

The rebuilding of the hospital in the eighteenth century : part 2 / by Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E.

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I

THE REBUILDING OF THE HOSPITAL IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

BY

SIR D'ARCY POWER, K.B.E.

Part II

THE rebuilding of three wings or piles of the Hospital was dealt with in a previous article. It now only remains to tell of the completion of the quadrangle, as we know it, by the building of the East Block, which contains Harley and Kenton Wards on the ground-floor. There are, however, a few additional facts to place on record about the third block before this is done.

It was reported on October 11, 1752, that "whereas the greatest part of the new Wards of the third Pile of Building are now provided with Bedsteads and Lockers and the Bedding and other Furniture is ready, Ordered that the Steward and Matron do see that the Bedding and Furniture be brought and placed therein and otherwise prepare the Wards for the reception of patients as soon as possible.

"Referred to the Treasurer and Almoners to give orders for the removing and settling the Sisters and Nurses therein and to give other necessary directions that the Wards may be compleatly ready forthwith.

"Ordered that all the Women patients in the Wards of the second Pile of Building except in one of the Garret Wards be moved into the Wards of the Third Pile and that Mark and Luke Wards in the Garrett of the second Pile be the Wards appointed for the removal of all patients therein who shall be taken ill with the Small pox after their admission into the Hospital, the one for the men the other for the women patients."

This minute refers to several interesting points. The

bedsteads were made of well-seasoned deal by a joiner and cost 31s. each. The bedding consisted "of good stout Hambrugh ticking, two yards long and one yard broad, filled with 30 lbs. of the best brown flocks quilted at 13s. 6d. each with large curtains seven and a half yards in breadth, of the best fine and thick blue lindsey." Chairs were also provided at a cost of half a guinea apiece. A few still remain with wide seats and comfortable arms, but the majority have disappeared.

It is clear, too, that the sisters no longer occupied a common ward, as had been the custom lingering on from the time when as "religious" they had slept in a dormitory. From this time onwards even to the present day they use the little bed-sitting-room which is attached to each ward, from which it is separated by a door, the upper half of which is glazed.

The order about the segregation of small-pox patients arose out of a small-pox scare earlier in the year, for on May 13, 1752, "it is apprehended that the present method of continuing the patients who are taken ill with the small-pox in this Hospital in the wards in which they were admitted is the occasion of spreading the distemper with much terror and danger to other patients within the Hospital who have not had the distemper and that by removing such patients as soon as the distemper appears into other wards appropriated for that use the infection may be prevented from spreading in the manner it has lately spread and is now spreading in several wards of this Hospital. The Treasurer and Almoners are desired to consider of proper rooms or wards in and about the Hospital to be kept separate for such use."

It was resolved on June 3 "that patients taken ill with small-pox be immediately removed into other wards to be kept separate for that purpose. Job and Lazarus wards are to be used for small-pox patients."

Small-pox patients continued to be admitted for many years afterwards, and so lately as 1831 "the physicians think that small-pox patients ought not to be removed from the Hospital."

The third pile having been thus completed, it was agreed at a Committee held on Wednesday, April 11, 1753, that "Thomas Lord, Pavior, do pave before the East front of

the third pile of building with new Purbeck Squares, six feet wide the whole length in the same manner as before the West Block front, finding all stones, gravel and labour at four shillings and sixpence a yard, the other parts of the area to be paved with new pebble stones, finding all stones, gravel and labour at three shillings per yard.

“Finally, at a General Court on Fryday, May 11, 1753, Mr. President informed the Court that the third Pile of new Buildings of this Hospital was now compleatly finished and filled with Patients And the whole expense of the Building thereof had been paid with the monies arising from the Subscriptions and Benefactions of the Governors and other charitable persons, given for that purpose and that an account thereof and of all the monies received and paid by Thomas Sandford Esquire, deceased, the late Treasurer, for and on account of the said Building and had been audited and signed at a Committee for Building, held the 6th day of April last.

