

IV.—THE ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE INFIRMARY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

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A clearer picture of the founding of the Infirmary than we have hitherto possessed can be made from a study of Brand's original manuscript notes and a perusal of the Newcastle newspapers between 5th January and 20th April, 1751. Amongst the voluminous notes from which Brand compiled his history of Newcastle upon Tyne (1789) Mr. Wallace of the Newcastle Central Library discovered certain entries in connection with the Newcastle Infirmary. A study of Brand's notes reveals the important part played by Richard Lambert, the young Newcastle surgeon, as the originator of a proposal to found an hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. The following pages attempt to set forth the part played by Richard Lambert and the various steps which enabled the governors to start an infirmary in a temporary building in Gallowgate. From 23rd May, 1751, to 6th October, 1753, the work of the infirmary was carried on in the Gallowgate house with an organization as complete as that in the new hospital on the Forth Banks and for many years afterwards. It now seems worth while to record the considerable amount of professional work which was accomplished in the Gallowgate house.

I am indebted to Mr. Wallace of the Central Library for drawing my attention to Brand's original notes and for enabling me to peruse the old newspapers, to Miss Lorna Wakefield for her efficient secretarial help, and to Dr. Sanderson and the Board of Governors for the use of the Infirmary minutes.

The usually accepted account of the foundation of an Infirmary at Newcastle upon Tyne owes its origin to two sources. Firstly, the account given by Brand on p. 412 of his *History of Newcastle* (1789),¹ where, under the heading of Infirmary, appear these words: "A Subscription for the Infirmary, a highly beneficial institution to the northern counties, which appears to have been first projected by Mr. Richard Lambert, an eminent surgeon at Newcastle, was opened on the 9th of February, 1751." In a footnote Brand states that he has this information "on the authority of a memoir communicated by himself (Richard Lambert). The earliest patrons and benefactors were Joseph Airey, George Headlam, Ralph Headlam and Richard Burdus." Secondly, Brand's account is amplified by Mackenzie in his *History of Newcastle upon Tyne* (1827),² who states that "Early in 1751, the members of a respectable Society in Newcastle resolved, on account of the deaths of some, and the advancing age of others of their body, to discontinue their stated meetings; but, previous to their doing so, to leave some permanent memorial of the society having existed, by the proposal of some project of public utility."

The "project", however instigated, was brought to the notice of the public in a letter published in *The Newcastle Courant* and dated 28th December, 1750, over the signature B.K. The suggestion of establishing an infirmary was taken up with great enthusiasm and a perusal of the newspapers of the time shows with what speed the undertaking took shape. It has always been a matter of surprise that a proposal to found an infirmary could have been made without much previous thought and planning.

A recent discovery, however, in the manuscript notes³ upon which John Brand built his *History of Newcastle*

¹ *The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne*. Vol. I. John Brand, M.A. (1789).

² *A descriptive and historical account of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne Including the Borough of Gateshead*. Vol. 1. E. Mackenzie (1827).

³ *Collections Relating to Newcastle*. John Brand, M.A. (Original MSS. Newcastle Public Library.)

clarifies the matter and enables us to follow the steps which led to establishing an infirmary in such a short space of time. Brand sets out the facts so clearly and concisely that they may be quoted in full:

“On the Authority of a Memoir³ communicated by Mr. Richard Lambert, Surgeon, this highly beneficial Institution originated in the following manner: In the autumn of the year 1750, five gentlemen of Newcastle, who had been members of a former Literary Society there, agreed to renew their friendly conferences in weekly meetings at each others houses. In one of these it was proposed that Trial should be made by each person present, which of them could invent a plan most beneficial to the Community. The Novelty and Beneficence of the thought were alike striking and it was unanimously agreed that they should severally commit their proposals to writing and produce them at a future meeting. The schemes of four of the gentlemen that were offered at that meeting are foreign to the present purpose. That of Mr. Lambert turned on the prosecution of a Plan which he had the preceding year concerted with some friends in London, to establish an Hospital in Newcastle for the sick and lame poor. Happily for the distrest part of the Community in this Town & Neighbourhood an immediate preference was given to his proposal, which was first communicated and recommended to the publick in a paper under the signature of B.K. the joint production of the above Society, in *White's Newcastle Courant* for January 5th, 1751.” In a footnote Brand mentions that the “five gentlemen” were Richard Lambert, Surgeon, Joseph Airey, George Headlam, Ralph Headlam and Richard Burdus.

This manuscript note of John Brand makes it clear that the suggestion and plan of founding an infirmary emanated from Richard Lambert and that the letter over the signature B.K. was the joint production of the “five gentlemen”.

As Richard Lambert was a surgeon in Newcastle and actually became one of the first surgeons to the infirmary he was probably diffident in allowing his name to appear as a promoter of a scheme from which he, himself, might derive benefit: Brand hints at this diffidence in his original manuscript notes, parts of which are unfortunately undecipher-

³ See footnote on previous page.

able: "To those who, from the circumstance of Mr. Lambert having been himself a surgeon, might call in question the purity of his motives in this benevolent design . . ." Brand goes on to say that it was fortunate for mankind that Lambert had this opportunity of furthering his own interests and promoting the public good, and that he would prove useful both in practising the surgical art and founding a school to train other surgeons.

The letter over the signature B.K. reached the citizens of Newcastle on 5th January, 1751, and has been quoted in full by G. H. Hume (1906)⁴ and need not be repeated here. The proposal to found an infirmary caught the imagination of the citizens of Newcastle and another letter from the same source appeared in *The Newcastle Journal* on the 12th January:

Jan. 5th,
1751

"B.K. having had the Pleasure to find, that his Proposal for erecting an HOSPITAL here has been generally approv'd of, and that many people have express'd their Readiness to encourage such an undertaking, takes this Method of acquainting the Publick, that he is now preparing an Estimate of the Expence of maintaining 40 Pts; which together with a Scheme for the Management, as is now practis'd in the Hospitals at London, he will soon, he hopes, be able to lay before them. In the mean time, as it wou'd be a great Advantage to have a Clause in some Act of Parliament, to enable the Hospital to hold Lands, and receive Legacies, he humbly submits it to the Consideration of the Magistrates, Common Council, and the rest of the Inhabitants, whether there can be a more convenient Time to set about it than the present, when they are preparing a Bill for enlightning the Streets, etc. to which it may be tack'd without any Trouble or additional Expence."

Jan. 12th,
1751

Though no attempt was made to approach Parliament as suggested by B.K., the promised estimate appeared in *The Newcastle Journal* of 2nd February, 1751:

An estimate of the annual Expence of an Hospital for the Relief of the Sick Poor, proposed to be founded in Newcastle upon Tyne, formerly promised.

Feb. 2nd,
1751

⁴ *The History of the Newcastle Infirmary.* G. H. Hume (1906).

Housekeeping to support forty Patients with the following Articles, viz. Butcher-Meat, Bread, Small Beer, Milk, Butter, Firing, Candles, Soap, Oil, Groceries, and to allow those who are not able to eat the House Allowance 4.d. a-day to purchase what shall be thought more proper for them, computed at £8. per Annum each £320.

Wear and Tear of Household Furniture, Linen, etc.	£30.
Steward's Salary	£10.
Matron's ditto	£10.
Two Nurses ditto £3. each	£6.
Two Watches ditto £2. each	£4.
Cook's ditto	£5.
Medicines to be bought of the first Hand	£50.
Matron's Table for herself, Steward, Cook, Nurses and Watches, at £10. each per Annum	£70.
House Rent and Taxes	£25.
Physicians and Surgeons to attend gratis	—
	<hr/> £530.

“As on most Occasions, and with a good deal of Reason, Estimates are little to be depended on, the Author begs leave to assure the Publick, that in making the above, he has carefully examined the Annual Accounts of Several of the Hospitals in London, and is therefore very certain that this calculation will be found rather too high than too low.”

The correctness of this estimate was borne out by the fact that at the quarterly court of the governors on 4th July, 1752, a calculation was made that the diet of an in-patient for a year cost £6 19s. 9d. and the drugs and medicines £1 7s. 6d.

The following week these estimates were followed by the appearance in *The Newcastle Journal* (9th February, 1751) of a “scheme”:

Feb. 9th,
1751

“A Scheme for the Government of an Hospital, or Infirmary, for the Relief of the Sick and Diseased Poor, proposed to be founded in Newcastle, and supported by Voluntary Subscriptions.”

The “scheme” appears under twenty-six headings and was followed by this note: “The above Scheme is chiefly

taken from the annual printed Accounts of several of the Hospitals in London; it is only intended as Hints to proceed on when this undertaking is set on foot. The Author is far from offering it as any Thing perfect; he hopes, therefore, that no Objection to any particular Article in this will be deem'd an Objection to the Thing itself."

The "scheme" with its twenty-six headings formed the basis for the compilation of the first edition of *The Statutes and Rules of the Infirmary at Newcastle upon Tyne* published in 1751,⁵ which, with alterations and additions, are those which governed the hospital up to 1948. It is, therefore, unnecessary to quote the original "scheme" because later an abstract of these *Statutes and Rules* is given at some length.

The estimate of expense and the "scheme" for the government of an hospital support the statement by Brand that Richard Lambert had been collecting information from friends and hospitals.

The favourable reception of the "Thing itself" is evidenced by a notice which appeared in *The Newcastle Journal* of the following week:

"We can now with great Pleasure assure the Publick, that a Subscription is begun towards the founding and supporting an Infirmary for the Relief of the sick and lame Poor in this Place and the adjacent Counties, and that the Chearfulness with which a large Sum has been already subscribed, leaves not the least Room to doubt of its Success, and of its being as extensively useful as any County Hospital in the Kingdom." Feb. 16th,
1751

and in the same issue appeared the following letter:

"To B.K. the unknown Author of the Proposal for a Publick INFIRMARY in Newcastle.

Your Letter of the 10th of this Month, came to hand, as directed, and the Money which was sent I have entered in a

⁵ Interleaved copy of Statutes, Rules and Orders agreed to at the General Meeting of Subscribers on Thursday, 21st March, 1750-1, for the government of the Infirmary for the Sick and Lame Poor, etc.

Subscription that is already begun for that Purpose; which may be met with by any who incline to encourage the Undertaking at either of the Coffee Houses on the Sandhill. I have left the Plans, and Accounts of the Publick Hospitals and Infirmaries you sent me, at the Bridge End Coffee House, for the Consideration of the Subscribers, that they may come better prepared to a General Meeting. I hope you will approve of what I have done. I can with great Pleasure inform you, that every one speaks highly of your truly benevolent Design; and the Chearfulness with which the Subscription goes on, promises Success to your Endeavours. Newcastle Feb. 15 1751."

The next notice to appear in the daily papers was on 23rd February, 1751, and implies that a meeting asking for subscriptions had already been held:

*Feb. 23rd,
1751*

"Whereas by a Paragraph in the Newspapers of last week it appeared, that a Subscription was set on foot for the establishing in Newcastle upon Tyne an Infirmary for the Relief of the Sick and maimed Poor of the said Place, and the adjacent Counties of Durham and Northumberland. This is therefore to acquaint the Publick, that in consequence of a printed Advertisement, a numerous Meeting of Subscribers was held at Mr. Parker's, at the Turk's Head, the 22nd inst. who came to several Resolutions in order to forward so laudable an Undertaking, and particularly appointed a Committee to draw up a Scheme for the Management of it; in which it is proposed to follow that of the County Hospital at Northampton, as far as Circumstances will admit. For the present, any Gentleman disposed to contribute to so useful and extensive a Charity, may send their Names or Benefactions to Mr. Joseph Airey, in the Close, Newcastle, Secretary to the Committee. N.B. All contributors are desired to signify whether they intend what they send as a Benefaction, or annual contribution."

