

# **The history and statutes of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.**

## **Contributors**

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.  
Stedman, John, -1791.

## **Publication/Creation**

Edinburgh : printed by Balfour and Smellie, 1778.

## **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/esaephkd>

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Supp. 60159/C

EDINBURGH, Royal Infirmary





W Anderson Surgeon

Adams's Court

Canoga



St. Lucia

B60

[STEDMAN (John)]



















Extends 200 feet

Gul. Adam inv. et delin.

The North Front of the Royal *Infirmary* facing the City of Edinburgh

R. Cooper. Sculp.

THE  
H I S T O R Y  
AND  
S T A T U T E S  
OF THE  
R O Y A L I N F I R M A R Y  
OF  
E D I N B U R G H.

E D I N B U R G H:

Printed by BALFOUR AND SMELLIE.

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M, DCC, LXXVIII.



THE

HISTORY

AND

STATUTES

OF THE

ROYAL INFIRMARY



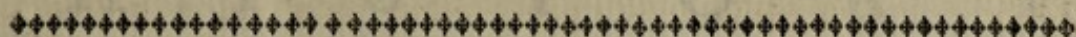
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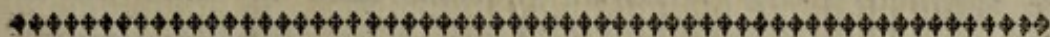
EDINBURGH

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M. DCC. LXXXIII



THE  
H I S T O R Y  
OF THE  
ROYAL INFIRMARY.









THE  
H I S T O R Y  
OF THE  
ROYAL INFIRMARY.

**A**MONG the various objects with which we are surrounded, none ought more readily to attract our attention, or more effectually to excite our compassion, than those of our own species, who, at the same time, labour under poverty and disease. The first and most natural effect of this sympathy on a humane mind, is to stimulate it to make such efforts as shall prove most conducive to the relief of these unhappy sufferers. From charitable offices thus directed, one can hardly fail to reap substantial satisfaction ; since Nature herself, in such cases, calls loudly for the exertion of citizens of all denominations, whose circumstances are such as enable them to afford assistance. We ought to be swayed by the dictates of reason, as we are taught by those of religion, to visit the sick, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked : And there is, perhaps, no surer touchstone of good dispositions in the mind, than the degree of complacency to be derived from such offices.

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The saving and restoring to health members of society, whose labours are indispensable in a state, may well be ranked among the more important services done to the community. Hence, in all well regulated societies, public funds and private charities, have been devoted to the use of the poor.

The most benevolent intentions to relieve our fellow-creatures, must be, in a great measure, frustrated, while the poor and diseased either live dispersed, or have no fixed place of abode. Under those circumstances, charity is bestowed with uncertainty, and frequently on the most improper objects. In this state of things, it is out of the power, even of the most opulent, to provide lodging, medical advice, attendance, drugs, food, and other necessities, to those whose calamitous circumstances require them. All these inconveniencies may be happily removed, by collecting the patients into one or more public places, properly disposed and appointed, where they may be comfortably subsisted, and their health taken care of, at a small charge; and where, by divine assistance, their bodily diseases may become the means of improving their minds, and correcting their morals, and of making them experimentally to feel and know, that it is good for them to have been afflicted.

The city of Edinburgh hath not been inattentive to its poor; having, for many years past, allotted a considerable revenue for their support, and appointed a physician and surgeon to attend them, as their cases might require. But the poor, whose right to public support was founded on their being free of the city, or residents in it for a certain period of time, being considered as possessing a preferable claim, ingrossed the whole, or much the greater part of this charity; and pensioners, living about the suburbs of the town,



town, or at a greater distance, could not be properly attended ; nor could the magistrates be so thoroughly informed of their circumstances, as to proportion supplies to their respective necessities. This naturally suggested the advantages that would arise from a public Infirmary, or house for the accommodation of sick poor. But the funds necessary to rear a fabric of sufficient extent seemed, at first, an insuperable difficulty.

In the year 1725, the Royal College of Physicians, who had long given gratuitous advice and medicines to the sick poor at their Hall, being thus well acquainted with their miserable state, undertook to obtain subscriptions for such a fund ; and, as a good example to others, were the first subscribers, and engaged to attend the Infirmary regularly in their turns, without fee or reward.

The Physicians were assisted by the members of the incorporation of Surgeon-apothecaries, and by other charitable people. Assignations to shares of the stock of the Fishery-Company then dissolved, and subscriptions for sums specified in obligatory papers were procured, amounting to upwards of L. 2000 Sterling ; which was judged to be the smallest fund on which such an Hospital could be begun.

The subscription of L. 2000 was no sooner completed, than the College of Physicians called the contributors together, who named twelve of their number, as a committee, for collecting the money subscribed, for obtaining more subscriptions, and for preparing a plan of management of the Infirmary.

This committee having received as much money as, by its annual rent, might maintain a few patients ; and, having prepared a report concerning the management of the Hospital, called a meeting



ing of contributors, where twenty managers were elected, and such regulations as were then deemed necessary, were digested, and ordered to be printed; and, on the 6th of August 1729, a small hired house was opened for receiving sick poor.

After some years trial of the good effects of this Infirmary, the Managers represented the advantages of such an Hospital, in an humble petition to his Majesty, who was graciously pleased to grant a charter, dated the 25th August 1736: ‘Whereby he does erect, create, and incorporate, the contributors to this charitable design, into one body corporate and politic, by the name of the ROYAL INFIRMARY of EDINBURGH, with rules for a perpetual succession and management, with power to use a seal, to sue and be sued, to purchase lands, to make bye-laws; and with all other powers necessary for such a corporation \*.’

Before the contributors to the Infirmary were erected into a corporation, the fund increased slowly; but, after the charter was granted, the public was convinced of the benefit which might be reaped from an Infirmary of greater extent. So great was the spirit for encouraging and supporting this design, that it was thought reasonable to begin the building of such an house as could conveniently lodge all the sick poor who might be supposed to apply for admittance.

For this purpose, various plans were presented to the Managers, and laid by them before the principal contributors, and others, who had most skill in architecture, and likewise before general meetings of the Corporation, by whom the managers were, at last, order-

\* See a copy of the Charter subjoined to this History.



ordered to cause the house, now finished, to be built. In obedience to which orders, the foundation of the easter half of the body of the house was laid 2d August 1738 ; since which, the building was gradually carried on, till the whole plan has been at length fully executed.

This house consists of a body and two wings, each of three full stories, and an attic one, with garrets above.

The body of the house is 210 feet in length ; from each end of which, and at right angles, a wing is extended 70 feet, having vaulted cellars below. The middle of the body is 36 feet wide, but the rest of the house is only 24 feet wide.

In this building are three stairs ; a large one in the middle, and a smaller one in each wing, where it is joined to the body. In the middle of the house, contiguous to the great stair-case, there is, on the ground-floor, a lobby or hall ; on the second floor, the Managers room ; on the third, a consulting-room for the Physicians and Surgeons, and a waiting-room for the students ; and, on the attic, a large theatre, in which upwards of 200 students can, at once, see operations ; and the same serves the purposes of a chapel. Over the theatre, a cupola is raised, which may occasionally be used as an astronomical observatory, having windows to the different quarters of the hemisphere.

In the ground-floor are twelve cells for mad people\*, two kitchens, larder, pauntry, the porter, and other servants rooms, apothecary's shop, and ware-house. One of the vaulted cellars is fitted up, so as to be subservient to the shop, being immediately under it, and having access to it by a stair. In this vaulted room

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\* Since the building of the Hospital, it hath appeared that so many cells for maniacs are unnecessary ; some of them, therefore, are converted into other uses.



are furnaces, the great mortar, and other conveniencies, for the more laborious and coarser operations, which had formerly been found to render the shop disorderly, and to disturb the patients on the floors above. On the same floor with the shop, and adjacent to it, is the apothecary's room, as likewise a dining-room, the matron's parlour, with a large closet for her books of accompts, and other necessaries. This parlour communicates with her bed-chamber immediately above. The physician's two clerks, the surgeon's clerk, and the apothecary's assistant, have their rooms on the different floors of the house; and are so lodged, that they may be ready to answer any sudden call from the patients. In the other apartments of the house, 228 sick people can be accommodated, each in a distinct bed, with a press at its head, for containing the medicines, clothes, or other necessaries, belonging to the respective patients.

One half of the Hospital is allotted to male-patients, the other to women. These two equal parts of the house are separated from one another by the lobby, great stair, managers hall, and other public rooms mentioned above. The medical patients occupy the first and second floors, and chirurgical patients the third. The immediate access to the theatre from the men's ward, on the one side, and from the women's on the other, rendered it necessary that these chirurgical wards should be on the third floor; for patients, after operations, are thus transported conveniently, and without agitation, from the theatre, to the adjacent beds on either side. The great stair, being spacious, and of easy ascent, admits of street-chairs, in which patients brought to the Hospital with fractures, dislocations, or dangerous wounds, may be carried to these wards without difficulty. Further, patients lodged in that high part of  
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the Hospital enjoy constantly fresh air, and are free from the noise of the inferior parts of the house ; both which circumstances are of importance to those who have undergone dangerous operations.

On this floor is likewise a ward for lying-in-women, sufficiently separated from the rest of the house, and under the direction of the Professor of Midwifery. Above this floor are extensive garrets, in which many patients might be accommodated. But, as heat and cold in these, cannot be properly regulated, they, with much of the ground-floor, are made repositories for necessary stores.

On the attic story, and in a remote part of the house, is a salivating ward for female patients, containing twelve beds. This ward, being under the management of a prudent nurse, is never open but when she herself is present ; so that these patients cannot have any intercourse with the other wards of the Hospital. There is still a small ward, with four beds, for the same purpose as the preceding. This ward was fitted up in consequence of a few female patients, who, being sufferers, not by any fault of their own, but by that of their husbands, or from suckling infected children, had applied to be taken under cure in the Hospital. The Physicians, finding it improper to throw these patients into the company of others whose conduct and manners are less correct ; and, considering them as no less objects of compassion than any other patients in the house, represented the case to the Managers, who gave orders for this ward. But it is hoped the Hospital will in time be relieved of the more numerous class of these patients. A building sufficient for such a purpose would neither be large nor expensive : And some people of interest, and in opulent circumstances, have expressed an inclination to promote it.

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In the west wing are one cold, and two hot baths, with their respective dressing-rooms. There is a door leading to these baths from the great court, independent of the three entries corresponding to as many stairs already mentioned. In the east wing, is a bath for the patients of the house, so constructed, that it may be occasionally used either as a cold or a hot bath. Those in the west wing are intended for people of the city; no patient in the Hospital having, at any time, admittance to them.

At each end of the Hospital are private courts, with necessary houses. The grounds round the Hospital consist of two acres, divided into a large court before, a private court at each end, and into grass-walks, for the convenience of the patients, on the south side of the house; the whole having a free and open air, with public gardens at each end, and a gravel-walk parallel to the body of the house. In the west court, and separate from the house, is a room, to which bodies are carried immediately after death; and another, where foul linen is lodged, till it be carried off to be washed. Both these rooms are well ventilated, by the means of spiracles made for that purpose. There is likewise, at some distance from these, and in a more elevated place, a wooden frame, so constructed with a roof and sloping boards, as to admit air on all sides, but no rain. In this, the mattresses and blankets are put, when it is found necessary to refresh them in the open air.

The house is supplied with water, conveyed by pipes, from the great reservoir of the city.

