

A short answer to a sett [sic] of queries, annex'd to a pamphlet lately publish'd [by W. Baylies] pretending to be an historical account of the rise, progress, and management of the General Hospital, or Infirmary in the City of Bath / By a Governor of the said charity [i.e. the Hon. B. Bathurst].

Contributors

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A
SHORT ANSWER

TO A

SETT of QUERIES,

Annex'd to a

Pamphlet lately publish'd,

Pretending to be

An historical Account

OF THE

Rise, Progress, and Management

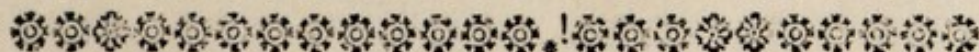
Of the General Hospital, or Infirmary

In the City of *BATH*.

By a Governor of the said Charity.

Parcere personis, dicere de vitiis.

MARTIAL.

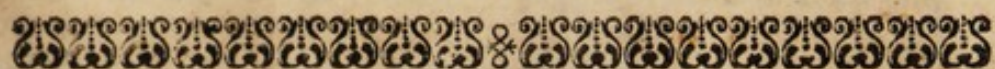


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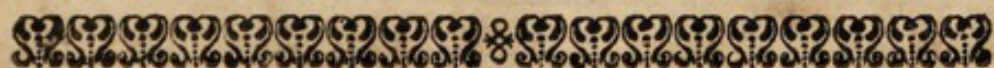
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TO A
SETT of QUERIES.
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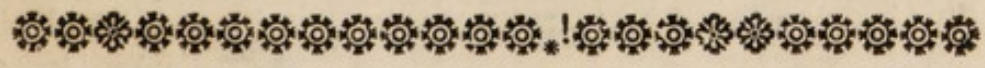
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SHORT ANSWER

TO A
SETT OF QUESTIONS

Answered to a
Pamphlet lately published

Pertaining to the
An Historical Account

OF THE
MANAGEMENT

OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, OR LANSLET

By a Gentleman of the said Charity.



MARTIAL

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BATH: H. HOR

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T O

The Physicians and Surgeons

Of the General Hospital

In the City of BATH,

From a thorough Conviction

Of their disinterested and unwearied Attention

To relieve the Miseries

Of their Fellow Creatures,

Under their Care in the said Hospital,

This short Vindication

Of the Conduct of the Governors

In the Management of that Charity.

Is gratefully dedicated by the

AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E.

HAVING had many months notice that some book was to be published against the general hospital at Bath, I sent with great eagerness for Dr. Baylies' late wonderful performance, and began to peruse it with great attention, determin'd to divest myself, if possible, of all prejudice, and give due weight to every argument he made use of in supporting his opinion; and, as far as was in my power, to endeavour to remedy every mismanagement that he had discovered in conducting that charity. But how great was my surprize, when instead of a fair and candid examination into the mismanagement of the hospital, I found a pamphlet spun out by the art of the printer, by

dates and breaks in the sentences, to the bulk of eighteen-pence, but containing neither argument nor reason, and fill'd with dull repetitions, useless quotations, and private conversations misrepresented and misapplied. Vext that the public should be so imposed upon, I sat down determined to answer it page by page, but found every story repeated by the author, so ill grounded, and so few things worth taking any notice of, that I thought it would be imposing on the public, if I took up their time on any thing which so little deserved an answer.

Having lately met with some gentlemen, who struck with the solemn challenge in the preamble to his queries,* think every thing unanswerable because not answered, I thought it
my.

* From a perusal of the preceding pages the following queries naturally arise; to which it is expected that the persons concerned will give proper answers, unless they choose, by their silence, to own the charge.

my duty, as a governor and well-wisher to the charity, to give an answer to every thing asserted in his pamphlet, or the queries annexed to it, in which the general hospital is concerned. I shall therefore in this preface take notice of some facts, which could not so well be included in the answer to the queries,

And first, as to the power of the governors in calling a general court, which the Dr. asserts can be only held on the 1st day of May. This Appears in itself absurd, for the election of the president, treasurers, committees, physicians, surgeons, and register are the proper business of the general court, and if his assertion was regarded, the hospital, by the death of either president, treasurers, or register, or by the death or resignation of the physicians, or surgeons, may be, for above eleven months, without
any

any government at all, or care of the patients, and what is still worse, they may labour as many months under their mismanagement. The act of parliament therefore intends that a general court shall be called at any time, and, in this general court, gives a power to the governors to remove at *their will and pleasure* any person so elected, and requires fourteen days notice to be given of such general court *so called*; for the general court held on the first of May, being the day fixed by the act of parliament, is of public notoriety, and does not require any such notice. The governors have therefore done right in calling general courts from time to time for the election of physicians, on any death or resignation, and in my opinion have not only erred in not doing the same for the election of governors, but have suffered the hospital to be many months without the assistance

tance of its proper number of committees for want of such new election; and though the Dr. has laboured this point through many pages, he certainly does not himself think it material, as he applied to be elected a physician to the hospital at a general court which was not on the first of May, and consequently by his own assertions they had no right to elect him.