“And the Minutes of the said Committee and also the several Accounts concerning the said Building which were then audited and signed were now ready ; Whereby there did appear to be a surplus of One Thousand, Ninety-five Pounds, Twelve Shillings and One Farthing after the whole expence paid, consisting of One Thousand Pounds Old South Sea Annuities in the names of Sir Henry Marshall, Knt. and Alderman, President, Thomas Sandford Esquire, the late Treasurer and Mr. Daniel Webb, one of the Governors, valued at One Thousand and seventy Five Pounds and of the sum of Twenty Pounds, Twelve shillings and One Farthing then in the hands of the late Treasurer besides the sum of Fifty Pounds given and paid by Sir John Bosworth, Knt. deceased, late Chamberlain of this City, to be applied to the Building of a Fourth Pile and also a Legacy of One Hundred Pounds, given by Sir William Joliffe, Knt. deceased, towards the Fourth Pile to be paid when the foundation thereof should be laid.

“Whereupon the General Court having taken the same into consideration Resolved and Ordered that a book be opened for receiving the subscriptions of the Governors and other charitable persons for the building a fourth Pile or Wing of this Hospital to be begun to be erected at such time as this Court shall think proper.

"Ordered that the before mentioned surplus of One thousand Ninety five pounds, twelve Shillings and One Farthing with the growing Dividends thereof be applied to the carrying on such new Building.

"Ordered that the Clerk do prepare a Preamble for such subscription in like manner as the preamble to the last subscription which is now read."

As on the occasion of the previous lists it was ordered on Friday, May 17, 1754, "that the names of the Benefactors to the Hospital do continue to be sett up in the tables in the Great Court Room down to the present time.

"Ordered that an Inscription be sett up in some part of the painted Staircase leading to the Court Room setting forth that the two Capital pieces of painting were painted and given by Mr. William Hogarth and all the ornamental painting there was done at his expense."

THE FOURTH PILE (1757-1769)

The fourth pile is the East Block with Harley and Kenton Wards on the ground-floor. Fourteen houses were demolished to furnish the site upon which it is built. One of these was the Vicar's house, one was empty, and one was the "Cripple," which was within the precincts of the Hospital although it was in Little Britain. The total loss of income owing to this demolition was estimated at £129 per annum. The first notice that it was to be undertaken occurs on August 26, 1756, when it was "Resolved that one other Pile of Building be forthwith built of the same dimensions and agreeable to the plan of the last Pile of the new Buildings.

"Ordered that notice be given to the tenants of the houses which stand on the ground where the foundation of the new Building will be laid to quitt the same at Lady Day next.

"And that the Clerk do give proper notice accordingly."

The foundations were begun on September 29, 1757, but the building was discontinued in 1758 and was recommenced on November 27, 1759.

Mr. Allen writes from Weymouth on September 10, 1756 :
 "If the offer which I make to the Governors of the Hospital should be accepted of, upon speedy notice from you I will order two hundred tun to be dug this Autumn and the

remainder next summer as none ought to be taken out of the Quarries in the winter."

He offers "to send to my wharf adjoining to Bath and at that place will make a present of whatever stone will be wanting for that for building the third." It appears therefore that the third block may have been built of brick and afterwards faced with Bath stone. He estimates on January 10, 1757, that his loss on the third pile was £492 5s. 8d.

The foundation-stone of the "fourth pile" appears to have been laid with a ceremony which was not bestowed upon the building of the second and third blocks, for at a General Court held on Thursday, the 27th day of April, 1758:

"Mr. President acquainted the Court that on the ninth day of July 1730 the first Stone of the first Pile of the New Buildings of this Hospital was laid in the presence of the Right Hon^{ble} Sir Richard Brocas, Kn^t. Lord Mayor then President of this Hospital, Samuel Palmer, Esq., Treasurer, and several Aldermen and other Governors and in a cavity of the Stone was placed a Copperplate with this Inscription, viz.

"THIS BUILDING WAS BEGUN
BY THE VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION
OF THE GOVERNORS OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL
IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN
OF KING GEORGE THE SECOND
ANNO DOMINI 1730
AND IN THE MAYORALTY OF SIR RICHARD BROCAS, KN^T.
SAMUEL PALMER, ESQ. TREASURER
JACOBO GIBBS. ARCHITECTO.

"That the Foundation of the last Pile of the New Buildings being now compleated and the Masons ready to sett the Stonework he Intended to lay the first Stone and had Ordered a Copperplate to be prepared with the Following Inscription to be placed in the Cavity of the Stone.

"THIS STONE WAS LAID
ON THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL 1758
BY THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JOHN BLACHFORD, ESQUIRE
ALDERMAN AND PRESIDENT
SEVERAL NOBLEMEN ALDERMEN AND OTHER GOVERNORS
OF THIS HOSPITAL BEING PRESENT
THIS BUILDING BEING THE FOURTH AND LAST PILE

"And Mr. President attended by the Treasurer several Noblemen Aldermen and other Governors then went from the Court Room to the Building. And the said Inscription being read and the Copperplate placed in a Cavity of the Corner Stone of the South West Corner of the Building Mr. President laid the said Corner Stone and Mr. President and the Treasurer gave money to the Workmen and then returned to the Court Room."

Agreements were entered into with :

(i) Richard Norris, of St. Andrew's, Holborn, for bricklayers for the fourth pile on April 19, 1757. In all the bricklayers' work, including drains and cesspools, the best plain bricks to be used, all hard burnt for £5 13s. for every rod of brick-work. He enters into a bond of £1,000.

(ii) On May 20, 1757, Matthew Hillyard, of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, in the City of London, Carpenter, and Christopher Horsnaile, of the same place, Mason, sign a bond for £1,000 before undertaking the carpenter's work : "whole deal guttering with oak bearers at fivepence per foot superficial. Three quarters rough slit deal boarding under slate at Fourteen shillings and eightpence per xx Square. Good straight joint deal boarding of dry ten and twelve feet Christiana Deals free from Sap and well nailed with twenty-one pound Brads at one pound twelve shillings per square. Rails and Ballusters to be right wainscott the same as in the last Building at eight shillings per foot running and half pared, to be dry with a right half wainscott with oak joists scantlings ten by two and a half at one shilling and three pence per foot superficial ; steps of stairs to be dry with a half right Wainscott including risers, string boards, strings of oak at four shillings and sixpence per foot running. Deal brackets to cornices at two pence half penny per foot superficial. Sawing and Labour to Girders trussed with Oak and bolted at eight shillings per girder."

(iii) Daniel Harrison "Agreed with Mr. Robinson, the Clerk of the Works, to dig the Shore [sewer] to the Building at /9 per running yard . . . it contains 106 running yards and 1/3rd. £47.17.0. May 1757.

"Agreed with Mr. Robinson to digg a large passage to the other wing, a Foundation for the Arch Areas to twelve windows and to take as much as is not usefull for levelling and cart it away for the sum of £46."

The large passage still leads from the old kitchens to the administrative block, and was used for conveying the food on the occasion of the Venison Feast and the View Day dinner, which were held in the Great Hall.

The whole digging for the foundations, including an additional five pounds for digging the areas, cost £478 13s. 9d.

There is an account on December 10, 1757, "For making a cesspool in the fore kitchen

- " (i) at Mr. Jeste's [Justin's] in Well Yard . 8/2
- (ii) at Mr. Lee's 8/7
- (iii) Att Mr. Verrie's 8/7 "

In October and November 1757 "reduced Grey Stock bricks" were being laid at £6 5s. per rod.

On March 10, 1758, Richard Norris "agrees to erect and make all the scaffolding for the Masons for the New Building on the East side of the said hospital and find all manner of materials and strike and take away the same when the Masons have done, for the sum of seventy five pounds £75."

On the same day, March 10, 1758, Robert Willis & Co. offered to deliver clear of all charges "Barr lead for the use of the Masons for the Building at fifteen pounds ten shillings per Tun or Pig Lead at fifteen pounds 2/6 per Tun."

There is nothing more till March 30, 1758, when Mr. Ralph Allen writes that he has to pay 15s. a ton freight during the war, which is more than double the former charge.