In the construction of this fabric, nothing hath been more solicitously attended to than ventilation. In each of the shorter wards, that is, those of the wings, are opposite windows, a chimney at

one



one end, and a door opening to a stair-case at the other. In the longer wards, or those in the body of the house, besides opposite windows, is a door at each end leading to different stair-cases, some of them having likewise a chimney at each end. Other parts of the hospital, deemed somewhat too confined for the ready admission of external air, are furnished with artificial ventilators. At each of the four corners of the different wards are small rooms sufficient to contain one, two, and some of them three beds. All these rooms have chimneys.

The corporation being prohibited by the royal charter to apply their capital, or its annual interest, to any other use than the support of sick poor; and large sums being necessary for erecting and furnishing a house of so great extent, the managers, as soon as they received the order to undertake this building, found it necessary to apply for charitable assistance, wherever it could be found. Supplies were speedy and liberal beyond their expectations. The venerable Assembly of the Church of Scotland ordered collections for this purpose at every church-door. Several of the reverend ministers, by their own contributions, gave good examples to the people of their respective parishes; and became solicitors with others of their acquaintance, to promote the same end. The reverend episcopal clergy, moved with no less zeal for this laudable work, were most liberal contributors: For what was collected on the Sundays appointed for this charity, was freely given up by them, though the only fund of their subsistence.

Besides these charitable supplies, the managers of the Assembly \*

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\* This assembly is a weekly meeting in a public hall, to which people of rank and fashion resort for dancing or other amusements.



gave benefit nights, without deducting the charges of music, lights, tea, &c. Societies of different denominations in and about Edinburgh, as well as in other parts of Scotland, sent money. Gentlemen and merchants made presents of timber, stone, lime, slate, and other materials. Farmers and carters supplied carriages. So great was the spirit for carrying on this work, that labourers and mechanics, who were but little able to contribute money, gave gratuitous labour of one, two, or more days, as if in emulation with one another. The managers themselves, besides the supplies which they received from people of all ranks, were so scrupulous and attentive to apply the funds to the purposes intended, that they paid, out of their own pockets, public entertainments, vales, and the like necessary charges.

If it be allowed to introduce particular characters here, none can claim our grateful remembrance more than that of George Drummond, Commissioner of his Majesty's Excise, and seven times elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh. Among the various pursuits for the benefit of the community, which occupied the benevolent mind of this worthy and public spirited citizen, the Royal Infirmary was, more than any other, the favourite object of his generous exertions. His indefatigable labours in procuring bounties, whether money or materials, to set this work agoing, and his ardent efforts in forwarding it when begun, were amply compensated, as his solicitous wishes were happily gratified, in seeing it completed many years before his death. Let it suffice to insert the inscription below an elegant bust, executed by *Nollekins*, which the managers, some years after his death, thought it their duty to place in



in the public hall, in testimony of their respect for his memory and services to the hospital.

‘GEORGE DRUMMOND, to whom this country is indebted for all the benefit which it derives from the Royal Infirmary.’

The College of Physicians and the Incorporation of Surgeons were active in promoting this work ; whether as collective bodies, or each member according to his abilities, or as opportunities presented. The late Doctor Monro, Professor of Anatomy, was particularly sanguine in this enterprise, frequently acted in concert with Mr Drummond, and was always ready to assist him to the utmost of his power.

But, notwithstanding all these marks of liberality, supplies from Scotland were found insufficient for the undertaking. The managers, therefore, dispersed copies of their plan in England, Ireland, and the British Plantations, from all which countries considerable remittances were made.

It is in vain to attempt doing justice to all these generous contributors, they being very numerous : But their names, together with their donations, are thankfully recorded by the managers, and the record is deposited in their hall, in the Infirmary, for public inspection.

The benefit arising from an hospital erected by a charity so general and extensive, could not reasonably be confined to one city or country. The corporation, therefore, ordered, that the sick, not otherwise excepted by the rules of the house, should be admitted as patients, from whatever country or nation they should come.



A school of medicine having been for many years established in Edinburgh, and having arisen, before the period of the erection of this hospital, to a flourishing state, the managers of the Infirmary resolved to spare no pains in cherishing it, as far as the hospital could serve that purpose ; and, foreseeing that its interest would soon be interwoven with that of the university, they resolved to adopt every measure that could tend to facilitate medical education, and to render it complete. They, therefore, permitted all students of medicine, upon paying a small gratuity, to attend the hospital, that they might have all the benefit that could be derived from the practice of the physicians and surgeons. What the students paid for their admittance was allotted to the annual support of the house, and hath now arisen to a considerable sum.

Farther, the managers, considering that the defect of clinical lectures in medical seminaries, had often proved a ground of complaint, gave liberty to the professors of medicine to lecture on such cases of the patients as they should find most conducive to the instruction of the students. This was the only branch wanting in the medical course, and, it may be considered as a practical illustration of what students have read by themselves, or heard in the different classes. The field from which the professor who hath the charge of this department selects his patients being ample, a variety of curious and interesting cases may be supposed to present themselves in the space of six months. To hear, and, if students chuse, to commit to writing, the histories of these, their daily change of symptoms, the various prescriptions, and a minute investigation of the whole in the subsequent lectures, seems to be all that can be done for initiating them in the practice of medicine.

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The managers likewise gave orders for purchasing books \* and chirurgical instruments, at least, such as were then deemed necessary.

The part of the house which had been first founded being completed and furnished, patients were admitted into it in December 1741.

In the year 1742, the Earl of Hopeton assigned L. 400 Sterling, to be paid annually to the managers of the Infirmary, with directions to dispose of it in the following manner: One hundred to be added yearly to the capital stock: One hundred to be bestowed on furniture, reparations, or building: Fifty pounds for maintaining five people who should be judged by the physicians or surgeons incurable, after having made proper attempts for their cure in the house: The remaining one hundred and fifty to be employed in entertaining the ordinary patients.

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\* A society of medical students hath subsisted in Edinburgh upwards of thirty years. Its members continue for life, in whatever part of the world they may be; and new associates are taken in annually from the students who attend the university. This society hath collected a considerable number of well chosen books. The members have lately erected a building, in which is an hall for their periodical meetings, a repository for their books, a room fitted for chemical experiments, and other conveniencies. This library, with other opportunities of finding medical books in Edinburgh, particularly in the public library of the university, which must soon contain an ample collection of medical books, as considerable funds are annually appropriated for that purpose, rendered a collection of books in the Infirmary unnecessary. However laudable, therefore, the intention of the managers was in giving orders for such a collection, it came to be soon discontinued.



In the years 1743 and 1744, the sick soldiers of the regiments quartered in or near Edinburgh, were taken into that part of the Infirmary which remained unpossessed by other patients, as a more convenient hospital than any other that could be found.

In 1745 and 1746, the affairs of the Infirmary, as well as of the whole country, were thrown into confusion by the rebellion, and the house became a general hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers, whom the managers assisted as far as was in their power; and several hundreds of them were attended and dressed by the surgeons till cured: Since which time the sick soldiers from the army in Flanders, and from the different parts of Scotland, have been accommodated in the Infirmary.

In 1746, the managers of the Infirmary and of the Town's Workhouse, took a joint lease of the Hall where the weekly assemblies at Edinburgh for dancing are kept, several ladies of quality and rank undertaking to act as directresses in their turns. The profits arising from the assemblies, when divided equally to the Infirmary, Workhouse, and private charity, affords about L. 100 annually to each.

The Surgeon-apothecaries had not only attended without fee, but had also furnished the medicines *gratis*, each out of his own shop, during his attendance, from the first erection of this hospital in 1729, till 1748. The managers then thinking this expence too burdensome, there being above forty patients constantly in the house, and many out-patients receiving medicines, ordered an apothecary's shop to be fitted up in the house, and furnished with medicines according to the Dispensatory composed by the College of Physicians for the use of the Infirmary, which was thereupon  
printed



printed and published. The managers, therefore, ordered to postpone invitations to out-pensioners or to supernumerary patients, with intention to renew invitations to both these classes as soon as their own apothecary's shop should be fitted up.

After paying the area, building, furniture, &c. the stock of the Infirmary at the end of the year 1748, was five thousand pounds Sterling.

In the year 1749, forty ordinary patients made the establishment of the house; and sick poor were again invited to appear on Mondays and Fridays for advice, or were admitted into the hospital as supernumeraries, upon paying sixpence *per* day for maintenance and every other necessary.

The interest of the capital mentioned above; the L. 150 from the Earl of Hopeton; the third share of the profits arising from the assembly; and the yearly premium from students for tickets, made the whole annual revenue of the Infirmary in the year 1749. This being by far too small for the support of the hospital, and great numbers of sick poor still applying for admittance, further remonstrances for public and private charities were found necessary: Nor were these without success. For, besides money, people sent to the hospital vivres of different kinds, coals, candles, old linen, and a variety of other things useful in the house.

The managers having applied for liberty to bury in Lady Yester's church-yard, such of the patients as should die in the Infirmary, the magistrates readily complied with this desire, but with a few restrictions. This hath proved a singular convenience to the hospital, that burying-ground being separated from the great court only by a narrow street.



In 1750, the managers were informed that Doctor Archibald Ker of Jamaica having died in his passage to England, had left the property of his estate in that island to the Royal Infirmary. The annual revenue of these lands, called in Jamaica a Penn, and rented for a term of years, amounted to L. 306, Jamaica currency, being in Sterling money, at the common conversion, L. 218 : 11 : 5.

In January 1751, the ordinary managers, in consequence of the power conferred upon them by the general court of contributors, elected Doctor David Clerk, and Doctor Colin Drummond, physicians in ordinary to the Infirmary, with each a salary of L. 30. Hitherto the physicians of the college had attended the Infirmary by months in rotation; and the college, after this election, made offer to the managers of the continuation of their services in the Infirmary, together with those of the ordinary physicians. The members of the college continued for some time after in their monthly rotation; and, though it has gradually fallen into disuse, the ordinary physicians may still call for the assistance of any of the college.

It was put in the option of the two ordinary physicians, either to visit all the patients of the house conjunctly, or each to take one half as his proper patients. This latter method hath been constantly followed; either of the two physicians taking the assistance of the other occasionally, as the difficulty or danger attending particular cases may require, which is done with the greater convenience, that the two physicians attend the hospital daily at the same hour.

The admission of patients into the house, or their dismissal from it, hath been constantly by a signed order of one or both physicians.

Though



Though the physicians and surgeons have their respective wards, yet, in mixed cases, their reciprocal assistance is occasionally called for, and readily granted.

If a patient be presented to the hospital, whether hurt by any unforeseen accident, or suddenly taken ill by any dangerous distemper, the matron or clerks are authorised to admit that patient; and this admission to be confirmed afterwards by the signature of the physicians.

In order to preserve the better oeconomy of the hospital, two of the ordinary managers were, from its first institution, appointed to visit it once every month. These make it their business to inquire of the patients whether they have any complaints with respect to their management; to remark what is disorderly in the house; and to write their observations in a book of reports to be examined by the subsequent monthly meeting of the managers.

Medicines having been furnished to out-patients till the year 1754, it was then discovered that considerable abuses had been committed by them, to the detriment of the house. The managers thereupon ordered that medicines should be given more sparingly to out-patients.

Application having been made for the invalide-money to be given to the Royal Infirmary, the Lords of the Treasury did accordingly, in the beginning of the year 1755, agree to give this money, amounting to L. 8000, to the town of Edinburgh, on condition that the town should pay to the Royal Infirmary the interest of that sum at three and an half *per cent.* In consequence of this, the managers were obliged to keep sixty beds constantly in readiness for the reception of sick soldiers; each of whom to pay to the



Infirmary fourpence *per* day during his residence in the house, this money being stopped out of his pay.