The next thing I must take notice of, is his misrepresentations relating to a surgeon who was discarded the hospital. In his pamphlet, page 58 and 59, he quotes an order made June 3, relating to the admission of surgeons, and tells his readers, that by an order made June 24, quoted in page 59, the restraint in the former order was taken off, and then insinuates that these contradictory orders were made to preclude a gentleman, who was afterwards suspended and dismissed without

out any reason assigned. Any man of common candour will suppose that the order of June 3 was made when the governors were not acquainted with the customs of Scotland, and was repealed June 24 on further information, and any man of common honesty, will think it unjust to accuse the governors of a charity of an omission which they were not guilty of, and which he might easily have informed himself of, as appears from the many quotations from the same minute book.

I must now take notice of his misrepresentations relating to the patients, and first, of his assertion that the patients of the general hospital are suffered to walk from the baths in their wet bathing linen. I believe he will on enquiry, find that the patients who have been at the dry pump have sometimes walk'd, in summer, in dry
blankets

blankets from that pump, when the chairmen have been employed in their attendance on the bathing patients, but none ever walked from the bath in wet bathing linen, as he asserts; and I can venture to assure him that the physicians are so averse to such a practice, that if he himself should think it necessary, in his next book, to recommend that practice, to justify his worthy friend, who is said to have tried the experiment himself, and to have recommended it to his patients, he will not, with all his rhetorick, be able to prevail on the physicians of the hospital to allow it. As to his assertion relating to the quantity of medicines used in the hospital, I am told it will turn out (for I have not calculated it myself) not more than four shillings and six-pence to each patient on an average; and considering persons in an hospital are liable to have fevers, small-pox, and many other diseases

diseases, foreign to the use of the waters, this allowance, at the highest price his friends set on their drugs, will be found very low for Bath patients. In this calculation, bottles, galipots, and other things not apothecaries drugs, are deducted out of the account.

And now, as no future pamphlet from the same author shall ever provoke me to print an answer to it. I shall take my leave of him with this advice, never to censure other gentlemen for interested views, till he has by a steady and uniform behaviour, convinc'd the world he is entirely disinterested himself, and I will venture to assure him and his friends, that the more the management of the hospital is enquired into and compared with other hospitals, the better it will be approved of, and though no parade is made of cures performed there,
which

which interested physicians would certainly have done, any person who attends at the dismissal of patients, will see the lame and cripples dance and clap their hands for joy, and hear the paralytick tongue sing allelujahs.



SHORT

which interested physicians would certainly have done, any person who attends at the dispensation of patients will see the lame and cripples dance and clap their hands for joy, and hear the paralytick tongue sing alleluias.

A
 SHORT ANSWER
 TO A
 SETT of QUERIES.

QUERY I.

IS not the act of parliament for establishing a general hospital at Bath, an absolute direction for the proceedings thereof? or have the governors a right to disregard those directions, when they are not subservient to their private purposes?

ANSWER.

THE act of parliament is an absolute direction for the proceedings of the governors of the general hospital at Bath; who have made it the rule of their conduct but where it is in any part obscure; they have thought themselves at liberty to
 B explain

explain it in such a manner as appeared to be most consistent with the good government of the charity ; to promote which was the sole end, and intention of the act.

The latter part of the question is a malicious, and scandalous reflection on the conduct of all the governors, who are men of fair characters, who have spent their money, time, and labour for many years in the service of the charity, without fee or reward, of any kind whatsoever, and therefore cannot have deserved such injurious treatment.

QUERY II.

If the directions of the act are absolute, why have not the governors chosen another physician to the hospital, as often as any of those they have elected have died or resigned ?

ANSWER.

WHEN the hospital was first set on foot, the promoters of the charity thought it adviseable to admit every eminent physician and surgeon, who would take on themselves the trouble of attending gratis. Dr. Hartley, Dr. Bostock, and Dr. Brewster, were therefore elected physicians, on their acquainting their friends that they were willing to accept of it ; and Mr. Jones was elected surgeon at his own public request by letter. In the year 1747, when many physicians resorted to Bath, and the governors were apprehensive that the charity might be injured by a larger number of gentlemen

tlements offering themselves as physicians, than was consistent with the welfare of the charity, it was thought better to limit the number to six, and that this ought to be done before any farther applications were made, Dr. Woodford and Dr. Moysey were therefore elected pursuant to that resolution. As no number had been fixed either by the act of parliament, or any subsequent order of a general court, there was no occasion to take notice of the deaths of Dr. Bostock and Dr. Reyer.

As soon as the number was fixed to six, the act of parliament was complied with, and on the first vacancy by Dr. Hartley's resignation, Dr. Summers was elected. By the same act, which leaves it in the power of the governors to appoint as many or as few physicians as they please, the governors did reduce the number six to three again. By that order a vacancy could not happen till the number was reduced below three; as soon as that did happen, they chose another physician to fill up the vacancy, according to the act.