"My proposal in the year 1730 was only to build the first pile of the Hospital on a calculation by which I found myself a benefactor of full five hundred and fifty pounds. Upon Which Sir Richard Brocas y^e then President desired to know whether I would consent as this was a public Charity to build the remainder upon the same terms if the Governors should approve of my executing the first pile. My answer was that the motive which induced me to undertake the first disposed me to go thro' with the remainder upon a presumption that the other buildings should be carried on from time to time without any considerable obstruction by the Governors.

"But when the first pile was finished I was made to understand that there was no Money then left to go on with the Remainder of the Building, neither did they enter on the Second Pile til in the year 1736. But as no material

difference during that period occurred to me I readily consented to carry on that work upon the same terms that the first Pile was executed for.

“When that building was finished a New Obstruction occurred, I presume from the same cause that delayed the second for no application was afterwards made to me for stone til the commencement of the last War, which made so great an alteration in the Freight that I found it impracticable to execute it during that War, which I represented to the Governors who upon Mature deliberation consented to defer that work till the Peace.

“In 1749 the third Pile was finished and though I had then such a considerable quantity of stone towards carrying on the fourth Pile, the Governors instead of going on with the fourth Pile put a new stop to their Building and put me under the necessity to sell the stone which I had sent to them and then lay at the Hospital to a considerable Loss, and now you, in a New War, press for what it is not in my power to perform, neither can I give the Governors the least expectation of it til a Peace.

“However, if they are resolved to carry on their Building during the war it must be done with some other stone instead of mine and to show the continuance of my Disposition to encourage their design I will cause all the Stone that now is at the Hospital or is now going to be sent thither, to be sold for my use and I will in that case give y^e Hospital a Benefaction of five hundred pounds in Money towards the expence of this Building

“I am

“Your most humble Serv^t

“Prior Park

“Signed by R. ALLEN.

“March 30 1758

“To John Tuff Esqre.”

Some arrangement must have been made for the continued supply of Bath stone, for, in spite of the fears expressed by Mr. Allen, it is recorded that—

“The Prussian Hero, Capt. Allen brought a load at 4/6 a ton. The True Britton in Aug. 1759 and the Keppell arrived with stone in March 1760. The George and Sally and Betty brought 200 tons at 12/6 freight and 34½ tons at 15/- a ton freight and in January 1762 the Hawke under

Capt. Snow brought 106 tons of Bath Stone at 10/- per ton; whilst in January 1763 Capt. Ayre, with the *Adventure* brought 75 bags of lime, three loads of Sand and 1000 Grey stocks [bricks] at 22/- per ton. In November 1760 and again on September 11, 1762, Reduced Brickwork cost £5.13.0 per rod. in the principal and attick storeys. A hod of mortar cost sixpence. The bricklayer, the Plumber and the Slater each received three shillings a day. Matt. Hill-yard was still employed in the Carpenters' work but he was detected in overcharging small amounts in his bills and was replaced by Geo. Wyatt. Thom. Clark was the bricklayer."

Richard Norris reports on December 20-21, 1762, "the advance of the Price of Bricks occasioned by the Brick-makers leaving off making of Place bricks and was obliged to have Grey Stocks for the upper part of the Building above the Ground Storey. The quantity of bricks imployed in y^e above mentioned work is near 137 Rodd, $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of which cost me 1/- per 1000 and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd cost me 2/- per 1000, extra about £40."

There is also an item "Decay and wast of scaffold and stuf being up so many years more than was expected, the erection and removal of which had been contracted for at £75.0.0."

"400 Long Welch slates and 2" clout nails £1.8.0." 1761 ingots of lead were paid for on September 8, 1761, at £8 15s. 10d. per ton.

Thomas Williams agreed to provide the iron-work for the towels and mantles for the several chimneys and the stops, bolts, cramps, etc., to be used by the masons, bricklayers, or carpenters, commonly called "Black and Weighty work" with the best Swedish iron and in a workmanlike manner for 23s. per hundredweight. This offer does not appear to have been acceptable and William Redford, of Butcher's Hall Lane, near Newgate Street, agreed to do it for 22s. 9d. The tender was afterwards reduced to 22s. 6d., and its acceptance is dated July 16, 1761.

