

## **Laws, orders, and regulations, of the Edinburgh General Lying-in Hospital.**

### **Contributors**

Edinburgh General Lying-in Hospital.

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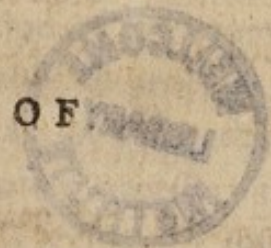


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LAWS, ORDERS,  
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*THE EDINBURGH*  
GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.



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GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL

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EDINBURGH.

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Laws, Orders, and Regulations, &c.

*The History, Title, and Purpose of the Institution.*

THE situation of PREGNANT WOMEN in indigent circumstances claims the attention of the benevolent in a peculiar manner. They are unable to procure proper assistance during child-bearing, and cannot enjoy that undisturbed repose after delivery which is often necessary to their recovery. Their offspring, therefore, is frequently lost, and their own health much impaired.

With the view of obviating these evils, Lying-in Hospitals have been established in almost every civilized country, and have been found extensively beneficial.

But although the poor of Edinburgh be not in a more comfortable situation than in other large cities, subscriptions for the erection of a Lying-in Hospital here were not begun till December 1791.

The proposals for an institution of this kind, drawn up by the Professor of Midwifery, having received the approbation of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. the Right Honourable the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town-Council, granted, on 26th December 1792, a seal of cause, erecting the subscribers into an incorporated body, under the name of "THE SOCIETY FOR RELIEVING INDIGENT PREGNANT WOMEN," intitling them to call the house or buildings to be appropriated by them for that purpose, "THE EDINBURGH GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL," allowing them all the immunities and privileges enjoyed by other bodies-corporate, &c.

The Directors appointed by the Subscribers to carry forward this institution purchased, in May 1793, that house and area entering from Bristo-Street, commonly called Rofs-house.

The principal object in the erection of this Hospital is to establish a proper provision during lying-in for the wives of the working poor, and to afford an asylum to the wives of soldiers and sailors, who, remote from their relations, and many of them from their country, are often, during pregnancy and child-bearing, in circumstances truly deplorable. In order to prevent the fatal consequences of despondency, or the unhappy effects of public infamy, the benefits of the institution are extended to those unmarried pregnant women who are in that state for the first time, and whose characters in other respects are unexceptionable.

Advice on the diseases peculiar to women and children shall also be given *gratis* by the Physicians of the Hospital on certain days of the week.

The advantages of this institution are not confined to the poor alone; for a Lying-in Hospital affords an excellent opportunity for the instruction of Practitioners of Midwifery. While, therefore, this establishment must accomplish the most benevolent views as a public charity, it must serve also the most useful purposes as an extensive school for important and necessary instruction.

The Hospital is founded and must be supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations.

*Of the Subscribers and Benefactors.*

THE Subscribers and Benefactors to this Hospital shall have the sole management of every thing relating to it, except in the choice of the ordinary Physician, as hereafter specified.

The immediate management of the Hospital shall be vested  
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in a President, four Vice-Presidents, eight Ordinary Directors, and a Treasurer, to be chosen annually by the subscribers, at a meeting held for that purpose.

The following Gentlemen in a public station are to be considered as Extraordinary Managers, to be requested, when necessary, to assist the Ordinary Directors with their advice, viz.

The Lord Provost,

The Lord President of the Court of Session,

The Lord Chief Baron,

The Lord Advocate,

The acting Sheriff,

The Convener of the Trades,

The Principal of the University,

The Professor of Divinity,

The President and Treasurer of the Royal Colleges of  
Physicians and Surgeons.

The Subscribers shall be intitled to vote by proxy, and the Ladies who subscribe shall enjoy the same privileges.

The nearest Heir of those who bequeath legacies to the Hospital shall be intitled to the privileges of a Subscriber.

*Of the Presidents and Ordinary Directors.*

The President, Vice-Presidents, and Ordinary Directors, shall be desired to meet every three months at least, to regulate the affairs of the Hospital.

The Presidents, or one Vice-President and four Ordinary Directors, or five, whether Presidents or Ordinary Directors, shall constitute a Quorum, possessing the full powers of the whole.

The Treasurer and Ordinary Physician shall attend each meeting officially; the former to lay before the Directors the state of the funds, &c. and the latter to report to them that

of the patients, and to suggest any regulations respecting their management which he may find necessary.

Subscribers may attend these meetings, and assist with their advice, but shall not vote on any question.

An extra meeting of the Directors may be held at any time; but the regulations adopted at such meetings shall only continue in force till the next stated meeting, when, if they be not confirmed, they must be annulled.

Patients recommended by the President shall be admitted in preference to every other; and the Vice-Presidents and Ordinary Directors shall be intitled to recommend, annually, one preferable patient at least.

#### *Of the Ordinary Physician.*

THE Professor of Midwifery for the time being shall be the Ordinary Physician to the Hospital.

The charge of the patients shall be intrusted solely to him, with the power of calling in the aid of the Consulting, Extraordinary, or Assistant Physicians, when he sees fit.

He shall *ex officio* be a member of all committees, and be summoned to all meetings.

All the servants of the Hospital shall be under his direction; but the power of dismissing any of them in the event of improper conduct shall be vested in the Presidents and Ordinary Directors.

The Ordinary Physician, under the regulations after specified, shall alone have the power of admitting patients, so that none affected with contagious diseases may be received into the Hospital.

He shall, besides taking care of the house-patients, attend at the Hospital, at a particular hour, on certain days of the week, for the purpose of giving advice in the diseases of women and children. But he may request the Extraordinary  
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nary or Assistant Physician to take charge of this necessary duty.

The Ordinary Physician shall be intitled, exclusively, to the privilege of granting Diplomas to the Pupils attending the Hospital.

*Of the Consulting, Extraordinary, and Assistant Physician.*

THE Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons for the time being shall be considered as Consulting Physician and Surgeon, to be requested by the Ordinary Physician to attend on extraordinary occasions.

The Subscribers shall elect two Physicians practising Midwifery to attend the Hospital, the one as Extraordinary, the other as Assistant Physician, during the necessary absence of the Ordinary Physician.

The Extraordinary and Assistant Physicians shall continue in these offices for life, unless they choose at any time to resign. They shall never attend the Hospital but when called by the Ordinary Physician, or during his absence; and shall not interfere with the management of the patients, except on these occasions.

*Of the Treasurer.*

THE Treasurer shall be chosen annually by the Subscribers.

He shall have the charge of all the money belonging to the Hospital, and shall keep a regular account of the receipts and expenditure.

The Treasurer alone shall grant receipts to the Subscribers for their annual or total subscriptions, and also discharges to Trustees for any Legacies which may be bequeathed to the Hospital.

He shall also register the minutes of the Directors at all their



their meetings; and he shall be a member of every committee, although not specially named.

All the meetings of the Directors shall be called by the Treasurer, in name of the President.

The Treasurer's accounts shall be annually examined and passed by the Presidents and Directors.

*Of the Midwife.*

AN experienced Midwife (unmarried) shall be chosen by the Subscribers. She shall receive an annual salary for her services, and shall always reside in the Hospital.

The Midwife shall have the charge of the internal affairs of the Hospital. She shall attend all the patients, and be ready at all times to report their cases to the Physician.

She shall be furnished with an inventory, signed by the Treasurer and Ordinary Physician, and confirmed by herself, of all the household-furniture, linen, &c. belonging to the Hospital; and she shall be accountable to the Directors for every article specified therein.

She shall provide all the necessaries with respect to food, &c. for the patients and servants of the Hospital. For this purpose, she shall receive a sum of money weekly from the Treasurer, and shall, at the end of each week, produce to him a regular account of the expenditure; and her vouchers and accounts shall at such times be examined by him, and, if regular, passed, attested, and registered.

The Midwife shall have the immediate superintendance of the inferior servants of the Hospital, and shall take care that they perform their respective duties properly, and shall report to the Ordinary Physician every circumstance to the contrary.

She shall be required to keep a regular register of all the patients, of the date of their admission, dismissal, of their delivery, &c.

*Of the Inferior Servants of the Hospital.*

THE Inferior Servants of the Hospital shall consist of a cook, a number of nurses proportioned to that of the patients, and of a porter, who shall not reside in the house.

They shall be engaged for a short space of time only, that they may be removed, when necessary, by order of the Ordinary Directors.

*Of the Patients.*

NO Patients shall be admitted into the Hospital without the recommendation of a Subscriber; but such recommendation shall not be considered as subjecting the Subscriber to any expence in the event of the Patient's death, unless specially mentioned.

Every married Patient shall be required to produce an obligation from her husband, binding himself to take his wife and child, or children, out of the Hospital, when desired, and to pay the expence of his wife's or child's or childrens funeral, if she, it, or they should unfortunately die.

Every unmarried Patient shall be required to furnish a similar obligation, signed by one respectable householder of the city or county of Edinburgh, and shall be obliged to produce also an attestation of her general good character, signed by the session-clerk of the parish to which she belongs, or by the minister or two elders of such parish, or by two respectable householders of the county or city of Edinburgh, or by one regular clergyman of the said county or city.

A similar obligation and attestation shall be exacted from those married Patients whose husbands are dead, or at a distance.

The number of Patients to be maintained constantly at the expence of the Hospital shall at first be restricted to eighteen, viz. twelve married and six unmarried women.

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The married women shall be lodged in a part of the house perfectly distinct from that appropriated to the unmarried, entering by a different door, and from a different street.

The married Patients are to be attended by the male pupils of the Hospital, under the direction of the Ordinary Physician; and the unmarried Patients, under his superintendance, are to be attended solely by the female pupils.

Every Patient admitted into the Hospital shall be required to conform herself to the following Regulations; and every one transgressing any of them shall be immediately dismissed from the Hospital, and never again received into it.

*Regulations respecting Patients.*

EVERY Patient shall bring with her, when admitted into the Hospital, proper cloathing for herself and child.

No Patient who shall have remained in the Hospital above six weeks from the date of her admission, unless by order of the Physician, shall be intitled to any sum of money on her dismissal.

No Patient shall be allowed to go out of the Hospital without permission of the Midwife.

No persons shall be admitted as visitors to Patients except on three days of the week, between the hours of one and two afternoon.

No such visitor shall enter any other part of the Hospital than the Hall appropriated to that purpose.

No visitors can be allowed to see any of the lying-in Patients, without permission from the Midwife, as they shall be lodged in a separate part of the house from that allotted to the undelivered women.

The Patients who are able are expected to assist the Nurses in attending the lying-in Patients, &c.

Every Patient shall yield an implicit obedience to the Midwife;

wife ; but at the same time shall have power, if aggrieved by any person in the Hospital, to apply for redress to the Ordinary Physician, or to any of the Ordinary Directors.

The diet of the Patients shall be regulated by the Ordinary Physician, and no other articles of food, except those prescribed by him, shall be allowed.

No person shall be permitted to bring any fermented or spirituous liquors into the Hospital, without an order from the Physician.

No Patient shall be allowed to leave the Hospital without her child or children, if it or they be alive.

The children born in the Hospital shall be baptized before they be taken away.

Every Patient shall, on her dismissal, if she shall have conformed to the above Regulations, and shall have behaved properly in every respect, receive the sum of Five Shillings Sterling, from which no deduction shall be made by the Nurse or Nurses, on any pretence whatever.

If any Patient shall unfortunately die, notice thereof shall be immediately sent to the person or persons who had signed the obligation required on the admission of Patients ; and if such person or persons do not take charge of the funeral, the Midwife shall cause the body to be buried in the most decent economical manner ; and the expence shall be defrayed by the person or persons who signed the obligation.

## Of the Pupils of the Hospital.

### *Male Pupils.*

THE Gentlemen who attend the lectures of the Professor of Midwifery are alone intitled to become Pupils of the Hospital.

Each Gentleman shall pay the sum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence.

Sixpence Sterling for being permitted to attend the Hospital for three months, One Guinea for six months, and so in proportion.

Each Gentleman, on paying any of these sums, shall receive a ticket, containing the following words :

“                                    is hereby intitled to attend the Edinburgh  
“ General Lying-in Hospital for the space of                    on  
“ condition that he shall obey faithfully all the Regulations  
“ respecting Pupils.”

The Professor of Midwifery shall issue these tickets, and shall be accountable to the Treasurer for the sums received for them.

*Female Pupils.*

THE Midwives who attend the Professor of Midwifery shall be allowed to attend the Hospital without any expence.

Each Midwife shall receive a ticket for that purpose, containing the following words.

“                                    is hereby intitled to attend the General  
“ Lying-in Hospital of Edinburgh for the space of                     
“ on condition that she shall carefully observe all the Regu-  
“ lations respecting Female Pupils.”

*Regulations respecting Male Pupils.*

NO Gentlemen shall be permitted to attend the Hospital without having the ticket allotted for Male Pupils.

But any Gentleman may be allowed to visit the Hospital, by an order from the Physician, according to the Regulations respecting visitors.

No Male Pupil shall attempt to enter, under the penalty of forfeiting his ticket, any part of the Hospital, except the wards allotted for married patients, and the rooms appropriated to Male Pupils.

No Male Pupil (with the exception afterwards specified) shall have access to the Hospital, unless summoned by the porter, except between the hours of twelve and one forenoon and seven and eight in the evening, at which hours the Midwife shall attend in the wards.

Gentlemen shall be called to deliveries in the order in which their names are registered in the Class-book of the Professor of Midwifery.

They shall be divided into classes of twelve, to be called to deliveries in succession, and no more than that number shall ever, except when summoned particularly by the Physician, be present at a delivery.

No Gentleman shall be permitted to deliver any of the Patients, unless he have attended the Hospital for the space of three months, or have formerly attended the Lying-in Ward of the Royal Infirmary for the same period.

Gentlemen intitled to deliver shall deliver in the order in which their names are registered in the Class-book of the Professor of Midwifery. That this may be ascertained, a list of such Gentlemen, signed by the Professor, shall be lodged with the Midwife.

The Midwife shall be present at every delivery, and the Physician shall also attend when necessary.

The Physicians of the Hospital shall be required to draw up a few general precepts for the management of deliveries, in the Latin Language. These shall be painted on a board hung up in the delivery room, that those Gentlemen who do not take an active part in the delivery may understand the principles on which the others proceed.

The Gentleman who has charge of the delivery shall be furnished by the Midwife with a register, the form of which shall be settled by the Physicians, on which he shall mark the commencement of labour, the progress, and termination, the number, sex, and weight of the children, and also shall  
carefully

carefully note any particular circumstance which may attend the delivery.

The after-treatment of the Patient, under the direction of the Physician, shall be intrusted to the Gentleman who had charge of the delivery; and he shall be required to mark regularly, on the register in which he entered the delivery, the diurnal state of the patient, till she shall be dismissed from the Hospital.

The registers, when filled up, shall be consigned to the care of the Physician.

Every Gentleman who shall not carefully observe the Regulations respecting the registers, shall forfeit, for the benefit of the Hospital, the sum of One Guinea for the first offence, and if afterwards again guilty of the same neglect, shall be expelled for ever from the Hospital, and shall not be intitled to a diploma.

Every Gentleman who has had charge of a delivery shall be permitted to enter the Hospital at any time from seven in the morning to eleven at night, till the patient be dismissed.

If his attendance be necessary at any other time, he shall be called by the Physician.

Those pupils whom the Professor of Midwifery receives under the title of Annual Pupils, shall pay to the Hospital the sum of Two Guineas.

The annual pupils alone shall attend the Hospital during the hours appropriated for giving advice in the diseases incident to women and children.

Two annual pupils, in rotation, shall attend the Physician at such hours.

They shall be required to register the case of each patient, and the prescription of the Physician. These registers shall be lodged with the Midwife, and shall be open for the inspection of every Male Pupil of the Hospital.

It is expected, that no Gentleman will injure, destroy, or take away any of the registers; and if any pupil shall be  
guilty

guilty of such offences, he shall be expelled from the Hospital, and his expulsion publicly notified in the room appropriated for Male Pupils.

It is hoped, that the Pupils will make no noise in entering or going out of the Hospital at any time, or during their attendance there, that the recovery of the patients may not be interrupted.

*Regulations respecting Female Pupils.*

NO Midwife shall attend the Hospital without having the ticket allotted for Female Pupils.

No Female Pupil shall enter the Hospital at any hour, (with the exception afterwards specified), except between the hours of eleven and twelve forenoon and six and seven in the evening, unless summoned by the porter.

At these hours, the Female Pupils shall have access to every part of the Hospital appropriated for patients, except those set apart for the reception of boarders.

They shall deliver no patients but unmarried ones.

But they shall be allowed to assist in dressing all the children in the Hospital, and also in dressing, &c. the lying-in patients.

The Midwife of the Hospital shall superintend them on those occasions.

The Female Pupils shall be called to deliveries in the order in which their names are entered in the Class-book of the Professor of Midwifery.

But four only shall be present at each delivery.

The Pupil who delivers shall be provided with a register similar to that given to the Male Pupils, on which she shall take care to mark, or cause to be marked, all the circumstances of the delivery; she shall then give the register to the Physician, that he may add the history of the after-treatment.



The Female Pupil who shall have had charge of the delivery shall have access to the Hospital at all times from seven in the morning till eleven at night, while the patient remains in the house.

No Female Pupil shall be allowed to prescribe any medicine or remedy, either for internal or external use, for any of the women or children, as that duty belongs exclusively to the Physician.

The Female Pupils are expected to avoid every opportunity of being at any time in the same parts of the Hospital with the Male Pupils, and they are required to take particular care not to disturb the patients in any manner whatever.

*Of Visitors.*

THE Hospital shall be open for Visitors every Wednesday between the hours of one and two afternoon; and Visitors who cannot attend on such occasions may be admitted at any time, by an order from the Physician.

Ladies visiting the Hospital may have access to every part of it, except that appropriated to Boarders, or any ward in which one or more of the patients in a precarious situation may be laid. But any patient who does not wish to be seen by Visitors shall be allowed to conceal herself till they leave the Hospital. Gentlemen Visitors can only be admitted into the wards of the undelivered married women, unless they have a special order from the Physician,

The Midwife of the Hospital shall always attend Visitors.

It is expected, that no Visitors will offer any sum of money to any of the patients or servants of the Hospital; and if any patients or servants shall accept of such sum, they shall be immediately dismissed from the Hospital, and never again admitted.