

ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH

Foundation Stone laid 1738: opened 1741; demolished about 1879

CHAPTER VIII

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL MOVEMENT

THE early part of the 18th century in Scottish medicine was specially characterised by the movement for the erection of hospitals. Up to the Reformation, the country had been well provided with hospitals for the treatment of chronic, aged and infirm cases, but most of these foundations had disappeared with the decay and suppression of the religious orders. The 17th century, in consequence, had been very deficient as regards progress in medicine and surgery, apart from attempts to regulate and organise the practice of medicine. It is true that the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, and the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, had given advice and medicines gratuitously to sick persons in their halls and had visited the poor at their own homes, but so far as the study of disease was concerned, these efforts had produced little result.

In the end of the 17th century some of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh had taken tentative steps for the establishment of a complete medical school in that city, and this involved the idea of building a hospital. The first definite steps were taken by the College of Physicians in 1725, when the foundation of a building, into which the sick could be received for treatment, was proposed. In 1726, the minutes of the College mention that subscriptions had already been set on foot with "pretty good success," and the Fellows of the College were now joined in their scheme by the members of the Incorporation of Surgeons, as well as receiving substantial encouragement from charitable people in many quarters. It was considered that the sum of £2000 was the smallest which would suffice for the purpose, and, this sum having been speedily collected, the Committee charged with the object decided to hire a small house, for receiving sick poor, out of the annual proceeds of the capital sum, and at the same time appointed twenty managers to control it. This "small hired house" stood at the head of Robertson's Close and provided accommodation for six patients. It was formally opened on 6th August, 1729.¹

On the following page is a list of the thirty-five patients who were treated in the first year of the little hospital's existence. It is interesting both as showing the wide area from which patients were received and the diseases from which they suffered. It is noticeable that most of the patients suffered from chronic conditions, and formed the same type of invalid who would have been a bedesman in one of the 15th or 16th century hospitals:—

¹ "The History and Statutes of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh," 1778, pp. 7 *et seq.*

PATIENTS' NAMES	PARISH	ADMITTED AND DISCHARGED 1729-1730	DISEASES
Elizabeth Sinclair	Caithness	6. 8.29—19.11.29 recovered	Chlorosis
Barbara Hastie	Edinburgh	7. 8.29—19. 8.29 dismissed	Pain in the Thigh, and Looseness
Hew Richmond	Ochiltry ...	11. 8.29—19. 8.29 dismissed	Cancer in the Face
Isabel Brown	Dunbar ...	22. 8.29—10. 9.29 cured ...	Inflammation of the Eyes
Farquhar Mackinnan, Soldier	.....	25. 8.29—6. 9.29 cured ...	Pain of the Liver with hectic Fever
John Simson	West-Kirk	25. 8.29—28. 9.29 cured ...	Scorbutick painful Tumor of the Knee
Helen Allan	Edinburgh	12. 9.29—23. 9.29 dismissed	Hysterick Disorders
Mary Dickson	Canongate	23. 9.29—31.10.29 cured ...	Bloody Flux
Hector Morison	Isle of Mull	23. 9.29—30. 9.29 dismissed	Consumption
James Short	Edinburgh	1.10.29—9.10.29 cured ...	Beginning Consumption
Katharine Macfarline	Edinburgh	4.10.29—4.11.29 cured ...	Obstructions
Jean Cunningham	West-Kirk	13.10.29—30.11.29 cured ...	Cancer of the Breast
Mary Walker	Congalton	31.10.29—17.11.29 cured ...	Tertian Ague and Sore Eyes
Robert Brown, Dragoon	.....	18.11.29—8. 1.30 cured ...	Quartan Ague
Alexander Lamb ... ..	.....	18.11.29—25.11.29 cured ...	Flux
William Lindsay	Edinburgh	28.11.29—22.12.29 dismissed	Pain and Swelling of the Belly
Mary Sheriff	West-Kirk	1.12.29—17.12.29 cured ...	Bloody Flux
Ebenezer Tweedie	Edinburgh	5.12.29—23.12.29 cured ...	Melancholy
Elizabeth Hog	Ormistoun	17.12.29—9. 3.30 recovered	Dropsy of the Belly
James Ladlie	Arnistoun	23.12.29—27. 3.30 dead ...	Consumption
James M'Naughton	Canongate	8. 1.30—29. 1.30 cured ...	Palsy of the Hand
David Lighton... ..	Edinburgh	22. 1.30—10. 4.30 cured ...	Universal Palsy
Sarah M'Laughlan ... ..	.....	25. 1.30—16. 3.30 recovered	Pthisick and Tumor of the Belly after a Quartan Ague
Mary Bowman... ..	Haddingtoun	16. 3.30—7. 5.30 cured ...	Hysterick Disorders
Margaret Doig	Dundee ...	24. 3.30—2. 7.30 cured ...	Tympany after a most irregular Ague
George Somerville	Gingle-Kirk	4. 4.30—1. 5.30 recovered	Pthisick with Fistulous Ulcer of the Leg
Margaret Johnston	Canongate ...	13. 4.30—14. 7.30 cured ...	Cancerous Tumor of the Side
Jean Robertson	Peterhead ...	7. 5.30—In the Infirmary ...	Inveterate Scorbutick Ulcer of the Leg
Mary Hood	Canongate ...	7. 5.30—1. 7.30 cured ...	Fistula lachrymalis and Ulcer of the Toe
Thomas Middleton	Edinburgh ...	1. 7.30—In the Infirmary ...	Old Scorbutick Ulcer of the Leg
Thomas Smart... ..	South Leith	2. 7.30—28. 7.30 cured ...	Bloody Flux
Margaret Young	Edinburgh ...	2. 7.30—28. 7.30 recovered	Vertigo, Deafness, and other Affections of the Nerves
Helen Waddel	Elie	28. 7.30—In the Infirmary ...	Steatom of the Cheek
William Panton	Queensferry	29. 7.30—In the Infirmary ...	Deep Ulcers of Middle Finger and Palm of the Hand
James Mills	West-Kirk ...	4. 8.30—In the Infirmary ...	Cancer of the Lip