Williamson Robinson was still acting as Clerk of the Works, and "for directing and overseeing Work from January 1761 to December 1767 at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on £8700 he was paid £217.10.0."

The scaffolding labourer in the year 1761 received 2s. 2d. a day.

In June 1763 stone was brought from Bristol by the *George*—Captain Ragg—at 30s. per ton.

On July 16, 1763, "to freight of Block Freestone by the *Sally* and *Betty* from Bristol to London 30/- per ton."

On September 17, 1763, "to unloading and stowing 234 tons of stone from the *George* and *Betty* at 1/- per ton."

Mr. Ralph Allen writes from Prior Park on April 19, 1763: "My proposal was not formed to obtain the least Profit to myself, but that I might be a considerable benefactor to that laudable design in which I shall in the whole expend at least Two thousand pounds."

	£	s.	d.
" On April 6, 1764, 153 ft. 2 in. run of Wainscott Rail and Baluster at 8/-	65	5	4
395.3 run of wainscott steps, Risers, string boards at 4/6	88	18	7½

This staircase in this block was built by Hillyard.

There is an item on May 29, 1764, for lighterage, landing, and carriage of Bath stone at 5s. per ton, the cartage to be from Cotton's wharf to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and on July 7, 1764, there is a communication from the executors of the late Mr. Ralph Allen, and a letter from Mrs. Allen dated July 10, hoping that the work will go on. Mr. Allen was able to write on June 25, 1764, so that his illness must have been of short duration, for he died four days later.

Ralph Allen, born in 1694, was the son of a small inn-keeper at St. Blazey, in Cornwall, and his grandmother was postmistress at St. Columb. Ralph soon attracted the notice of the postal authorities, and whilst yet a boy was appointed to the Bath post-office. Here he gained the patronage of General Wade, member for Bath, who was famous for making roads in Scotland and whose natural daughter, Miss Earl, he married as his first wife. On becoming deputy postmaster at Bath, Ralph Allen organised a system of cross-country posts for England and Wales which enabled letters to be sent from one town to another direct instead of going through London, as had been the custom. This system he farmed himself, and it is reckoned that from 1720 to 1764 his annual income from this source alone amounted to £12,000 a year. In 1745, during the

rebellion, he raised and equipped at his own cost a corps of Bath Volunteers which was 100 strong. For many years he worked the Combe Down quarries, near Bath, and invented an ingenious appliance for transporting large blocks of stone to the canal. He served the office of Mayor of Bath in 1742, and in the following year moved to the magnificent mansion which he had built on the Prior Park estate, Widcombe, about four miles from the city. He was taken ill at Maidenhead whilst travelling to London, and died at Bath on June 29, 1764.

As he appears in the minutes of the Hospital here recorded, so he was in every relation of life—a truly good and benevolent man who used his wealth to the advantage of the greatest number. Fielding drew a portrait of him as Squire Allworthy in *Tom Jones*; Pope refers to him in the Epilogue to the *Satires of Horace*:

Let humble Allen with an awkward shame
Do good by stealth and blush to find it fame.

He is described as being rather above the middle height, of stout build, very grave and well-looking, extremely plain in his costume, and remarkably courteous in his behaviour.

On January 2, 1765, there is a bill “for a chimney sweeper going up twenty funnels 6/8.”

Ed. Angel was engaged in painting the East Wing from February 24, 1764, till December 4, 1771, and at some time during this period there was supplied “190 yards 3 ft. of white Deal in the Theatre at 12^d £9.10.0.”

There appears at this time to have been some suggestion of appointing a resident medical officer, although the project afterwards fell through. On Thursday, September 4, 1760, the “following extract from the Will of Richard Holland Esq. deceased, late one of the Governors of this Hospital, dated the 23rd day of February 1756 was read:

“To The Treasurer of S. Bartholomew’s Hospital to be employed in building of a new wing to the side Hospital provided such Wing shall contain in it or adjacent to it [accommodation] for one of the principal surgeons to constantly live in £1000.”

The subject was considered at a General Court held on Thursday, May 15, 1766, when "Upon reading the Resolution and opinion of the Building Committee of the 25th of March last and taking into consideration the building of a house for a Resident Surgeon according to the Will of Mr. Holland that fitting of one of the Wards in the new Wing and converting same into room for said Surgeons residence would answer the intentions of the said Will and save great expense to the Hospital this Court doth agree in opinion with the said Committee and order that the said Appartmts and Surgery be forthwith fitted up for that purpose in such manner as the Committee shall direct.

"Ordered that the Wards in the new Wing or two of them at least be fitted up and furnished for the reception of patients for operations as the Committee shall direct and that the patients in Cutting Ward be removed as soon as conveniently may be into the Wards of the said new Wing.

"Ordered that a Theatre in the new Wing for Operations and room adjoining be finished forthwith."

The matter was further considered at a House Committee held on August 19, 1768, when "upon reading the Order of the General Court made on the 15th of May 1766 reciting as therein is mentioned. It is Ordered that the Appartments and Surgery in the New Wing be forthwith fitted up for the resident Surgeon of this Hospital in such manner as this Committee shall direct and which being now prepared It is Resolved and Ordered that the said appartments be forthwith furnished at the expense of this Hospital with beds and bedding, tables, chairs, glasses and other necessary furniture at the expense of this Hospital at the direction of the Almoners for the accommodation of such resident Surgeon.

"It is ordered that a reasonable and sufficient quantity of coals and candles be allowed found and provided at the expense of the Hospital for such resident Surgeon.

"It is Ordered that the principal Surgeons of this Hospital, some or one of them by themselves or their sufficient Dressers or Assistants do reside alternately in the said appartment that some or one of them may be always immediately ready as well by night as day to assist the patients of this Hospital as also such other poor persons as may be brought to this Hospital for Hurts, Maims,

Bruises by accidents in cases of particular and immediate want and Chirurgical Relief being proper objects to be admitted. Also upon reading the Order of the General Court made on the said 15th day of May 1766 by which it was Ordered that the Wards in the new Wing or two of them at least be fitted up and furnished for the reception of patients for operations as the Committee shall direct and the said Wards being now fit for the reception of patients It is Ordered and the Almoners are requested to furnish the said Wards forthwith as the rest of the Wards of this Hospital are furnished and fitted up that said patients may be admitted therein and provided for according to the Rules and Orders of this Hospital and the Matron is to provide proper Sisters and Nurses and the Steward and Matron are to provide for and take care of the patients accordingly."

It appears therefore that the house surgeons owe their existence as resident officers to Mr. Holland's bequest of £1,000, although he intended that one of the surgeons should be the officer in residence.

It was resolved at a meeting of the House Committee held on Friday, March 10, 1769, that "the two Wards in the fourth Pyle of Buildings being furnished and prepared for the reception of patients according to the order of the former Committee It is Resolved and Ordered that the said two new Wards be used for the reception of patients to undergo Operations, one of them for Men and the other for Women And that all the patients in the old Cutting Ward be removed into the said two new Wards on or before Lady Day next and that all the patients in the Hospital to undergo Operations be removed to the said two Wards And that in future patients to undergo Operations be admitted into one of the said two Wards And it is also Ordered that the Matron do appoint Sisters, Nurses and Helpers for these two new Wards which Wards are to be under the same Establishment Allowances and Regulations as hath been made and ordered for the old Cutting Ward.

"It is also Ordered that the old Cutting Ward after the removal of the patients be shut up till further Order therein."

The slovenly habits of the sixteenth century were continued at the Hospital into the eighteenth century. On August 16, 1594, Dr. Doyley, physician to the Hospital,

complained of diverse inhabitants dwelling within the precinct of St. Bartholomew's who do wash and beat their bucks to the great disquiet of certain persons of great worship which lie in his house ; and a few months earlier he complained of being annoyed by diverse of the poor inhabitants in the Close who hang their beddings and beastly rags upon the walls before his door and by some of the sisters who have emptied foul vessels under his chamber window. A hundred and seventy-two years later it is recorded that complaint had been made "that wet Linnen is frequently hung upon lines in the Great Court Room or Hall of this Hospital to dry to the detriment of the Hall and discredit of the Hospital and the great displeasure of persons coming to see the room and Paintings, it is Ordered that the Steward do take care that no linnen or cloaths be hung up to dry in such room for the future."