Q U E R Y I I I .

Why has not the notice required by the act for the election of a physician to the hospital, been constantly given, as often as the governors have thought fit to elect any one into that office?

A N S W E R .

It does not appear that this form has ever been neglected. Its not appearing in the books of the
B 2
hospital

hospital that it was constantly observed, is no proof that it was not done, because the act does not direct that it should be registered. The querist allows that it has been observed, though he is willing to suppose that it has not *always* been so. But he cannot deny that whenever a physician was to be elected every governor upon the spot has received a written summons to the ensuing general court, in which the intention of the governors to chuse another physician was always specified. How trifling is such a cavil!

Q U E R Y I V .

By what authority have the inhabitants of Bath, who are poor and afflicted with diseases, for which Bath waters are reputed a cure, been excluded from all chance of relief from the Bath hospital, when the act entitles every subject of Britain and Ireland to the benefit of it?

A N S W E R .

By the authority of the act, which in its preamble * declares that the charity is intended for the use of persons whose habitations are at a distance from Bath. The poor inhabitants of the city

“ * Whereas the medicinal and mineral waters of the city
 “ of Bath, in the county of Somerset, have been found, by
 “ long experience, to give great relief to persons labouring
 “ under, or being afflicted with divers diseases, illnesses, or
 “ disorders incident to human bodies; but it very often happens,

city of Bath have constant opportunities for enjoying the use of the waters; they never fail of the advice of every physician of the place, whenever they apply for it, and the corporation have an hospital entirely under their own jurisdiction, and appropriated to the use of such paupers as may want the assistance of the waters, and they do chuse and appoint a physician to take care of them, and pay him a salary yearly for that purpose.||

Q U E R Y V.

When the governors from their experience in the management of the hospital, found it expedient to make orders or resolutions for regulating the conduct thereof, why had they not the orders they made converted into bye-laws by the sanction of the bishop and judges?

A N S W E R.

THE governors had a power of making any new orders and revoking old ones, as exigencies
B 3 required.

“ pens, that poor persons so afflicted live at a great distance
“ from the said city of Bath, and cannot bear the expence of
“ going thither, and attending to use the said waters, by
“ reason whereof great numbers of such poor persons have
“ been prevented from using and trying such waters for their
“ benefit and relief.” See the act, page 5, 6.

|| And the governors have shew'd their desire of relieving as many as possible, by taking into the hospital the sick poor of the parishes of Walcott and Widcomb, both which parishes lie within the precincts, tho' not within the city of Bath.

required. * Therefore on the first establishment of the hospital they from time to time made such orders as they thought expedient for regulating their conduct, but as no time was limited for applying for this approbation, they thought it unnecessary to carry all their orders to the bishop and judges for confirmation, as it would be attended with an expence to the charity which the act could never intend. After they had had some experience in the management of the hospital, a committee was appointed to examine the several orders they had made from time to time, and draw up a sett of bye-laws, to be laid before the bishop and judges for their approbation, and this committee were to make their report to the general court on the first of May, 1751. The gentlemen

“ * And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,
 “ that it shall and may be lawful for the said president and
 “ governors, in a general court assembled as aforesaid, to
 “ make, ordain, and constitute such, and so many bye-laws,
 “ constitutions, and ordinances, as to them, or the greater
 “ part of them, then and there present, shall seem necessary
 “ and convenient for the finishing the said building, and for
 “ the better governing, regulating, ordering, and establishing
 “ ing of the said hereby erected corporation, and the officers,
 “ servants, and persons by them in and about the affairs to
 “ be employed of and concerning the said hospital and infir-
 “ mary, and the sick persons or patients to be taken therein
 “ under their care, and for the auditing the accounts of the
 “ said hospital ; and the same bye-laws, orders, ordinances,
 “ and constitutions so made to put in use accordingly, and at
 “ their will and pleasure to revoke, change, and alter the
 “ same ; which said bye-laws, orders, and ordinances, so as
 “ aforesaid made shall be duly kept and observed, so always
 “ as the said constitutions, bye-laws, orders, and ordinances,
 “ be reasonable, and not contrary or repugnant to the sta-
 “ tutes, customs, or laws of this kingdom.”

men appointed, finding more difficulty in executing this task, then they were at first aware of, instead of making their report on the first of May, desired further assistance, and it was then referred to the court of committees; there the matter was frequently debated, and the gentlemen were of opinion, that as there were many objections to the act itself, which no bye-law could remedy, it would be putting the charity to an useless expence, and giving the bishop and judges a needless trouble if they proceeded any farther, and that no inconvenience could happen to the hospital from deferring it, till a new act of parliament could be obtained.

Q U E R Y VI.

When any person solicits to be a member of a society who is able and willing to promote the ends for which it was established, what can justify that society for making an order to prevent the admission of such person amongst them? especially when they have seen the funds for supporting those ends considerably augmented in consequence of an order for the admission of all gentlemen who were desirous to be members, and the same funds greatly diminished upon making an order to the contrary effect.

A N S W E R.