At the beginning of the year 1755, the neat stock of the Infirmary was found to be L. 7076 : 12 : 10, the expence of the fabric, with adjacent buildings, and some late repairs, amounting to L. 12294 : 14 : 4. The estate in Jamaica, left to the Infirmary by Doctor Ker, yielding annually L. 218 : 11 : 5, is not included in the above stock, and the invalide-money was not yet received.

This year application was made to the town-council, and likewise to the presbytery of Edinburgh, to raise money by collections at the several churches and chapels for furnishing a ward for the accommodation of sick servants. This petition was readily granted, and servants were soon admitted into the ward allotted solely to their use : Nor hath any ward in the hospital been found of greater utility to the city of Edinburgh. The families of the middle and lower ranks of people have, for the most part, no more room in their houses than is just sufficient for their accommodation : Hence it becomes particularly inconvenient when the servants of these families are taken with sickness. Even those of superior stations, who possess more spacious houses, are apt to be alarmed when diseases, especially those of a contagious nature, appear among their servants. It cannot fail, therefore, to yield relief to families of all ranks, to have this opportunity of removing their servants, when in such circumstances, from their houses, to have them conveniently lodged elsewhere, and properly cared for.

About this time a ward in the attic story of the hospital, by the permission of the managers, but at Doctor Young's expence, was fitted up, for four lying-in women, or as many more as Doctor  
Young



Young could accommodate, each, exceeding the number four, paying sixpence *per* day to the house. The number of free patients was afterwards increased from four to six.

About the end of the year 1755, the managers received a gift, under the privy-seal, of the invalide fund, amounting to L. 8273 : 17 : 3 Sterling, and, at the same time, a bond for it from the magistrates of Edinburgh, with interest from the date of the bond at five *per cent.* But with a condition, that, if they should make payment of the interest at three and a half *per cent.* at two terms in the year, Martinmas and Whitsunday, by equal portions, or within four weeks after any of these terms, then the treasurer of the Infirmary shall, for such terms so punctually paid, be obliged to accept of that interest.

Hitherto the ministers of Edinburgh had attended the Infirmary, each taking a month in his turn; but, about the middle of 1756, the managers appointed a chaplain to the hospital, with a moderate salary. His office was to preach in the theatre every Sunday, to say prayers twice a week, and to be ready upon a call to attend dying patients.

The attendance and trouble of the two ordinary physicians having been much increased by the number of foldiers admitted into the hospital, a salary of L. 90 yearly was granted by government to each of them, in consequence of a memorial presented for that purpose.

The managers, at the desire of Lord George Beauclerk, commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in North Britain, ordered a room to be fitted up for the reception of a guard to keep good order



order among the military patients of the hospital. This guard hath been regularly kept ever since.

The statue of his Majesty King George II. for which the managers had given orders some years before, being brought from London, was erected between the two middle pillars above the great entry.

In summer 1763, a peace being concluded, a great number of sick and lame soldiers presented themselves at the Infirmary, begging admittance. These soldiers, being disbanded upon the reduction of the army, had no claim to the military wards. An extraordinary meeting of the managers being called, they, though under no obligation to admit these men as soldiers, unanimously agreed to take them under cure, and let them have all the privileges of patients in the house. There were likewise many soldiers, formerly in the hospital, among the number of the disbanded. These were retained, at the expence of the house, till cured, and able to return to their respective abodes. Besides a principle of humanity, which determined the managers to this measure, they considered many of these soldiers as meriting this indulgence, since they had borne a share in rendering a dangerous war successful, and in advancing the glory of the British arms.

This same year a letter was presented to the managers from the commander in chief, acquainting them that Doctor Adam Austin was appointed inspector of the military wards; that he was to visit them regularly, and to make his reports to the adjutant-general. A committee being appointed to converse with Dr Austin on the nature of this office, the managers, upon the report of the committee,



tee, ordered the servants of the house to assist Doctor Austin in the execution of his office, when required.

In the beginning of the year 1765, the neat stock of the Infirmary, besides the Jamaica estate, and other articles excepted above, was found to amount to L. 23,426 : 2 : 2.

The managers, in consequence of the inconveniences which had arisen from the college of physicians attending by monthly rotation, having appointed two physicians to the hospital ; and finding similar inconveniences to arise from the whole body of surgeons attending in the same manner, elected four, to whom they committed the inspection of the whole chirurgical department. These four surgeons, named Substitutes, were to divide the year equally, each having his quarter, the other surgeons, or ordinaries of the incorporation likewise attending in monthly rotation. The four substitutes, besides their quarterly attendance, had likewise their monthly turn with the rest ; and when the month of any of the four substitutes fell in with his quarter, then either the next substitute in order was to become his assistant, or he was to apply for the assistance of another for that month, that the attendance of two might at no time be wanting in the Infirmary.

Besides these duties attending the office of the four substitutes, the managers further ordered them to be present at all consultations which should be called, either with respect to operations, or the admission of chirurgical patients into the house ; and committed to their care the direction of dressers and dressings, the records of chirurgical cases kept by the Surgeon's clerk, the inspection of the apothecary's shop, the care of the chirurgical instruments for the use of the house, and, in general, every thing relating to surgery



and pharmacy, according to such regulations as the managers should enact with respect thereto. To each of these four surgeons, the managers appointed such a salary as they thought the funds of the hospital could reasonably allow.

This establishment of four substitutes was made in July 1766. A few months after which, the incorporation of surgeons presented a memorial to the managers, in which some difficulties were started relating to the propriety of this institution. A committee was appointed to confer with the surgeons; and, after the matter had been long protracted, the managers, in the year 1769, made some changes in their former act. These consisted of the three following articles.

1. That, in place of the same four substitutes being continued, the managers would change one of them annually, and elect another member of the incorporation of surgeons in his place.

2. That they would make this annual change and election, according to seniority, and in the order in which the gentlemen, willing to act as substitutes or ordinaries, stand in the list presented by them to the board of managers.

3. That this should continue till altered by the managers, in case that, at any time hereafter, they should see cause so to do.

On July 18th, 1768, Doctor John Hope, professor of botany, was elected physician to the hospital, in place of Doctor David Clerk lately deceased.

This year the Royal Infirmary was furnished with an electrical conductor, extending from the highest part of the house to the foundation. This precaution against future accidents by thunder was taken in consequence of the house having suffered considerably from lightning



lightening a few months before. The stroke was sensibly felt in the long military ward; and one of the physicians, while examining a patient, was affected as if he had been struck with a large pillow full of soft down.

The establishment of ordinary patients, that is, excepting soldiers and servants, having continued for many years at sixty, was, as the funds of the house encreased, extended to eighty. But, though all patients exceeding the establishment ought, by a standing law of the house, to pay sixpence daily till a vacancy shall happen; yet the physicians have a discretionary power from the managers to admit, without payment, supernumerary patients, to the number of ten, who, from disease and poverty together, cannot be rejected without doing violence to the laws of humanity.

On the 2d of August 1773, Doctor John Steedman was elected physician to the hospital, in room of Doctor Drummond, who had removed to Bristol. And, in October 1775, Doctor Steedman, finding himself unable, from an infirm state of health, to give due attendance to the hospital, resigned his office of physician there. Doctor Joseph Black, professor of chemistry, was thereupon unanimously elected physician. But Doctor Black, after a few weeks, finding the duties of the hospital, his daily practice of medicine, together with his professorial functions, too laborious, he likewise resigned the office of physician to the Infirmary, and Doctor James Hamilton was elected his successor. The managers re-elected Doctor Steedman jointly with Doctor Black, and afterwards with Doctor Hamilton.

It hath been already observed, that the benefactors of the Infirmary, being so numerous, cannot be particularly mentioned in this short



short history. But it would be improper to pass unnoticed those who have distinguished themselves by more liberal donations.

The speedy progress of the Royal Infirmary to a flourishing state, was, in a great measure, owing to the extraordinary bounty of the Earl of Hopeton mentioned above: Which singular example of beneficence, as it hath attracted the applause, cannot fail to secure the grateful remembrance of the public, as long as that hospital shall continue a blessing to this country.

Doctor Kerr's legacy in Jamaica hath been repeatedly mentioned. In 1750, Mr Francis Browster of London left L. 200 to the Infirmary. In 1751, the managers received the last payment of a debt on the estate of Duries, gifted by Doctor Reid to the Royal Infirmary. This debt, with interest, paid at different times, amounted to four hundred and thirty-two pounds Sterling. In 1763, Sir Laurence Dundas, Baronet, gave two hundred pounds to the Infirmary.

In 1765, Mr Alexander Hunter, who hath been long a faithful and attentive manager of the hospital, gave to the treasurer two hundred pounds Sterling, being the donation of his son Mr James Hunter, banker in Edinburgh, lately deceased, for the behoof of sick servants.

In 1768, Mr John Henderson of the parish of Kingston in Jamaica, bequeathed the sum of five hundred pounds to the Royal Infirmary; and the year following, the treasurer received the same sum left by Mr Seaman of Carolina, and paid by Mr John Daes his executor. And, in 1771, two hundred pounds was paid to the Infirmary, being the legacy of Mr Charles Murray of Stenhope. The names of all those who have made donations of fifty pounds

or



or upwards, are recorded on the walls of the great hall of the hospital.

To form some judgment of the medical and chirurgical success of the hospital, a table of the state of the patients from 1770 to 1775 inclusive, extracted from the registers of the hospital, is subjoined to this history. From this table it appears, that the numbers admitted in one year, at an average, amount to  $1567\frac{1}{2}$ , and the number of deaths, by the same proportion, are  $63\frac{1}{2}$ ; that is, neglecting the fractional parts, deaths are to the numbers admitted as 1 to 25 nearly \*. This small proportion of deaths to the numbers admitted doth not appear to be owing to any particular cause, but to proceed from several concurring circumstances. The daily attendance of physicians and surgeons; the harmony which hath hitherto subsisted between them, and their readiness to ask and give mutual assistance in doubtful cases; the visits of the clerks at intermediate hours, more or less frequent according to the state of the patients; and the emulation among these young men to excel in their respective departments, are perhaps the chief, though not the only circumstances on which the success and prosperity of the hospital depends. The care of the matron in superintending the various diets according to prescriptions; the assiduity of ordinary nurses, and the assistance of others when the urgency of particular cases require them; the attention to the admission of external air, as

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well

\* This estimate was made in 1776, in which year the numbers admitted were 1668; and in the subsequent year, that is, in 1777, the numbers admitted were 1593. In the former of these years deaths were 57, and in the latter 52. So that, in these two years, the proportion of the dead to the surviving patients was as 1 to 29 nearly.



well as to the correcting of the air of the house when in danger of being tainted, conspire to produce the best effects.

A considerable number of patients is mentioned in the tables as relieved, others dismissed at their own desire. From these two articles an idea may perhaps arise, that patients being dismissed from the house, and dying afterwards of the same diseases for which they had been admitted, ought therefore to augment the proportion of deaths. But patients under acute diseases have never been sent out of the house till the disorder hath terminated either in recovery or in death. Others labouring under chronical diseases, many of which are known to admit only of palliation, being once dismissed from the hospital, and frequently returning to an irregular course of life, ought not to appear more in the hospital registers, whether they live or die. It may be further observed, that patients who have lingered long in the house, whether under chronical diseases, or in a convalescent state after those of the acute kinds, wish ardently to be at liberty and in the open air. This is always an adviseable measure in the summer season, when milk and vegetables are easily procured, and the health of the patients is thus more speedily confirmed.

