

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

1

## EDITORIAL NOTE:

BY TONY WOOLRICH

Jarman's account of the Infirmary is based on the various minute books which had survived at the time he was writing. It gives a valuable over-view of the growth of the institution and details of many of the personalities involved. It is also a valuable record of the amount of charitable endeavour in Bridgwater of the time, with much detail about finances and has statistical data on the patients treated.

The hospital began in 1813 in premises in Back Street, but moved to Salmon Parade in 1820.

Money was raised by donations, legacies and by numerous fund-raising events such as concerts. Bridgwater had a Glee Club with which members of Chubb family were involved. There were also dinners. A small charge was made to patients.

A number of businesses such as the Bristol & Exeter Railway Co. supported the Infirmary on behalf of their employées

The medical staff were drawn from a number of Bridgwater doctors, who volunteered and a small number of paid staff.

It drew patients not only from Bridgwater itself but also the Bridgwater Poor Law area, and fundraising was carried out in those parishes, which extended roughly from the Huntspills in the north to Thurloxtton in the south and from Ashcott in the east to Stogursey in the west. There was an annual Hospital Sunday, when a service was held at St Mary's, Bridgwater, the sermons often being preached by clergy from the parishes served.

The Infirmary, more familiarly known as the Bridgwater Hospital was long supported by voluntary subscriptions, until its absorption by the National Health Service in 1948.

In 1927 the Bridgwater Pageant was held with the aim of raising funds for the hospital.

There is today an active Friends of Bridgwater Hospital, which raises funds for facilities.

Its imposing building overlooking the river at Salmon Parade, was extended over the years, until in 2014 it closed and the hospital moved to new premises with improved facilities on the town's outskirts. The Listed building is about to be converted into apartments.

## Further reading

Lesley Sutcliffe, *Dr Jonathan Toogood: the story of the 19th century Somerset surgeon who founded the Bridgwater Infirmary*. 2017, 123pp, Illus, £13.99, ISBN 987-1-5272-0826-1.

Copies may be purchased only from the Blake Museum, Bridgwater, the Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton and Brendon Books, Taunton.

Jarman noted the presentation to the Infirmary of a full-length painting of Dr Jonathan Toogood, (1784-1870) in 1845. It is very much regretted this has since disappeared from the building, and is feared lost.

We are grateful to the staff at Bridgwater Reference Library for the loan of the volume digitised.

Digitised and edited by Tony & Jane Woolrich, 28/04/2020



The Bridgwater Infirmary.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

2

## **The Bridgwater Infirmary**

A RECORD OF RISE AND  
PROGRESS.

*"Mark it where it stands,*

*It is the triumph of our Christian lands !"*

Saint Ives (Hunts):

JARMAN & GREGORY,

"Guardian" Offices.

1880

TO

JAMES BROADMEAD, ESQUIRE,  
OF LANGPORT,

A NOBLE BENEFACTOR OF A NOBLE  
INSTITUTION, THIS LITTLE WORK IS  
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

PREFACE.

The following sketch of the Bridgwater Infirmary is not sent forth to the public as a literary endeavour of any pretensions. It is simply a chronicle of the rise and progress of the Institution, gathered mainly from the minutes of proceedings and from the annual statements. While it may appeal with but little force to the general reader, still it may claim public notice as placing in a handy form for future reference a reliable record of the various matters connected with an Institution which has, during its long and useful career, elicited such generous support from the town and neighbourhood; and mayhap it will induce future generations to follow the example so worthily set by past and present.

During its progress through the press the work has had the advantage of careful supervision by one of the most energetic and successful honorary secretaries that ever gave his time and attention to any local organization, and a great portion of whose life has been devoted to promoting the welfare of the Institution—Mr. Edward Lilly; and to him and other gentlemen who have assisted in this modest undertaking, the thanks of the Editor are warmly accorded.

S. G. JARMAN.

Beckenham Villa, St. Ives, Hunts,  
July 1st, 1890.

## **Chapter I**

TO trace the history of Bridgwater Infirmary is to chronicle the formation and progress of one of the noblest organizations of the town. In the early days of the present century, the gratuitous services of a few philanthropic professional gentlemen towards the poor of the town and neighbourhood in times of sickness and want were thankfully appreciated by a growing population, and led to a suggestion to found a kind of permanent hospital. The seed fell into good ground, and the grand Institution which to-day graces the front of Salmon Parade is the standing witness.

A general public meeting was held at the Grand Jury Room on the 26th of June, 1813, at which a large number of the principal residents of the town and neighbourhood attended. Mr. James Mills, then Mayor of Bridgwater, was in the chair, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

1. — That a Medical Institution be established in Bridgwater for the relief of the labouring poor (requiring medical and surgical assistance) in that and the neighbouring parishes, under the direction of a Committee of Management, subject to regulations set forth in the Minutes of the said Meeting.

2. — That Sir Philip Hales, Bart, be requested to accept the office of the President for the ensuing year.

3. — 22 Clergymen and other gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood of Bridgwater were appointed members of the Committee of Management.

4. — That John Chubb be appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

5. — That Mr. Morley Chubb be appointed Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year.

6. — That Dr. Dunning and Dr. Haviland be requested to act as Physicians; that Messrs. John Symes, John Haviland and William Anstice, as consulting surgeons; and Messrs. Jonathan Toogood, Henry Axford, — Haviland, and — Stradling, as Surgeons of the Institution.

7. — Mr. Henry Axford having offered his services as Honorary Apothecary or Dispenser, the same be accepted.

8. — The President or any two Members of the Committee to have power to call special meetings of the Committee, three to form a quorum.

7. — That an anniversary meeting of the Subscribers be held at the Grand Jury Room on

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

3

the second Friday in September, 1814.

8.—That the Committee or any three of them be empowered to call a general meeting of Subscribers by public advertisement in a newspaper.

9.—Each subscriber of £1 1s 0d to be entitled to recommend in any one year 4 Out-patients ; a subscriber of £2 2s 0d one In-patient and two out-patients, or six Out-patients, and so in proportion for every additional guinea subscribed.

10.—That Benefactors of not less than £15 be placed on a footing as to recommending patients with subscribers of £1 1s 0d ; a donation of £30 as equivalent to a £2 2s 0d subscription, and so in proportion for any larger donation. \*

\* At a subsequent meeting the sum of £15 was reduced to £10, with similar terms to donors.

11.—That each In-patient shall pay to the nurse 5s 6d per week for his board, unless he choose to board himself.

12.—That the foregoing be considered fundamental Rules of the Institution, not to be altered, except at a meeting of Subscribers, specially convened for that purpose.

13.—The Committee to have power to make Rules or orders for the management of the Institution, so that the same be not inconsistent with the foregoing Rules, but that no such rule or order be of force, unless confirmed at the next Meeting.

At a Committee meeting held on the 6th of July, 1813, farther Rules were adopted that In-patients should be admitted on Sunday mornings only, between the hours of 7 and 10 o'clock in the morning, and none to be admitted at any other time, except in cases of sudden emergency; and that outpatients attend on such mornings as their respective physicians and surgeons may appoint, to enforce which each patient was to deposit half-a-crown, to be forfeited on non-compliance with directions.

A further Committee meeting was held on the 3rd of August, 1813, when a Sub-Committee was appointed to make inquiries for a suitable house for the Infirmary; who at a subsequent meeting reported that they had agreed to take a house situate in Back-street, at a rental of £35 a year, and £5 a year for a portion of a garden ; but to secure the immediate possession of the premises, they had agreed to pay the occupier (who held the same for a term) a sum of £35 for the surrender of his lease to Mr. Evans, the owner, who had agreed to make such outlay as might be required on being paid 71 per

cent. interest for such outlay. A Sub-committee, consisting of all the Medical Officers, was appointed to fit up the apothecary's shop. Subcommittees were also appointed to order 12 iron bedsteads with suitable bedding for the wards; to direct the furnishing of the House, and to engage a nurse, to act also as Matron of the Institution. Mrs. Nancy Burrows was engaged at a salary of £12 12s 0d a year, and all found.

The Infirmary was first opened for the admission of Patients on Sunday morning, the 6th of October, 1813—a little over three months from the date of the first meeting, when its establishment was decided upon.

Further Rules were adopted at Committee meetings, for the qualification and election of Physicians and Medical Officers, for regulating the Medical Department, and the wards and domestic arrangements of the House.

## Chapter II.

Since the 20th of October, 1813, the date of the last Committee meeting, there is no record in the minute book, nor any memorandum of any meeting being held until the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 1816, on which date the anniversary meeting of the subscribers was held, in accordance with the rules. Mr. Jefferys Allen presided at such meeting.

It does not appear that any President was appointed for the years 1815 and 1816, but at the anniversary meeting referred to Mr. Jefferys Allen was appointed President for the ensuing year. At this meeting Dr. Marshall Hall having offered to become one of the Physicians of the Infirmary, in the place of one of the retiring Physicians, he was unanimously elected.

There is no record of any Committee meeting being held until the 7th of February, 1817, from which it appears that the financial position of the Charity at that time was in an unsatisfactory state, that an enormous amount of arrears of annual subscriptions were outstanding, and that it was highly desirable that some improvement should be made in the expenditure. Dr. Marshall Hall and Mr. Toogood and Mr. W. Chubb were appointed a Sub-Committee to prepare an address to the subscribers and others, setting out the unsatisfactory state of the financial affairs of the Institution, and appealing for help.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

4

At a Committee meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1817, this address was approved and ordered to be printed and circulated ; and the town was divided into five districts, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to canvas for subscriptions, in order to ascertain what future funds might be relied on to enable the Committee to determine on what plan the Institution might in future be conducted. Also that the clergy of the neighbourhood be requested to make similar inquiries. It was also agreed that no patient be allowed to remain in the House for a longer period than one month (instead of three months as allowed in the foregoing Rules) without the special order of the Committee. Arrangements were also made for weekly visits at the Infirmary by the Committee.

At a meeting of the subscribers held at the Grand Jury Room, on the 20th June, 1817, and adjourned to the Infirmary, Dr. Macmullen having offered his services as one of the Physicians of the Institution, he was unanimously elected in the room of Dr. Marshall Hall, who had probably resigned. Dr. Marshall Hall and Mr. Toogood having prepared a further circular setting out the financial difficulties of the Institution, and to request payment of the large arrears of subscription, it was approved of, directed to be printed, and a copy thereof sent to each subscriber in arrear, and that the amount due from each subscriber be stated in such circular.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 1817, it was reported that the Sub-Committees had collected in their several districts £90 14s 6d of the arrears of subscriptions and had obtained 58 new subscribers to meet the future expenditure. At this meeting Mr. Heard, Mr. Snook, and Mr. Harrison, three chemists, residing in Bridgwater, each taking a period of four months, were appointed to dispense the medicines at the Infirmary, and to report to Mr. Toogood.

At a Committee meeting it was appointed that the anniversary meeting of the subscribers should be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 1837 [*sic* =1817] and it is probable that such meeting was held, as there is a blank leaf in the minute book, on which it is presumed it was intended that the minutes of such meeting should be recorded.

It does not appear that any books were

provided to keep an account of the income and expenditure for the financial years ending the 1st September, 1814, 1815, 1816, and 1817, as no notes can be found amongst the old books at the Infirmary, and it is no matter of surprise that its affairs got into such a confused state, and that there was such a large account of arrears out-standing.

After diligent search a printed statement of account was found pasted into one of the old books (which most probably led to its preservation) and it will not perhaps be uninteresting to give the details of such account, being the first published of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Institution. It appears on the following page

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

5

*Abstract of general account of the Bridgwater Medical Institution, from its commencement to the 1st September, 1817.*

| EXPENDITURE.   |            | RECEIPTS.                                   |          |         |            |
|--|------------|---|----------|---------|------------|
| £ s. d.  |            | £ s. d.                                     |          | £ s. d. |            |
| Outfit Expenses, including Apothecary's Shop, Furniture, Linen, Beds, Grates, &c. ... .. | 205 8 3    | Received 1st year : Donations ...           | 609 4 0  |         |            |
| First year's Current Expenditure, from September, 1813, to 1st September, 1814 ...       | 337 15 0   | Subscriptions                               | 277 4 0  |         | 886 8 0    |
| Second year's current Expenditure, from 1st September, 1814, to 1st September, 1815 ...  | 284 17 6   | Received 2nd year : arrears of 1st year ... | 18 18 0  |         |            |
| Third year's Current Expenditure, from 1st September, 1815, to 1st September, 1816...    | 283 12 2   | Church Collection ...                       | 14 17 4½ |         |            |
| Fourth year's Current Expenditure, from 1st September, 1816, to 1st September, 1817 ...  | 279 10 0   | Ball & Dinner                               | 3 5 0    |         |            |
|  |            | Subscriptions                               | 80 17 0  |         |            |
|  |            | Interest ...                                | 10 0 0   |         |            |
|  |            |   |          |         | 127 17 4½  |
|  |            | Received 3rd year :                         |          |         |            |
|  |            | Arrears ...                                 | 101 8 0  |         |            |
|  |            | Subscriptions                               | 66 3 0   |         |            |
|  |            |   |          |         | 167 11 0   |
|  |            | Received 4th year :                         |          |         |            |
|  |            | Arrears ...                                 | 42 0 0   |         |            |
|  |            | Subscriptions                               | 18 18 0  |         |            |
|  |            |   |          |         | 60 18 0    |
|  |            | Received of In-patients                     |          |         |            |
|  |            | 1st year ...                                | 19 11 6  |         |            |
|  |            | do. 2nd year ...                            | 13 10 0  |         |            |
|  |            | do. 3rd year...                             | 29 6 6   |         |            |
|  |            | do. 4th year...                             | 36 4 6   |         |            |
|  |            | Rent ...                                    | 15 0 0   |         |            |
|  |            | Discount ...                                | 2 6 9    |         |            |
|  |            |   |          |         | 115 19 3   |
|  |            | Balance due to Treasurer ...                | 32 9 3½  |         |            |
|  |            |   |          |         | £1391 2 11 |
|  | £1391 2 11 |   |          |         | £1391 2 11 |

Arrears due from Subscribers £620 13 0 | Due from patients £101 0 4

Number of patients admitted during the first four years 116, being an average of 29 per year, and 358 Out-patients received medical aid.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that the whole of the donations given in the first year, amounting to £609 4s 6d, were absorbed by the first years' expenditure, leaving a balance due to the Treasurer of £32 9s 3½d. In the fourth year, the receipts, including £42 for arrears, amounted to £69 18s 0d (the current year's receipts for subscriptions being £18 18s 0d only), whilst the expenditure for such year amounted to £279 10s 0d. These results caused great discouragement to the committee.

Appended to the above statement of account there is an urgent appeal to the subscribers and donors for funds to continue the operations of the Institution, and especially asking for payments of arrears which had been promised by donors and subscribers. Such address concludes with the remark that after witnessing the benefits which had resulted from the establishment of the Institution they could not but consider that it would evince a want of proper feeling on the part of the inhabitants of Bridgwater

and its neighbourhood, to suffer such a charitable Institution to fall to the ground for want of that aid, which though trifling to individuals, was in the aggregate so productive of good to suffering humanity.

At a Committee meeting held on the 12th of November, 1817, it was ordered that a printed report of the proceedings at the annual meeting, with the financial statement, be sent to each subscriber. At this meeting a Sub-Committee of 41 members of the Committee and Subscribers was appointed,

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

6

and divided into rotas of 4 in each rota, to attend for 4 weeks on Tuesday mornings, at 10 o'clock in every week, until the 9th August, 1818, for the purpose of the general management of the affairs of the Institution, and a fine of 1s was to be imposed on every member making default in his attendance.

The Medical Officers and the Secretary were requested to endeavour to make some arrangement for the future management of the household by putting the nurses, servants, and patients, on a system of board wages, which would render it easy to calculate the probable amount of expenditure, and to report at a general meeting of the Committee.

The first of the before-mentioned weekly meetings of the Sub-Committee was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 1817, when it was reported that a balance of £174 9s 3d was in the Treasurer's hands, that the money due from subscribers was £172 4s 0d, from in-patients £56 0s 4d, and that there were 11 patients in the House, and 60 out-patients on the books.

32 of these Committee meetings were held, 9 only having been omitted. At most of these meetings the state of the account was produced, and the last was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 1818, when there was a balance of £104 7s 6d in his hands.

A general meeting of the subscribers was held at the Grand Jury Room, on the 21st of September, 1818, the Rev. Elias Taylor, President for the year, in the chair. Mr. Joseph Jeffery was appointed President for the ensuing year..

The financial statement was laid before the subscribers, of which the following is a summary :—

|   | £    | s. | d. |   | £    | s. | d. |
|---|------|----|----|---|------|----|----|
| * Balance from last Annual Statement...                                     | 10   | 4  | 6  | Annual year's expenditure, including rent, medicines, and everything except wages to servants, estimated at £18 ... | 323  | 3  | 0  |
| Subscriptions received including £49 7s 0d from different congregations ... | 184  | 19 | 10 |   |      |    |    |
| Received from In-patients ...   | 52   | 11 | 0  |   |      |    |    |
| Balance due to Treasurer ...  | 75   | 7  | 8  |   |      |    |    |
|   | £323 | 3  | 0  |   | £323 | 3  | 0  |

There is a foot note that to meet this balance there is a sum of £90 6s 0d due for arrears.

36 Subscribers were appointed members of the Committee of Management for the ensuing year, and Mr. Chubb was requested to undertake the duties of Treasurer and Secretary,

From what can be gleaned from the minutes it would appear that, the first annual dinner of the subscribers took place at the "Mansion House" Inn, and these dinners were continued at subsequent anniversary meetings for several years, it being considered of importance to keep the great advantages of the Charity constantly before the public. On many of these occasions donations were given in aid of its funds by the Presidents and other subscribers. Mr. Toogood having offered to supply the Infirmary with medicines and dispense the same for the year ending 1st September, 1826, for £70, being £10 less than any other tender, such offer was accepted.

From the date of this annual meeting to the date of the next anniversary, numerous general and Sub-Committee meetings were held, and largely in connection with the much vexed question of the out-standing arrears of subscriptions, when the town was again divided into districts, and good efforts were made for their collection, which appears to have been the great drawback to its prosperity.

The anniversary meeting of the subscribers was held on the 15th of January, 1820. Sir Alexander Hood was appointed President, 36 gentlemen were appointed a Committee of Management for the ensuing year, and the usual votes of thanks were passed.

Mr. M. Chubb having resigned the duties of Treasurer and Secretary, a vote of thanks was given him for his long services from the commencement of the Institution, and Mr. Charles Trevor was appointed Honorary Treasurer and Secretary in his place.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to make a special appeal to the land-holders and others in the neighbourhood for an increase of funds.

## Chapter III

A general meeting of the Committee was held on the 17th July, 1820, the President, Sir Alexander Hood, in the chair.

The House in which the Infirmary was then held being insufficient to meet the numerous applications for the admission of in-patients, the Committee purchased of a Mr. Holloway a more spacious House and

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

7

Garden in Salmon Parade adjoining the tidal River Parret, for the sum of £700 and a further sum of £60 was required to pay for the fixtures of the House, the costs of conveyance and mortgage, and for compensation to Mr. Evans for surrendering the lease of the old premises in Back-street

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| To meet these payments there was a sum in the |           |
| Bridgwater Savings Bank of                    | £183 18 0 |
| A Donation from Sir Thomas Lethbridge of      | £20 0 0   |
| A Donation from Miss Porter of                | £10 0 0   |
| A Donation received by Mr. Toogood of         | £100      |
| Surplus of Poor Fund                          | £100      |
|   | £413 18 0 |

The property was conveyed to the Rev. John Jeffery, Joseph Ruscombe Poole, John Evered, and Joseph Jeffery, as Trustees of the Institution. A sum of £400 was advanced on mortgage of the property. At this period it was decided that the Institution should in future be called The Bridgwater Infirmary.

The anniversary meeting of subscribers was held at the Infirmary on the 9th of September, 1820, Sir Alexander Hood, Bart., the President, in the chair. Col. Charles Kemys Kemys Tynte was appointed President for the ensuing year; and the usual votes of thanks were adopted.

At this meeting a rule was passed that all surgeons' medical pupils, who should in future attend the Infirmary, should from that date pay a fee of £10 10s 0d, or an annual subscription of £2 2s 0d, but the medical pupils who were then attending at the Infirmary should be exempt from such payment. The financial statement for the year, of which the following is a copy, will clearly show that a great improvement had taken place in the management, that accounts had been systematically kept, and that a large portion of the arrears had been collected :

*Charles Trevor, Treasurer, in account for the year ending 1st September, 1821*

| £ s. d.                                |           | £  |     |
|--|-----------|--|-----|
| Subscriptions for the current year ... | 185 17 6  | Balance due to Treasurer from the previous year ...            | 75  |
| Donations received ...                 | 473 14 5  | Mr. Heard for supplying and dispensing medicines ...           | 80  |
| Received of In-patients ...            | 38 4 6    | Rent of premises, &c. ...                                      | 46  |
| Interest of money in Savings bank ...  | 3 11 11½  | House-keeping and Incidentals ...                              | 128 |
| Arrears of Subscriptions ...           | 59 17 0   | Towards the purchase of money & fitting up of the new premises | 371 |
| Arrears for In-patients' Board ...     | 46 2 0    | Balance in hand ...  | 84  |
|  | £787 7 4½ |  | 787 |

Audited by E. Sealy, junr., and Richard Ball, junr.  
 Number of Patients admitted during the year, 322.  
 Number admitted from the commencement, 1211.

Up to this date there was no organized

plan for the collection of the current subscriptions, and it does not appear to have been the duty of the Honorary Secretary to collect them. The town was again divided into five districts, and eleven members of the Committee were appointed a Sub-Committee to collect such subscriptions.

An arrangement was made with Mr. Richard Martin, to supply the Infirmary with medicines, and to dispense the same for one year, ending on the 17th September, 1822.

Col. Charles Kemys Kemys Tynte presided at the anniversary meeting, on the 5th September, 1821, when Mr. William Dickinson, M.P., was appointed President for the ensuing year. The financial statement shewed a balance of £132 9s 5½d, in the hands of the Treasurer. The accounts were duly audited, and there is a foot note that the arrears of subscriptions amounted to £3 3s 0d ! Number of patients admitted during the year 295.

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester preached the annual sermon in the Parish Church, on behalf of the Infirmary.

Mr. William Dickinson presided at the annual meeting of subscribers, on the 13th September, 1822.

A further arrangement was made with Mr. Heard for the supply and dispensing of medicines, for one year, to the September, 1825, which was increased to £90 for the following year.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells preached the usual annual sermon, in St. Mary's Church, in the year 1825.

The payment by in-patients on their admission to the Infirmary was reduced from 5s to 3s . 6d for their board, so long as the state of the funds would admit of such reduction.

The mortgage of £400, advanced by Mr. Jeffery on the Infirmary, was paid off, and a re-conveyance of the mortgaged premises was made to the Trustees.

On the resignation of Mr. Charles Trevor, as Honorary Treasurer, Mr. T. H. Watson was appointed in his stead a vote of thanks to Mr. Trevor was voted for his valuable services and for the improvements made by him in the mode of keeping the accounts of the Institution.

In 1829 Mr. T. H. Watson resigned the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, being about to leave the town. Mr. Clifford Gill was

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

8

afterwards appointed as his successor.

The number of applications for admission of in-patients having largely increased, a new ward was erected by Mr. Joseph Francis (who sent in the lowest tender) for their accommodation at a cost of £355, and a further sum of £100 was expended in improvements and repairs.

Mr. Stradling, Mr. James Haviland, and Mr. Henry Axford resigned as surgeons of the Institution, and the cordial thanks of the subscribers were voted for their long and valued services. They were requested to act as consulting surgeons of the Infirmary with the other medical officers.

At a special general meeting, of the subscribers, held on the 21st of July, 1830, a new code of rules was adopted for the management of the Infirmary, which was afterwards further revised, of which the following is a summary:

*That all persons making or having made a donation of £20, or subscribing £5 5s 0d a year, be Life Governors and permanent members of the Committee.*

*That in addition to the President and Life Governors, the consulting Physicians and Surgeons, the Treasurer and Secretary, and of nine annual subscribers, to be chosen at an anniversary meeting.*

*That an anniversary meeting be held at the Infirmary, to receive the reports of the Committee, to examine the Treasurer's accounts, to appoint the Committee and Secretary for the ensuing year, and for other general business.*

*That annual subscribers for every guinea subscribed be entitled to recommend within the year 4 patients, or one in-patient and 3 out-patients; and a donor of £10 be on a footing with an annual subscriber of £1 1s 0d, and so in proportion for every additional donation of £10.*

*That all patients recommended attend at the Infirmary on every Sunday or Wednesday morning, between the hours of 9 and 10, and that none shall be admitted at any other time, except in cases of sudden emergency.*

*That out-patients attend on the mornings and hours appointed by their respective physicians, to enforce which, 2s 6d had to be deposited by each patient, to be returned when discharged, but had to be forfeited on non-compliance with the directions of the physicians and surgeons.*

*That no patient remain longer than three months on the books without having his card of recommendation renewed, by which he should be considered as a new patient.*

*That all in-patients on being admitted to pay one*

*month's board at rate of 2s per week, in advance, the balance, if any, to be returned if the patient remains for a shorter time than one month.*

*That no physician be eligible to officiate in the Institution unless he can produce testimonials that he had studied and taken degrees in some British University.*

*That no surgeon be eligible unless he be a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London.*

*That the medical department do consist of two physicians.*

*That the election of all Medical Officers shall be made at a general meeting of the subscribers, and the Committee shall have power to appoint, from time to time, consulting physicians or surgeons.*

*That the physicians and surgeons shall attend (by seniority) on Sunday and Wednesday in every week, at 10 o'clock in the morning, to receive and examine persons recommended as patients.*

*That patients remain so long as they continue in the Institution under the care of the physician or surgeon who may admit them.*

*That all pupils in surgery, who shall in future attend the Infirmary, give a donation of £10 10s 0d, or subscription of £2 2s 0d per annum, to commence on the day of the execution of his apprenticeship.*

*That in cases requiring extra assistance the Medical Officer, under whose care the patient may be, shall be empowered to direct the matron to provide the same, and that such Medical Officer be empowered to order such diet as he may think necessary, and that no person be allowed to send anything into the house.*

*That a Committee be appointed to attend at the Infirmary on the Tuesday in every month, to see that the rules and regulations are properly carried into effect.*

*That the Committee be empowered to make bye-laws, provided that the same are not inconsistent with the foregoing rules, and provided the same be propounded at one meeting and confirmed at another.*

Rules were also made for a Truss Society, but such rules were in operation but for a short time, and have not been acted on for many years past.

## **Chapter IV.**

On the 21st of July, 1830, Dr. Cubitt was appointed a physician, but resigned in January, 1831, and Dr. Gapper was appointed in his stead.

Mr. T. N. Davis and Mr. William Trevor were appointed surgeons of the Infirmary.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Baruch Toogood, for gratuitously dispensing the medicines for one year, by which a great



# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

9

saving of expense was effected. Mr. Jonathan Toogood having intimated that he was no longer able to provide a person to dispense the medicines, Mr. Varder was appointed for that purpose, at £21 a year.

The building of the Infirmary was insured against fire in the sum of £800, and the furniture in £200.

A letter having been written to the Rev. R. Davis, of Cannington, asking the favour of his advocating the cause of the charity in his Church, he wrote in reply that he must decline to comply with such request, or to subscribe so long as the Institution admitted patients on Sunday mornings; and such letter was copied in the minute book.

At a general meeting of subscribers, held on January 7, 1833, it was ordered that all paupers admitted as in-patients, and paid for by the Parish, should be increased to 5s per week.

Mr. T. H. Davis having resigned the office of surgeon, from ill-health, Mr. John Giles Toogood was appointed in his place at a general meeting of the subscribers.

Mr. James Haviland resigned the office of one of the consulting medical officers.

Mr. William Trevor having resigned as one of the medical officers, Mr. James Coles Parker was, at a general meeting of subscribers, appointed in his place.

Difficulties having arisen in the dispensing department, the Committee considered it desirable that a competent dispenser should be appointed to reside at the Infirmary, and inquiries were made with that object. Mr. W. C. Price, an experienced chemist, having applied for the post, and his testimonials being satisfactory, he was appointed for one year, for £30 and board. Mr. Price gave notice to terminate that arrangement, but proposed to continue his services for two years, from the 1st August, 1835, at £45 a year, and board. Such offer was accepted, and an agreement in writing was prepared to that effect.

During the year 1835-6, the number of patients had largely increased, 199 in-patients and 1114 out-patients having been admitted, and the expenditure having been proportionately increased great efforts were made by the Committee to obtain additional funds to meet the requirements of the Infirmary.

The arrears of subscriptions as stated in the annual report for that year amounted to £33 1s 6d.

At a meeting of the Committee, Mr. Clifford Gill having given notice to resign the office of Treasurer and Secretary, which he had held for several years, being about to leave the town, a discussion arose as to the desirability of disconnecting the two offices in future. At the annual meeting held on the 20th of October, 1837, Mr. Gill's resignation was accepted with regret, and a vote of thanks was passed for his valuable and gratuitous services. At such meeting, Mr. Richard Woodland was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. W. J. Heard, Honorary Secretary. At a Committee meeting on the 2nd December, 1837, Mr. W. J. Heard, having unexpectedly to leave Bridgwater, resigned the Office of Honorary Secretary, and his brother, Mr. H. C. Heard, who undertook to discharge duties temporarily, was afterwards duly appointed the Honorary Secretary of the Institution.

The agreement with Mr. Price having expired on the 1st August, 1837, and the medical officers being satisfied with his services, a fresh agreement was made with him for 5 years, at £50 a year, to be determined by either party on giving three months' notice.

In the annual report for this year, 1837-8, it is stated that the number of patients on the books of the Institution was 1683, including 212 in-patients, that the balance in the Treasurer's hands was £146 2s 1d, and that the arrears of Subscription amounted to £35 14s 0d. At that meeting a diet table for in-patients was laid before the subscribers and adopted. At this period the number of in-patients had so largely increased that it became necessary to provide an additional ward, and Mr. Price (then described in the minutes as assistant surgeon) was requested to obtain estimates and tenders for that purpose.

The new wards were erected by Mr. James Long, for which he was paid the sum of £90 10s 0d.

No fresh card of recommendation was to be required for patients who had been in the House more than three months.

In the annual printed report for the year ending the 1st September, 1840, there is an abstract of receipts and expenditure for 20 years, to the 1st September, 1839, shewing a large increase in the number of patients, and the report goes on to state that the expenditure had for some years exceeded its income, not to any alarming degree, but to an extent which required to be provided for by

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

10

timely arrangements. An urgent appeal was made to the friends of the charity, for an increase of income, to enable the Committee to meet its constantly growing expenditure.

## **Chapter V**

At a special meeting of the Committee, held on the 16th September, 1840, it was unanimously resolved that in consequence of the reduced state of the funds, one shilling and sixpence weekly should be charged, in addition to the 2s per week then paid by in-patients, until the state of the funds should justify its reduction. But it was ordered that the operation of such resolution should be suspended until the 1st March, 1841— this was afterwards further suspended until the end of the current year, the 1st September, 1841. From this date the Committee directed that tenders for bread, meal and groceries, be invited for the use of the Infirmary, and this rule has been continued up to the year 1889.

The anniversary meeting was held on the 17th September, 1841, but no mention is made of the further extension of time for the additional payment of 1s 6d. per week, by in-patients, the payment of 2s per week provided by the rules was therefore confirmed.

At this date the invested capital of the Institution amounted to £608, and in the following year it was increased to £825.

In June, 1843, Mr. C. W. Price, the house apothecary, resigned, and Mr. Gunthorpe was appointed in his stead.

In recognition of the long and valuable services of Dr. Toogood, extending over a period of 30 years, who from his extensive connection and influence had been one of the chief supporters of the Institution from the date of its establishment, a life-size portrait of Dr. Toogood was painted by Mr. William Baker, a native of Bridgwater, at the expense of £65 of the subscribers in the town and neighbourhood. The Rev. Noel Ellison, Rector of Huntspill, forwarded such portrait to the Committee, with a request that it should be placed in some appropriate part of the building.

The following is a copy of an inscription on a brass plate affixed to the frame of the portrait:—

*“ Presented to the Bridgwater Infirmary by Subscribers to this Institution, whose names are recorded in the minutes of December 29th, 1845, as a testimony of their grateful sense of the gratuitous and*

*highly valuable services of Jonathan Toogood, Esq, M.D., to this Institution for a period of more than 30 years.”*

A special vote of thanks was also presented to Dr Toogood, for the invaluable services he had rendered to the charity. He had been the senior Medical Officer for more than 30 years, and Physician for a good portion of that period. At a special meeting of the Committee held on the 8th of December, 1845, a letter was read from Dr. Toogood, dated from Torquay, of which the following is a copy;

*Ashley Lodge, Torquay,*

*November 25th, 1845.*

*As it is my intention to reside at this place during the Winter I beg to resign my situation of Physician and Surgeon to your excellent charity.*

*Upwards of thirty years have elapsed since with your assistance was enabled to found the Bridgwater Infirmary, and during that period it has been my unceasing endeavour to render it useful, by devoting my constant care and attention to those entrusted to my charge.*

*I thank you sincerely for the invariable confidence you have reposed in me, with my best wishes for its prosperity.*

*I remain,*

*(Signed) Jonathan Toogood.*

It was resolved “*That the Chairman do communicate to Dr Toogood the extreme regret with which the Committee of receive his resignation of the office of Physician and Surgeon to the Bridgwater Infirmary, and their deep sense of gratitude for the energy and talent, the high professional skill and unwearied industry with which he has discharged the duties of that office during the 33 years that he been connected with this Institution.*” Also “*That Dr Toogood be requested still to permit his name to be associated with this Institution by accepting the Office of Consulting Physician and Surgeon to the Infirmary*”, and that in order to give due weight to such request, the same be submitted to the first general meeting of the subscribers for their adoption.

Mr. Gunthorpe having resigned the office of House Apothecary, Mr. E. White was appointed in his stead at the annual meeting held in September, 1844.

Mr. Henry Long Jacob having offered his services as surgeon dentist, a letter was written to him by the Chairman of Committee, accepting such offer and thanking him for the same.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

11

At the same meeting a resolution was passed that the medical department should in future consist of one Physician and four Surgeons. When the revised rules were passed, at a meeting of the subscribers on the 31st of July, 1830, the Department was to consist of two Physicians, and three Surgeons. Since that date three Medical Officers only have acted on the staff, namely, Dr. Toogood. Mr. J. G. Toogood and Mr. J. C. Parker.

A Committee meeting was held on 22nd December, 1845, when it was decided to fill up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Toogood and to elect another Medical Officer to fill up the fourth vacancy in accordance with the rules. Mr. John Parsons, Mr. Richard Axford, and Mr. Alfred Haviland offered themselves as candidates to fill up such vacancies, their qualifications being admitted ; and Dr. Sewell, who was practising as a medical man in the town, also applied for the appointment of Physician, Dr. Southby having left the town. A further meeting was held on the 27th December, on the same subject, when a letter was read from Dr. Sewell, with reference to a communication received from several medical gentlemen of the town recommending him as eligible for the office of Physician. A general meeting of the subscribers was held the same day at the Grand Jury Room. Mr. Parsons, Mr. Axford, and Mr. Haviland having been proposed and seconded and the show of hands being in favour of the two former, a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Haviland. A large number of subscribers recorded their votes, but as Mr. Haviland resigned before the close of the poll, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Axford were declared to be duly elected as Medical Officers of the Institution. Dr. Sewell having been proposed and seconded it was resolved that it was not expedient to fill up the vacancy of Physician.

At the anniversary meeting held in September, 1846, the three clergymen of the town were appointed to make arrangements for visiting the Infirmary and to undertake the duties of Chaplain.

In the early part of the year 1847, the Medical Officers recommended several important additions and improvements in the Infirmary and a plan was prepared by Mr. Down at the request of the Committee for the erection of a bath room, a new operating room, a new female ward, and a new room

for the matron adjoining the women's ward, and a laundry and some other minor improvements, including better ventilation, the whole being estimated at a cost of about £400. A sub-committee was appointed, tenders were invited, and the proposed additions and improvements were carried out at a total cost of £428 14s 5d. An urgent appeal was made by the Committee to the friends of the charity for donations to meet this expenditure, without trenching on the reserve fund, and the whole sum was contributed.

Mr. Edwin White resigned the office of House Apothecary, and Mr. Lear was appointed in his place.

At a meeting of the Committee on August 7, 1849, on the appearance of cholera in the town and neighbourhood, a resolution was passed that in all cases of diarrhoea the rule should be relaxed, which required the recommendation of a subscriber for the admission of out-patients, and printed notices were widely circulated accordingly. This arrangement was continued for several months and the result was that upwards of 1000 persons suffering from diarrhoea and other premonitory symptoms of cholera received immediate assistance.

At the annual meeting on the 19th of October, 1849, Mr. Henry Axford, one of the consulting surgeons, received a special vote of thanks for his daily attendance at the Infirmary to receive the diarrhoea patients.

At the previous anniversary of 1848, a balance of £99 16s 7d was reported as due to the Treasurer, and the Committee found that to pay off this debt, and to meet the current expenditure, it had been found necessary to call in £200 of the invested capital, but they hoped soon to restore it to the capital account.

The number of in-patients for the year ending 1st September, 1849, was 178, and of out-patients 1200, exclusive of the large number of diarrhoea cases.

No arrangement having been made by the clergy for their visits to the Infirmary, a letter was written by the Secretary to the Rev. J. C. Collins, the incumbent of St. John's, in whose district the Infirmary was situated, asking him to make arrangements with the other clergy of the town, for weekly visits at the Infirmary, and a book was provided in which such visits were to be recorded.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

12

At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 9th of March 1851, a letter was read from Mr. H. C. Heard, complaining of the course adopted by the Committee at a previous meeting, and declining to attend to directions given by them. Mr. Heard having intimated his intention to resign the office of Secretary, Mr. G. S. Poole was requested to ask Mr. Lilly to undertake its duties, which, after full consideration, he consented to do.

At the anniversary meeting in September, 1851, Mr. Edward Lilly was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Institution.

At the first Committee meeting after the annual meeting, the duties of the Secretary were more clearly defined. He would have to collect the annual subscriptions, with the assistance of the House Apothecary ; to attend all ordinary and special meetings of the Committee ; to keep the minutes and accounts of the income and expenditure, to prepare the annual financial Statement and report of the Committee, and to assist the Committee as an *ex-officio* member in the general management of the affairs of the Infirmary.

A further agreement was made with Mr. Lear, the House Apothecary, from year to year, subject to three months' notice, at a salary increased to £45 a year.

At the annual meeting held in October, 1852, it was reported that the number of in-patients for the past year was 182, of out-patients 1612, and that the invested capital amounted to £1050.

Mr. Lear having resigned the office of House Apothecary advertisements were issued for a successor, and out of 22 applications, Mr. Mowatt was appointed at a salary of £40 a year, subject to the usual three months' notice to determine the engagement. A vote of thanks was passed in favour of Mr. Lear, for the faithful discharge of his duty to the Institution.

Cholera having again made its appearance, the Committee at a meeting held on the 23rd of September, 1853, passed a resolution that the rule relating to the admission of out-patients should be suspended until the following November, and that medical advice and medicines be given in all cases of bowel complaint and diarrhoea, to all poor persons, applying to the Institution, who were not entitled to relief from the Medical Officer of the Bridgwater Union; and that printed notices should be

circulated. On the 3rd of July, 1854, at a meeting of the Committee, the Matron reported that out-patients were still applying for diarrhoea medicines, and it was directed that they should be supplied without tickets of recommendation, and that printed circulars should be issued to that effect.

At the 41st anniversary, held on the 24th of September, 1854, it was stated that for the year there had been 230 in-patients, and 2324 out-patients, including diarrhoea cases. The Committee reported that for the first time since the establishment of the Institution, the outstanding arrears, as well as the whole of the subscriptions for the year, ending the 1st of September, 1854, had been collected without a single outstanding arrear. And it may be here stated that this important improvement has been continued by Mr. Lilly, and his successor, Mr. John Coombs, for the long period of 35 years in succession, up to the end of the last financial year, on the 1st of September, 1889. Frequent references have been made by the Committee to this improvement in the management of the financial affairs of the charity.

For the year ending September, 1855, the amount of annual subscriptions collected was £298 17s 0d, and the number of out-patients had increased to 3704.

Dr. Toogood having written a letter to the Committee that his son, Mr. J. G. Toogood, one of the Medical Officers, was temporarily incapacitated from attending to his duties, it was arranged that the three other Medical Officers should undertake the duties during his absence. A further letter was written by Dr. Toogood to the Committee, on behalf of Mr. J. G. Toogood, resigning his appointment, but its acceptance was postponed for three months, and a letter was written to Dr. Toogood to that effect.

Mr. Mowatt having resigned the office of House Apothecary, Mr. Whitney was appointed to fill his place, at £40 a year, on the usual conditions. At the anniversary meeting of the 8th of October, 1856, Mr. Jonathan Toogood, M.D., one of the oldest and most valued supporters of the institution since its commencement, was elected President. 40 new subscribers had been added to the list, and the amount collected had increased to £324 8s 0d.

At the annual meeting, held on the 22nd of October, 1857, a resolution was passed expressive of deep regret at the death of Mr.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

13

Richard Woodland, a managing director of Stuckey's Banking Company, who had so well discharged the duties of Treasurer for so many years ; and now Mr. John Woodland was appointed in his place.

At the anniversary meeting of 1858, a resolution was passed expressive of regret at the death of Mr. James Coles Parker, one of the Medical Officers of the Infirmary, who had so zealously and kindly discharged his duties for several years past. It was stated at the same meeting that the reserve fund had increased to £1250.

A change having been made in the market day in Bridgwater, from Thursday to Wednesday, the days for the visits of the Medical Officers and patients were altered to Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, notice having been given of such alteration; and power was given to the Committee to alter such days of attendance from time to time, as circumstances might require.

About this period, the workmen in the carriage department of the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company, and in the Iron Works of Messrs. Hennett, Spink & Else, contributed small weekly sums through the foremen, which were paid in lump sums to the Secretary at the end of the financial year, towards the funds of the Infirmary. This entitled each of the contributors to admission as in-patients, without payment of the 2s. per week for their board. The workmen at the Carriage Works of the Joint Railway, and of the present Carriage Works of the Great Western Railway Company, have adopted a similar arrangement to the present date, and it is to them a free Hospital. It may be here remarked that if similar thrift were adopted in other establishments, the employés would derive equal advantages.

## **Chapter VII**

At the anniversary held on the 5th of October, 1860, the Chairman of Committee, Mr. G. S. Poole, referred particularly the satisfactory state of the finances of the Charity.

Mrs. Higgins having resigned the office of Matron, the Committee reported, at the annual meeting in October, 1861, that she had filled the office for 14 years with credit and success, and that they had presented her with the sum of £20, in token of their appreciation of her services. Miss Weaver, who for many years had acted as Matron of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, was appointed matron at a

salary of £30 a year. Mr. W. L. Winterbotham and Mr. John Masters were appointed Medical Officers, to fill two vacancies on the medical staff.

Mr. Down, the architect of the Institution, having recommended alterations and improvements in the upper female ward, which were approved of by the Committee, the same were ordered to be done. At the annual meeting, held on the 9th of October, 1862, the Committee reported that the amount laid out in such additions and improvements was £475 3s. 1d. and they had the gratification to report that the donations raised to meet this special expenditure exceeded the same by the sum of £3 17s. 11d., which was carried to the general account. Included in this total was the sum of £61, contributed by the Bridgwater Vocal Class, being the amount realized at a concert given by them for the benefit of the Infirmary.

On the report of the Medical Officers a new dietary table for the in-patients was adopted.

On the resignation of Mr. Whitney, Mr. Hurst was appointed in his place, at a salary of £50 a year. Miss Weaver, the Matron, having died at the Infirmary, Miss Tresider was appointed to supply the vacancy at a salary of £25 a year, such engagement to be terminated on six weeks' notice being given on either side. Mr. Hurst having expressed a desire to renew his engagement as House Apothecary for two years, it was agreed to.

Dr. Toogood having sent from Torquay a box, containing 140 volumes of medical and surgical books, and sundry pamphlets and reports, as a present to the Infirmary, the Committee passed a resolution thanking him for his kind and valuable present, and a copy of such resolution, signed by the Chairman, was sent to Dr. Toogood.

The reversionary interest in the house and garden adjoining the building of the Infirmary, belonging to the Corporation of Bridgwater, expectant on the death of one aged life, having been purchased by the Committee, for the sum of £205, it was arranged that the same should be conveyed to Trustees for the benefit of the Infirmary, and that a sum sufficient to pay the purchase money and expenses, should be withdrawn from its invested capital. The conveyance was prepared by the Chairman, Mr. G. S. Poole, and Mr. Carslake, who made no charge for their trouble.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

14

At the anniversary held on the 8th of October, 1863, the Committee reported that the annual subscriptions for the past year were £401 0s; 6d., being the largest amount received in any one year, and 50 per cent, more than that of 1849.

A special meeting of the subscribers was held on the same date, when Mr. W. L. Winterbotham was appointed a Medical Officer of the Institution in the place of Mr. John Masters, who had resigned from ill-health.

Mr. H. Jacob having resigned the office of Dentist, on his leaving the town, Mr. Prideaux was appointed in his place.

At the annual meeting, held on the 6th of October, 1864, being the 50th anniversary of the Institution, the Committee thought it a fit time to make an extraordinary appeal to the public in aid of the funds, as they had contracted to purchase the reversion of the house adjoining the Infirmary. The Jubilee fund realized the sum of £339 1s 10d, which enabled the Committee to defray the cost of the said purchase, and to carry a balance of £125 3s 1d to the general account.

At a special meeting of the subscribers, held the same day (of which due notice had been given), the days for the admission of in-patients were altered from Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday in every week, between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock, to Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, from half-past 9 to 10 o'clock, or on such other days and times as the Committee might from time to time appoint.

Mr. Hurst having resigned the office of House Apothecary, which he had held for three years, with much advantage to the Institution, the Committee presented him with a gratuity of £10. Mr. Stewart was appointed in his place at a salary of £50 a year, for three months on trial, and afterwards to be subject to the usual notice.

Miss Tresider having given notice to resign the office of matron, Miss Mary Jones was appointed in her place at £25 a year, subject to six weeks' notice to terminate the engagement.

Mr. Stewart, the House Apothecary, having sent in his resignation, Mr. Thomas Chant was appointed in his place at the same salary, subject to three months notice on either side.

On the 24th July, 1866, the attention of the

Committee having been called to the re-appearance of cholera in Monmouthshire, a printed notice was issued and circulated that all persons who were unable to pay for medical advice, and who were not entitled to relief from the Medical Officers of the Bridgwater Union, might obtain as out-patients at the Bridgwater Infirmary gratuitous advice and medicines in all diarrhoea and bowel complaint without cards of recommendation from subscribers.

At a Committee meeting held on the 20th December, a letter was read from Mr. Richard Axford, resigning the office of Medical Officer, finding that his private practice required the whole of his time. The Committee recorded a special vote of thanks for his valuable and gratuitous professional services with so much satisfaction for a period of 21 years, and he was appointed one of the consulting surgeons of the Infirmary.

At the annual meeting, October 4, 1866, the Committee reported that the number of in-patients for the past year was 265, and of out-patients 3775, and that the invested capital was £2405, besides the Infirmary itself, and the reversionary interest in the adjoining dwelling-house, expectant on the death of one aged life. The Committee further reported that Mr. Lilly, having discharged the duties of Honorary Secretary for a period of 15 years, they thought it was due to him to review the progress of the Infirmary during that period. A comparison was made as to the position of the Infirmary in the year 1852, compared with that of 1866, which showed a very important increase, both financially and in the very large number of patients who had been treated during that period. The Committee felt that after 15 years of such zealous and successful, as well as disinterested and gratuitous service, they should ask the subscribers to mark their appreciation of it by a special vote of thanks, and some fitting acknowledgment, for though the good that he had done might be the only reward he had ever contemplated, yet they should give some practical expression to the sense they entertained with regard to the disinterested and laborious devotion by which that good had been achieved.

At a general special meeting of the subscribers, held on the same day as the annual meeting, Mr. William Henry Axford, M.B., was appointed a Medical Officer, in the place of Mr. Richard Axford.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

15

At a special meeting held on the 2nd of February, 1867, Mr. Philip Vanderbyl, M.P., in the chair, it was reported that Messrs. Joseph Jeffery, John Evered, and John Jeffery, and Joseph Ruscombe Poole, the Trustees of the Infirmary, were all dead, and it being necessary to appoint new Trustees, it was resolved that Messrs. John Browne, Gabriel Stone Poole, John Lovell Sealy, and Edward Lilly be appointed Trustees in the place of the deceased, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to see that the same was legally carried into effect.

Mr. Chant, the house apothecary, having given great satisfaction to the Medical Officers and Committee, his salary was increased from £40 to £50 a year.

It having been decided upon to present a testimonial to Mr. Lilly, in pursuance of the report of the Committee at the previous annual meeting, a Sub-Committee was appointed to select the same, and to decide on the inscription to be placed thereon.

Mr. Alfred Haviland having resigned the office of Medical Officer, a vote of thanks was recorded in his favour for his valuable services. A special meeting of the subscribers was convened for the 30th July, 1867, when Mr. Frederick Farmer was elected in his place.

The Committee having been informed of the decease of the Rev. J. C. Collins, a letter of condolence and sympathy was written to his son and successor, the Rev. William Collins, and expressing a hope that he would undertake the duties of Chaplain to the Infirmary, which his father, with the assistance of a curate, had discharged for many years with so much regularity and care.

The Sub-Committee appointed in reference to the Testimonial to be presented to Mr. Lilly, reported to the Committee that they had selected and purchased a Silver Tea and Coffee Service, of the Princess Royal pattern, consisting of an urn, kettle, tea and coffee pots, sugar basin, cream jug, and cake basket, at a cost, to include the engraving, of £150; and that they had given directions for the following inscription to be engraved on each of the principal pieces

*“ Presented to Mr. Lilly by the Friends of the Bridgwater Infirmary, as a tribute of personal respect, and a mark of their appreciation of his zealous and energetic services as Honorary Secretary to that Institution during the past 16 years.”*

A general meeting of the subscribers was

held on the 10th October, 1867, Mr. Phillip Vanderbyl, M.P., in the chair. The Committee in their report referred to the suggestions contained in the previous year's report as to the testimonial to Mr Lilly, and stated that the President had been requested to present it at the usual annual dinner of the subscribers, at the “Royal Clarence” Hotel, to be held that day.

Accordingly, after the usual toasts had been given, Mr. Vanderbyl, addressing the Honorary Secretary, said he had very great pleasure in presenting him with the silver service then before them as a recognition of his efficient and valuable services for the past 16 years. The subscribers present could better appreciate such services than he could, but since his connection with the town he had heard quite enough to convince him that the Honorary Secretary was well entitled to the testimonial which had been presented to him.

Mr. Lilly said, in reply, that he found it very difficult to find words to express all that he wished to say on that occasion. He thanked the President for the more than kind and complimentary words that he had used on making the presentation; and he also expressed his grateful acknowledgments to the subscribers and friends of the charity for such a handsome and costly testimonial, and expressed a hope that it would have the effect of stimulating him to increased exertions in such a cause as that of the Bridgwater Infirmary.

The Committee, in their annual report of the 8th of October, 1868, called the special attention of the Clergy of the neighbourhood to the fact that collections had been made in 12 Churches only, though there were 40 parishes comprised in the Bridgwater poor law union alone. The benefits of the Institution were enjoyed by many parishes beyond that limit, in some of which collections were made, and the Committee thought that there was scarcely a Church within the said union from which the Committee might not reasonably expect an annual collection in aid of the funds of the charity. They also reported that a mortuary being much needed, a building for that purpose had been erected on the back premises of the Infirmary, by contract, for the sum of £31 18s 0d.

A liberal response to the appeal suggested at the annual meeting of October, 1868, was made by the clergy in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, collections having been made for

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

16

the year 1870 in 29 churches, as compared with 12 in the former year, and the total amount collected was £114:17s 1d, as against £58 19s 2d for 1868.

In December, 1869, information having been received of the decease of Dr. Toogood, the Secretary was requested to convey to Mrs. Toogood the sincere sympathy of the Committee, and to express their high appreciation of the eminent services during the active portion of his life he had rendered to their Institution, and their deep sense of gratitude for the same.

At the last-mentioned meeting a letter was read from Mr T. S. Rowe, the Secretary of the Bridgwater Town Mission in reference to the visits of ministers to the Infirmary. The Secretary was requested to inform Mr. Rowe that the Rev. J. W. Collins was the appointed Chaplain, but the regulations of the Infirmary were that when any patient expressed a wish for the visits of any other minister of whatever denomination, or of any accredited town missionary, every facility would be afforded for such visits at all suitable hours, such visits and ministrations to be confined to the person who might desire them.

## CHAPTER VIII.

The Rev. Dr. Jeffery, the last survivor of the old Trustees, having died, it was decided, in 1871, that Messrs. Hugh Ruscombe Poole, Francis John Crane Parsons, Joseph Richard Smith, and John George Sully be appointed Trustees of the Infirmary, in addition to those appointed on the 2nd of February, 1867.

At the annual meeting, held on the 5th of October, 1871, the Committee reported that as the domestic arrangements of the House had always been cramped in space and inconveniently situated, the Committee contemplated an entire removal of the house-keeping department into the lately-purchased house, so as to give it a separate entrance, and keep it distinct from the receiving-room for patients, the dispensary, and the wards allotted to the patients. It would enable them to throw the present dispensary into the receiving-room for patients (which had never been large enough), to convert the present kitchen into a dispensary, to enlarge the main entrance by taking into it a portion of the Committee Room, and to appropriate the present housekeeper's room as a consulting room for one of the Medical Officers, and by taking a passage out of one of the present consulting rooms to use

another small room beyond it for the same purpose, so that Officers might have a separate room in which to receive his patients. Considering the number of the patients, and the necessity of a private room in dealing with many of their ailments, it was obvious that this accommodation would be very advantageous. Both the present staircases were of wood, and the one to the men's ward was narrow and steep; the Committee proposed to remove the latter, and to construct a stone staircase that would be fire-proof, and wider and easier of ascent than the present. The Medical Officers having pointed out the inconvenience of having the operating room on a different floor from the wards, and also the desirability of being able to separate the more serious surgical cases from the others, the Committee proposed removing the nurse's bedroom (enclosed by a wooden partition out of the inner men's ward) and providing another room for her. They would utilize the rooms in the lately-purchased house, by placing the housekeeper's room and store-room in the rooms on the ground floor, and a spare ward and a bedroom for the House Surgeon on the first floor, and they proposed to build the new kitchen and offices in the garden at the back, with the operating room, the bedroom for the men's nurse, and the ward for serious cases, over them, with an opening into it from the existing men's wards. They proposed also to supply hot and cold water throughout the wards, and to improve their ventilation. Other minor alterations would also be carried out. Plans had been prepared, and were laid out on the table for the inspection of the subscribers. The estimated cost was £1,000. More than half that sum had already been promised, and as soon as the remainder was provided, the Committee would be prepared to commence the work. They left this proposal with confidence in the hands of the subscribers.

Mr. Down, the architect of the Institution, having furnished a specification and estimate of such additions and improvements, a Sub-Committee was appointed to superintend the work.

Mr. W. H. Axford having resigned as one of the Medical Officers, a vote of thanks was recorded for his valuable services, and at a special meeting of the subscribers held on the 25th of January, 1872, Mr. Francis John Crane Parsons, being duly qualified, was appointed as his successor.



# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

17

After the last annual meeting, the Mayor and Town Council entered into negotiation with the Committee, with the view of changing the site of the Infirmary, to North-street, and of erecting an entirely new building, the Mayor and Town Council proposing to build a detached Small Pox Hospital on the same site. The late Mr. John Browne also offered the large donation of £1,500, to assist in carrying out the scheme. After much consideration, and having regard to the fact that the present building was centrally situated, while the proposed new site in North-street was at the extreme end of the town; and taking also into account the difficulties and cost of the proposed change, and the fear of a large increase in the annual expenditure, the proposal of the Corporation, as well as the generous offer of Mr. Browne, were reluctantly declined. A letter was written to Mr. Browne to that effect, but the Committee suggested whether he would be disposed to purchase the freehold dwelling-house adjoining the Infirmary, which could be obtained at a cost of £800. This he declined to do, and withdrew the offer of his donation.

Directions were then given that the improvements in the present building should at once be proceeded with.

Mr. Thomas Chant having resigned the office of Home Apothecary, being about to leave Bridgwater, the Committee much regretted the loss of his valuable services, which he had discharged with so much ability, steadiness, and care, for a period of seven years. A special vote of thanks was recorded in his favour, and a copy of the resolution signed by the President, Chairman of Committee, the Medical Officers, and Secretary, was directed to be sent to Mr. Chant. A subscription was set on foot, and a sum of £30 was raised, a portion of which was expended in the purchase of a pocket-case of surgical instruments, with an inscription thereon, which was presented to Mr. Chant, with a purse of twenty guineas, as a recognition of his services.

Mr. Beresford having resigned his duties as House Apothecary, a special meeting of the Committee was held on the 23rd of May, 1873, when Mr. Gilbert was appointed in his place.

At the annual meeting held on the 21st October, 1873, the Committee reported that the original estimate for the new works was £1,000, but as they progressed various improvements in the old building were

suggested and undertaken, and a new kitchen apparatus, with a supply of hot and cold water in different parts of the upper floor of the House, new baths, lavatories, and a patent lift, were added, which had raised the total cost to £1430 3s 0d. Towards that £1205 9s 10d had been received, leaving a balance of £224 13s 2d to be provided for this, added to the deficit of £212 4s 1d on the general expenditure account, raised the total balance against the Institution to £436 17s 3d. It was hoped that the friends of this invaluable charity would enable the Committee of Management to discharge that amount without breaking into its invested capital.

At a special meeting of the subscribers, held on the 20th December, 1873, the rule was altered under which out-patients should pay, on presenting their card of recommendation, the sum of 1s, in aid of the expense of the Institution, to hold good for three months, when a fresh card of recommendation would be required, and a further sum of 1s would have to be paid.

On the 4th of November, 1873, an amateur concert was held at the Town Hall, which was largely patronized. A net sum of £383 13s 10d was realized, and paid to the Treasurer, in aid of the funds of the charity. On that occasion a Plea for the Infirmary was expressly written by Mr. E. H. Burrington and spoken by Mr. W. J. Ford. It ran as follows:—

## A PLEA FOR OUR INFIRMARY.

To speak of our Infirmary ! How begin  
Your thoughts to occupy, your hearts to win ?  
" One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin."  
So Shakspeare said, and he, the King of Mind,  
Probed all the surging passions of mankind.  
" One touch of Nature ! " Be that line our text  
To lead the thought, the word that's coming next.

" One touch of Nature ! " See the varied flowers  
That cheer and beautify this world of ours.  
See them on breezy hills, and verdant valleys ;  
See them in fragrant lanes, and leafy alleys ;  
See them wherever children come to play,  
In gusty March, or in the riper May.  
Oh, happy children ! With your joys untold,  
Ye watch the yellow buttercups unfold ;  
Ye bind the cowslips up, like balls of gold,  
And pelt each other with a loving love,  
While yet the mellow sunshine glows above.  
Ye string the daisies with their crimson specks.  
And fondly hang them round each others' necks. Thus  
with fair flowers Affection's trials begin :  
" One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin." So in  
the dawn of life, so in its close,  
When the frail body sinks to its repose,  
We make the flowers, as if with Death to cope,  
The symbols of our faith, our grief, our hope.

# The Bridgewater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

18

Thus in the grave where honoured age reposes,  
I see the hand, of Love strew dainty roses.  
I see white lilies, without taint or stain,  
Dropped on the earth which claims its own again ;  
On childhood's graves unmarked by sin or strife—  
So spotless beauty mirrors spotless life !  
Thus ending human life as we begin—  
“ One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.”

The scene is changed ! Upon the raging main  
I hear the quick, sharp, cry of human pain.  
A ship, but yesterday of stately form,  
To-day lies wrecked and shattered by the storm.  
I see rough men, while yet the vessel floats,  
Help trembling women down into the boats,  
Then back to danger, with undaunted eye :  
So heroes live, so noble martyrs die !  
*There* you may see, amid' the tempest's din,  
“ One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.”

“ One touch of Nature” through the world excelling,  
Oh, let us give it here a local dwelling !  
By Parrett's stream which rushes, fast and free,  
Back to its mother's breast, the mystic sea,  
As life flows down into Eternity,  
There stands a dwelling. Mark it where it stands :  
It is the triumph of our Christian lands !  
By day and night within its solemn halls.  
Misfortune moans, and wailing Sorrow calls.  
And shall they call in vain ? Oh, men with wealth ! Oh,  
women with the radiant bloom of health !  
“ The poor are always with you,” and, yet more,  
The *sick* are with you, even as the poor ;  
And these have homes which little comfort yield,  
“ When moving accidents by flood and field ”  
(To use Othello's words) have struck them down.  
Be *yours* the task to turn Misfortune's frown  
From their lone lives ; to offer them a place  
Of healing, and whate'er the cause, or case,  
The hand that freely gives hath double grace,  
So little gifts may show great hearts within—  
One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.”  
Imagine, if you can, how many lives  
Your small Infirmary saves. *There* Science strives  
With pale disease, while smiling hope survives.  
*There* Surgeons, to their honour be it told,  
With patient skill, ungrudging and unsold,  
Stand in the deadly breach of duty ! Stand  
And fight with Death, the tyrant, hand to hand.  
Here I would name a name so nobly known,  
That our Infirmary's history is his own.  
'Tis said the lilies neither toil nor spin,  
Their bright array of loveliness to win ;  
Yet in this working world I do descry  
One *Lilly* who is toiling far and nigh,  
To make our Institution a success,  
To raise the funds that may subdue distress.

“ One touch of Nature !” In the Minstrel's sight  
You have it now, or why come here to-night?  
No Patti sings to thrill you with a note  
Which scarcely seems to come from mortal throat.  
Why are you come to hear your own compeers?  
It is that you have sympathy with tears.  
Each song you hear, the least of Music's strain,  
Augments the help that lessens human pain ;  
Help for those Wards where suffering mortals lie,  
In hope of succour, or with hope to die.  
And those who sing? Oh, sing they ill, or well,  
Each loving accent, in its fall or swell,

Will reach the home where blissful angels dwell,  
Wafted by powers we feel, but cannot see,  
Upon the radiant wings of Charity !  
So I retire, and so our songs begin ;  
“ One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.”

On the 9th of June, 1874, Miss Anderson was appointed Matron of the Infirmary, in succession to Miss Jones, at a salary of £40 a year, subject to six weeks' notice on either side to determine the engagement.

At the anniversary meeting held on the 20th of October, 1874, the Committee had the satisfaction to announce to the subscribers that the deficit of £436 17s 3d, which existed at the close of the year ending the 1st September, 1873, had been entirely cleared off, and the building account had been closed. The alterations and improvements, together with the furniture and fittings, had cost considerably more than the estimate, the total outlay having exceeded £1,500, but it was a subject for congratulation that this large outlay had been met by voluntary donations from the subscribers and friends of the charity, without trenching on its reserved capital.

The Secretary during the previous year had instituted a particular Sunday for making collections in the Churches and Chapels, which had resulted in 38 of such collections having been made, producing the large sum of £206 16s 1d, in aid of the annual income of the charity. He had also followed the example of other towns by establishing a Hospital Saturday, and a sum of £13 11s 11d had been contributed in small weekly sums by the artizans and labourers in the large establishments in the town, which was expected to increase in future years. It was considered that the more the working classes could be induced to assist themselves and each other, the better it would be for them, and the less they were obliged to accept unconditional charity the more surely would their independence be secured.

In 1873 the usual anniversary dinner was discontinued, and in lieu of it an amateur concert was given in aid of the fund of the charity, which was conducted by Mr. C. Lavington, organist of St. Mary's Church. This alteration apparently received the approval of the friends of the Infirmary, for so numerous was it attended that a sum of £83 .13s 10d, the net proceeds, was paid to the Treasurer.

Miss Anderson having resigned the office

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

19

of matron, Miss Atkinson was appointed in her place at a salary of £35 a year. Mr. Gilbert having also resigned the post of House Apothecary, Mr. W. A. Smith, from the Hastings dispensary, was appointed as his successor.

On the 9th of June, 1875, Mr. Smith having tendered his resignation it was accepted, and Mr. Thos. Lewis was appointed to succeed him at a salary, of £40 a year — subject to the usual notice. Nurse Bradshaw having been a nurse in the men's ward for many years, during which she had discharged her duties with efficiency and great satisfaction, the Committee gave her a gratuity of £5 3s 4d a year in addition to her wages, to be continued so long as she remained the Infirmary, and such annual sums were invested for her benefit.

At the annual meeting, held on the 26th of October, 1875, the Committee reported that the transactions of the year had been of a satisfactory character. In the previous year there was a balance due to the Treasurer of £57 7s 5d, with outstanding accounts amounting to £68 9s 5d (not brought to the knowledge of the Committee). From the receipts of the year this deficit had been discharged, the year's expenditure had been fully met, and the sum of £120 had been added to the capital fund, leaving a balance of £40 5s 6d in the Treasurer's hands.

Hospital Sunday collections were reported to have amounted to £171 4s 1d, and the Hospital Saturday fund had increased to £16 11s 3d. Special thanks were voted to the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly took part in an amateur concert whereby £80 1s 6d was added to the funds, and to Mr. Charles Lavington, the organist of St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater, for his valuable services as conductor. The thanks of the Committee were also voted to Mr. Winterbotham, and to the ladies associated with him for their kind and valuable present of the furniture and pictures in the women's day ward which had been recently added to the Infirmary.

Another amateur concert was given by ladies and gentlemen of the town, on November 11, 1875, under the conductorship of Mr. Charles Lavington, at which the nett sum realized amounted to £70, which was paid to the Treasurer.

At a meeting of the Committee held on the 11th of April, 1876, they expressed their great regret at the death of Mr. G. S. Poole, and recorded their high appreciation of his

valuable services as Chairman of the Committee of Management for a period of 30 years, and for other material assistance rendered by him in connection with the charity. They also expressed a wish that such services should be recognised in some substantial manner by the supporters and friends of the Institution, and in furtherance of such suggestion the Secretary was requested to communicate with Captain Loraine-Grews, the President for the year, with the view of obtaining his co-operation, and to make arrangements for convening a special general meeting of subscribers, for the purpose of considering the proposed object, and of devising some suitable plan to commemorate the valuable services which Mr. Poole had rendered to the charity.

Such meeting was held on the 9th of May, 1875, by public advertisement, Capt. Loraine-Grews, the President, in the chair. A resolution was passed expressing great regret at the death of Mr. Poole, and offered its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Poole and the other members of the family at the loss they had sustained, and it was ordered that a copy of such resolution, signed by the President, should be sent to Mrs. Poole.

It was proposed by Mr. Wilton, then Mayor of Bridgwater and seconded by the Rev. H. A. Daniel, that a suitable memorial would be the improvement of the front elevation of the building, to give it a more uniform and prominent character. It was considered that such a memorial would best meet the approval of Mr. Poole's family. A large Committee was appointed at such meeting for the purpose of obtaining plans and estimates, and to take all such further steps as might be necessary to carry into effect the resolution of the meeting. Mr. Down attended a later meeting of the Committee, and produced plans and specifications, and said he had obtained tenders for the proposed work — Messrs. Chedzey & Sons' tender of £594 (to include the cost of erecting a portico) being the lowest, was accepted; and having regard to the amount of subscriptions already received and promised, directions were given that the work should at once be commenced.

At a Committee meeting held on the 8th of August, 1875, an opinion was expressed that the annual amateur concert should be continued, and Mr. W. L. Winterbotham was requested to consult with the committee of the Choral Association, and endeavour to

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

20

make the necessary arrangements. Mr. Winterbotham afterwards reported that the number of the members had been so greatly reduced that they could not give a concert that year.

Mr. Lewis, the House Apothecary, having applied for an increase of salary from £40 to £50 a year, and having discharged his duties satisfactorily, it was granted.

At the general meeting of the subscribers, held on the 19th of October, 1876, the Committee reported that the total receipts for the year ending the 1st September, 1876, had amounted to the large sum of £1,485 14s 2d (exclusive of the sum received for the Poole memorial fund), being the largest in amount contributed for the general purposes of the Institution in any one year since its establishment. Every liability had been discharged, a sum of £450 had been invested on the capital account, and a balance of £61 5s 11d remained in the Treasurer's and Matron's hands. Hospital Sunday might be regarded as an established institution, and the Committee desired to express their thanks to the clergy and ministers of all denominations for advocating the cause of the charity in their respective Churches and Chapels, by which the sum of £158 19s 4d had been added to its funds. The Committee regretted the falling off of the Hospital Saturday fund, which had been £10 11s 7d, as compared with £16 11s 0d for the previous year, not so much in respect of the amount as from the fact that the class of persons who had been invited to contribute to this fund were amongst those who derived the largest benefit from the Infirmary. They were, however, pleased to state that the employés of public works had contributed £42 18s 5d towards the funds of the charity. 323 in-patients and 3,223 out-patients had been admitted during the year, and the invested capital amounted to £3,065.

A special meeting of the Committee was held on the 14th November, 1876, when Messrs. Hugh Ruscombe Poole, Francis John Crane Parsons, John George Sully, and Joseph Richards Smith, were appointed Trustees jointly with the surviving Trustee, Mr. Edward Lilly, instead of Messrs. John Browne, Gabriel Stone Poole, John Lovell Sealey, and John Woodland, respectively deceased, and the Chairman was requested to see that the deed of appointment was legally prepared.

At a special meeting of the Committee of

the Poole Memorial Fund, a statement of accounts was produced showing that the total outlay amounted to £643 14s 8d, the whole of which (including £170 and £70 given by two donors) had been voluntarily contributed by the subscribers and friends of the Infirmary. Resolutions were passed thanking the subscribers for their liberal contributions in aid of the memorial fund, and it was decided that an inscription (of which the following is a copy) should be engraved on a brass plate and placed in a prominent position in the entrance hall of the Infirmary :—

### *In Memoriam.*

*The new front elevation and portico  
of this Infirmary,  
And the new ward called " The Poole Ward,"  
were erected by subscription,  
In memory of **Gabriel Stone Poole**,  
who died on the 25th of March, 1876,  
Having been through life a zealous supporter of the  
Institution,  
and for thirty years before his death  
Chairman of the Committee of Management.*  
*(Signed)*  
*R. A. Loraine-Grews, President.*  
*Edward Lilly, Honorary Secretary.*  
1876.

It was ordered that the audited statement of account and resolutions and the proposed inscription be printed, and a copy thereof sent to each Subscriber.

It may be here mentioned that the Poole family had been promoters and friends of the Institution, the first Mr. Ruscombe Poole being amongst the number of those who assisted in its establishment, followed by his son, Mr. G. S. Poole, the Chairman of Committee, who was succeeded by his brother, Mr. Joseph Ruscombe Poole ; and Mr. Walter J. R. Poole, the son of the latter, is at the present time a member of the Committee of Management.

At a Committee meeting a sub-Committee was appointed to ascertain what work remained to be done for the improvements in the Infirmary, which were not included in Messrs. Chedzey's contract, and to take necessary steps for carrying out such works, and providing such fixtures and furniture as might be requisite.

The Committee at a meeting held on the 7th of July, 1877, expressed their regret that Mr. George Parker should have felt it

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

21

necessary, from advanced age, to retire from the office of Vice-Chairman, and their sense of the great value of his long and assiduous attention to the duties of that office.

A general meeting of the subscribers was held on the 11th of October, 1877, when the Committee reported favourably of the transactions for the past year; that a sum of £335 had been added to the reserve fund, raising the amount to £3,400; and that there was a balance of £90 17s 6d in the Treasurer's and Matron's hands. The Committee had satisfaction in reporting that from constant efforts made by them to reduce the expenditure for beer, wine and spirits, the cost for the past year was £57 15s 9d, being the smallest sum expended under that head in any one year, since 1865. An outlay of £102 16s 2d had been made in alterations and repairs, consequent on the recent additions to the building, which had improved the internal accommodation of the Infirmary. A further outlay of upwards of £100 had been made in furniture and the surgical department, out of the ordinary income of the Institution.

The internal accommodation of the house consisted, on the ground floor, of a spacious entrance Hall, the House Surgeon's sitting-room, used also as a Committee room, a large waiting-room for out-patients, three consulting-rooms for the Medical Officers, a surgery, two small wards for the isolation of infectious cases (which might be developed after a patient had been in the Infirmary, such cases being inadmissible under the rules), a matron's-room, convenient and well-arranged domestic offices and laundry, a handsome stone stair-case, and gallery. On the first floor there are three spacious and well ventilated wards, a well-lighted operating-room, and surgical ward contiguous, a large and well furnished women's day-room, Matron's, House Surgeon's, and two nurses' bed-rooms. On the second floor is the " Poole Ward " for women, a nurse's sitting-room, a nurse's bed-room, servants' bed-room, &c.

There is accommodation in the Infirmary for 40 patients, but 35 beds only have been occupied at any one time.

At a Committee meeting on the 7th of March, 1878, the Secretary reported that Mrs. W. T. Holland and some other ladies had raised a sum of £30, for the purpose of securing one bed at the Weston-super-Mare Sanatorium, for one year, from the 9th March,

1878, for the use of convalescent patients of the Infirmary, each patient to contribute an additional sum of 2s per week during his or her stay in the Sanatorium. Thanks were voted to Mrs. Holland and others who had subscribed to the fund, and the Medical Officers were requested to make such selection amongst the convalescent patients most needing the benefits of the Sanatorium. The arrangement has since been continued.

The question of a testimonial to Mr. John Parsons, the senior Medical Officer of the Infirmary, was mooted at a special meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Institution, convened by the late Mr. Edward Saunders, then President for the year, in the month of April, 1878, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

*That this meeting desires to record its high appreciation of the valuable and gratuitous services of Mr. John Parsons, the Senior Medical Officer of the Bridgwater Infirmary, which have been so efficiently rendered by him for the continuous period of 33 years, and that in the opinion of this meeting the time has arrived when such services should be recognised in some substantial manner by way of testimonial."*

A sum of more than £100 was subscribed at the meeting. A Committee, of which Mr. Lilly was the Honorary Secretary, was appointed to take the necessary steps for carrying this resolution into effect.

As evidencing Mr. Parsons' popularity and the high appreciation of his valuable services, immediately after the determination became publicly known, subscriptions flowed in from all quarters (and not the less gratifying were the contributions of several patients who had derived great benefit under Mr. Parsons' treatment) until a sum amounting to more than £450 had been received. A Subcommittee obtained through Mr. James Rich, jeweller, &c., of Bridgwater, a magnificent and massive silver centre piece, with three figures, representing Benevolence, Esculapius, and Medicine, with three boy figures of frosted silver on the angles of the base, the base and shield being of gilt, with the arms and crest of the recipient engraved thereon, and beautifully ornamented with foliage, ferns, and palms; and four dessert stands to correspond, the latter having also boy figures, with gilt bases. A case of six apostle spoons and sugar ladle of silver and gilt accompanied the centre piece. On the base of such centre piece there is an engraved inscription, of which the following is a copy :—

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

22

*Presented to John Parsons, Esquire, F.R.C.S., Senior Medical Officer of the Bridgwater Infirmary, by the friends and supporters of the Institution, and by patients mindful of its benefits, as an expression of their thanks for his gratuitous services and unremitting kindness for period of 33 years."*

A public luncheon was held on the 29th of August, 1878, attended by about 120 ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, at which Mr. Parsons was invited for the purpose of presenting to him the before-mentioned testimonial. Mr. Joseph Ruscombe Poole presided (in the absence of Mr. Edward Saunders, the President, who was unable to attend). After the usual loyal and other toasts had been disposed of, the Chairman, having caused the testimonial which had been placed before him to be uncovered (which was the signal for an outburst of applause), addressed Mr. Parsons in complimentary and eloquent terms, and said that all he had to do was to ask Mr. Parsons' acceptance of the testimonial, and to express a hope that it might for years to come decorate his home, and when it should descend to generations yet unborn might it record the fact 'that it came from an ancestor, who gained the love and esteem of his fellow men, and kindle in their hearts a desire to live for others and not for themselves. The Chairman concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Parsons.

Mr. Parsons on rising was greeted with loud applause. He said it was comparatively an easy matter to return thanks for the very kind and flattering manner in which his health had been proposed, and to thank every one present for the enthusiastic way in which they had responded to that toast, but it was beyond his power to express his gratitude to all who had so kindly attended that day, for the very handsome testimonial that had been presented to him. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Parsons referred to the small dimensions of the Infirmary Building, and its very indifferent accommodation in almost every respect, when he was first appointed a Medical Officer. Since that time a large outlay had been made from time to time in additions and improvements by the munificence of its supporters, and they had then a large, well-ventilated, and commodious building, with every internal convenience, and all necessary medical and surgical appliances. Mr. Parsons, in concluding his remarks, expressed his deep gratitude to the subscribers and friends for the very elegant and costly testimonial so

kindly and generously presented to him, which could not fail to be highly gratifying both to himself and to the members of his family.

The late Mrs. John Browne in 1878 presented to the Infirmary a portrait of her late brother, Mr. William Pine (who had bequeathed by his will the handsome sum of £205). It was placed in the gallery of the first floor of the building.

At the anniversary meeting of the 22nd of October, 1878, the Committee had the satisfaction to report a large increase in the amount of annual subscriptions, although £29 11s 0d had been lost during the past year by the death of several subscribers, and by others removing from the neighbourhood. New and increased subscriptions had been added to the list to the extent of £37 5s 6d, which made the amount £512 18s 0d. The number of subscribers was 393. The Committee referred with pleasure to the association formed by the late Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Holland, and other ladies of the town and neighbourhood, for the purpose of sending convalescent patients to the Weston-super-Mare Sanatorium. As there might be difficulty in raising the full sum required, the Committee recommended that a sum not exceeding £10 should be contributed out of the funds of the Infirmary to meet any deficiency. 377 in-patients and 2474 out-patients, had been admitted during the past year, and the reserve fund amounted to £3800.

At the anniversary meeting of the 16th of October, 1879, Mr. Clement Neville Brameld, Licentiate of Dental Surgery, was appointed Honorary Dental Surgeon in the place of Mr. Frederick R. Prideaux, deceased.

The Committee reported that the whole of the expenditure of the past year had been met, that £150 had been added to the reserve fund, and that there was a balance of £103 19s 3d in the Treasurer's and matron's hands.

## CHAPTER IX.

At a Committee meeting, held on the 2nd of September, 1880, Mr. Lewis having resigned the post of House Apothecary, a vote of thanks was accorded him for the satisfactory manner in which he had discharged his duties for a period of 5 years, and a gratuity of £10 was presented to him as a small recognition of his valuable services. Mr. J. H. Hart was appointed House Apothecary in the place of Mr. Lewis, subject to one month's notice to

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

23

determine the engagement.

Mr. Lilly having resigned the office of Honorary Secretary, which he had held for a period of 30 years, at a Committee meeting preliminary to the anniversary meeting, held on the 13th of October, 1881, the question was discussed as to what would be a suitable testimonial on his retirement from the office which he had so long held. This having been mentioned to Mr. Lilly, and the wishes of the Committee having been explained, he expressed his great thanks for their most kind and generous intentions, but, having regard to the fact that in the year 1876 a very valuable testimonial had been presented to him, which he regarded as a more than ample recognition not only for his past, but also for any future services he might render; he did not feel that he could avail himself of the kind suggestions of the Committee.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers on the 13th of October, 1881, the Committee reported as follows:—

*“ It is with great regret that your Committee have to report the resignation of Mr. Lilly, of the office of Honorary Secretary. After some years of very useful assistance to the Infirmary as a Member of the Committee, Mr. Lilly, in the year 1851, kindly consented to undertake the onerous duties of the Secretaryship. From that day your Committee have had the pleasure of reporting every year that the Institution was in a position of financial soundness, and of ever-growing efficiency. It is needless for your Committee to point out for how much of this satisfactory state of things the Institution is indebted to Mr. Lilly's indefatigable and gratuitous exertions.*

*“ Mr. Lilly has most kindly held his office, after the period at which he would have been glad to retire, in the hope of a successor appearing ready to devote himself to the same honourable task. Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that Mr. Coombs, who has been for some years Mr. Lilly's partner, and a zealous member of the Committee, has kindly consented to undertake the office of Secretary. He is well known to your Committee and to the Subscribers generally; and your Committee feel that there is much reason for congratulation in the vacancy, which Mr. Lilly's resignation creates, being filled by another volunteer, able and willing to tread in the steps of his predecessor. In losing Mr. Lilly's services as Secretary, your Committee will not lose him as a member of their body, whose experience and good judgment will be of the greatest assistance in their labours.”*

A brass tablet was placed in the entrance hall of the Infirmary with an inscription engraved thereon, of which the following is a

copy:—

*In Testimonium.*

*On the 13th of October, 1881, Mr. Edward Lilly retired from the Honorary Secretaryship of the Bridgwater Infirmary, having held that office for Thirty Years. During this long period he promoted the objects of the Institution with energy, ability, and success.*

*In pursuance of a resolution of the Subscribers passed at the annual meeting, held on the 13th of October, 1881, a Tablet has been erected in the Entrance Hall of the Infirmary, in grateful acknowledgment of his gratuitous and valuable services.*

*M. Fenwick Bissett, M.P., President.*

*John Coombs, Honorary Secretary.*

A beautifully illuminated copy of such inscription, on vellum, mounted in a handsome gilt frame, was presented to Mr. Lilly by the subscribers.

The Committee further reported that a handsome donation of a thousand guineas had been received through Messrs. G. and R. Poole, from Mr. Philip Hewitt, a Roman Catholic gentleman, who had been abroad for many years, but who had previously resided in this neighbourhood. The Hospital Sunday collections had amounted to £204; the Hospital Saturday Fund amounted to £20 11s 9d, from employes of public works to, £21 13s 6d, and £1050 had been added to the Reserve Fund, which raised the amount to £5000.

At the anniversary meeting held on the 13th October, 1882, the Committee reported that there had been an increased number of in-patients, that the expenditure had exceeded the ordinary income, and that the balance in hand at the commencement of the year, and a donation of £100 had been exhausted, leaving a small balance in the Treasurer's hands.

The Committee further reported that they had the gratification to announce that during the past year a generous gift of 60a. 0r. 17p. of freehold land, in the parish of Glastonbury (the purchase money of which was £4,500), had been made by James Broadmead, Esq., of Langport. The lands had been conveyed to six gentlemen upon trust, to apply the net rents arising therefrom as a perpetual aid to the annual income of the Charity. *“This munificent gift is without precedent in the history of the Infirmary. The Committee that not only all the subscribers and friends of the Institution, but all who in any way take an interest in its welfare will unite with them in according to Mr.*

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

24

*Broadmead their warmest thanks for his kind and most generous endowment."*

A special vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Broadmead by the subscribers.

The Committee also reported that Mr. A. E. Saunders had been appointed House Apothecary on the resignation of Mr. Cox, subject to a month's notice to determine the engagement.

At a Committee meeting held on the 2nd of August, 1883, Mrs. Atkin having resigned the office of matron, which she had held for several years, it was resolved that a testimonial should be given to her, signed by the Chairman of Committee and the Honorary Secretary, expressing the satisfactory way in which she had discharged the duties of Matron, especially in the housekeeping department. At such meeting Miss Corven was appointed in her place at a salary of £40 a year, subject to three months' notice to determine the engagement.

At a meeting of the Committee on the 24th of August, 1883, the Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Saunders, resigning his appointment as House Apothecary, and *giving one* month's notice, but it was found that he had left Bridgwater the previous day, without giving any intimation of his intention. Mr. Max Sully, then a medical pupil of Mr. Winterbotham's, kindly undertook the duties of House Apothecary until a new appointment had been made.

Since the last Committee meeting the Secretary had, in accordance with the instructions of the Committee, made a temporary engagement with Mr. Clifton Sturt as House Apothecary and Dispenser, from the 10th of September, 1883, at £1 per week and all found.

At the anniversary meeting held on the 29th of October 1883, the Committee, in their report, had the gratification of announcing that Mr. James Broadmead, of Langport, in addition to the sum of £4500 referred to in the last annual report, which had been laid out in the purchase of land, and conveyed to Trustees for the benefit of the Infirmary, the Committee had again the satisfaction of gratefully acknowledging a further gift of 26a. lr. 28p. of valuable freehold land, in the parish of Wembdon, near Bridgwater, which had been recently purchased by him at a cost of £2,875. This land had also been conveyed to Trustees, the net rents of which were also

to be applied as a further perpetual aid to the income of the Institution. The munificent gifts, amounting together to the sum of £7375, considerably exceeded the entire amount of the reserve fund for the whole period during which the Institution has been established. A special vote of thanks was given to Mr. James Broadmead for his further kind and munificent gift.

The Committee had pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of a handsome donation of 50 guineas, presented by Mr. James Cook, then Town Clerk of Bridgwater, in aid of the objects of the Ladies' Association, in connection with the Weston-super-Mare Sanatorium, to be applied in such manner as Mrs. