

labour is but lost that build it." *Domine dirige nos*—Lord God direct us.

It lies within our power to-day to make it possible for John Stow if he were to revisit his London in thirty years' time to say, "In spite of all the changes, although scarcely any building now stands of all those I catalogued so lovingly, the heart of London is the same."

To make this possible, Church and civic authorities must work hand in hand to make of London, in its wider sense, an organic whole of true citizenship with this ancient City at the very heart of it all, a centre from which shall come the inspiration to mutual service and respect. Somehow we must make London a place where man can live and not merely exist, a place where all the needs and aspirations of body, mind and soul can find rich satisfaction in a City renowned throughout the world, not merely for the cleanness of its streets and the pleasant conditions of the labour and bodily recreations of its inhabitants, nor solely for the comprehensiveness of its educational and cultural amenities, but also for the joyous citizenship on earth of those who realise that their true citizenship is in heaven.

## DR. BURNEY'S CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA

By CAPTAIN C. G. T. DEAN, Captain of Invalids

WHEN the Royal Hospital was founded no provision was made for an organ; such an instrument being then regarded as an expensive luxury. Shortly after the establishment opened, however, Captain Matthew Ingram, the first Major and Lieutenant-Governor, presented an organ made by the celebrated craftsman, Renatus Harris. Indeed its handsome carved case and gilded pipes may still be seen in the gallery of the Chapel, though the remainder of the instrument has been replaced by a modern organ.

This gift led to an organist being appointed, at a salary of £20 per annum, but without apartments, as all the accommodation had already been allocated to other members of the staff. This office was filled on the 1st August, 1693, probably at the instance of Queen Mary, by Peter Dumas, a recently

naturalised Huguenot refugee. His successors were Theophilus Cole (25th April, 1719); Barnaby Gunn (16th April, 1730), who may perhaps be identified with the musician of that name who was organist of Gloucester Cathedral; Thomas Rawlins (17th March, 1753), who was a member of Handel's orchestra; and Thomas Wood (27th July, 1767). The latter is mentioned in Dr. Burney's *History of Music* as having been "leader of the Band of Covent Garden Theatre, and organist of St. Giles's and of Chelsea College," as the Royal Hospital was then often popularly called. His death created a vacancy that was filled, on the 18th December, 1783, by the subject of this article.

Dr. Burney owed his nomination to Edmund Burke, who as Paymaster-General had the patronage of this appointment in his gift. This thoughtful friend did not rest there, for as chairman of the Chelsea Board he persuaded his colleagues to recommend that the Organist's salary be raised from £20 to £50 a year. This was sanctioned by the Treasury, besides the customary fee of £2 per annum "for locking up the organ." In deprecation of these kind services, Burke, who was about to be displaced on a change of government, explained that it was merely "*pour faire la bonne bouche* at parting with office." He also expressed regret at not having been able to do something more worthy of his friend's attainments. This sentiment was echoed by George III five years later, when Dr. Burney was disappointed of his hope of becoming Master of the King's Band of Music, for he asked Fanny Burney: "What has your father got, at last (?) nothing but that poor thing at Chelsea?"

Actually Dr. Burney had had a salary, variously given as £30 or £40 per annum, since 1774,\* as one of the King's Band of Music. As against this, from 1798, if not earlier, he paid £12 a year to an assistant at Chelsea. His later years were eased, however, by an annuity of £248 obtained for him in 1806 by Charles James Fox.

As Organist, Dr. Burney was not entitled to official quarters, and from entries in his daughter's diary it appears that he continued to live at his house in St. Martin's Street until June, 1788, if not later. Yet at the time of his appointment, according to Fanny Burney, he wished "for some retreat from, yet

\* *Ex inf.* Dr. Percy Scholes, who is now writing a "Life of Dr. Burney," and has kindly read the draft of this article.

near London; and he had reason to hope for apartments, ere long, in the capacious Chelsea College." This hope apparently did not materialise until the death of the Rev. William Jennings, the First Chaplain, in the autumn of 1687. This clergyman's successor, the Rev. Thomas Comyn, employed a deputy to perform his duties, and so was able to let his official quarters to Dr. Burney. The furniture in the First Chaplain's apartments, as elsewhere in the Royal Hospital, was then maintained by the Chelsea Board; and that would explain how Dr. Burney was able to keep two establishments going for a time.

The apartments in question lie on the ground floor at the western corner of Light Horse Court. They were described in 1812 as comprising two parlours and a study, three bedrooms with two dark closets for servants, and a kitchen in the basement. Since first being taken into occupation by the Rev. Augustine Frezer, in 1688, the lodgings had undergone much alteration. They had then comprised only a parlour, two bedrooms and some closets, with a kitchen in a detached flat-roofed building across the existing inner courtyard. Though modest in size, they were convenient for the Chaplain since they communicated directly with the vestry, and so with the chapel. About 20 years ago the three larger rooms were subdivided by partitions to make a number of bathrooms for the In-Pensioners, while the closets were converted into a choir vestry. Consequently the older portions of Dr. Burney's apartments, though still existent, are so much altered as to present few features of interest.

These somewhat restricted quarters were enlarged by Dr. Emanuel Langford, a former music lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford, shortly after he had succeeded as First Chaplain in 1698. He did so without first obtaining permission from the architect, Sir Christopher Wren. As the latter was also a Commissioner of the Royal Hospital, it was no doubt at his instance that the Chelsea Board ordered, in April, 1703, that "the Governor and Clark of the Workes do view what has been built or sett up by Doctor Langford to the Newsance of the house, and direct the same to be pulled down." Five months later, however, the Board authorised a passage being made from the First Chaplain's lodgings to his kitchen. These premises are still standing.

The alterations involved the excavation of a basement kitchen, and the construction of a staircase in the new passage.



ADAM PORCH IN INNER COURTYARD.

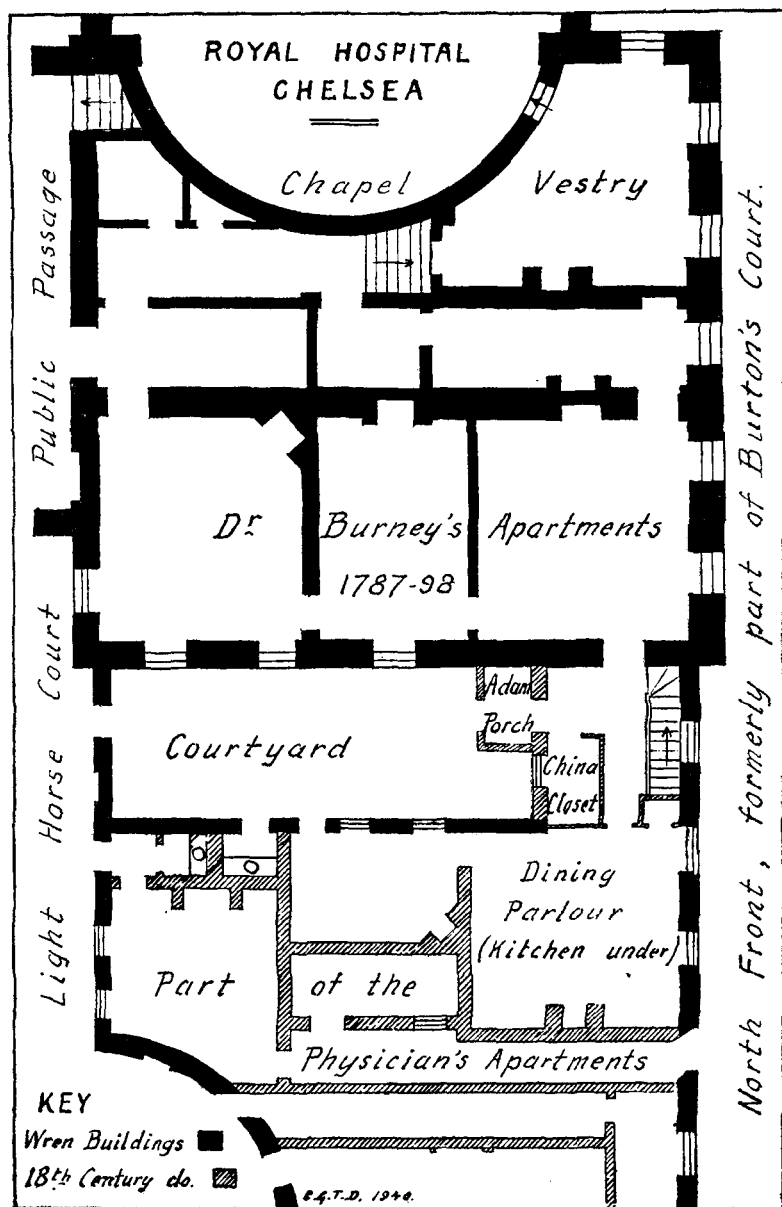
The kitchen has a stone-flagged floor, recesses for a kitchen range and boiling copper, and a brick oven designed for burning charcoal. There is also a large leaden cistern with a simple moulding of the Queen Anne period. Immediately over the kitchen is a room formerly the dining parlour. A door now blocked up gave on to a smaller room which has since been adapted as domestic offices. The panelling in these additions is of deal, and differs in design from that used by Wren in the original buildings.

No further alterations seem to have been made in Dr. Langford's apartments by his immediate successors as First Chaplain. They were Dr. Henry Bland (1724), who was a friend of Robert Walpole and later Provost of Eton College; Rev. William Day (1728); Rev. William Barnard (1737); and Dr. Richard Green (1744). It is interesting to note, however, that Dr. Barnard, Bishop of Limerick, and a friend of Dr. Burney, was the son of the Rev. William Barnard. Thus while attending Westminster School as a boy he must presumably have been living in what afterwards were to become Dr. Burney's apartments.