Does any man's thinking himself able to promote the ends of any society prove him to be so? If the author of the query means himself, I can with great truth answer him, that I think he was nei-

ther able nor willing. Could the governors be justified in electing a man physician to an hospital, who declares his inability to do his duty there, as, attaining a sufficient knowledge in the use of the Bath waters, was the motive he himself alledged for applying? The preamble of the act takes no notice of any person's being elected, for the improvement of medical knowledge, but plainly says, the hospital was erected for the relief and support of such indigent poor as were not able, without such help, to procure to themselves any benefit from the Bath waters, therefore the querist could not be elected till he had gained such experience as to be able to give the indigent poor such relief, from the use of those waters. As to his willingness to promote the ends of the society his behaviour manifestly disproves it. In his letter to the governors, after saying, that he supposed no gentleman would from any private motives impede the utility of the hospital, he uses the expression, 'persevere in an open violation of the statute':—The word, persevere, implies their having been guilty of such violation, and a false accusation shews rather a willingness to disturb and injure the charity, than to promote the ends of it.

If a man appears to be of a litigious, quarrelsome, unfociable temper, who has already done all in his power to disturb the peace of a society, by defaming all the members of it, can such a man, without a most consummate assurance, solicit the members of that society to adopt him into their community? But we cant wonder at his assurance in such a step, when we see him hardy enough

enough to assert in the same query, that they (the governors) had ‘ seen their funds considerably augmented in consequence of an order for the admission of all gentlemen who were desirous to be members’ ; when no such order ever existed, or I believe was ever thought of by any body but himself §; nor could there be any occasion for such an order, since the act of parliament has provided for the admission of any gentleman to be a governor of this charity by the following clause, which at the same time prevents the governors from making any such exclusive order as our historian here fallably chargeth them with.

‘ And for the encouragement of such as shall be benefactors to so good a design, be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person charitably disposed, hath, or shall, at any one or more payments, pay into the hands of the treasurers of the said hospital, for the time being, the full sum of forty pounds, to and for the charitable uses and purposes in this act mentioned, such person shall be, and is hereby declared to be, from the time of such payment of such forty pounds as aforesaid, a governor of the said hereby erected corporation.’ See page 36 of the act.

Our historian therefore may be admitted a governor of this charity, whenever he chuses to comply with the terms of the aforesaid clause.

If

§ Mr. Wood speaks of the time before the act was made.

If he had been pleased to have addressed the mayor and corporation of Bath, in the same polite manner he did the governors of the hospital, by letting them know they were a parcel of rascals, had broken their charter, and acted contrary to it for private ends, and purposes, which deserved the *severest censure* ; but that if they would chuse him a common council-man he would set them all to rights ; I fancy he would have met with a little rougher treatment from those worthy magistrates.

QUERY VII.

Why have the vacancies amongst the trustees been generally supplied by the election of some Bath physician, surgeon, or apothecary, or some person dependent on them ?

ANSWER.

THE list of the governors annually printed shews how little foundation there is for this charge. By the last printed account for the year 1758, it appears that the number of governors is 107, 21 of which only are of the faculty. By the same list it appears, that the number of committees is 35, 16 of which are of the faculty. The reason why these are so many is, that the town does not afford a number of gentlemen, who chuse to be governors and will attend the business which requires the presence of seven to make a court every week. The governors have always shewn themselves desirous of having every gentleman, who
is

is a settled inhabitant of the place, and is a governor, to be of the committee, and have elected them as often as vacancies have happened, and they have been willing to accept the office, as appears by the list.

Q U E R Y VIII.

Why has one member of the committee been excluded for non-attendance, and another, who was then, and for some years after, out of the kingdom, chosen in his stead?

A N S W E R.

THIS query implies a false fact, no member of the committee, particularly Dr. Davies, was ever excluded merely for non-attendance. In the year 1752 the governors received a letter from Dr. Davies, which was read in the committee, and which concluded in these words :

‘ That I may be more at leisure to pursue these designs, I intend to *withdraw* from all others of a public nature (the duties of my profession, whether to the rich or the poor, excepted) and therefore as my question was carried in the negative, I think myself no further concerned in it, and therefore should be glad if this was the last trouble I am to give to the board of the Bath hospital. I wish you all success in your undertakings, and am,

Gentlemen, your very humble Servant,

R I. D A V I E S.

When

When this letter was read, it was thought reasonable to comply with Dr. Davies' request; but Dr. Hartley, who was then in the chair, said, that he attributed this letter to the heat of passion, and that he hoped the writer might alter his resolution, upon which the question was dropped, and no more said of it at that time.

The governors waited three years and a half, viz. from the date of this letter, November 8, 1752, to May 1, 1756, in hopes that Dr. Davies would have altered his resolution, but finding that in all that period of time, he had attended but eight committees, one of which is held every week, and had performed the duty of house visitor but twice, though he had been in Bath the whole time, the governors could not but be convinced that he had not altered his desire of being no longer continued a member of the committee; at the general court held May 1, 1756, it was thought reasonable to comply with his former request, and he was accordingly discontinued from being of the committee.