It is with much satisfaction the managers, and others concerned, have, for a considerable length of time, seen the general utility of this hospital. Besides some patients from foreign nations, many have been received into it from the most distant parts of the three kingdoms ; from the northern counties of England, from Shetland, Orkney, the Western Isles, the North and West Highlands. As the harvest approaches, great numbers of highlanders travel southwards to be employed in the autumnal labours. Of these  
people



people the Infirmary never fails to receive a considerable portion, whether in going southwards, or in returning home : And it commonly happens, that some of these patients remain in the hospital through the winter ; for, being in a weakly state, they cannot undertake a journey to their distant homes, through a mountainous country, perhaps covered with deep snow. Though, therefore, the counties lying nearer to Edinburgh send a greater number of patients to the hospital, they remain a shorter while in it : For, from the better roads, the conveyance of periodical carriages, and other opportunities, they can venture to return home while yet in a convalescent state. Hence, though a greater number of patients be admitted into the hospital from the neighbouring counties than from those more remote, this comes to be, in some measure, balanced by the longer abode of the latter in the hospital.

The advantages arising from the Royal Infirmary have been often felt by patients of another kind. These are soldiers, who, being sent into the hospital to be taken under cure, and who, whether from uncommon debility, lameness, or whatever other causes, becoming unfit for further military duty, are thereupon discharged from the service, and from that time till their dismissal, are maintained at the expence of the house. There are few patients, if any, whose cases call more loudly for the attention and compassion of the public, than that of these men : For, being reluctantly forced out of the army, not enjoying the bounty of Chelsea, and doubtful whether they shall ever find interest to procure it, they are at once, by their misfortune, not their fault, deprived of all means of subsistence. The common principles of humanity have invariably determined the physicians to retain such patients in the hospital till they



they be able to go, either by slow journeys, or by some proper conveyance, to their friends : And these sometimes live at the most distant corners of Great Britain or Ireland.

Though the funds of the Infirmary have exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those who were active in its first institution, its present annual revenue is no more than sufficient for its maintenance. The family and patients together have sometimes arisen to two hundred and thirty ; and were sickness in the country, the price of vivres, or demands for the repairs of the fabric, and more especially, were all these together to increase to an uncommon degree, it is to be feared the managers would find it necessary to diminish the number of patients considerably, in order to preserve their capital. Besides, there are two wards, sufficient to accommodate near fifty patients, which have never yet been occupied. The Royal Infirmary, therefore, is still to be considered as an object of public and private charity. It would be a just subject of regret, were a work, which hath already proved of so great utility, to fall into decline, when the public may be supposed to stand most in need of it ; that is, in times of general sickness and dearth of provisions.



# THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

33

1 7 7 0.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	132	
Admitted . . . . .	1170	
Total . . . . .	—	1302
Of these cured . . . . .	791	
Relieved . . . . .	188	
Incurable . . . . .	7	
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	23	
Dead . . . . .	57	
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	91	
Carried on to next year . . . . .	145	
Total . . . . .	—	1302

1 7 7 1.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	145	
Admitted . . . . .	1454	
Total . . . . .	—	1599
Of these cured . . . . .	1071	
Relieved . . . . .	206	
Incurable . . . . .	12	
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	11	
Dead . . . . .	66	
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	90	
Carried on to next year . . . . .	143	
Total . . . . .	—	1599



1772.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	143
Admitted . . . . .	1447
Total — . . . . .	1590
Of these cured . . . . .	1078
Relieved . . . . .	180
Incurable . . . . .	10
Dead . . . . .	54
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	11
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	84
Carried on to next year . . . . .	173
Total — . . . . .	1590

1773.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	173
Admitted . . . . .	1709
Total — . . . . .	1882
Of these cured . . . . .	1392
Relieved . . . . .	158
Incurable . . . . .	21
Dead . . . . .	79
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	5
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	39
Carried on to next year . . . . .	188
Total — . . . . .	1882



I 7 7 4.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	188	
Admitted . . . . .	1696	
Total . . . . .	—	1884
Of these cured . . . . .	1410	
Relieved . . . . .	146	
Incurable . . . . .	8	
Dead . . . . .	62	
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	4	
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	87	
Carried on to next year . . . . .	167	
Total . . . . .	—	1884

I 7 7 5.

Patients in the house January 1. this year	167	
Admitted . . . . .	1795	
Total . . . . .	—	1962
Of these cured . . . . .	1560	
Relieved . . . . .	101	
Incurable . . . . .	8	
Dead . . . . .	61	
Dismissed as irregular . . . . .	8	
Dismissed by desire . . . . .	40	
Carried on to next year . . . . .	184	
Total . . . . .	—	1962



1884

Patients in the house January 1st this year	188
Admitted	106
Total	294
Of these cured	141
Relieved	140
Incurable	8
Dead	62
Discharged as irregular	4
Dismissed by desire	37
Carried on to next year	107
Total	1884

Patients in the house January 1st this year	107
Admitted	175
Total	282
Of these cured	150
Relieved	101
Incurable	8
Dead	61
Discharged as irregular	8
Dismissed by desire	40
Carried on to next year	184
Total	1884



C O P Y

OF THE

C H A R T E R

OF THE

R O Y A L I N F I R M A R Y.

**G**EORGE the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. greeting : WHEREAS an humble petition hath been presented to us, in behalf of the Managers of the charitable fund for maintenance and cure of sick poor in North Britain, setting forth, That several well disposed persons, well affected to our person and government, from a due sense of the misery that many poor persons in Scotland were reduced to by poverty and sickness, who, though not incurable, were in no condition to maintain themselves while under cure, even when physicians and chirurgeons, charitably disposed, were inclined to assist them with their skill and medicines *gratis*, did, some years ago, set forward a subscription, which, with some few donations, has now produced a fund of about three thousand pounds Sterling, the interest whereof, by agreement of the

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subscribers



subscribers and donors, is to be applied for erecting a house in Edinburgh, wherein poor sick, properly recommended, from any part of the country, who are not absolutely incurable, are to be entertained and taken care of by the royal college of physicians of Edinburgh, and some of the most skilful chirurgeons: That, under the direction of the Managers chosen by the contributors, a house has been hired, and, so far as the interest of the fund could go, poor persons have been received into it, and have been so well taken care of, that many, under the blessing of God, have thereby been restored to their health: That this charity is so apparently of univereal benefit, that it is hoped the fund may considerably increase by donations of charitable persons, if authorised by our royal permission, and if the undertaking shall be brought and kept under good management and regulations; and therefore most humbly praying, That we would be graciously pleased to grant our royal charter, erecting the said contributors and donors, who have already subscribed, and such others as shall hereafter contribute to the said charitable design and fund, into a CORPORATION, with perpetual succession, and with powers to take donations, to purchase lands, and securities for sums of money lent, to erect houses, to sue, and be sued, and all other things to do and execute, consistent with the laws of our realm, that may tend to promote the said charitable design: Now, know ye, That we having taken into our consideration the charitable intention of the petitioners, and being desirous to promote so good and laudable a charity, by virtue of our prerogative royal, and out of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have Erected, Created, and Incorporated, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do  
Erect,



Erect, Create, and Incorporate, all and every the said contributors, who have already contributed to the said charitable design, and all such persons as shall hereafter contribute thereto, into one body-corporate and politic, by the name of the ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH; under which name they shall have perpetual succession, and a common seal; and they, and their successors under the same name, shall be legally intitled, and capable to purchase and enjoy lands, tenements, and any other heritage in Scotland, not exceeding the yearly value of one thousand pounds Sterling, and to lend such sum or sums of money to any person or persons, and upon such security as they shall think fit, and to sue and be sued, and to make such by-laws, rules, and orders, consistent with the laws of our realm, as may best conduce to the charitable end and purpose above mentioned; and generally, all other matters and things tending to the pious design aforesaid, to do and execute as fully and amply, in every respect, as any body-corporate lawfully may do, and as if the said matters and things were herein particularly set down: And for better accomplishing the ends aforesaid, and for making and establishing a continual succession of fit persons for managing the affairs of the said corporation, we do, by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, Will, Ordain, and Appoint, that the affairs of the said corporation shall be, from time to time, and for ever hereafter, governed and directed by twenty Managers, whereof the Lord Provost of our city of Edinburgh for the time being, and, in case of his absence, the Dean of Guild, shall be always one, and the President of our Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and in case of his absence, the Vice President, shall be always one other, and the Deacon

Conveener



Conveener of the Crafts of our said city for the time being shall be always one other ; and the remaining seventeen shall be annually elected at the times, and in the manner herein after directed, out of the classes following, viz. four out of our said Royal College of Physicians, whereof two shall be of the Professors of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, if there are any such at the time, the Professor of Anatomy of the said University, if there be any such at that time, and two out of the Incorporation of Chirurgeons of our said city, or three out of the said Incorporation of Chirurgeons, if there is no Professor of Anatomy at the time, one out of the Senators of our College of Justice, one out of the Faculty of Advocates, one out of the society of the Clerks to our Signet, one out of the Ministers of the Gospel in Edinburgh, and six more to be elected out of the number of the contributors to the said charity, residing in or near the said city, if such can be found ready to undertake the office: And we do further Will, Direct, and Ordain, that Alexander Wilson, Esq; present Lord Provost of our city of Edinburgh, James Home present Deacon Conveener of the Crafts of the said city, David Erskine of Dun, and Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, Baronet, Senators of our College of Justice, Duncan Forbes, Esq; our Advocate, Charles Erskine of Barjarg, Esq; our Solicitor, Robert Dundas of Arnistoun, Esq; Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Mr William Bowlie deputy Remembrancer in Exchequer, Doctor Robert Lewis President of the Royal College of Physicians, Doctor John Clark and Doctor John Learmont, members of the said Royal College, Mr Alexander Monro, professor of anatomy, Mr Andrew Sinclair, and Doctor Andrew Plummer, professors of medicine, Mr Robert Hope, and Mr Francis Congalton, chirurgeons in Edinburgh,



burgh, Mr Robert Hepburn writer to the signet, Mr George Logan one of the ministers of the gospel in Edinburgh, George Drummond, Esq; one of the commissioners of our customs at Edinburgh, and Mr Peter Wedderburn, advocate ; whereof seven to be a quorum, shall take upon them the direction, and be the managers of the said corporation from the date hereof, until the first Monday of January next : And the said managers shall, on the said first Monday of January, assemble between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, in the borough-room of our said city of Edinburgh ; and they, or any seven of them, shall there and then, by a majority of voices, elect and nominate out of the several classes, and in the proportions before described, so many fit persons, as, with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the Deacon Conveener of the said city, and the Professor of Anatomy of the said University, when there is such professor there, will compose the full number of twenty managers for directing and governing the affairs of the said corporation for the year ensuing ; which twenty managers so to be elected and nominated, or any seven or more of them, shall, on the first Monday of January in the year following, in like manner, by a majority of voices, elect and name their successors in the management and direction of the affairs of the said corporation ; and so on yearly, and each year for ever, on every first Monday of January, the managers for the year preceding, or any seven or more of them, shall, by a majority of voices, elect and nominate out of the said classes, and in the proportions aforesaid, so many fit persons as, with the said Lord Provost, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild, the said President, Deacon