Cured	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Recovered so as to go about their ordinary Affairs and requiring only some Time to confirm their Health, and to restore their Strength fully	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	05
Dismissed either as incurable or for Irregularities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	05
Dead	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	01
In the Infirmary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	05
Total this first year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35 ¹

In 1736, the Surgeons also opened a small hospital, which they continued successfully for two years; but they then joined the Royal Infirmary, handing over to the latter Institution the funds they had collected.

The Managers obtained a Royal Charter from His Majesty George II., dated 25th August, 1736, in which the hospital is designated the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and, by 2nd August, 1738, the foundation stone of a permanent hospital was ceremoniously laid. This building consisted of a "body with two wings, each of three full stories and an attic one, with garrets above." The body was 210 feet long and each wing extended 70 feet, with a large theatre where more than 200 students could see operations, and which was also a convenient chapel. The house was designed for 228 sick people "each in a distinct bed," and on the ground floor there were twelve cells for mad people. Round the hospital was an area of two acres, with grass walks for the patients to walk in. The patients previously had the privilege of walking in the neighbouring Physic Garden of the Town's College, which had been leased in 1724 to Dr. Rutherford and some of his colleagues for the purpose of rearing medicinal plants.

The building of this hospital appears to have commended itself to all classes. The Assembly of the Church of Scotland ordered collections to be made at all church-doors, benefit nights were given at the theatre, most of the societies in and about Edinburgh sent money, merchants sent presents of timber, stone and other materials, farmers and carters supplied carriages, and mechanics and labourers gave so many days' work gratis. In addition, the Managers dispersed copies of their prospectus to England, Ireland and the British Plantations, from all of which countries considerable subscriptions were received. In the credit assigned to the founders of the hospital, one of the most active deserving recognition was George Drummond, Commissioner of Excise, who held the office of Lord Provost of Edinburgh six times. Finally, the Infirmary was fitted up and the sick were received into it in December, 1741.

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 Infirmary was converted into a general hospital for sick and wounded soldiers, of whom several hundreds were attended and dressed by the surgeons. From the commencement of the hospital in 1729, the surgeon-apothecaries had not only attended without fee, but each had furnished the medicines necessary out of his own shop. In 1748,

¹ "An Account of the Rise and Establishment of the Infirmary," Edinburgh, 1730.

however, the Managers decided to fit up an apothecary's shop in the institution, from which both in-patients and out-patients could be served.

By 1778, when a new appeal was issued, it had been found that the original twelve cells for mad people were unnecessary, and some of them had, therefore, been converted to other uses. On the upper floor, a ward had also been established "for lying-in women, sufficiently separated from the rest of the house, and under the direction of the professor of midwifery," Professor Thomas Young. On the attic storey, and in a remote part of the house, a salivating ward for female patients containing twelve beds, had also been established. "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." By this time, too, it is recorded that "in the west wing are one cold, and two hot baths, with their respective dressing-rooms," while 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." The report continues: "Those in the west wing are intended for people of the city; no patient in the Hospital having, at any time, admittance to them." These three baths seem to have been the only provision, in the middle of the 18th century, by which the inhabitants of Edinburgh could carry out complete ablution otherwise than in a stream or in the sea, and the baths were a source or revenue to the charitable institution. At an earlier date, the College of Physicians had established a cold bath in the garden of the Hall near the Cowgate; and, later, the Incorporation of Surgeons also instituted a bath.

Another considerable source of revenue was tapped in 1746, when 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 were held. Several ladies of quality and rank undertook to act in turn as directresses of the weekly assemblies, and the profits arising from these brought to the Infirmary a revenue of about £100 per annum.

It is interesting to note that the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in the 18th century affords an example of the modern movement for the payment of hospital staffs. In January, 1751, the Managers elected Dr. David Clerk and Dr. Colin Drummond physicians in ordinary to the Infirmary, each with a salary of £30. This was to supersede the old arrangement by which each of the Fellows of the College of Physicians had in turn attended the Infirmary for a month, but this arrangement seems again to have lapsed at a later period. Similarly, all the members of the Incorporation of Surgeons up to 1766 attended the surgical cases in rotation, but in July of that year, the Managers appointed James Rae, Peter Addis, John Balfour and Andrew Wood as surgeons to the hospital. For a time, also, the practice of having paying patients was introduced, and the charge for these was at the rate of 6*d.* per day.

After the Peace of 1763, a great number of sick and lamed soldiers presented themselves at the Infirmary, and in the same year Dr. Adam Austin was appointed

by the Commander-in-Chief to visit the military wards regularly and to report thereon. Every assistance was given by the Managers and staff of the house to Dr. Austin in the execution of these duties. Excluding the military ward and the wards reserved for special types of case, some sixty beds appear to have been available for ordinary free patients. With these, the Infirmary continued for about half a century, but in 1828 the old High School, vacated by the transference of that institution to a site on the Calton Hill, was acquired, and this, along with an intermediate building connecting it with the original Infirmary structure, became the surgical hospital. This part of the old Infirmary is still standing, though the original building of 1741 has long since disappeared. Lister's Wards were subse-



PART OF THE OLD ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH

This building was originally the High School, later was occupied by surgical wards (under the charge of Professor Joseph Lister), later was part of the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, and is now (1927) the Engineering Department of Edinburgh University

quently situated in the part which had been the High School, and is now (1927) the Engineering Department of the University. Between 1860 and 1870, much discussion took place as to whether the Infirmary should be rebuilt or whether a new Infirmary should be erected on a different site. The latter alternative was adopted, in great part owing to the advocacy of Professor Syme. The site selected was that of George Watson's Hospital, between Heriot's Hospital and the Meadows. Here, the foundation stone of the present Infirmary buildings was laid on 13th October, 1870. The present Royal Infirmary was opened on 29th October, 1879.

One of the most important developments in the relationship of the Royal Infirmary to the Edinburgh Medical School commenced when John Rutherford, Professor of Practice of Physic in the University, obtained permission from the Managers, on 1st February, 1748, to give a course of clinical lectures in the Royal Infirmary. He had already, however, according to Bower, given these lectures for two years.¹ These were perhaps the first courses of clinical lectures delivered in this country, and were organised by Rutherford on the model of lectures which he had attended in the hospital at Leyden. Very soon other professors of the Medical Faculty began to co-operate with Rutherford, and the fame of the clinical teaching at Edinburgh increased, especially in the hands of William Cullen, who commenced to give clinical lectures in 1757, and became Professor of Practice of Physic in 1773.

An interesting account is given by Dr. Graves of Dublin, of clinical teaching at Edinburgh when he was a student there in 1819. Two clinical clerks, he said, were appointed for the male and female wards, selected by the physician from among the senior pupils. Their business was to write an accurate history of the cases, to report the effects of medicines and to record the symptoms which might have occurred since the physician's last visit. At his daily visit, the physician stood at the bed of each patient, and, having received the necessary information from his clerk, he examined the patient, interrogating him in a loud voice, while the clerk repeated the patient's answers in a tone of voice equally loud. This was done to enable the whole audience to understand what was going on, and required an exertion almost stentorian to render this conversation between the physician and his patient audible by the more distant members of the class. Every word was attentively listened to and forthwith registered most faithfully in each student's case-book, and afterwards all the observations of the professors, made in their clinical lectures, were taken down with equal care and fidelity.² According to Graves, this method of instruction was indeed very useful and nothing better could be devised for a beginner.

The Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Edinburgh was the first hospital in Scotland devoted to this special type of sickness, and was opened in 1860 at Lauriston Lane with twenty-four cots. In 1864, it was transferred to Meadowside House in the immediate neighbourhood, where there was accommodation for forty patients, including fever cases. The present building was erected after 1890.

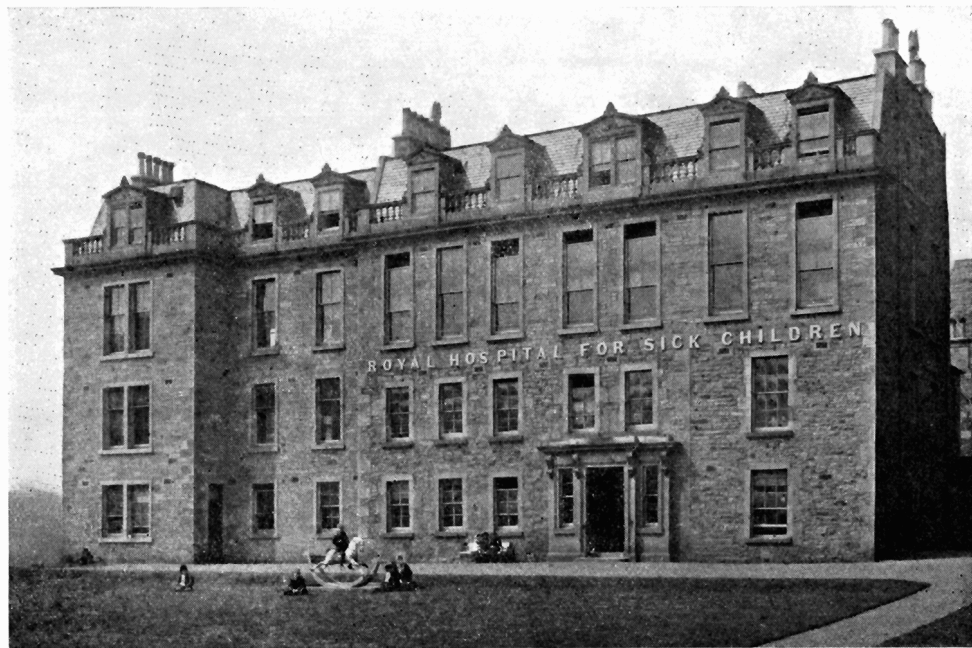
The Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital at Edinburgh developed out of the attic storey of the old Royal Infirmary, which, under Professor Thomas Young, had been devoted by the Managers of that institution to the treatment of lying-in women. Here practical instruction in obstetrics was given by Professor Young and continued by his successor in the Chair, Dr. Alexander

¹ Bower : "History of the University of Edinburgh," Vol. II, p. 213.

² "Edinburgh Hospital Reports," Vol. I, Pentland, Edinburgh and London, 1893, pp. 10 and 11.

Hamilton, under whom, in 1793, a building situated in Park Place was erected as a lying-in hospital. Attendance on this institution and instruction of students there was carried on by his son, Professor James Hamilton, for forty years. After various transfers, the hospital settled in its present building, which had been erected as a memorial to Sir James Y. Simpson in 1879.