The insinuation that Dr. Davies was left out of the committee to make room for Dr. Oliver, jun. to be elected in his place, is entirely groundless, as appears from the order of the day, as follows:

Ordered, that the following gentlemen be elected governors.

Dr William Oliver, jun	} in the room of	{ Charles Duke of Devon	
Mr. Samuel Howse,			Charles Hedges, Esq;
George Scott, Esq;			Mr. Paul Bertrand.
		<i>All deceased.</i>	

and

and that Dr. Oliver, jun. Mr. Samuel Howse, and Mr. John Wood be of the committee, in the room of Mr. Paul Bertrand, Robert Dingley, Esq; and Dr. Richard Davies.

It appears from this order, that Mr. Howse, or Mr. Wood were as really chosen in Dr. Davies' room, as Dr. Oliver.

But the crime is exaggerated by the historian, by his discovery that Dr. Oliver was out of the kingdom when he was elected; for once he speaks truth: but it is as true, that at the time of his election, Dr. Oliver was expected home very soon, and if he had not been so expected, what end could his being elected answer to himself or his friends, who were very sorry afterwards, when he did not return according to their expectation, that he had been elected at all.

Q U E R Y IX.

Are the physicians to any, except the Bath hospital, appointed president or deputy-president thereof? and have not the physicians to the Bath hospital some private ends in view from being so appointed?

A N S W E R.

No physician was ever elected president of the hospital, except Dr. Frewin, who declined it. As to vice-presidents, they are only chairmen of the committees, and have more trouble than other governors. It is an office which has been refused
by

by some of the physicians, and what no gentleman would desire if he could avoid it without injuring the charity.—To serve the charity has been their only view in accepting of it. For that reason I have, for many years, acted as vice-president, and have been more particularly assiduous, as, from a thorough knowledge of the good management and utility of the charity, I thought my time well bestowed in assisting it. Mr. Philip Allen, for some years, and Mr. Scot, has lately acted from the same motives. And the physicians have been prevailed on to officiate in summer, when gentlemen, who have more leisure, have been in the country. The noblemen, who have been presidents, are not much obliged to the doctor for his suggestion in the close of this query as they have the sole appointment of their vice-presidents, and consequently he must suppose them to be either knaves in consenting to the private views of their deputies, or fools in not finding them out; a discovery, worthy of the penetration, candour, and charity of Dr. Baylies.

QUERY X.

If it was reasonable to appoint an increase of physicians from three to six on the reduction of the number of patients in the hospital from seventy to forty, why was a decrease of physicians from six to three appointed afterwards, when the number of patients arose to one hundred and twelve?

Because

A N S W E R.

BECAUSE the governors had learnt by experience that the patients were better taken care of when there were but three physicians, than they were when there were six. This may be a seeming paradox, though in fact it is not one; if it be considered that the only motives which can preserve men in the discharge of a laborious continued duty, must either be profit or honour: Where neither accompanies the imployment, a relaxation from the care of it, must ensue. The governors found the truth of this observation; and as no profit accompanies this appointment, they therefore consigned it to three only, and thus by rendering it more honourable, they at the same time rendered it more deserving of their care to whom it was intrusted. Since the querist has now allowed the authority of the examples of other hospitals, I will refer him to that of St. George's hospital, in which they reduced the number of their physicians from six to four, when the number of their *in* and *out* patients were more than six, perhaps, eight times as many as this hospital will contain. Three physicians therefore having been, upon trial, found to be the number most beneficial to the charity, they reduced six to three by the same authority by which they had before encreased them to six.

Q U E R Y XI.

When any order has been made contradictory to former orders, why have not the reasons for making such

such contradictory order been recorded, as well as the order itself, that in after times some judgment may be formed of the rectitude of it?

A N S W E R.

ONLY because from the nature of the thing it is impossible that it should be done. When an order is proposed to be made, the president reads it to all the members present; every member has a right to offer his objections against it; when they have been answered by any other member, and the nature and intent of the order has been fully discussed and explained, the question is put, whether the order shall be made, altered, or laid aside; upon this all the present members give their votes different ways, for perhaps as many different reasons: all the committee wants to know, is, what the majority have determined; they have no right to enquire a reason from any member, why he has voted one way or another. Was the committee an individual it might give you the motives upon which it acted, but as it consists of so many individuals, each of which may agree to do *one* thing from many different motives, which of these different motives would the Dr. have recorded?

Q U E R Y XII.

Does not the making an order to decrease the number of physicians, at the very instant before Dr. Harrington resigned, and at a committee when the number of patients was agreed to be increased, evidently demonstrate, that the same was done to
answer

answer a private, and not a public end; if not on purpose, at that juncture, to prevent Dr. Davies from being elected a physician to the hospital?

A N S W E R.