Mr. Serjeant-Surgeon Gunning called attention a quarter of a century later to a similar abuse of the Council Room at the Surgeon's Hall in Newgate Street, when he told the Court of Assistants that "Your Theatre is without Lectures, your Library Room without Books is converted into an Office for your Clerk, and your Committee Room is become his Eating parlour ; and is not always used in your Common Business and when it is thus made use of, it is seldom in a fit and proper state."

The Hospital buildings appear to have gone on with the usual amount of repair until 1844, when serious defects showed themselves in the Bath stone, as a result of the action of the London atmosphere. At a House Committee held on March 11, 1845, the Surveyor was ordered to make a general survey of the buildings of the Hospital, especially with reference to the state of the external masonry. He submitted the following report at a House Committee held on Tuesday, July 8, 1845 :

" ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL
" *July 8, 1845.*

" GENTLEMEN,

" In obedience to the following Resolution of the House Committee that the Surveyor be instructed to make a General Survey of the Hospital particularly with reference to the state of the external masonry and report thereon, I

beg leave to report that ever since I have been connected with the Hospital the state of the external Masonry has been watched with great anxiety.

“During the general repairs of the Hospital Building which took place in the years 1814, 1815 and 1816 the attention of the Surveyor of the Hospital was chiefly directed to the removal of all those Timbers in the Floors and Roof of the four wings which were so extensively affected with the Dry Rot as to render parts of the Hospital unsafe for the Patients. The expense occasioned by the restoration of these parts was so great as to make it impossible without a great sacrifice of the Hospital Funds to undertake any farther repairs of the Buildings which were not of the same essential importance.

“The External Masonry was not, therefore, repaired but only such parts as were considered absolutely dangerous were removed. It was the decided opinion of the late Mr. Hardwick that there was no possibility of repairing the Masonry, for the nature of the stone is such as to render the attempt extremely injudicious and it was therefore considered better to allow it to remain as long as no actual danger was likely to arise from the decaying state of it, nor would it have been judicious to have removed the thick black crust with which portions of it were covered by scraping or otherwise and which has been the means to a certain extent of preventing the surface from farther disintegration.

“The four Wings were executed from the Designs and Under the direction of Mr. James Gibbs who was then the Architect of the Hospital. The walls are built of brick but cased externally with an ashlar of stone varying in its thickness five, six and even seven inches with occasional Bonding Stones, to which the ashlar was attached, of much greater thickness.

“The Stone with which the Brick walls of the Building are cased was procured from the Quarries in the neighbourhood of Bath and by the Minutes it appears that in 1730 an Agreement was entered into with Ralph Allen Esq. of Bath, the Proprietor of the Quarries, to find and provide all the stone and workmanship upon it (the scaffolding excepted) required for the Buildings and under that Agreement Mr. Allen was engaged to make good any flaw or

crack or any decay which might occur to the Stone during the space of 30 years.

"In 1736 the second New Wing or Pile of Building as it was termed was erected and ordered to be cased with Bath Stone.

"In 1743 a third Wing was ordered to be built and cased with Bath Stone and Mr. Allen was directed to prepare a sufficient quantity of Stone in the terms of his Contract.

"In 1745 great difficulties appear to have arisen in the Shipping of the Stone from Bristol, occasioned by the War, which were not foreseen when the Agreement was entered into between the Hospital and Mr. Allen, a correspondence seems to have taken place with Mr. Allen on the subject and in consequence the erection of the third Wing was postponed until the year 1748.

"In 1756 (sic) the fourth Wing was completed.

"In 1760 and 1761 a farther correspondence appears to have taken place with Mr. Allen respecting an addition to his Contract for the freightage of the stone and an additional price was allowed him. The correspondence appears to have been continued until 1763.