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Conveener,



Conveener, and Professor of Anatomy, when there is such professor in the university, will compose the full number of twenty managers for the year ensuing; and the twenty persons above appointed to be managers, and their successors in office, or any seven of them, who are declared to be a quorum, are hereby authorised and empowered, at their first meeting in January yearly, to name and appoint any twelve of their own number to be the ordinary managers of the affairs of the corporation for that year; of which ordinary managers five are to be a quorum; which ordinary managers shall have four meetings in every year, at some convenient place, to be appointed by the by-laws of the corporation, within Edinburgh, viz. on the first Monday of February, the first Monday of May, the first Monday of August, and the first Monday of November, yearly, and as many more meetings as they shall see needful; and that the said ordinary managers may, as often as they shall see occasion, call meetings of the extraordinary managers, for their advice and assistance in the affairs of the corporation; and that the said ordinary managers may and shall annually, after their election in January, nominate and choose a Treasurer to the corporation, and a Clerk thereto, and such other persons as they shall judge necessary to be employed in the service of the corporation, and to appoint them such salaries, fees, or rewards, as they, with the consent of the extraordinary managers, shall judge proper; and that the said ordinary managers may, at their pleasure, remove and discharge the said Treasurer, Clerk, and others so employed as aforesaid, and put other officers in their places, as they shall see cause; and the Treasurer, under the direction of the said ordinary managers, shall have the custody of the corporation's cash, and shall



shall receive in, and pay out all the monies, as he shall be warranted to do by the said ordinary managers from time to time, for which he shall be obliged to account to the said ordinary managers, as often as he shall be by them thereto required. And we do hereby further Will, Direct, and Ordain, That it shall and may be lawful to, and for all and every the members of the said corporation, or body-politic, hereby established, who shall have contributed five pounds Sterling each, or more, towards the said Infirmary, to assemble and meet together on the first Monday of January next, in the borough-room, within our city of Edinburgh, and for ever thereafter yearly, on every first Monday of January, at such proper place within Edinburgh as shall be by themselves appointed; and that the said members of the corporation so assembled, shall be, and be called, a General Court; and they, or a majority of them so assembled, shall have full power and authority to make and constitute such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations for the management and government of the affairs of the said corporation, as to them shall seem meet, so that such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, be not contrary to the true intent and meaning hereof, nor repugnant to the laws of our realm. And we do further Will, Direct, and Ordain, That, at the second, and every succeeding general court, the managers for the preceding year shall lay before the general court, and the managers who shall succeed them, for the year ensuing, an account of their proceedings, in the execution of their office, and a distinct and full state of the capital stock of the corporation, in lands, money, or other effects, with a state of the poor sick persons taken in and entertained during the year of their management, containing the poor sick persons names, what parishes the



they belong to, when they were taken in, what their several diseases were, and when recovered, cured, dismissed, or dead. Provided always, and it is hereby expressly provided and declared, That it shall not be lawful for the said managers, or their said quorum, on any occasion or pretext whatsoever, in the course of their management, to break in upon the capital stock of the said corporation, but only to apply the annual interest or revenue, as they shall judge fit and necessary, for the ends and uses above mentioned. And we do hereby Will, Direct, and Ordain, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for the time being, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild of the said city, to administer the oath *de fidei administratione* to the said first managers; and the like oath, *de fidei*, shall be annually sworn by all the managers at their election in January, or in the first meeting where they assemble thereafter; and the said ordinary managers are hereby authorised and appointed to administer the oath *de fidei* to the treasurer and clerk, at their entry into their offices: And in case any of the managers, elected as aforesaid, shall refuse to accept of the office, and take the oath *de fidei*, or that any of them shall happen to die within a year after their election, the ordinary and extraordinary managers assembled, or any seven or more of them, may, and are hereby authorised to name another manager in the room of the person deceased: And the said managers are hereby further authorised to receive such further sums of money, lands, goods, or gear, as shall be given by any persons whatsoever to the use of the said corporation, and shall keep books for subscriptions, and such other books as they shall think needful for that purpose, and for all other purposes of the said corporation.

Given at his Majesty's Court at Kensington the 25th day of August 1736, in the tenth year of his Majesty's reign.



The present MANAGERS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY.

EXTRAORDINARY MANAGERS.

His Grace the Duke of Buccleugh.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Hopeton.

John Dalrymple, Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Henry Dundas, Esq; Lord Advocate for Scotland.

Doctor Francis Hume, Professor of Medicine.

Doctor James Gregory, Professor of Medicine.

James Hunter, Esq;

Mr Alexander Hamilton, Surgeon.

ORDINARY MANAGERS.

Lord Kames.

Doctor William Robertson, Principal of the University.

Doctor Gregory Grant, President of the College of Physicians.

Doctor William Cullen, Professor of Medicine.

Doctor Alexander Monro, Professor of Anatomy.

Mr Alexander Hunter.

Gilbert Laurie, Esq; Commissioner of Excise.

Mr John Learmonth, Merchant.

Mr Alexander Tait, one of the principal Clerks of Session.

Mr John Balfour  
Mr Alexander Wood } Surgeons.

Mr John Carmichael.



## PHYSICIANS.

Doct<sup>r</sup> John Hope, Profess<sup>r</sup> of Botany.

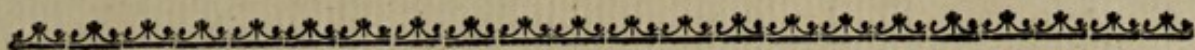
Doct<sup>r</sup> John Steedman.

Doct<sup>r</sup> James Hamilton.

Those of the incorporated body of Surgeons who choose to be inrolled as operators in the Infirmary, and who at present amount to 21, regulate their attendance by a double rotation, as mentioned in the preceding History.

## THE





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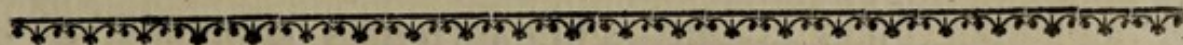
S T A T U T E S

O F T H E

R O Y A L I N F I R M A R Y

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E D I N B U R G H.





THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 18, 1881

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1880

ALBANY:

AND

EDINBURGH:

W. & A. G. B. & CO.

PRINTERS

1881

NEW YORK



# The S T A T U T E S, &c.

## I.

### COURTS, or External Oeconomy of the HOSPITAL.

#### GENERAL COURT OF CONTRIBUTORS.

1. **E**VERY contributor, to the extent of L. 5 Sterling, or more, to the Infirmary, is entitled to be a member of the general court of contributors.
2. The general court of contributors shall be held annually on the first Monday of January, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon, before whom shall be laid all the accompts, books, and records, relating to the management of the Infirmary in the preceding year, and likewise whatever proposals are made for by-laws.
3. The annual general court of contributors shall appoint a committee of their number, to examine all the papers and books laid before them, and to report their opinion of them in writing, on the day to which the general court shall think proper to adjourn.
4. The adjourned court shall confirm or amend the report of their committee, as they shall see cause ; and their decisions or sen-  
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tences



tences are to be the rules for managing the affairs of the corporation.

5. Neither the court of contributors, nor any acting under them, can employ the money given or added to the capital stock of the Infirmary, any other way than by applying its annual rent towards the entertainment and care of sick poor.

6. Advertisement shall be made of the time and place of holding such general courts, in the public Edinburgh news-papers of the week preceding such meeting.

#### GENERAL COURT OF MANAGERS.

1. A general court of managers, of whom seven is a quorum, shall be held annually on the first Monday of January, for the election of twenty managers for the ensuing year, to be chosen out of the classes directed by the charter, to wit, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for the time being, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild; the Deacon Conveener of the crafts of Edinburgh for the time being; the President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and in his absence the Vice-president; four other of the Fellows of the said Royal College, whereof two are to be Professors of Medicine in the University, when there are such at the time; the Professor of Anatomy in the University; two of the Corporation of Surgeons of Edinburgh, or three such Surgeons, when there is no Professor of Anatomy; one of the Senators of the College of Justice; one of the Faculty of Advocates; one of the



the Clerks to the Signet ; one of the Ministers of the Gospel in Edinburgh ; six other Contributors residing in or near Edinburgh.

2. At each such annual election of managers, four, five, or six of the managers of the preceding year shall be changed, and new ones belonging to the same classes shall be chosen in their places ; but fewer than four, or more than six, shall not be changed at any annual election.

3. Every manager is to take the oath *de fidei* before he acts.

4. If any elected managers die, or decline to accept, others are to be chosen to supply their places by a general court of Managers.

5. After the twenty managers are elected, the new general court of managers is to elect twelve of their own number for ordinary managers, and eight to be extraordinary managers.

6. A general court of managers shall be held at one o'clock afternoon, of the last Monday of December yearly, to revise the transactions of the preceding year, and to transmit them, with such remarks as they shall think proper, to the annual general court of contributors.

7. A general court of managers may call, by advertisement in the news-papers, a general court of contributors, when the service of the Infirmary requires it.

#### ORDINARY MANAGERS.

1. Immediately after the dismissal of the annual general court of managers, on the first Monday of January, the twelve elected ordinary



uary managers, or their quorum, which is five, shall class themselves into pairs as monthly visitors of the Infirmary. They shall name some of their number, who are to be keepers of the keys of the strong box or charter-chest, and of the charity-box. They shall appoint such other committees as they judge necessary. And then they shall elect a treasurer, an accomptant, a clerk of the corporation, a matron or governess, the physicians first and second clerks, surgeon's clerk, apothecary, apothecary's assistant, a porter, and a keeper of the baths.

2. The ordinary managers are to meet on the first Monday of every month, and at any other times they shall think proper, and have power to determine the number of ordinary patients and servants to be kept or employed in the Infirmary ; to choose, reprove, or turn out the officers and servants ; to appoint their fees and salaries ; to establish rules that are to be observed in the oeconomy of the hospital ; to cause reparations and improvements to be made ; to order the lending out or uplifting of money belonging to the corporation ; to purchase houses or lands for the corporation ; to examine and controul the treasurer's accompts ; and to do every other thing required in the management of the affairs of the corporation ; always, however, in conformity to the charter and by-laws of the corporation, and subject to the controul of the general courts of managers and contributors, to whom they are accountable.

3. The ordinary managers are to keep exact records of their transactions, written in a book by the clerk of the corporation, where



where the minutes of each federunt shall be subscribed in their presence by the president of the meeting.

4. In the quarterly meetings of the ordinary managers on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November yearly, the treasurer's accompts of the preceeding quarters, with their vouchers, are to be examined, and a proper docquet is to be subjoined and signed by the preses.

5. The ordinary managers may call a general court of managers when they think fit, for their advice and assistance, and may appoint committees of their own number for preparing matters, and transacting such affairs as are specially committed to them.

6. Advertisement of each meeting or court of managers, is to be given by a billet, notifying the time and place of meeting, left by the porter of the Infirmary at each member's house the day before the meeting.

#### PRESIDENT OF COURTS.

1. At every meeting, or court of managers or contributors, the member then present, who was latest president of any such meeting, shall act as president in calling the votes for a president to the then meeting, he having no vote unless when the votes are otherwise equal ; and when there is no member at a meeting who has been formerly in the chair when such court was held, the oldest or largest contributor present shall take the chair.



2. The president elected at every court or meeting, is to keep order ; to regulate the debates ; to be addressed by those who speak in the meeting ; to call the votes when desired by the meeting ; and to declare on which side of every question the majority of voices is, by which all questions are to be determined in every meeting or court of contributors or managers ; the president having no vote, unless when the votes are otherwise equal.

3. The president of every court shall subscribe the minutes of the federunt at which he was president, as soon as they are extended and approved.

#### VISITORS.

1. 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 accompts, 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 that purpose ; which book the visitors are to lay before the meeting of ordinary managers, on the first Monday of the succeeding month, that their report may be entered into the minutes of that meeting.

2. The visitors may call a meeting of the ordinary managers when they think fit.

TREA-



## TREASURER.

1. The treasurer shall take the oath *de fide* before he acts.
2. He shall receive and pay out the money of the corporation.
3. At each meeting of the ordinary managers, the treasurer shall report the donations, annualrents, or sums received by him, to be recorded in their minutes.
4. The treasurer may disburse, without any special order, the expences of the ordinary oeconomy of the house ; but shall not, on any other account, expend or pay above the sum of L. 5 Sterling, without a previous order of the ordinary managers for that purpose.
5. All the bonds, bills, dispositions, discharges, and other rights and securities of the funds belonging to the hospital, shall be taken in name of the treasurer and his successors in office, for the use and behoof of the Infirmary. Such securities shall contain a clause, making an extract of an order from the ordinary managers for uplifting and repaying the sums for which the securities are granted necessary before these sums can be safely paid by the debtors. And it shall be necessary that this extract be delivered to the debtor along with the securities and discharges thereof granted by the treasurer of the Infirmary, in order to make the discharges binding on the corporation.
6. All the vouchers of the funds of the Infirmary shall be kept in a strong box, having two locks, with different work and keys ; one of which keys is to be kept by the treasurer, and the other by



a manager to be named for that purpose on the first Monday of January yearly.

7. The charity box is also to have two different locks and keys, one of which keys is to be kept by the treasurer, and the other by a manager named for that purpose on the first Monday of January yearly.

8. The treasurer is to lay his accompts of each quarter, with their vouchers, before the ordinary managers, at their meetings on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November.

9. Every first Monday of January the treasurer is to lay before the general court of contributors and the managers, a distinct and full state of the capital stock of the corporation in lands, money, or other effects.

10. In the month of February, the treasurer's four quarterly accompts of the preceding year, with a general accout for the year, shall be laid before the committee named by the general court of contributors, in order to be revised and examined by them, and their report is to be laid before the adjourned general court.

11. After the treasurer's accompts are passed and approved by the general court of contributors, they, with their vouchers, shall be deposited in the strong box of the Infirmary.

12. No paper shall be taken out of the strong box by the treasurer, or others, without a previous order of the ordinary managers, or of the general court of managers or contributors, specifying the papers to be taken out, the occasion for them, and to whom delivered.

13. Before



13. Before any such paper be delivered, the clerk of the corporation shall make out an extract of an order for delivering it, and the person who is to receive it shall grant a receipt on the same paper with that extract; and the receipt is to be kept by the clerk, till the papers are re-delivered, or an order of the managers is given for dispensing with the re-delivery of them.

14. The treasurer shall keep an exact alphabetical register of all the contributors to the Royal Infirmary, with the sums or value given by each annexed to each name.

15. He shall cause the names of all the contributors, whether private persons or societies, who have given L. 50 Sterling or more, to be put up, as is done in other hospitals, in the managers room of the Infirmary, in the order of their times of contributing, with the sums contributed by each; and shall always add the names of the persons who shall hereafter contribute L. 50 Sterling or more to the funds of the Infirmary.

16. The treasurer may call a meeting of the ordinary managers whenever he thinks the affairs of the Infirmary require it.

#### ACCOMPTANT.

1. Before the 20th of February each year, the accomptant shall make a regular general accompt for the preceding year, and a full state of the affairs of the Infirmary from the treasurer's books and the minutes of the managers, an abstract of both to be inserted in



the report of the committee of the general court of contributors, and the original to be kept in the strong box of the Infirmary.

#### CLERK OF CORPORATION.

1. The clerk of the corporation, who is to be skilled in writs and securities, shall attend all the courts of contributors and managers, and all committees of them, who desire his attendance, to enter into a record the names of all present, and the minutes of the transactions and orders of each meeting, which he is to have ready extended against next meeting, to be read by him, and signed by the preses.

2. The clerk shall have the keeping of the minute-books of the corporation, and of receipts for papers, and of all other papers that are not necessary to be in the treasurer or some other officer's custody, or in the strong box.

3. He shall write extracts, orders, letters, memorials, and other such papers, necessary for the service of the Infirmary, without fee or reward, but shall be paid, at the ordinary rate, by those who have transactions with the managers of the Infirmary, for drawing bonds, discharges, dispositions, or any other security for money, for all which he shall always be employed; but such writings are always to be previously revised, and marked approved by the advocate and clerk to the signet in the direction for the time.

4. Whatever



4. Whatever books or papers are necessary at the meetings of contributors, managers, or their committees, shall be brought by the clerk to such meetings.

5. He shall give billets to the porter for advertising the managers of the times of their meetings, and shall acquaint the visitors by a billet when their attendance is to be given.

## II.

### Internal Oeconomy of the Family.

#### MATRON OR GOVERNESS.

1. The matron of the house shall be unmarried, without a family, and capable of keeping accompts.

2. She is to live in the house, from which she is not to be absent, unless leave is obtained for such absence from the two monthly visitors.

3. All the inferior servants in the house shall obey her orders.

4. The cook, chambermaids, and nurses, are to be hired by her, at such wages as are allowed by the managers.

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.

6. At



6. At the entry to her office, all the furniture, utensils, stores, &c. of the Infirmary, of which she is to have the charge, are to be delivered to her, upon inventory, by a committee of managers; and she is thereafter to keep all clean and in good order.

7. She is to purchase or receive the provisions, furniture, utensils, &c. as she shall be directed by the treasurer.

8. She shall keep exact accompts of her daily outgivings and receipts of all kinds, to be examined once every week by the treasurer, who, upon approving them, shall state and subscribe the balance as it then stands.

9. She shall keep an exact register of all donations of coals, meal, linen, blankets, household-furniture, and every other such necessities gifted to the Infirmary, which she shall lay before the ordinary managers at their monthly meetings.

10. In the month of August yearly, the matron shall make an inventory of all the furniture and utensils then in the house, which shall be compared with the things 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 ordinary managers in October thereafter.

11. She must be particularly attentive that the vivres, especially those intended for the patients, be sound, and of the wholesomest kind. She is likewise to examine regularly the cookery of victuals.

12. The matron is authorised to admit into the house any patient, whether hurt by accident, or suddenly or dangerously taken ill, when the physicians, surgeons, or clerks, are not at hand.

PORTER.



## PORTER.

1. The porter must be unmarried, and live in the house, from which he shall not be absent, unless when otherwise employed in the service of the Infirmary, or having obtained leave from the matron.

2. He is to keep the court, lobby, stair-cases, managers-room and consulting-room, the theatre and cupola, with all the passages to the offices and wards, always clean and neat.

3. He is to attend at the door when the physicians and surgeons are going the rounds of their visits, and when there is a meeting of managers.

4. In the time of the physicians and surgeons visiting the patients, he is to admit none into the Infirmary, except managers, the other physicians or surgeons of the house, and the students who have tickets for their admission.

5. He shall deliver the billets for the managers, visitors, physicians, surgeons, and others, as he shall be ordered by the managers, treasurer, or clerk.

6. Unless when he is employed in the premises, he shall do what service he can to the matron, apothecary, clerk, or nurses.

7. He is not to accept of vales or drink-money from strangers who come to see the house, or to walk in the garden, but is to gratify their desire without fee or reward.

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8. He



8. He is, every day, a quarter before twelve o'clock, to lock the side-doors, and open the great door, which is to be shut again when the physicians and surgeons are gone from the house, having finished their visits, when the side-doors are again to be opened.

#### Cook.

1. The cook shall wait every morning on the matron, to receive from her the bill of fare, and the provisions of the day.

2. The cook shall show to the matron a sample of each kind of food prepared for the patients, before it be sent up to the wards.

3. The cook shall send, along with the food of each ward, the matron's billet, containing the name and diet of each patient.

#### WASHERS, and other SERVANTS.

All servants in the Infirmary shall be obedient to the matron, and shall do any other service, besides their immediate proper business, to which they shall be ordered by her.

### III.

#### Medical Oeconomy of the Hospital.

#### GENERAL RULES respecting PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS.

1. The physicians and surgeons shall attend the hospital, and visit the patients every day at twelve o'clock.

2. No



2. No physician or surgeon shall open, inspect, or cause be inspected, any dead body, without a licence signed by at least three of the managers ; application being made for it by a note signed by one of the ordinary physicians, or by the surgeon in attendance : And when a dead body is to be opened, either the surgeon in attendance, or one of the substitutes in his place, shall attend, and either perform the dissection himself, or employ a single hand to do it under his direction ; and when the operation is finished, he shall see the body decently sewed up and dressed before being delivered to the dead person's friends for interment. Further, he or his clerk shall make up a report of the dissection, to be delivered to one of the physician's clerks, with an injunction to insert it immediately in the ordinary register of their practice.

3. If the bad health or business of both the physicians shall prevent their attendance in the hospital, they shall take care to have their places supplied by one or other of their brethren.

4. The physicians and the surgeon in attendance shall have the power of admitting and dismissing patients, according to the rules of the house ; for which admission and dismissal, the physicians shall subscribe an order.

5. The physicians and surgeons in attendance shall examine the histories of the diseases or chirurgical disorders of the patients first written by the clerks, and shall correct these, if necessary.

6. Both physicians and surgeons are to consider the Pharmacopoeia Pauperum, printed for the use of the Royal Infirmary, as their standard for prescription.



## SURGEONS.

1. Besides the surgeons in ordinary who attend monthly by rotation, one of the four substitutes is likewise to give daily attendance.

2. In difficult, doubtful, or dangerous cases, the surgeon in attendance is to call a consultation of the other surgeons.

3. Besides the assistance of the other surgeons, no operation of importance, or which endangers the life of the patient, shall be undertaken without calling a consultation of the ordinary physicians.

4. As some chirurgical operations on women cannot be performed in the presence of many male spectators, or on a public theatre, without doing greater violence to female modesty than consists with decency, a discretionary power is delegated to the surgeons, to conduct these operations in private rooms, and with no more assistants than shall be found necessary.

5. Each surgeon, at the end of his month's attendance, shall certify, in a book to be kept by the clerk, the behaviour of the dressers. This book to be laid before the managers at their monthly meetings.

6. All the greater operations are to be performed in the theatre, and to be advertised by a placart put up in the consulting-room, at the ordinary time of visiting, the day before they are to be performed, unless in such cases as cannot admit of a day's delay.

7. The



7. The surgeons, it is expected, are to attend to the instruction of the dressers, to improve them, as far as possible, in accurate, neat, and even elegant dressing; to examine their reports from time to time, and to subscribe in the register their approbation or dislike of the reports every week.

#### PROFESSORS OF MEDICINE.

The professors of medicine may have wards for male and female clinical patients, and may regulate their attendance and times of lecturing so as shall be found most convenient and most conducive to the benefit of the students.

#### PHYSICIAN'S FIRST CLERK.

1. He is to take an accurate account of the cases of such patients as are to be under the care of the physician whose clerk he is, that they may be shewn to the physician before he visit the patients.

2. He is to attend the physician in visiting the patients, to write down their symptoms, and the medicines prescribed, as the physician shall dictate them.

3. He is to visit the patients at intermediate hours, more or less frequently, according to the danger of the patients, so as to be able to give a distinct account of them to the physician at his next visit.



4. He is to transcribe the cases of one half of the medical patients into the ledger.

5. To keep an account of the money due by the soldiers who are admitted into the hospital as patients, and to receive payment of it from the different regiments.

6. To keep an account of, and receive the money paid by patients admitted into the hospital.

7. To lay before the managers, at their monthly meetings, an account of the patients then in the hospital; mentioning what number are medical, ordinary, what chirurgical, what servants, what soldiers, and what supernumeraries; as also, a particular account of the servants employed in the hospital.

8. He is to take care that all the clerks be not, at any time, absent from the hospital together.

#### PHYSICIAN'S SECOND CLERK.

1. The duties of the first clerk, included under the four first paragraphs of the preceding article, to be equally binding to the second clerk.

2. To keep a register of all the patients admitted annually into the hospital, mentioning their diseases, the date of their admission and dismissal, and whether dismissed cured, relieved, by desire, for irregularities, incurable, or dead.

3. He



3. He is to keep a particular account of the sick servants admitted, mentioning their disease, the date of their admission and dismissal; and whether dismissed cured, relieved, &c.

4. At the beginning of each year he is to digest, in a table or register, the state of all the patients for the preceding year, according to their respective classes; in which he is to show the number that has been in the house during that time, the diseases they laboured under, how many were cured, how many relieved, how many died, how many were dismissed incurable, and how many for irregularities, or at their own desire.

#### SURGEON'S CLERK.

1. He is to take, in writing, the cases of chirurgical patients, upon their being admitted into the hospital, to be delivered to the surgeon, before visiting them.

2. To attend the surgeon when visiting his patients; and to write the reports he makes of their situation, and medicines prescribed.

3. He is to transcribe the cases of chirurgical patients into the ledger.

4. He is to call a consultation of surgeons when it is thought necessary: And, when desired, to affix, in the waiting-room, an advertisement, to inform the students when any operation is to be performed.

5. He is to take charge of all the chirurgical instruments belonging



longing to the hospital, and keep them in proper repair ; and to have a proper assortment of bandages always in readiness, particularly for capital operations.

6. He is to give directions to the dressers, and to see that they discharge their respective functions regularly and properly.

7. He is to perform the smaller chirurgical operations, such as bleeding, cupping, &c. or see them performed by the dressers, whether these be ordered by the physicians or surgeons.

8. To open and inspect dead bodies when desired, with the assistance of the dressers.

9. He, or whoever of the clerks may be present at the inspection of dead bodies, are to be particularly attentive that every thing be conducted decently, and that the body be left in a proper state for interment.

10. He is to electrify those patients for whom electricity is ordered.

11. The surgeon's clerk prescribes for chirurgical patients, in urgent cases, when the surgeon is absent ; and is to be particularly attentive to patients who have undergone the greater operations, till they shall be deemed out of danger.

12. He is to keep a book, in which the surgeon, at the end of his month's attendance, shall certify the good behaviour and dexterity of the dressers. This book to be laid before the managers at their monthly meetings.

13. He is to write two inventories of the chirurgical instruments,



ments, one of which he is to deliver to the treasurer, the other to be kept by himself.

14. He shall be obliged to study neatness and elegance in dressing ; and, as far as he can, shall instruct the dressers in that art.

#### APOTHECARY.

1. He shall purchase such quantities of utensils and simple medicines, and prepare such quantities of the compound ones, contained in the hospital dispensatory, as shall be ordered by a committee of managers.

2. He shall dispense the medicines prescribed by the physicians and surgeons for the patients of the Infirmary.

3. He shall annually, in the month of April, make an inventory of all the utensils and drugs in the warehouse and shop, which the committee is to compare with the things themselves, and with the inventory of the preceding year.

4. He shall set down in a cash-book all things bought or given for the shop or warehouse, with the prices of each.

5. 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-accompt of those articles that are given into the shop ; and every article of medicines, simple or compound, and of utensils, shall have a separate accompt.

6. He shall also keep a shop-book, where all the receipts of



medicines prescribed for the patients of the Infirmary, with their signatures, shall be daily inserted under the name of each patient for whom they were ordered.

7. He shall set down, in a separate accompt, all the medicines and utensils of his business which shall be gifted to the Infirmary.

8. All these books and accompts are to be compared and examined by the committee of managers, at the same time that they examine the inventory.

9. Every medicine that is dispensed shall have 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 repaired when so far defaced as not to be very legible.

10. The medicines for each patient shall be put by the apothecary into the box of the nurse's basket, on which the name of such patient is marked.

11. He is to be at due pains in keeping the shop orderly and neat, or to give directions to this purpose.

12. To be careful in collecting medical plants in their respective seasons.

13. As soon as he receives the day-books from the clerk, he shall transcribe from them into the shop-book the prescriptions of the



the day, and return the day-books again immediately to the clerk.

14. He shall make out a note from the day-books of what patients are ordered bleeding, or any other less operation, and deliver it as soon as he can to the surgeon's clerk.

15. He shall see that all decoctions and infusions be prepared in the shop, and not trusted to the nurses in the wards.

#### APOTHECARY'S ASSISTANT.

To be wholly under the direction of the Apothecary.

#### GENERAL RULES respecting the Clerks and Apothecary.

1. The clerks are authorised to admit patients upon sudden emergencies, though the physicians or surgeons be not present.

2. The clerks may prescribe for the patients in urgent cases, when the physicians and surgeons are not in the hospital.

3. The clerks shall not give any list of the patients, with their diseases, to be published in the periodical magazines, or other papers, as hath sometimes been done, without an application made to the managers, and their leave obtained.

4. The clerks shall take care to lay before the managers, at each monthly meeting, the ledgers, and other books kept by them.

5. Neither the clerks nor apothecaries shall attend any patients  
in



in the city or suburbs, unless at the desire of the physicians or surgeons.

6. They shall never be all absent from the hospital at the same time.

7. No medicines are to be given out of the house by either clerks or apothecaries, without a particular order from the physicians or surgeons.

8. The clerks shall not attend any medical classes, but such as the managers shall direct.

9. The clerks and the apothecary are to be unmarried; the former bred to medicine or surgery, the latter to pharmacy.

10. They are strictly prohibited from pursuing medical practice any where out of the hospital, or any other business that may prove an avocation from their duties there.

#### DRESSERS.

1. No student can be appointed a dresser, unless he hath taken out a ticket for attending the Infirmary previous to the election.

2. Every half year, that is, in the months of May and November, dressers and supernumerary dressers shall be appointed to dress the chirurgical patients in the house.

3. Such of the students as have taken out tickets to attend the Infirmary, and who wish to be dressers, are to apply by letter to the managers before the first of May or the first of November.

4. The



4. The supernumeraries shall attend every day at the time of dressing, and shall assist the dressers occasionally, and shall officiate for them when any of them happen to be absent.

5. The surgical patients shall be divided among the dressers as equally as can be ; and this equality must be preserved, whatever changes may happen among the patients by death, dismissal, or admission.

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

7. Every dresser shall have all the things necessary for dressing ready in his box before the ordinary hour of dressing, and shall order the nurses to clean the pail immediately after the work is finished.

8. Each dresser shall apply the dressings, and perform the less operations under the direction of the surgeon in attendance. But, whether the surgeon be present or not, the dresser shall proceed to his work ten minutes after the time appointed.

9. When any surgeon is performing any operation, the dressers shall attend in the area of the theatre, and serve as assistants, having each his particular charge assigned by the operator, the principal part to be assigned to the dresser under whose care the patient is to be.

10. Each dresser shall make a report every day of the state and management of his patients, and deliver it in writing to the clerk,

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whose



whose duty it is to keep a register of all the chirurgical patients, that all reports may be inserted in that register, with the names of the reporters on the margin.

11. Every dresser, when his service is ended, shall have a certificate of his diligence, and the time he has served.

12. In the election of dressers, preference shall be given to such of the supernumeraries who have formerly served, and are attested by the surgeons to have been diligent in their office.

#### STUDENTS.

1. No student can attend the clinical lectures, or the college of midwifery, unless he hath previously taken a ticket for ordinary attendance in the Infirmary ; without which ticket, no student, upon any pretence whatever, can have the privilege to visit the patients, hear the medical prescriptions, attend operations, dissections, or the like, in the hospital.

2. Students and apprentices of surgeons in Edinburgh may have perpetual tickets, the former upon paying seven guineas and an half, and the latter five guineas. Either of those who had already attended the Infirmary, shall, upon taking perpetual tickets, have discount of what they had paid for former attendance.

3. The students shall be allowed two periods of the week for taking copies of the cases in the Infirmary books ; the former period to be on Wednesday, from five till eight o'clock in the evening ;



ing ; the other, Saturday afternoon ; and one of the clerks shall attend the students for this purpose.

4. If any student or apprentice shall disturb the surgeon or surgeons during their performance of operations in the theatre, or shall presume to descend into the area while they are thus occupied, unless called there by the operator, the offender shall immediately be dismissed the house, and shall forfeit the benefit of his ticket and privilege of attending any operations in the house for the future.

5. Students who attend the physicians during their prescriptions, are to study a composed and decent carriage ; are not then to stroll about in the wards, converse together, stand upon benches, beds, or do any thing that may be disturbing to the physician, clerk, or patients.

#### PATIENTS.

1. Diseased people of all countries or nations may be admitted patients into the Infirmary.

2. Every person applying for admittance must deliver to the physician or surgeon, if required by him, an obligation from a responsible person to remove, or, in case of death, to bury that patient when required.

3. In defect of the obligation just mentioned, the patients shall deposite in the hands of the matron ten shillings Sterling to indemnify the Infirmary from any charge that may arise from burying



ing or removing them ; which money is to be returned upon their dismissal.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding restrictions, a power is lodged with the physicians and surgeons, and even with the clerks, to admit patients in case of sudden accidents, as fractures, dangerous wounds, contusions, or where lives are in immediate danger.

5. Such as the physicians and surgeons shall judge incurable, are not to be admitted into the hospital : But no single surgeon shall, without consultation with some of his brethren, declare a person incurable.

6. Women, having young children, are not to be received, without first having their children provided for elsewhere : Or, if any parent with a child or children be admitted into the house, a proper obligation to remove these children, when necessary, must be given, in case of the parent's death.

7. Whoever has given, or shall give L. 50 Sterling, or pays L. 5 Sterling annually to the Infirmary, may, upon their recommendation, and during their lives, have one patient, or more in a succession, constantly entertained and taken care of as patients in the Infirmary ; and greater sums shall intitle to a proportionally greater number of patients.

8. Supernumerary patients, that is, those exceeding the establishment of ordinary patients, shall pay sixpence *per* day till vacancies offer.

9. Such patients are to be expelled the Infirmary, 1. Who at their admission falsified their disease, or intentionally concealed any material



material part of it. 2. Who refuse the food, drink, medicines, or operations prescribed, or take any medicines, drink, or food, not ordered by the physicians or surgeons. 3. Who go abroad without leave obtained from the physician or surgeon. 4. Who stay abroad at nights, or make excursions beyond the limits permitted. 5. Who disobey the orders of the matron or of the clerks. 6. Who quarrel or make broils in the wards. 7. Who go into the wards where patients of the other sex are lodged. 8. Who are guilty of any gross immorality. 9. Who detain or admit those of their acquaintance after sun-set. 10. Who admit the visits of their friends or of others of their acquaintance, without permission obtained from the matron or clerks. 11. Who receive food or drink of any kind from their friends or visitors. 12. Who give to their friends or visitors, and thus convey out of the house what of their diet they do not themselves consume; nor are visitors to be admitted into the house, who are once discovered using either of these practices.

10. On Sundays, and other holidays, all patients who are able, shall attend divine service at the theatre.

11. The diet of the patients shall be of three kinds, low, middle, and full, which are to be given to each, according to the orders of the physicians and surgeons.

#### LOW DIET.

*Breakfast.* Bread and milk. Oaten or barley meal porridge. Gruel or panada.

*Dinner.* Bread and milk. Panada. Sago. Rice and milk.

U

Milk.



Milk caudle. Barley boiled with currants, and eaten with or without a proportion of wine, as shall be ordered.

*Supper.* The same as breakfast.

*Drink.* Water gruel. Milk and water. Barley or rice water. Cow milk whey, occasionally prepared with cream of tartar.

#### MIDDLE DIET.

*Breakfast.* As in low diet.

*Dinner.* Broths prepared with beef or mutton, and taken with bread. Rice or bread puddings.

*Supper.* Porridge, or bread and small beer.

*Drink.* As in low diet, with a small allowance of small beer at dinner.

#### FULL DIET.

*Breakfast.* Oaten or barley meal porridge, with milk or small beer. Bread with either of these liquors.

*Dinner.* Broths. Puddings. Boiled beef or mutton. Chicken.

*Supper.* As in middle diet.

*Drink.* Besides the drink in low diet, a larger allowance of small beer.

Salep, whether used as medicine, or as a part of diet, is proper for hospitals.

11. Wines may be occasionally ordered by the physicians and surgeons as medicine, not as any part of diet.

12. Besides



12. Besides the food mentioned above in the different diets, the various fruits, in their respective seasons, may be ordered, as apples, pears, whether cooked or raw, cherries, gooseberries, strawberries, &c.

14. Patients shall work as the matron or clerks shall desire them, when the physicians or surgeons think they can do it without prejudice to their health.

#### NURSES.

1. The ordinary nurse of each ward shall remove all dust and nastiness out of it, each morning before nine o'clock, and shall keep it neat and clean at all times.

2. Every such 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, or as she has been otherwise ordered; and is to desire directions from the clerk or apothecary, whenever she has any doubt about the orders for the medicines, diet, &c.

3. Immediately after dinner every day, each nurse is to collect the boxes, pots, phials, &c. belonging to each patient, into the box of her basket where the name of the patient is affixed, and to carry

ry



ry them all to the apothecary, from whom she is to receive back what boxes, pots, &c. should have remained in her ward, which she is to put again into the cup-board of each patient, and is then immediately to bring back her basket to the apothecary, who shall appoint the time for her returning to receive it with the new medicines.

4. The nurses are to be careful in preserving fresh air in their respective wards, by keeping the sashes down \*, and likewise in preventing or correcting tainted air, by the fumes of hot vinegar.

5. They are to give due attention to the bedding of the patients, especially when they labour under contagious diseases. In such cases, the mattresses ought to be exposed to the open air, in the wooden frame erected for that purpose, and the blankets and bed-linen washed before they be put to use for other patients.

6. 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 present, they are immediately to give the alarm to the respective clerk, or, in his absence, to any other clerk of the hospital they can find.

7. 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.

8. If

\* All the lower sashes of the wards are fixed.



8. 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.

9. The nurses are to convey to the matron what share of diet the patients do not consume.

#### SUPERNUMERARY NURSES.

1. When the physicians or surgeons order patients to be attended constantly, night as well as day, by nurses, the matron shall employ for that service supernumerary nurses, who have been in use to attend the sick, and their wages are to be allowed in her accounts.

2. These supernumerary nurses shall act in every thing according to the orders of the physicians or surgeons, or of the clerk of the house in their absence, in the same manner as the ordinary nurses.

3. The female relations of patients may, at their desire, be admitted as nurses to these patients; but not without the consent of the physicians and surgeons.

#### KEEPER OF THE BATHS.

1. Though the keeper of the baths hath nothing to do with the patients of the hospital, he is subject to the same regulations as the other servants of the house.

2. He is to keep the baths and the adjacent rooms constantly  
X clean



clean and in neat order. When any gentleman is to bathe, the keeper is to have towels, sheets, brush, &c. laid in readiness.

3. He is to learn, by means of a thermometer, the proper degrees of heat, both of the air and water of the tepid baths.

4. The maid who attends ladies is to be attentive to the same directions.

#### GENERAL RULES.

1. No officer or servant belonging to the Infirmary shall demand or take money, or other fee, from any patient there, on account of good offices or services.

2. All office-bearers, attendants, servants, or patients of the Infirmary, who neglect or act contrary to these statutes, shall be deprived of their offices or privileges.

THE



THE few following observations, relating to the medical practice of an hospital, having been laid before the Managers, they ordered them to be subjoined to the Statutes, believing that they might be of some use, whether to young physicians, who may enter upon the practice of the Infirmary, or to students whose lot may afterwards be to practise in city or country hospitals, or in those of the army or navy.

1. The general division of diseases in an hospital, as well as elsewhere, may be into chronical and acute.

In such chronical cases as are apt to continue long without change, it will suffice for the physician that he prescribe a medical regimen, leaving the patient to pursue it for such length of time as the symptoms may indicate. The physician, in going his rounds, may ask such patients whether they take their medicines faithfully, whether any new symptom appear, or if they be sensible of any remarkable effect of the medicines. In such cases, it will frequently happen that the symptoms will continue for a considerable length of time, either unchanged, or so similar as to render it unnecessary to cause the clerk make any additions. This conduct, without wasting time in minute examinations, will be sufficient in many scorbutic, rheumatic, nephritic, anasarcaous disorders, and in a variety of others.

2. In acute cases, the physician's conduct is wholly different from the preceding, especially in fevers of a dangerous kind, whether their course be more or less rapid. He will then find it necessary to examine the symptoms accurately every day; and he ought to dictate them to the clerk so audibly and deliberately, that the



the students may have time to take them down in writing, if they chuse. Before prescribing, it will be proper to cause the clerk read the report of the preceding day ; and likewise to ask him the state of the patient in the intermediate time, that is, in the evening and morning ; for so oft the clerk ought to visit patients in acute and dangerous disorders. Having prescribed for the patient, it is frequently proper to cause the clerk write some conditional directions for himself; as for bleedings, blisterings, laxatives, or the like, in high inflammatory cases, where a sudden change of symptoms may render one or other of these proper. The clerk himself, it is true, is supposed to be so well informed in the practice of medicine, as to take his measures when symptoms so urgent present. But it is right that the students should hear a physician forecast dangerous events, and take precautions against them.

3. As the physicians have each the opportunity of calling in the assistance of the other, they ought, in difficult or doubtful cases, to avail themselves of this advantage ; and the opinion of the attending surgeons ought always to be asked in such mixed cases, as in part belong to their department.

When a case proves so obstinate as to resist all the efforts of the physician towards a cure, it will often be proper to throw the patient under the care of the other physician, that every chance of relief may be obtained before the patient leave the hospital. Harmony having hitherto so far subsisted between the physicians of the Infirmary, as to conduct their measures in this manner, the same amicable intercourse ought to be inviolably preserved.

4. There is nothing against which a physician ought to guard  
with



with more attention than the spreading of infection. Thus, a patient taken with the small-pox, that disease being no where else in the house, ought to be removed to one of the small rooms where there are two beds: The patient to be moved, from time to time, from one of these beds to the other, if unoccupied. The mattresses to be frequently turned, or, if necessary, removed, and fresh bed-cloaths frequently administered. A free ventilation and fresh air are of the greatest importance. The air ought likewise to be corrected with the vapours of warm vinegar, which, as it is salutary, is for the most part grateful to patients. The burning of the leaves of tobacco hath been recommended as a corrector of the air; but is offensive to the generality of patients, especially to those in fevers, who can never tolerate it. If, from poverty, the patient have no change of body-linen, the mistress of the hospital is, for the most part, able to supply that defect. With respect to infection, when contagious diseases are likely to spread in the hospital, it will depend upon the judgment and prudence of a physician to make the best arrangement he can; for separate rooms cannot be found when many patients are in the disease. It may be of some use to move the infected patients to the end of the ward where the fire is; for the current of air being directed to the chimney, may contribute to divert the infectious vapours from the other patients. When these diseases happen in summer or autumn, it is not unworthy the notice of a physician to provide patients labouring under them with such flowers and fruits as can be procured at a reasonable rate, and as shall be deemed most salutary and refreshing in such circumstances.



5. If there be in an hospital a ward allotted to salivations, it will be found more difficult to preserve pure air in this than in any other ward in the house ; not only from the manner in which this course is commonly conducted, but from the patients of this kind being frequently more incorrigible, and of manners less correct, than those of other patients. A physician, therefore, will find it necessary to be peremptory in his orders with respect to the cleanliness of the ward, and regular manners of the patients. Such a ward too will require a nurse of no less authority than prudence.

6. It is not always an easy matter for a physician to judge, with precision, when a patient ought to be discharged from the hospital. It sometimes happens that patients, whose circumstances at home are necessitous, and their lives laborious, wish to loiter in the house as patients, and, being cured of real diseases, would amuse the physician with fictitious feelings, of which he cannot constitute himself a judge, as pains in the stomach or bowels, general or local rheumatisms, and a variety of similar complaints. Where patients are thus suspected, it may be of use to cause the clerks, and particularly the nurse, observe their behaviour when the physician is absent : For such patients frequently affect an air of depression in his presence, and tell their complaints with a whining tone of voice. The pulse, appetite, and vivacity of countenance, are good hints in suspected cases.

7. It further requires practice and experience in an hospital to judge with propriety of the precise time when patients lying under no suspicion of feigned disorders, ought to be discharged. This will depend on different circumstances, as the season of the year  
and



and state of the weather, the distance of the patient's home from the hospital, the healthful or diseased state of the country, and consequently the more or less urgent demands from other patients for admission to the hospital. Patients in a convalescent state frequently recover better in fine weather, when out of the house, than by remaining in it, especially if their dwellings be in the country. If patients live at a great distance, their method of transportation, the state of the weather, and the nature of their complaints, taken together, will determine the physician. When the country in general is sickly, and many patients pressing for admittance, in this case it will be proper to dismiss such convalescents as live in the town, or its suburbs, since they may occasionally appear in the waiting-room for further advice.

8. As every physician who hath been attentive to the operations of medicine must be sensible, that the same effects may be produced by medicines of different kinds ; it therefore becomes the duty of an hospital-physician to study frugality in prescription as much as may be.

9. With respect to the waiting-room, a young physician may sometimes be at a loss what patients should be admitted, especially when there are many attending, and but few can find vacant beds. Acute diseases, in competition with chronical, speak for themselves; but it frequently happens, that patients apply for admittance, of whose distempers the physician can only judge by their own verbal accounts, and not by any symptom that can come under his examination. In this case, *cæteris paribus*, these ought to be preferred.



ferred who come from a distance, while others, living in the town or neighbourhood, may wait till they can find access.

Further, where there is no circumstance of this kind to determine the physician, respect must be had to the recommendations which the patients bring along with them. A recommendation from one of a reputable and well known character, though of low rank, ought to be preferred to one from a person wholly unknown: Such a person, for ought the physician knows, may recommend a patient rather for the sake of subsistence in the hospital, than for any disease to be cured. But it often happens, that the manner and appearance of a patient, and his answers to questions put to him relating to his disease, will have their weight with the physician. Recommendations from those who have distinguished themselves by benefactions to the hospital, merit particular attention.

10. Some diseases have been held improper for hospitals. Patients labouring under pulmonary consumptions, if the disease be advanced to the second or last stage, will suffer from the air of the hospital, however well ventilated. But, in the beginning of the disease, while its nature is perhaps still equivocal, patients of this kind may be admitted. Scrophulous cases, when of the more inveterate kind, not admitting of a radical cure, are improper for hospitals. But, if a physician wishes to try how far palliation will go, he will find frequent opportunities. Epilepsies, though hard of cure, ought to be taken under trial, since they have been often found to proceed from worms alone. Palsies and dropfies, when the patients are not beyond the vigour of life, and more especially when the diseases originate rather from an accidental than a constitutional



stitutional cause, merit admission. But, when these diseases proceed from an advanced age, and debilitated habit, they cannot be expected to admit of a cure. After all, a physician will hardly chuse to do so great violence to humanity, as to reject a patient in very necessitous circumstances, though he be sure that patient is to die under his care.

11. There is still a circumstance which, however trivial it may appear to some, is not unworthy the attention of an hospital-physician; that is, to learn the dispositions of the different nurses. While one, from a natural impatience, can hardly tolerate the caprice of patients, whose bodies, as well as minds, are debilitated by the force of disease; another, too sympathizing, may be disposed to palliate faults of patients, which ought to be reported to the physician or surgeon. The physician, by attending to these differences, will judge better how to regulate his conduct.

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