AT the general court, May 1, 1750, the physicians were reduced to three, their original number, which has continued to this day, unaltered; yet he asserts that an order was made to decrease the number of physicians at the very instant before Dr. Harrington resign'd, and assigns a motive for that order to be the particular prevention of Dr. Davies' being elected a physician to the hospital. Is not this entering into the hearts of men, and presuming to assign a bad motive for an action when there was plainly another, more reasonable, and more obvious, namely, the good of the charity, which the limiting the number of physicians to three appeared to be to the governors in that general court assembled, however it seems to him whose private interest may apparently lead him to dislike it?

Why would he insinuate that Dr. Davies was so little approved of by the general court, as that they should make an order purposely to exclude him from being one of their physicians?

I dare say that gentleman, had, as he well deserved, as many friends in that assembly as any other physician. But, like honest men, they preferred the good of the charity to all private considerations.

QUERY XIII.

Does not this decrease of physicians, when the number of patients were increased, tend to deprive the poor of assistance, and to prevent the improvement and communication of medical knowledge?

ANSWER.

HERE the querist renews his complaint of not being admitted to learn his profession in the hospital. The poor are surely in a much better case when they are confined to the care of such who have been long versed in the use of the waters, than to be forced to submit themselves to persons who have never had any opportunities of learning how they should be treated, but want to practise upon them, and at the hazard of their lives, or limbs, to find out their own errors.

QUERY XIV.

Can any man believe that the bishop or judges would give the sanction of a law to any order so inconsistent with charity, and with the law of the land?

ANSWER.

WHEN this charity was first instituted the governors did not think themselves properly qualified to judge what bye-laws might be necessary for the well governing the hospital, till experience had

had explained it to them. They therefore shew'd their readiness to comply with the act of parliament, and acquainted the bishop therewith, and a committee was appointed to consider what bye-laws were necessary to be laid before him, but as these gentlemen were of opinion that there were some difficulties in the admission of patients, which could not be removed but by a new act of parliament, it was thought adviseable not to proceed any farther till such an act could be obtained. But as yet the finances of the hospital have not appeared sufficient to warrant the laying out of money for obtaining such an act. As this, and all other orders were made with an intention of promoting the charity, and as they are none of them contrary to the law of the land, the governors have no doubt, but they will meet with the bishop and judges approbation whenever they shall be carried to them for confirmation, the time for doing which is not limited by the act.

QUERY XV. and XVI.

Why is a former order of a general court for the inspection of the books of the hospital to all who desire to see them, now over-ruled by the private direction of a few of the trustees only?

If the hospital books are not concealed, and the publication of cases neglected, with a view to suppress a discovery of the truth, why are the books refused to be shewn? and why has any particular order of the trustees been made purposely to preclude

those who are desirous of publishing the cases for the benefit of the community?

A N S W E R.

THE hospital books were never refused to be inspected by any governor, or by any other person, except such person had shewn before-hand an implacable hatred to the charity, and its governors, and could desire to have recourse to them for no other reason, and with no other view, but to search out any little errors or inadvertant slips, *quas aut incuria fudit, vel humana parum cavit natura*, and to magnify them into horrid crimes and breaches of trust. Such malevolent spirits have no right to the common privileges of society, and all honest men will be upon their guard against them. But it appears by the historians numerous quotations from the books of the hospital, that he had an opportunity of looking into them, examining them, and extracting from them whatever he thought might answer his purpose; surely if he had this privilege it can't be supposed that they were ever concealed from any other man alive.

Page 122—23. The doctor recites a conversation with me, and perverts it to answer his own private views. I desire the querist will recollect the whole of that discourse. He will then find that I started the subject in order to convince him that no affront was intended to Dr. Davies, when I proposed reducing the number of physicians to three, and I meant solely to prevent the hospital from being hurt by an injudicious proposal I had made before of fixing the number at six, which
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the governors had as injudiciously agreed to, but experience taught us that we had judged amiss in fixing on so large a number. The querist will remember, at the same time, that I told him, that I was so much convinced the gentlemen, concern'd in the management of the hospital, acted only for the good of the charity, that if he could suggest any thing that appeared to him to be the least mismanagement, I would either explain to him the reasons of it, or propose to the governors that it should be directly rectified; and when he alledged, that for want of seeing the hospital books, he could not sufficiently discover any mismanagement, I told him I would, at any time, send for the books to my house, and shew and explain every thing to him. After such an open and candid behaviour on my side, what judgment is to be made of a man, who publishes a conversation in part only, and complains of books being denied him which he never properly applied for?

Q U E R Y XVII. and XVIII.

If a disagreeable truth in detecting a misconduct should lessen the contributions to this charity for some time, may not the rectifying such misconduct again increase the same contributions? And ought a deception of the public to be continued for the sake of some advantage to a few individuals?—18. Is it not at least as great a crime to abuse as well as to withhold charity?

A N S W E R.

I AM not sensible the governors have been guilty of any misconduct, therefore think they cannot be guilty of abusing the charity. If the querist and his friends have prevented any person from contributing towards it, they, and they only, can be guilty of the crime of withholding charity.

Q U E R Y XIX.