In 1782, Robert Adam, who was then Clerk of Works to the Royal Hospital, reported to the Chelsea Board that:

"Mr. Jennings, the senr. Chaplain [since 1775] has applied to me about an alteration he wishes to make in his apartments, he complains much of the cold and counts to have a porch with a sash Door to keep out the wind & weather, he likewise wishes to enlarge his China Closet, these alterations he desired I would lay before the Board with the Expence, I thought it would come to as near as I can judge it will amount to, £65."

As a result of this application, a charming porch was built the following year in the inner courtyard, where it may still be seen. At that period the yard was paved with flagstones, and furnished with a small leaden cistern dated 1773, which has since been removed to the Adjutant's garden. Other alterations in the First Chaplain's apartments due to Robert Adam were the substitution of sashes for the old casement windows, and the provision of new window shutters. A simple carved wooden chimney piece in the dining parlour probably dates from 1768-71, when Adam employed John Gilbert, a carver, on similar work in various officers' apartments. The porch, entrance lobby or passage, old dining parlour and basement remain substantially unaltered since Dr. Burney's day. These premises, with some rooms formerly allocated to the



Physician, Comptroller and Steward, are now occupied by one of the Captains of Invalids.

At Chelsea, Dr. Burney found himself associated with men prominent in every walk of life. Of the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, who were always distinguished General Officers, Sir William Fawcett seems to have paid him particular attention. Robert Adam was succeeded as Clerk of Works by Samuel Wyatt and John Soane, both well-known architects. The Surgeons included Robin Adair of the popular ballad, and Thomas Keate who attended George III during his temporary insanity. At the outset Dr. Burney's immediate neighbour was the eccentric Dr. Monsey, who lived to a legendary old age. Thus although the appointment of organist was of small pecuniary value, it would have been esteemed on account of its associations.

One of Dr. Burney's first visitors must have been the inquisitive James Boswell, who on the 3rd November, 1787, recorded how he "walked to Chelsea College and breakfasted with Dr. Burney, who gave me some letters from Johnson to him." Haydn came in 1791, and Herschel, the astronomer in 1798. When the Hon. Frederick North, a constant friend, paid a visit in 1794 he was temporarily crippled and hobbled into the library on crutches, saying that "he felt quite at home in coming with wooden legs to Chelsea."

Dr. Burney soon became much attached to his apartments, and in refusing an invitation to go away for a visit wrote that "one can be sick and cross nowhere so comfortably as at home." In 1789 he completed his *General History of Music*, publishing the third and fourth volumes that year. Partly in connection with this work he had accumulated an extensive library. In 1791, when his daughter Fanny's health broke down and she was obliged to resign her Court appointment, he wrote to welcome her home: "the great grubbery will be in nice order for you, as well as the little; both have lately had many accessions of new books." Fanny Burney was visited at Chelsea by Madame de Stael in 1793, but later that year left home to get married. Dr. Burney's household was further reduced in 1796, when his second wife died.

Early in 1798 the Organist received the unpleasant news that the Rev. William Haggitt, a former Chaplain to the Commander-in-Chief, who had lately been promoted to First Chaplain on the Rev. Thomas Comyn's death, desired possession of his

official residence. Dr. Burney was much upset, having regard to "his difficulties, his books, health, time of life and other circumstances." When his daughter explained this to a woman friend, the latter was astonished to learn that the Organist had 20,000 volumes. "Twenty thousand volumes," she repeated, "bless me! why, how can he so encumber himself? Why does he not burn half? for how much must be to spare that never can be worth his looking at from such a store! And can he want to keep them all?" Fanny Burney interceded for her father with the Queen, and eventually an arrangement was made which she believed to have been "deeply influenced by some Royal hint." The newly appointed Second Chaplain took over the apartments of the Secretary and Register, who wished to live in Kensington, and Dr. Burney moved upstairs to the Second Chaplain's flat on the second floor.

The rent was £30 per annum, rather much for what were described in 1812 as two parlours, two bedrooms, a small kitchen, and two or three closets. These apartments, which within the past 30 years have been re-allocated appropriately enough to the Organist, have been but little altered. The larger rooms open off a central corridor, and are fitted with oak doors and a panelled dado. The lofty situation was somewhat inconvenient in days when there was no lift; and Fanny D'Arblay relates how an elderly visitor "passed a quarter of an hour in recovering breath, in a room with the servants, before he let me know he had mounted the College stairs." During his declining years Dr. Burney never left these apartments, and there he died on the 12th April, 1814. Eight days later he was buried beside his second wife in the hospital burial ground, where their grave is marked by an inscribed tombstone.

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