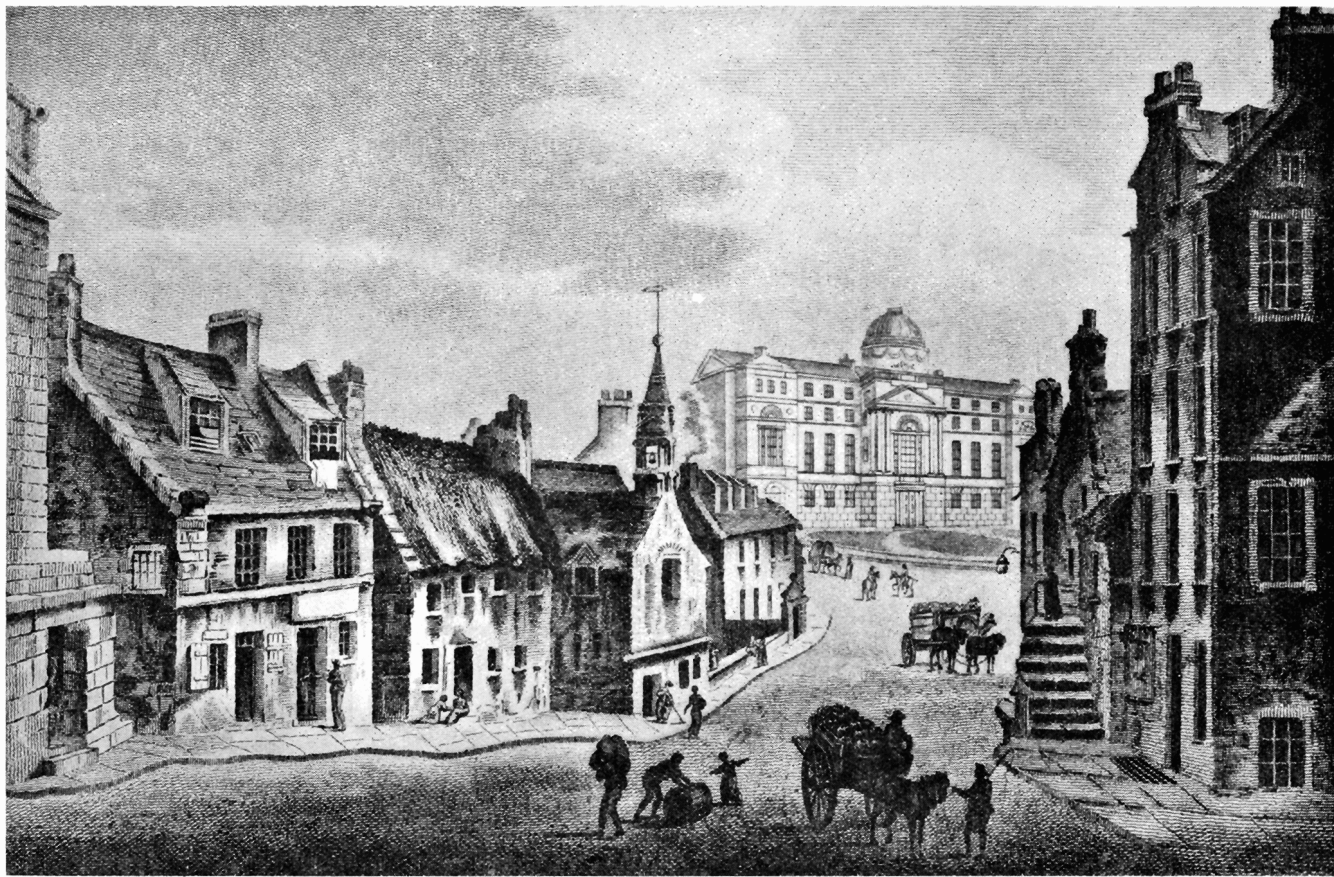
The latter part of the 18th century was notable for the development in many cities in England and Scotland of dispensaries or institutions for the treatment of the sick poor who did not require admission to hospital. The first of these



OLD BUILDING OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, EDINBURGH
The site is now occupied by the gynæcological block of the Royal Infirmary.

in Edinburgh, the Royal Public Dispensary, was founded in the year 1776, mainly through the instrumentality of Dr. Andrew Duncan. This institution served the double purpose of affording attendance to the sick poor and of giving instruction and an opportunity for practice to senior medical students. As the town grew, the necessity for another Dispensary was felt, and the New Town Dispensary was instituted in 1815 in Thistle Street. Other Dispensaries followed at later dates in other parts of the town.

In Glasgow, the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, from the time of its inauguration under Maister Peter Lowe, had given gratuitous advice to the poor at its ordinary monthly meetings, and the Town Council had from time to time

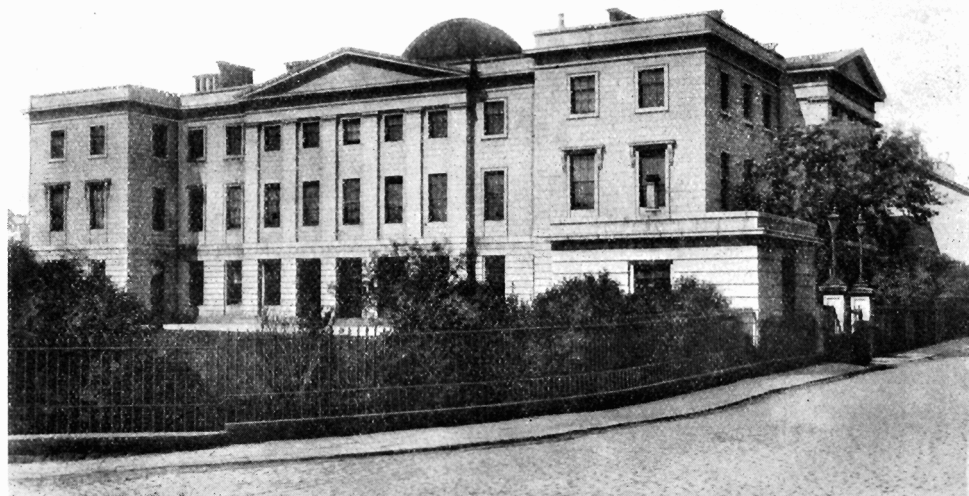


GLASGOW INFIRMARY

(From an engraving published November, 1801, by W. Miller, London).

The plate was engraved by J. C. Fittler after a drawing by J. C. Nattes. The view shows the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, which opened its doors at the end of 1794. The quaint little building with the bell-tower and weather-cock on the left-hand side of the street, is the old Hospital of St. Nicholas, founded by Bishop Muirhead in 1460, and demolished about the close of the 18th century.

subsidised various physicians and surgeons to attend those of poorer means. By 1733, the hospital movement in this city had attained so much force that a Town's Hospital was erected by public subscription on the Old Green near the College, a little west from the Stockwell. This hospital was maintained by the Town Council, the Merchants' House, the Trades' House and the general Kirk Session, which contributed to it in definite proportions. The members of Faculty gave their services gratuitously in rotation. No provision, however, was made here for clinical teaching, nor indeed was there a sufficiently large medical school in



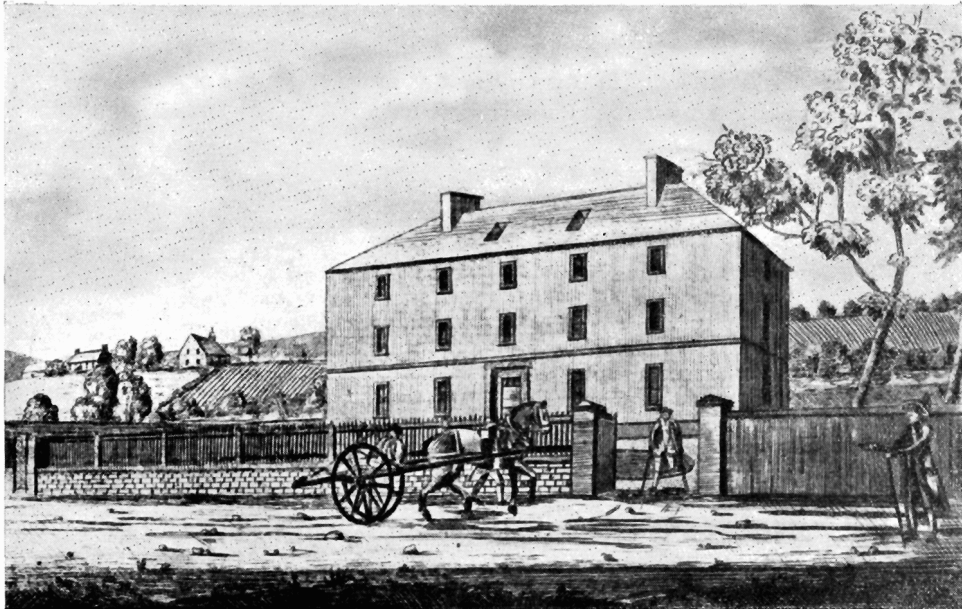
ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY

Erected in 1840

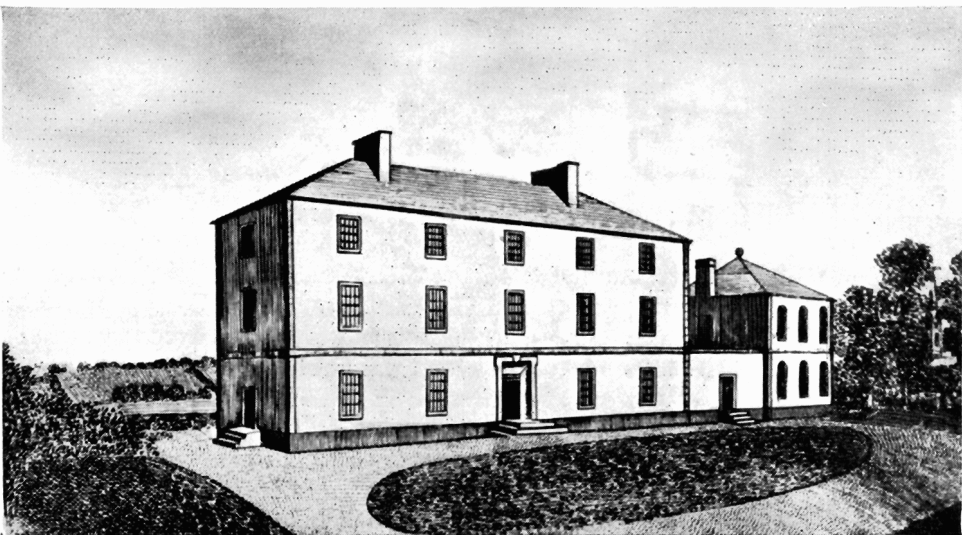
Glasgow at this time to require it.¹ Towards the end of the century, this Town's Hospital was felt to be insufficient, and in December, 1794, the Royal Infirmary was opened for the reception of patients. This building was erected on the site of the old palace of the Bishop of Glasgow and was in immediate proximity to the College or University of Glasgow, which stood in the High Street. With regard to the staff, the arrangement was made that the physicians and surgeons of the Faculty should act in rotation, each physician for six months and each surgeon for two months.² Gradually, however, the numbers of the staff were reduced and the tenure of office extended. The numbers of students attending the Glasgow Medical School almost immediately increased, despite the fact that the Medical

¹ "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow," Maclehoose, Glasgow, 1896, pp. 136 and 137.

² *Op.*, cit., pp. 137 and 138.



DUMFRIES INFIRMARY, 1776



DUMFRIES INFIRMARY, 1781

With Lunatic Asylum, which served for mental patients in the south-west of Scotland till 1839

Faculty of the University was still very incomplete. After the opening of the new University buildings at Gilmorehill, in 1870, a transference of teaching took place from the Royal Infirmary to the newly-erected Western Infirmary beside the University.¹

The Town Council of Aberdeen, in 1739, convened a public meeting of citizens with the proposal to erect an Infirmary and a workhouse within the burgh. The project was approved by the citizens and, in November, 1739, William Christall, Convener of the Trades, was directed to go to Edinburgh and Glasgow in order to see the hospitals there and to prepare the necessary plans and estimates. These having been passed, the foundation stone of the Aberdeen Infirmary was laid on 1st January, 1740, on a piece of ground at Woolmanhill, gifted by the Town Council. As the building neared completion, it was resolved to make it as extensive and universally useful as possible instead of confining its benefits to the sick poor of Aberdeen. The infirmary was ready for occupation with six beds in the summer of 1742, and Dr. James Gordon was elected physician and surgeon at a salary of ten guineas per annum, he agreeing to supply all the drugs.

The Rebellion of 1745 seriously interfered with the activities of the Hospital, which was first seized by the rebels for the treatment of their wounded, and afterwards was occupied till 1746 by the wounded Government troops. After the Rebellion, Dr. Burnet of Old Aberdeen was appointed physician and surgeon to the institution at the same salary as Dr. Gordon. In 1748 the Town Council decided to lay out a Physic Garden in the immediate neighbourhood of the Infirmary, but this does not appear to have proved a success and was abandoned in 1800. By 1749 the Infirmary had increased to a capacity of nineteen beds, and a few years later two wings were added, bringing the number of beds up to eighty. The important step was taken in 1773 of obtaining a Royal Charter for the Infirmary, which henceforth enjoyed the title of the "Royal Infirmary of Aberdeen." Early in the 19th century it was decided to rebuild the institution, and the new building was completed in 1840, with accommodation for 230 patients. Separate wards for medical and surgical cases were now provided, and two wards were set aside for ophthalmic cases, under the charge of Dr. Cadenhead. Four years later a fever-house was established, and finally, in 1892, a new surgical block, and in 1897 a new medical block were opened in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilees.² At the present time (1927) an extensive scheme of reconstruction is under consideration, by which various hospital and public health activities of the city will be concentrated at Forresterhill.

As in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow, the other important towns of Scotland undertook the work of building Infirmaries. The Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary was founded in 1776, when a house was opened for

¹ Coutts: "History of the University of Glasgow," Glasgow, 1909, p. 586.

² "History of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary," Leng, Dundee, 1904.

eight patients, pending the erection of a special building which was completed in 1778. For this the Town Council granted as a site an acre of the High Dock. The institution of the Infirmary was largely due to the activity of Dr. John Gilchrist, a physician of the town, who had graduated M.D. at Edinburgh, in 1774, with a thesis upon an epidemic fever which had occurred in Dumfries in 1767. The original Infirmary was a building of three storeys, the upper flat being reserved as a military hospital for the sick of troops stationed in Dumfries. One room in the hospital was set aside and divided up into cells for the treatment of lunatics, for whom, however, a separate building was erected in 1781, and continued in use until 1839, when the Crichton Royal Institution was established. In 1807, the institution received a Charter from King George III, and became the "Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary." After considerable additions, the hospital was removed to its present site in 1873.

The Montrose Royal Infirmary and Dispensary was founded in 1782. It had a curiously inverted origin for a hospital, having first of all formed part of the Royal Asylum for the Insane housed in a building on Montrose Links, and occupying a portion of the building not required for the asylum patients. In 1810, the conjoint institution received a Royal Charter as the "Montrose Royal Lunatic Asylum, Infirmary and Dispensary." A considerable amount of inconvenience resulted from this arrangement, and the present Royal Montrose Infirmary was established separately in Bridge Street, Montrose, and opened in 1839.

Dundee Dispensary was founded in 1782, the foundation stone of the Infirmary laid in 1793, and the Royal Infirmary was finally opened for the reception of patients in 1798.

At Paisley, a Dispensary was instituted in 1786, to which a house of recovery was added and in-patients admitted in 1805. After several enlargements, the name of Paisley Infirmary was adopted, and finally the style of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary was used from 1901, when the new building at Barbour Park superseded the old Infirmary.

The Northern Infirmary at Inverness was founded in 1799, and opened for patients in 1804. It undertook the care of both physical and mental disease, the number of beds available for the former being about twenty-five, and for the latter about twelve. This Infirmary, which, with additions, served the needs of the northern part of Scotland for over a century, is at present (1927) being greatly extended.¹

At Greenock, a house of recovery was added to a previously existing Dispensary in 1807, and opened for the reception of patients in 1809; this hospital was largely extended, and the new house was opened in 1868.

¹ *Inverness Courier*, January 1, 1926.

At Perth, the County and City of Perth Royal Infirmary was founded in 1834, and opened for patients in 1838.

The Royal Infirmary at Stirling was acquired and opened in 1874.

Like the hospitals for physical disease, asylums for the humane treatment of the insane were established at an early date in Scotland. The Royal Asylum of Montrose was founded in 1779, the buildings completed in 1781, and the first patients admitted early in 1782.

The Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane received a charter in 1807, its foundation stone was laid in 1809, and it was opened for patients a few years later. The founding of this institution was largely the outcome of a suggestion by Dr. Andrew Duncan, who had been greatly impressed by the miserable death of Robert Fergusson, the poet, while confined in the common madhouse in 1774. Professor Duncan obtained a Royal Charter and a Government grant for £2000 towards the erection of this lunatic asylum on modern humane lines at Morningside, Edinburgh. Here instruction by lectures on mental disease was given from a very early date, and has continued ever since.

The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1810 took a great interest in the promotion of an asylum for the insane, which was opened in 1814 in Parliamentary Road, Glasgow, near the Royal Infirmary. In 1842 this institution was transferred to Gartnavel.

The idea of founding an asylum for the insane at Aberdeen originated in the 18th century, and the property of the old leper hospital was diverted to this purpose. The Asylum was founded in the year 1798, and opened for patients in 1800, a Royal Charter being obtained in 1852.

Dundee Royal Asylum was founded in 1812, and opened for patients in 1820.

James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth, was endowed in 1814, received a Royal Charter in 1827, and in the same year was opened for patients.

The Crichton Royal Institution at Dumfries was erected between 1835 and 1839 out of a bequest by Dr. James Crichton of Friars' Carse. It had at first been proposed to use this money for founding a fifth Scottish University at Dumfries, but owing to opposition this project fell through, and the money was used for the amelioration of the condition of the insane, for whom at that time insufficient provision could be made by the Dumfries Royal Infirmary. The Institution was opened for patients in 1839.

An important new development in the provision of an institution for the feeble-minded, as distinct from the insane, took place in 1859, with the founding of the Royal Scottish National Institution at Larbert; this building was opened for patients in 1862, and at the present time (1927) is in process of undergoing great extension in the establishment of a colony for mental defectives.