Is it possible for any set of people to act more to the discredit of the medicinal waters of Bath, than in laying a foundation for the misapplication of them by artfully concealing from the world, the many instances of their efficacy, which a publication of cases must exhibit?

A N S W E R.

As this has been a favourite topic for the querist to declaim upon, I must beg leave to be a little particular in my answer to this query; and, if I should differ from some gentlemen, who are governors of this charity, in my sentiments about publishing cases, I know by experience that I may depend on their candour for excusing me. I shall therefore declare it as my opinion, that the public has no right to expect any thing more from the governors than hath been already performed, and that doing more will not conduce to the welfare of this charity.

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When gentlemen were soliciting contributions, a paper was published, in which, among other things, it was said, that a few years will furnish more histories of cases, which may be depended upon (if the physicians keep due registers of the sick under their care) than any man's private practice could have done in an age. These, and other expressions to the same purpose, have been construed into a promise of publishing cases, but gentlemen should consider, that this was wrote before the act of parliament passed, and probably was not the sentiment of the majority of contributors, for in framing the act, no notice was taken of publishing cases. They should likewise consider that neither the physicians nor surgeons who offered their service [see minute book, October 31, 1744] mentioned any thing of publishing cases, nor was it made a condition on the election of Dr. Woodford, and Dr. Moysey, who were desired May 1, 1747, to attend as physicians to the hospital, nor to Dr. Charlton, who has been since elected. The public have therefore no claim on these gentlemen, who were elected physicians and not authors.

I shall now endeavour to shew it will not conduce to the welfare of the charity.

Any person who has considered the present situation of the hospital, will find the poor there labour under many inconveniencies which do not affect the rich who frequent these waters, but retard, and obstruct the cure of the poor patients, and are not in the power of the governors to remedy. I shall mention only three; one is, the patients
from

from the hospital being confined to one small bath only, and at hours when it is not always proper for them to bathe.

Is not this restraint very absurd when all other poor persons, who have not the advantage of the advice of physicians, and consequently are not so likely to be cured, may bathe at all hours, and in any bath?

Another inconvenience, the consequence of the former, is, that the patients cannot bathe so often as might be proper for them.

The third that I shall mention is, that, from the want of a better and more certain income, the governors are obliged to limit their numbers of patients, and the act of parliament requires that every person shall be admitted in his turn. Cases therefore of persons by being detained two or three months before they can be admitted, from originally proper, become incurable.

These inconveniencies, which do not affect the rich in similar diseases, so far affect the poor that a publication of cases, without having particular regard to these inconveniencies, may rather deceive, than instruct. This likewise gives rise to another difficulty, for if the case of the poor patient is published, as it really is when he is admitted into the hospital, the gentleman of the faculty who drew it up in the country two or three months before, will imagine it was falsely represented, and if the original case is printed the physicians of the hospital will have just reason to complain;

plain; let those gentlemen therefore, who so loudly call out for cases being printed, assiduously labour to encrease the income of the hospital, that a new act of parliament may be applied for, to give the poor better conveniencies of using the baths, and that every person may be admitted into the hospital as soon as he has occasion for such assistance.

But it is alledged that the efficacy of the waters is artfully concealed. Men of sense would not desire to conceal what must tend so much to their own interest, and fools would not have art enough to attempt it. This therefore requires no answer. But the fact is really otherwise. When a person applies to be admitted into the Bath hospital, his case is drawn up by some person of skill in the country, and the physicians and surgeons of the hospital give their opinion whether the case is proper, or not, and the patient is minuted or refused. This opinion is sent down into the country, and publishes, in an extensive manner, the opinion of the gentlemen of the faculty concerning the use of the waters in such cases.

When a patient is admitted, his case is entered in a book kept at the hospital, in which is also entered the time he continues in the hospital, and state he is in when discharged. This book is to be seen, at any time, by any gentleman who desires it, and appears to me, a sufficient publication of the cases.

If

If any gentleman hath thought proper to do more it has not been done by any direction from the governors of the hospital, and must be regarded as the work of a private person only, and he will pardon me, if I say that it is my wish, and I believe the majority of the governors join in it, that the gentleman had deferred his publication till he had leisure to give the public an history of cures, and his remarks on the various effects of the Bath waters, and bathing in different cases, which, as no person is more capable of writing it than himself, would have been a valuable present to the public.

Q U E R Y XX.

When subscriptions were soliciting to the Bath hospital, the managers submitted all their conduct to the correction of the public, and as it is still supported by them, why are not their opinions, at this time, to be regarded in the conducting of it?

A N S W E R.

THE governors of the hospital have shewn so earnest a desire to have their conduct corrected by the public, that they have, by printed advertisements in the papers, called upon every body to send them informations of any errors which they could discover in the management of the house, that they might be rectified, and that they would discover any abuses, frauds, or impositions, of any person or persons, either within, or without, and that they would freely communicate their sentiments

timents how any of the expences of the house might be retrenched. Can the querist expect them to do more?

Q U E R Y X X I.