"A General Meeting of the Subscribers, towards the Support of the Infirmary in Newcastle, for Relief of the Sick and maimed Poor in the said Town and the two adjacent Counties of Northumberland and Durham, will be held on Thursday next, the 7th inst., at the Exchange Coffee-house, Newcastle, at Ten o'clock in the Morning, on special Affairs."

It would appear that this meeting is referred to in the further announcement in *The Newcastle Journal* on 23rd March, 1751.

"By order of the subscribers General meeting—it was resolved to carry this Charity immediately into Execution, and a Committee of all the Subscribers was appointed to rent a House for that Purpose, till a proper Building can be erected. All Gentlemen therefore, are desired to pay in their Benefactions and Subscriptions before the 13th of April next (when will be held the First General Quarterly Court of the Governors) to Mr. Joseph Airey, who was this Day chosen Treasurer." *Mar. 23rd, 1751*

No time was wasted and:

"By order of the Committee for establishing an Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne (30th March, 1751).

"The Committee having hired a House, and intending to fit up the same for the immediate Reception of Patients, all Persons willing to furnish the following Particulars, may send their proposals, sealed up, with samples, and the lowest prices, to Mr. Joseph Airey, in the Close, Newcastle, Treasurer." *Mar. 30th, 1751*

Brown Stuffs, called Plains—or any sort of low priced stuffs for curtains.

Upper Blankets.

Coverlids.

Hair for Mattresses.

Coarse Wool for Mattresses.

Feathers for Bolsters & Pillows.

Cloth for sheeting.

Tow or Russia Cloth will be preferred."

It is curious that no mention is made of the actual situation of the house to be hired as a temporary infirmary. A search through the newspapers of the time, the minutes of the City Council and the early minutes of the infirmary⁶ (1751-1753) reveals no direct indication of its locality. There seems little doubt that the house which was "hired" was situated in Gallowgate for the following reasons:

⁶ Infirmary Minutes.

Brand definitely states that it was in Gallowgate,⁷ and though Brand was only seven years old at this time—1751—he was later acquainted with Richard Lambert and has given a very complete account of the steps which led to the founding of the Infirmary.⁸ Early corroborative evidence is based on the fact that the water supply to the house was taken from the Newgate Pant.⁹ Though in the early minutes no mention is made of the position of the temporary Infirmary, the house in Gallowgate is definitely referred to in a minute of 27th September, 1753:

“The Secretary reported that he had let the House in Gallowgate to Mr. Dunn for £7. 10.—for the half year ending at Lady day next the sd. Mr. Dunn to pay all Taxes/being after the same rate that Mr. Wastell has let it to him afterwards.”

Arrangements were now sufficiently advanced for the governors to be justified in appointing a professional and lay staff.

Apr. 6th,
1751

Newcastle Journal, 6th April, 1751. “Infirmary at Newcastle.

“On Saturday next, the 13th inst. at the Merchants Court, at 10 o'clock in the Forenoon, will be held the first General Quarterly Court of the Governors, for the Choice of Physicians, Surgeons, and Servants for this Charity and other special Affairs.

N.B. No Subscriber of less than Two Guineas per ann. nor any Benefactor, of less than Twenty Pounds given at one Time are Governors.”

The next intimation of 20th April, 1751, reports that the staff had been appointed:

Apr. 20th,
1751

“A Subscription is opened at the Bridge-end Coffee-house for building the Infirmary.

“On Saturday last, at the first General Quarterly Court of the Governors were chosen, viz. Mr. Joseph Airey, Treasurer; the four Physicians of this Town; Mr. Samuel Hallowell, and Mr. Richard Lambert, Surgeons; Mr. Henry Gibson, House-Apothecary; Thomas Turnbull, Secretary; and Mrs. Jackson,

⁷ *The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne*. Vol. I. John Brand, M.A. (1789).

⁸ *Collections Relating to Newcastle*. John Brand, M.A. (Original MSS. Newcastle Public Library.)

⁹ Infirmary Minutes.

Matron. Committees were appointed for the Management of the Charity and the Building; and the House Committee, which is to meet every Thursday, met this week accordingly, when they appointed the Under Servants to the Infirmary, and took such other Methods, and 'tis not doubted but this Charity will now very soon be carried into Execution."

The newly appointed house committee met weekly, presumably in a room in the Gallowgate house. The first fully recorded meeting, in Volume I of the Infirmary minutes, was on 2nd May, 1751. It is unfortunate that the first three pages of this volume have been torn out and there only appears the last minute of a meeting previous to 2nd May, probably 25th April, which is as follows:

"Resolved

"That the Matron be directed to provide such victuals as may be necessary for her Self, the Secretary and the other two Servants & bring in her Bill weekly and lay it before the Committee. *Apr. 25th, 1751*

E. TEW, Chairman.
JOSEPH ORD."

At the meeting on 2nd May, 1751, it was decided to open the house in Gallowgate for the reception of patients at 11 a.m. on 23rd May. This was to be preceded by a service in St. Nicholas's Church at 9.30 a.m. and it was decided to ask Mr. Archdeacon Sharp to preach the sermon. At the next meeting, on 9th May, it was reported that Mr. Archdeacon Sharp had accepted the invitation to preach and the Mayor and magistrates were at this meeting invited to attend the service. *May 2nd, 1751*

A generous offer was received from Bishop Butler of Durham to furnish the room set apart to be used as a chapel, and two of the local clergy were instructed to obtain the bibles, prayer books, surplices and other fittings.

On 16th May, 1751, final arrangements were made for the opening of the house on 23rd May and Doctors Askew and Johnson were instructed to attend to receive the first patients. *May 23rd, 1751*

From the outset the governors were in possession of the first edition of the statutes and rules which contained a detailed guide for the lay and professional administration of the Infirmary. A perusal of them throws light on the daily work of its officers.

They were the outcome of information which Richard Lambert had obtained from other hospitals in the country and particularly those which the Northampton hospital had adopted, all of which had been foreshadowed in the "scheme" published in *The Newcastle Journal* (9th February, 1751).

INTERLEAVED COPY OF STATUTES, RULES AND ORDERS AGREED TO AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS ON THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1750-1, FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE INFIRMARY FOR THE SICK AND LAME POOR, ETC.¹⁰

THE STATUTES.

Pages 1-10 comprise the statutes which laid down that the society should consist of presidents, vice-presidents, a treasurer and governors. The governors were to be all those subscribers who contributed certain sums of money. There were to be an anniversary meeting and quarterly courts of the governors. The standing committee of governors was to consist of the treasurer and thirty-six members, twelve from each county, that is, Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne. The professional staff was to comprise four physicians, two surgeons, an apothecary and a matron. These appointments could only be made at quarterly courts, whereas the porter, nurses and common servants could be appointed and discharged by a weekly committee.

THE RULES.

Pages 11-14 comprise some general rules which dealt with the collecting of subscriptions and the placing of contracts with butchers, bakers, etc.

Pages 15-20 concerned the admission, etc. of patients. As patients could only be admitted by recommendatory letter, the entitlement to make recommendations was fixed by the size of the annual

¹⁰ Interleaved copy of Statutes, Rules and Orders agreed to at the General Meeting of Subscribers on Thursday, 21st March, 1750-1, for the government of the Infirmary for the Sick and Lame Poor, etc.

contribution or a corresponding single donation. Rule 10 on p. 18 deals with those considered unsuitable for admission. "That no Women big with Child, no Children under seven Years of Age (except as in the foregoing Rule), No Persons disordered in their Senses, or suspected to have the Small-Pox, Itch, or other infectious Distemper; nor any who are apprehended to be in a consumptive or dying Condition, or who are supposed to have the Venereal Disease, be admitted into the Infirmary as In Patients, on any Account whatever, or permitted to stay in it."

Though, in general, admission was only by recommendatory letter three beds were to be available "to receive strangers or others who have broken limbs or by other dreadful accidents".

The Physicians.

Rules concerning physicians are found on pages 21-23. There were to be four and they were responsible for the general admission of patients. They did all the prescribing for medical and surgical cases and were to be consulted by the surgeons in any serious case. They were permitted to take and receive fees from pupils to be instructed in physic.

The Surgeons.

Rules concerning the surgeons are laid down on pages 24-25. There were to be two surgeons who were expected to attend daily and complete the dressings before 11 a.m. Each surgeon was permitted to have two pupils and one apprentice and to accept fees for both. Rule 8 states: "That no great Operation (except an emergent Occasion requires it) shall be performed in the Infirmary without a previous consultation of all the Physicians and Surgeons belonging to the Infirmary."

The Apothecary.

On pages 26-28 we find the rules to be observed by the Infirmary apothecary. He was to live in the house and his salary was not to exceed £30 in addition to his diet, washing and lodging. He was to visit the patients daily and to keep diet sheets for each patient. He was responsible for the shop, utensils and medicines and had to make up and deliver the medicines according to the directions of the physicians. At the weekly committee every Thursday he had to report the admissions and discharges of the previous week. He and the matron were never to be away from the Infirmary at the same time and he was not to absent himself on any account for more than two hours. Whenever absent from the Infirmary he had to acquaint the matron where he was to be found, and was expected to be in the Infirmary at all times when the physicians and surgeons attended.

The Matron.

On page 30 we find the rules to be observed by the Matron. She was responsible for all the household goods and furniture and had to weigh and measure all the provisions which went into the house. She was to be responsible for the duties of the nurses, servants and patients and was expected to go into each ward every morning and evening and call a roll. She kept the keys of the doors and no one was to enter or leave the Infirmary without her knowledge. If a house visitor or visiting clergyman failed in his attendance she was to give notice to the secretary. The salary of the matron was to be £10 per annum with diet, washing and lodging.

The Nurses and Servants.

The rules to be observed by the nurses and servants are contained on pages 33-34. They were to receive 1-lb of meat and 3 ozs. of butter and cheese daily. A table of the patients' diets had to be hung in every ward, and those patients on low diet had to be served first at every meal. The nurses had to clean their respective wards before seven every morning in the summer and before eight in the winter and breakfast had to be served within an hour after the cleaning of the wards. They were to "behave themselves with tenderness to the patients and civility and respect to all".

The Patients.

Pages 35-38 concern the rules to be observed by in-patients and out-patients. These comprise chiefly rules concerning their behaviour. The patients were to constantly attend the prayers and were admonished not to swear or curse or give abusive language. They were not to play at cards, dice or any other game, and were to assist the nurses in their work. Those patients who lived at a distance of ten miles or more from Newcastle and were obliged to stay in the town for their attendance as out-patients were given 1s. a week on discharge.

The Porter.

The porter was to be paid £5 per year with a coat, washing, lodging and diet. He had to attend at the gate and see that no improper person either left or entered the Infirmary. He had to carry every summons sent out, attend all meetings of the governors or committees and obey all the orders of the apothecary, matron, etc. When he was not otherwise employed by the court of governors, the committee or the apothecary, he had to do the labouring work of the house according as he was instructed from time to time by the matron.

House Visitors.

Pages 40-42 are the rules concerning the house visitors. These may be given in full as they reveal somewhat inquisitorial methods and are a summary of the various duties expected of the servants of the institution.

“Rules Concerning the Visitors. House Visitors.

1. That two (or more) Contributors be appointed, at every weekly Board to visit the House, together or by Turns, once every Day, for the ensuing Week, in Course as they stand in the List alphabetically; That they have Notice given them by the Apothecary, on the Saturday preceding: That if such Persons cannot serve, the Committee to appoint the next in Order in their Stead: And if one or both of these should at any Time be indisposed, or, from any other Cause, not be able to attend, he or they shall have Power to appoint, in Writing, some other Contributor or Contributors, to officiate in his or their Stead.
2. That the Visitors make the following Enquiries, viz.
 1. Whether Prayers have been duly read?
 2. Whether any of the In or Out-Patients, or Servants, have been guilty of Cursing, Swearing, Gaming, Dicing, abusive or indecent Language, or any other disorderly Behaviour?
 3. Whether the Patients have been well and orderly attended, by the Physicians and Surgeons; as well as by the Apothecary, Nurses, and Servants?
 4. Whether the Provisions are good, have been duly weighed, and distributed according to the Rules of the Infirmary; and whether proper Entrances have been regularly made relating to these Particulars?
 5. Whether the Matron see that the Gates are opened and locked up at the Times appointed, and take the Keys into her own Custody?
 6. Whether she follow the Directions given her when any of the Visitors fail in their Attendance?
 7. Whether she takes Care that the Rules of the Infirmary be observed, and publickly read in the Wards every Sunday Morning, and see that all the Patients are in their respective Wards every Morning and Evening?
 8. Whether all the Patients (except those ordered to the contrary by their Physician, or Surgeon) arise at Seven in the Summer and Eight in the Winter, and go to Bed at Ten in the Summer and Nine in the Winter?
 9. Whether the Apothecary go into the Wards every Morning, and enquire into the State of the Patients Health, and make

- a daily Report of the State thereof to the Physicians in Ordinary at the Time and Place by them appointed?
10. Whether he be absent himself from the Infirmary above two Hours at a Time without Leave; or for any less Time without acquainting the Matron where he is to be found?
 11. Whether the Cook have dress'd the Provisions neatly, and pursuant to the Rules of the particular Diet, as directed by the Physicians?
 12. Whether the Nurses, Cook and other Servants dine together at the stated Hour, clean the Wards and serve up the Breakfasts at the Times appointed?
 13. Whether Porter suffer any of the In-Patients to go out without leave from the Physicians?
 14. Whether he ever let in any Stranger without acquainting the Matron?
 15. Whether any Liquors or Eatables are ever carried out of the Infirmary, or brought in to the Patients?
 16. Whether any of the Men Patients go into the Women's Wards, or any of the Women into the Men's without Permission of the Matron; or whether any Patients are known to be guilty of Misbehaviour either in the Infirmary or out of it?
 17. Whether any other Offence has been committed against the Rules and Orders of the Infirmary?

In addition, the house visitors were later asked to attend the funeral of any one who died in the Infirmary. (20th June, 1751.)

On the opening day (23rd May) the house committee met at the house in Gallowgate, and returned thanks to Archdeacon Sharp for his excellent sermon, which they ordered to be printed, and the two physicians admitted seven in-patients and enrolled four out-patients.

The chapel had already been furnished by Bishop Butler. The clergy of the local parishes undertook to attend the Infirmary weekly by rota. At this time there was no chaplain to the Infirmary and a visiting clergyman was appointed each week by the house committee. Service was held in the chapel twice a week—presumably on weekdays as the local clergy would be busy in their own churches on Sunday. The house visitors on 29th August suggested a sabbatical

service but it is not stated that the house committee agreed to it.

The effective governing body was the house committee, the members of which were appointed at each quarterly court and consisted of twelve representatives from Northumberland, Newcastle and Durham respectively. Those who resided in Newcastle or near by were the most constant attenders and, as might be expected, the attendance was greater in the early days when enthusiasm and interest were at their height. The average attendance during the first six months (May-October 1751) was ten and during the six months preceding the occupation of the building on the Forth Banks (April-September 1753) was six. The statutes and rules laid down that no officer or servant employed by the Infirmary, or any medical man outside the Infirmary, could be a member of the house committee, and for that reason we do not find members of the honorary staff attending the early meetings. Later some exception must have been made to this rule because from 23rd January, 1752, we frequently find that either Lambert or Hallowell, or both, attended. In fact, from 9th April, 1752, until the move to the building on the Forth Banks on the 8th October, 1753, Richard Lambert attended fifty-nine times and Samuel Hallowell forty-two times.

This committee met weekly at 11 a.m. on Thursday mornings and the procedure at each meeting was the same. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The house visitors' book was examined, and the recommendations and complaints contained therein were dealt with. The visiting clergyman for the following week was nominated as also were the two house visitors. Once a month three auditors, members of the committee, were appointed to receive and pass the accounts. Next, current problems were dealt with. Lastly, the apothecary presented his weekly report which contained the names of patients who had been received as in-patients or out-patients during the preceding week, together with the names of those who were

to be discharged. Any patient who had been in the hospital for two months was allowed to remain for a longer period if the physician in charge so recommended. Occasionally those who were to be discharged appeared before the house committee and offered thanks for their cure.

The house which had been selected for the temporary Infirmary must have been of some considerable size because it contained a chapel, a consulting room and surgery, a committee room, rooms for the matron and the apothecary, a kitchen, a pantry, a wash-house and accommodation for twenty-three patients. At the outset the water supply was found to be insufficient and on the 6th June, 1751, the house committee sent a request to the mayor for leave to lay a pipe of $\frac{1}{4}$ " bore from the water supplying the Newgate Pant to the Infirmary. Permission was reported as having been received on the 11th July, 1751. The water supply to the Infirmary was evidently collected in a well and the following minute occurs on 12th September, 1751: "That the Secretary wait upon Mr. Armstrong and acquaint him with the great Inconvenience attending the Vennall as it now is, that the Water in the Well is thereby spoiled and that a conduit is absolutely necessary to be made into the street and do fix with him how the expense thereof is to be paid."

For the equipment of the kitchen and wash-house a perpetual oven and a mangle were ordered on 20th May.

The in-patient accommodation soon proved to be too scant and on 13th June a contract was made with George Radcliffe to hire two rooms with four beds, with the addition of two beds if necessary, for thirteen weeks at 7d. a week per patient. On 11th July a room was hired from Thomas Elliott at 1s. 6d. per week and on the same date a room from Mary Radcliffe was hired at 1s. 6d. per week. In connection with the last entry a minute of 11th June, 1752, the following year, records that Catherine (Mary?) Radcliffe having let a room for a year had tried to persuade a patient to go drinking with her and on that account the house committee ended their contract with her. In place

of this a low room at 40s. for one year with three months' notice was hired from Elizabeth Cook.

The twenty-three beds in the Gallowgate house and the accommodation rented from outside it, together with the use that was made of the "unceil'd garrett" was capable of accommodating thirty to forty patients for the following two and a half years. The amount of rent paid in the first year for the total accommodation was £43 15s. 10d. From time to time the house was full and notices were sent to the papers advising that no patients would be considered for admission until further notice except emergencies and accidents.

To make greater use of the grounds surrounding the house—on 4th July, 1751, "It is recommended that gravel be procured for the walks in the garden," and on 11th July, "a 'cawell' be made for the keeping of poultry, the matron to be allowed to feed them with the offals of the house."

From a consideration of the statutes and rules it is obvious that the proper carrying out of the daily routine of the Infirmary was very much in the matron's hands. The whole undertaking was a new venture and it is remarkable how quickly the matron mastered the details of her office and ensured that nurses and servants carried out their duties.

A week after the house was opened the matron was ordered to procure "10 suits of cloaths for men and 6 for women for such patients as come into the house and may need them". It was probably better to give to the very needy clothes rather than that they should be forced to acquire them while they were in hospital: 3rd October, 1751, "Found that Anthony Thomlinson has left the Infirmary and taken away a new Shirt." On another occasion a female patient tore up a sheet in order to make a shift for herself. Petty thefts by the nurses and servants were common—26th September, 1751, "Mrs. Jackson having complained that the Nurse and patients in the first Ward opened and took several things out of Elizabeth Nicholson's Box after her death without giving Mrs. Jackson Information of it: Eleanor Campbell the Nurse was called in and ordered for the future

to deliver everything belonging to a dec'd patient into the custody of the Matron immediately after the death of such Patient." Ordered—"That a Rule for this purpose be affixed in the sevl. Wards."

In order to improve the cleanliness of the patients, on 6th June, 1751, it was "agreed with Daniel Oman to shave the patients every Fryday afternoon, he to have $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for every patient he shaves".

There is no reason to believe that on the whole the patients did not behave decently and when irregularities did occur the matron reported them to the house committee if she was unable promptly to deal with them. During the first year, 24th October, 1751—"John Rood a patient was called before the Committee and reprimanded by the Chairman for profane cursing and swearing and other indecent behaviour." On 14th November, 1751—"a complaint against Charles Smith, one of the patients, for great intemperance and irregularity. He was therefore called before the Committee and being reprimanded was ordered to be a week longer on his good behaviour." On 23rd January, 1752—"Several Complaints being made by the House Visitors against Christopher Cotton (recommended by Mr. John Humble) for abusive Language and Drunkenness; He was called before the Committee and, upon his Examination confessing the Charge laid agt. him for Drunkenness, after a severe reprimand, was discharged and his Recommendor was acquainted therewith." On 27th February, 1752, there was a "Complaint against Ann Lambert an in-patient for destroying the medicine prescribed by her Physician and for speaking disrespectfully of the Surgeons. She was called before the Committee and the latter part of the charge not being made out against her, she was reprimanded by the Chairman for destroying her medicine."

Of the two nurses, Elizabeth Lattimore seems to have got into the most trouble. Onè gathers that she was somewhat insubordinate and on 10th October, 1751, there appears "Examined the House Visitors Book & found there a complt.

agt. Nurse Latimore for refusing to execute the Apothecary's Orders." It was resolved on 30th April, 1752, "That two Nurses having been one Year in the Infirmary Ordered That Nurse Campbell be paid the full Gratuity of 40s. on account of her good Behaviour And that Nurse Lattimore, having been absent from the House Ten days without leave, but having in other respects behav'd well be paid £1. 15. —. as a Gratuity, the other 5s. being deducted on Account of the above absence."

On 14th September, 1752, "Nurse Latimore was called before the Committee and reprimanded by the Chairman for giving away the Cloaths of William Hogg a patient who dyed yesterday without first acquainting the Matron therewith." On 14th May, 1752, there is written "Examined the House Visitors Book and found complaints against Nurse Latimer for carrying the Porter upstairs and employing the Patients without leave." On 16th November, 1752, an entry says "Examined the House Visitors Book and found a Complaint agt. the Nurses for quarrelling with and abusing each other." On 31st May, 1753, it is stated "Examined the House Visitors Book & found that Mrs. Jackson had made great complaints of the behaviour of Nurse Latimore. Resolved That Enquiry be now made into the nature of these Complaints and the same were enquired into accordingly It being found upon Examination that Nurse Latimore had from time to time been greatly disobedient to the directions of the Matron & in other respects offended contrary to the Rules and Orders of this Infirmary Ordered That Mrs. Jackson do discharge her and hire another Nurse in her Stead." The services of Nurse Campbell were continued in the Infirmary on the Forth Banks.

Every patient seeking advice at the Infirmary had to take with him a recommendatory letter. A subscriber of one guinea per annum could recommend one out-patient and two such subscribers jointly, one in-patient. A subscriber of two guineas per annum could recommend one in-patient or two out-patients and so in proportion for larger subscrip-

tions. Benefactors of £10 had the same privilege as a subscriber of one guinea per annum and proportionately larger sums.

On Thursday of each week two of the physicians examined the patients and disposed of them as in-patients, out-patients or unsuitable for the purposes of the charity. To judge of unsuitability the physicians were guided by Rule 10 (as quoted in full in the Rules, pp. 11-12).

On admission the apothecary affixed two tickets above the patient's bed, the first containing the patient's name and address and the second indicating the diet. The diets were entered in books kept by the apothecary and the matron. If the hospital diet proved unsuitable the patient was allowed 4d. a day to obtain more suitable foodstuffs. He was visited daily by the apothecary and the matron, and the surgeon if he required to be dressed.

The physicians prescribed for all the patients, both medical and surgical, and the apothecary made up the prescriptions, the matron and the nurses administered them and the apothecary reported to the physicians the results. Great importance was given to the choice and quality of the drugs. On 9th May, 1751, an order for a large quantity of drugs was sent to the Warden of the Apothecaries' Hall in London. On 6th June "the apothecary having acquainted the Committee that he was in want of several Drugs—Ordered—That for the present he get them of such Apothecaries as are Subscribers to this Charity according to the order they stand in the Alphabetical List. Mr. Bailes and Mr. Bacon Visiting Apothecaries having examined the Drugs bought at Apothecaries Hall reported to the Committee that they found some of very indifferent quality but that most of them were charged extremely dear. Order—That the Apothecary to the Infirmary write to the Wardens of Apothecaries Hall to complain thereof and to demand some abatement in their Charges."

It evidently became known in the town that the committee were dissatisfied with the drugs from London as at

the quarterly court of 6th July, 1751, letters were received from "Mr. Timothy Bevan and Mr. Robert Hodgson relating to their furnishing and supplying the Infirmary with drugs and medicines". The quarterly court resolved that the house committee be empowered to apply to such people that they think proper for supplying the Infirmary with drugs and medicines. From that time the house committee proceeded to obtain their drugs locally.

The only record of the diseases from which the patients suffered during the two and a half years in the Gallowgate house is to be found in the first annual report dated 7th April, 1752.¹¹

Only rarely is any particular disease mentioned in the minutes. There is, however, this entry on the 14th November, 1751: "Edward Lough of the Parish of St. John Lee, aged 51 the first patient cut for the stone in this Infirmary from whom a stone of Two ounces weight was extracted, appeared before the Committee and returned thanks."

In the annual report¹² we find the following table with classification of disease under forty-seven headings subdivided into in-patients and out-patients together with the condition of the patient on discharge:

Absesses and Tumours	Dislocations
Absesses and Tumours by	Dropsies
Amputation	Eyes disordered
Agues	Falling Sickness
Astma	Fever
Cancer	Fistula
Caries	Fluor Albus
Caries by Amputation	Flux and Bloody-flux
Catarrh	Fractures
Colic	Hysteric
Complication	Inflammations
Consumption	Itch
Contusions	Mortifications
Convulsions	Obstructions

¹¹⁻¹² A Report of the State of the Infirmary at Newcastle upon Tyne from the first Institution on 13th April, 1751, to the 7th of April, 1752.

Palsy	Strumous, Scrophulous by
Piles	Amputation
Polypus	Vertigo
Rheumatism, Sciatica, &c.	Ulcers
Ruptures	Ulcers by Amputation
Scalded	Weakness Extreme
Scald-head	Wens, &c.
Scurvy	Wens by Amputation
Stone and Gravel	Worms, &c.
Strains	Wounds
Strumous, Scrophulous, &c.	

There is no indication in the classification how individual cases were treated, whether medically or by operation. The table comprised 167 in-patients and 178 out-patients. Seventy appear under the heading of Consumption, Strumous and Scrophulous, half of whom were treated as out-patients. Amputation was performed in one of 27 Ulcers and there were 27 cases of Rheumatism. Eighteen appear under the somewhat vague designation of "Complication". The major operations in this era of surgery were amputations and cutting for the stone. There are frequent entries in the minutes that wooden legs had been ordered for those who had undergone an amputation. It was not uncommon for a patient to refuse amputation when he had been told that this was his only hope of cure, and he was thereupon discharged.

The following is a quotation from the *Newcastle General Magazine* of June 1752:

"In the Infirmary this first Year, thirteen Patients had Amputations of the larger Extremities (Arms and Legs) performed upon them, seven of whom had been reduced to the Necessity of undergoing that Operation, by the unskillful Treatment they had met with from Bone Setters; who frequently mistake Strains for Dislocations, and then pull and twist the Joints so roughly as to occasion Inflammations, which often produce White-Swellings."

There must have been cases of typhus fever and dysentery and they are probably included under the heading "Flux and Bloody-Flux".

If a similar report had been made at the end of the second year it probably would have been made with the same classification.

On 26th September, 1751, there is the following entry in the minutes: "John Taylor recommended by John Wilkinson, Esq. being thought by his Physicians to have no complaint save idleness was discharged." Even in those days the medical profession had to protect itself from imposition.

As every patient was admitted under name and number we are able to state that in the two and a half years in the Gallowgate house from 23rd May, 1751, to 6th October, 1753, 370 in-patients and 547 out-patients were treated.

To-day it may seem somewhat surprising that of the 345 in-patients and out-patients treated in the first year, 133 were claimed to have received cures!

We would like to know more of the individual work and lives of the early physicians and surgeons but in most cases information is meagre.

Physicians.

DR. ADAM ASKEW (1751-1771)

DR. CUTHBERT LAMBERT (1751-1772)

DR. WILLIAM COOPER (1751-1758)

DR. FRANCIS JOHNSON (1751-1771)

The physicians appear to have worked in pairs, Adam Askew with Francis Johnson and William Cooper with Cuthbert Lambert for periods of two months. The physicians examined the patients at 11 o'clock on Thursday mornings and visited the wards on Wednesday mornings at 10 o'clock. At their visits they were accompanied by the house apothecary to whom they gave instructions for the treatment of their patients. Besides prescribing for all patients, medical and surgical, in the Infirmary the physicians

were to be consulted by the surgeons in any case of difficulty.

ADAM ASKEW was the senior of the four and the leading physician at that time in the north of England. His life and career are fully described in *Men of Mark*¹³ and in *Newcastle Infirmary—1751-1951*, W. E. Hume, 1951.¹⁴

WILLIAM COOPER was the son of William Cooper of Berwick, M.D., and of East Ord by his wife Ann, daughter of Anthony Compton of Berwick, and was baptized 3rd February, 1698/9, at Berwick. He was educated at the University of Leyden where he graduated. On 29th October, 1724, he married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Edward Grey of Alnwick who had property at Bilton Banks in the parish of Lesbury. He was killed by a fall from his horse as he was going down Dunston Bank on 5th May, 1758, at the age of 59 and was buried at All Saints' Church, Newcastle, on 7th May, 1758.

(*Newcastle Journal*, May 6th-13th, 1758): "On Friday sennight, William Cooper, Esq., an eminent Physician here, was unfortunately kill'd by a Fall from his Horse, as he was coming down Dunston Bank. He was a Gentleman of great Abilities and Practice in his Profession, and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Northumberland. In both these Stations he acquitted himself with great Candour, Judgment, and Impartiality, which renders his Death a real Loss to the Community, as well as to his Relations and Intimates."

Dr. Cooper's eldest son, who was a barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple, successfully revived in himself a dormant Nova Scotia baronetcy (1638). He took an active part in politics, held various lucrative appointments and is said to have left £9,000 to his heir.

CUTHBERT LAMBERT was born 17th May, 1701, the son of Cuthbert Lambert, papist, surgeon of Hexham, and Winifred, third daughter of Matthew Leadbitter, gentleman, of Warden, Northumberland. He was a grandson of Richard

¹³ *Men of Mark 'Twixt Tyne & Tweed*. Vol. 1. R. Welford (1895).

¹⁴ *Newcastle Infirmary—1751-1951*. W. E. Hume (1951).

Lambert, M.D., of Hexham (died 1694), who was also the great-grandfather of Richard Lambert the surgeon. Cuthbert Lambert married Julia Rutter and was the father of another Cuthbert Lambert who was the hero of Lambert's Leap. Cuthbert Lambert died December 1722, aged 72. He "had practised physick in this town and neighbourhood near 50 years, with reputation and success", and is buried at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle.

FRANCIS JOHNSON was born 10th March, 1710/11, and baptized 11th March, 1710/11, at St. Nicholas's Church, Newcastle. He was the son of Alderman Francis Johnson, merchant adventurer, of Newcastle. He received his early education at the Newcastle Grammar School.

In 1741 he married at St. John's Church, Newcastle, Mary Huet, daughter of John Huet (? goldsmith), "a foreigner who trades in selling plate in Gateshead and at Durham". (Brand, p. 276.) He died 19th August, 1771, at his house in Westgate Street of a dropsy and asthma, "a gentleman eminent in his profession and greatly respected by all his acquaintances" (*Newcastle Courant*, 24th August, 1771).

Surgeons.

The two surgeons were Samuel Hallowell and Richard Lambert.

SAMUEL HALLOWELL, according to J. C. Hodgson,¹⁵ was probably a native of Newcastle but the place and date of his birth are unknown. On 3rd June, 1721, a certain Samuel Halloday was admitted to the freedom of the Barber Surgeon's Company and in spite of the difference in spelling of the name, Hodgson suggests that this may have been Samuel Hallowell. In the records of the Barber Surgeons and Chandlers of Newcastle there is this entry: "30 Sepbr. 1753. Ordered by a Vote of the Company that Mr. Halliwell is

¹⁵ *Desultory Notice of Samuel Hallowell, Surgeon, of Newcastle upon Tyne.* J. C. Hodgson, F.S.A. (1913). Reprinted from *Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.* 3 Ser., vi.

to have the Bones of Dorothy Gatonby who was lately executed for the Murder of Bastard Child."¹⁶

Samuel Hallowell married Mary Horsley, daughter of the Reverend John Horsley, the author of *Britannia Romana*, on 14th July, 1732, at Edlingham. Other episodes in his life can be found in *Newcastle Infirmary—1751-1951*, W. E. Hume (1951). In the same short biography attention is drawn to the early tragic death of his son, Samuel Hallowell, Junr. Samuel Hallowell died in January 1760, aged 51, and is buried at St. Nicholas's Church, Newcastle.

"On Tuesday died, in the 51st year of his age, Mr. Samuel Hallowell, an eminent surgeon and apothecary in this town and lately surgeon to the Infirmary, a person in his domestick, social and publick character, truly valuable and as such greatly lamented by his family his particular friends and his general friends—this whole country. His natural good sense, his regular education and course of study, his extensive, various and long practice, gave him an uncommon skill in both those branches of medical science, in either of which, singly to excell, is justly esteemed no vulgar merit. He hath left a fortune plentiful but moderate, the genuine and mature fruit of honest industry—not the forced produce of a rapacious appetite for gain, for (to) the poor and sick he was ever bountiful in their distress, liberal in his advice, attendance and physic; to his most wealthy patients, moderate in his demands and frequently declining the voluntary offerings of their gratitude or generosity. His country owes him thanks for many hopeful pupils whom he has prepared for its service by the communication of his skill, in a conscientious attention to their instruction and improvement; some of them already rising to name, and eminence, and ability to alleviate the public loss; to conclude with that which always shines brightest in every good character he was a man of true piety and religion, a willing frequenter of the worship of God, when the exercise of mercy, the only just excuse for the omission of sacrifice was not an unaffected, unfeigned impediment. May all his profession be influenced by an example so worthy of imitation in all its parts."¹⁷

¹⁶ *Barber-Surgeons and Chandlers of Newcastle*. D. Embleton, M.D. (1891).

¹⁷ *Desultory Notice of Samuel Hallowell, Surgeon, of Newcastle upon Tyne*. J. C. Hodgson, F.S.A. (1913). (Reprinted from *Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*. 3 Ser., vi.

RICHARD LAMBERT was born at Newbrough in 1724. He was the son of Richard Lambert of Newbrough by his wife, a daughter of —. Stokeld. Though we know nothing of his education nor with whom he served his apprenticeship, he became a master of the Guild of Barber-Surgeons in Newcastle. An almost complete account of the great work Richard Lambert did for the Newcastle Infirmary is abundantly shown in the foregoing pages. His professional reputation extended far beyond Newcastle and he was obviously well known to John and William Hunter and he was the originator of an ingenious method of repairing arteries. He married Julia, daughter of John Ord of Newcastle, an attorney, in July 1752. He had two children, Richard and Julia, who both died unmarried. Richard Lambert died 12th February, 1781, and is buried at Newbrough. A white marble tablet on a black background can be seen to-day on the south side of the chancel of Newbrough Church, bearing the following inscription:

“Richard Lambert of Newbrough who died 12th February 1781 aged 57 years

also of Julia Lambert his wife who died 25th December 1791 aged 68 years

also of Richard Lambert their son who died 26th July 1835 aged 81 years

also of Julia Lambert their daughter who died 31st July 1844 aged 79 years.”