became satisfied that the washing might be improved; and after due enquiry, they adopted the most effectual remedy that occurred to them; namely, the erection of a wash-house connected with the Infirmary. The Lord President, one of their number, who was at Plymouth in October 1816, brought down, at his own expence, a model of the drying-house at the Naval Hospital there, in case it could be of any use in the arrangements that were in contemplation here. Both the existence of the evil, and the nature of the remedy is distinctly pointed out in the Report by the Managers in September last, which was laid before the general meeting in January. Under such circumstances, the Managers are at some loss to conceive what could be the object in adducing so much evidence on this head, or making it draw back for five or six years, during which time not fewer than 10,000 patients have been treated in the Hospital.

By the unexpected death of the Matron, the Managers have been deprived of the means of offering various explanations on this head. In judging of it, the Committee will however know how to supply the loss of the Matron, and will be very attentive to clean-

linens; that many of them labour under diseases which make it impossible that their linens should be preserved in a clean state, even if daily changed; that for the sake of economy in the purchase, and from its being supposed to be more durable, unbleached linen has been always used in this Hospital, the aspect of which is never so clean as that of bleached linen; and that the stains on Hospital sheets are in general difficult, and in some cases impossible to be removed, although such sheets may nevertheless be essentially clean.

10th, The charge that the blankets are never scoured, is disproved by the Scourer's account produced, which shews that 1791 pairs underwent that operation in the course of last year.

11th, To the subject of Nurses, the Managers have often directed their attention; and they are persuaded it will be found, that better cannot be had than those in use to be employed; and that the raising of their wages, while it would encroach upon the funds of the Hospital, would produce no substantial improvement in this respect.

12th, In judging of matters connected with such an institution, the condition and habits of the poor, who are the objects of it, must ever be kept in view. Their feelings and ideas on these points are materially different from those of the higher orders; and to give to the former what would be essential to the latter, might in many cases impede, instead of promoting cure, would lead to endless expence, and would ill fit the Patients to return to their usual habits and accustomed fare when dismissed.—The general state of comfort which Patients enjoy in this Hospital is open to the observation of the whole world, and the Managers would wish that all who doubt, would satisfy themselves by ocular inspection.

13th, The unexpected increase of Patients during the last year is deserving of attention. The average number of Patients in the House used formerly to be about 160; for the year 1817 it has amounted to 209. It is unreasonable to expect, that under such circumstances, no defect of any thing desirable for the use of Patients should for a moment be experienced.

14th, While it appears in evidence, that the Medical Gentlemen of long standing, great experience, and intimate acquaintance with the habits of the poor have in general concurred, in approving of the management of the Hospital, the proof of an opposite description rests almost entirely upon young Gentlemen of the Medical Department, of no extensive experience, possessing little knowledge of the habits of the lower classes, and most of whom, as connected with the Infirmary, were not free from blame in not at the time communicating to the Managers any defects which they thought they observed. These Gentlemen at any rate seem to forget, that on a limited income, extraordinary comforts can only be purchased by excluding a portion of the Patients from the benefit of the Charity.

15th, If any thing has been wrong, the delay to remedy has lain in a neglect on the part of the proper officers to make such matters known to the Managers at the time. If then inquired into, the instances in proof might have admitted of explanations, and their remedy would have prevented repetition. In appointing four Clerks, constantly residing in the Hospital, each having under his charge a certain portion of patients, the Managers conceived, that they had adopted the best system for securing against any neglect connected with the care of the patients in all respects; and they could not suppose, that if any thing faulty occurred in the Hospital, the Clerks would fail to make it immediately known to the Managers. Finding however, that this was not sufficiently attended to, they prepared a set of new regulations in the year 1816; one of these, as applicable to the Clerks, being Rule 15, enjoins, that "upon observing any impropriety in the House, they are immediately to communicate the same to the Treasurer, in order that he may either acquaint the Managers thereof, or take such steps as he may think proper for correcting the same." Even this regulation, so obviously calculated to facilitate complaints, and to expedite their remedy without waiting for a meeting of Managers, was disregarded, and the most determined silence preserved;—for what reason, those who adopted such conduct can best explain. The interests of such an Institution can alone be promoted by a cordial co-operation of all parties connected with it; and the Managers leave it with the Committee to judge, whether

they have at all times received from at least a part of the Medical department that support which they were entitled to expect.

15th, When representations were made to the Managers, they at all times gave their immediate attention, and never dismissed any of them on account of the quarter from whence they proceeded. Justly displeased, that the incidents founded on by the Clerks in their letter in July last, had not been sooner made known, they expressed to them what they felt on that subject. The matter contained in these representations was not however neglected. It will be seen, that long before the representation by Mr Sims and the other Clerks, the Managers were taking the necessary means, by due enquiry, for adopting the most perfect method for washing the linens; and that, availing themselves of the highest source of Chemical information, they have constructed a washing and drying apparatus attached to the House on the most improved principles. The number of Patients having greatly increased, a great addition to the linen of the House was made, and the bedding was rendered complete. New Baths were put in progress, while the subject of diet was submitted to the consideration of those best qualified to judge of such a matter; and still further to prevent if possible the recurrence of such incidents, the Managers were on the look-out for a person of Medical experience to act as House-Governor, so as to relieve the Matron of part of her duties, to facilitate the communication betwixt the medical department and the Managers, and to remedy as far as possible, at the moment, any defects as they may occur.

Lastly, These remedies were all in the course of application, at a time when not the most distant idea was entertained of any public enquiry being set on foot, and when it was impossible that the Managers could have anticipated that any thing of the kind would take place. Long connected with this institution, and faithfully as they felt discharging their duties, (duties neither pleasing in their nature, nor unattended with risk to themselves,) they certainly did not suppose that those Contributors, who by their unanimous votes had so often approved of the conduct of their Managers, would be disposed at once to desert them, and to adopt a proceeding, the obvious tendency of which is, to shake to the foundation the long established character of this institution,—to spread groundless alarm in the minds of the objects of the charity,—and seriously to endanger the withdrawing of donations, on which the establishment must ever so materially depend. Still less could the Managers have anticipated, that a set of gentlemen, many of them of distinguished talents and high respectability, should think fit all at once to become Members of this Incorporation, to investigate a management with which they had hitherto had no concern, and that, without any previous communication with the Managers, (which the most common civility would have dictated); and when in the apparent knowledge that all defects were in the progress of effectual remedy, they should at once make a public appeal, founded on alleged unpardonable neglect, and calculated to excite a belief, that the Managers of the Infirmary of Edinburgh were unworthy of the sacred charge with which they had been entrusted.

By order of the Managers.

ALEX. BOSWELL, *Clerk.*

Edinburgh, 7th March 1817.