When the members of any society have wilfully and confessedly suppressed the truth, for the promotion of their own interest, can credit be afterwards given to any account of facts falling under their inspection alone, in case they should lay any such before the public?

A N S W E R.

This question is so malicious, that every candid reader will answer it in his own mind; and think of the author as he deserves.

Q U E R Y X X I I.

When any physicians have openly prescribed the publication of falsehood, as the only effectual band of peace, when they have avowedly refused a performance of their duty in their profession, to satisfy private piques; when they have threatened to desert the poor and needy in sickness and distress, in case others were permitted to step with them in the paths of charity; what may we not expect such men would do, to promote their own interest, or satisfy their malice? Can they wonder the public should be cautioned against their artifices?

THIS

A N S W E R.

THIS, and the foregoing query, seem intended only to blacken the characters of gentlemen by false and groundless suggestions, and to bring a discredit on any thing they may think proper to publish. What are we to think of a man who can do this at the same time that he calls on those gentlemen to publish?

Q U E R Y XXIII.

Lastly, If the Bath hospital, or any other charity is proved to be ill conducted by those who have the management of it; and if, in consequence of such proof, the contributors withdraw their assistance; who is to blame for the destruction of the charity? Is it the person who has exposed the misconduct of the trustees? Or, rather the trustees themselves, who have been guilty of, and still persevere in that misconduct?

A N S W E R.

THIS finishing stroke suggests two falsities; first, that the misconduct of the trustees has been proved; secondly, that any contributions of consequence have been withdrawn from his suggestions, though two or three well-meaning contributors may have been misled by his misrepresentations: §
howmuch-

§ The income of the charity has indeed been gradually lessening for several years, the chief cause of its doing so are plainly

howmuchsoever he may please himself with the thought, all his zealous endeavours will never bring about the destruction of this noble charity, which is founded in true christian love towards our poor suffering brethren, and has ever been conducted with the most upright intentions.

plainly these. When the hospital was first erected, it recommended itself to every body by its newness, and by its being a particular species of charity. The nobility and gentry most generously contributed towards its establishment. But are people ever so willing to contribute to the same charity a second time as they were the first? Can they with the same assurance be asked to do it? Is not their answer ready, I have given already as much as is proper, or convenient for me to give. There are other hospitals near me, some new ones to which I must be an annual contributor; I thought one benefaction to yours sufficient for a stranger. Can we press them further? War makes all things dear, every body feels it; fewer people have superfluities; peace we doubt not will restore and again revive its sister charity.—Till she does, we must do our best and be patient.

F I N I S.

C O N.

CONDITIONS of ADMISSION into the General Hospital at BATH.

I. **T**HE case of the patient must be described by some physician or person of skill in the neighbourhood of the place, where the patient has resided for some time; and this description, together with a certificate of the poverty of the patient, attested by some person of credit, must be sent in a letter, franked or post-paid, directed to the register of the general hospital at Bath.

☞ The age of the patient ought to be mentioned in the description of his case, and the persons who describe are desired to be particular in the enumeration of the symptoms; that so neither improper cases may be admitted, nor proper ones rejected.

II. After the patient's case has been thus described, and sent, he must remain in his usual place of residence till he has notice of a vacancy, signified by a letter from the register.

III. Upon the receipt of such a letter, the patient must set forward for Bath, bringing with him this letter, the parish certificate duly executed, and allowed by two justices, and three pounds caution money, if from any Part of England or Wales; but if the patient comes from Scotland or Ireland, then the caution money, to be deposited before admission, is the sum of five pounds.

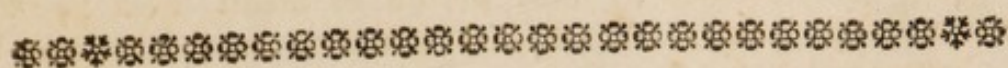
IV. Soldiers may instead of parish certificates, bring a certificate from their commanding officers, signifying to what corps they belong, and that they shall be received into the same corps, when discharged from the hospital in whatever condition they are. But it is necessary, that their cases be described, and sent previously; and that they bring with them three pounds caution money.

☞ The intention of the caution money is to defray the expences of retuning the patients after they are discharged from the hospital, or of their burial, in case they die there. The remainder of the caution money, after these expences are defray'd, will be return'd to the person who deposited it.

* * All poor persons coming to Bath, under pretence of getting into the hospital, without having their cases thus described and sent previously, and leave given to come, will be treated as vagrants, as the act of parliament, for the regulation of the hospital, requires.

N. B. If

N. B. If any patient should have the small-pox here, such person must be remov'd out of the house, and the caution money defray the expences thereof. Likewise all persons, who shall come into the hospital without decent and necessary apparell, must have such necessaries provided out of the said caution money.



Any person willing to contribute to this charity, may pay their contributions to the Treasurers in Bath, or Messrs. Hoare and C^{om} bankers, in Fleet-street, London, or put their benefactions into the Boxes in the Pump-room, and at the Hospital, for that purpose.



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