"In January 1763 defects were observed in the stone and the Surveyor was ordered to take an Account of them and the Clerk instructed to give notice to Mr. Allen to repair the same according to his Contract.

"Thus it appears within thirty years after the Buildings had been commenced the defects in the stone were discovered.

"No entry appears in the Hospital Minutes whether the defects in the stone were repaired by Mr. Allen.

"Bath Stone is a very inferior Building stone. It is oölite and calcareous, easily decomposed by the action of the weather and particularly by the atmosphere of London.

"At that time the quarries not having been so much worked the Upper beds were probably used which generally are found to be of an inferior stone and I have no doubt was then as it is now, the cheapest stone that could be procured for the purpose and economy must have been the inducement to use it, for in all the other Buildings which were erected under Mr. Gibbs in London, Portland Stone was invariably used.

"The two gateways into Smithfield are built with Port-

land Stone and hence [have] stood remarkably well, particularly the South Entrance or as it is called the Harts-horn Gate.

“The whole of the external Masonry of the Four Wings has now become very considerably decayed and pieces occasionally fall off. It has been carefully watched and portions that have been considered dangerous have been removed so that no accident has hitherto happened but I consider the time has now arrived when at all events it should have the careful consideration of the Governors.

“Upon giving the subject the fullest attention which the importance of it to the Hospital deserves I entirely coincide with my Father in the opinion that to attempt a repair of the Stone work would be quite fruitless. The soundest and in the end the least expensive manner in which the defect in the original construction of the walls could be remedied would be to remove entirely the present ashlar, or at all events so much of it as would admit of applying another casing of stone six inches in thickness fastened to bond stone.

“The cornices of the buildings as well as the jambs and Architraves of the Windows would of course be wholly removed as well as the Balustrade and blockings and the whole restored with a different description of stone.

“This brings the question What description of Stone should be employed in the work? From the experience I have had, I have no hesitation in recommending the stone from the Eastern Quarries of the Isle of Portland as the best suited for the purpose and the best adapted for the atmosphere of London.

“No alteration whatever ought to be made in the Architecture of the Building, but the whole of the Cornices, the Architraves and Moldings should be carefully restored as Mr. Gibbs originally designed them.

“The work might be executed by degrees and might extend over a period of several years in order as much as possible to lighten the burden of such an expense on the Hospital Funds and each Wing may be divided into four parts.

“The expense of such a work is always most difficult to ascertain but I beg to submit the following estimates as the probable amount of the Cost :

" The North Wing . . .	£6500
The South Wing . . .	£6100
The East Wing . . .	£5200
The West Wing . . .	£5200
	£23,000

" I have the honour to be

" Gentlemen

" Your most obed. Servt.

" PHILIP HARDWICK.

" To The Committee of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital."

The matter appears to have been put in hand, but it was not until January 10, 1850, that "Tenders were received from the following Builders for the repair during the present year of the external Masonry of one side of the front of either of the Wings of the Hospital, viz. :

" Messrs. Piper . . .	£1624
Messrs. Cubett . . .	£2187
Mr. Lee . . .	£2005
Messrs. Hayward . . .	£2037
Messrs. Mallcott . . .	£2242
Messrs. Baker . . .	£2324

" Resolved That the Tender of Messrs. Piper for £1624 being the lowest be accepted and that the sum be reported to the next Ho. Committee with the alterations proposed by the Treasurer and Almoners for the conveyance by Machinery of the Coal and Diet to the several Wards."

At a Meeting of the House Committee on Tuesday, December 24, 1850, "the Treasurer reported to the Committee that the recasing of the South Wing of the Hospital which was commenced in February last had been nearly completed under the superintendence of the Surveyor in a most satisfactory manner and that the work which had been done at the cost of £5200 was considerably under the estimate."

The work was unfortunately attended by a fatal accident, for on Thursday, November 14, 1850, "£5 compensation was granted to the widow of Thomas Brown a Labourer who lost his life, leaving three children, on Saturday, the 20th ult. by falling from the scaffold erected for the purpose of recasing the Hospital."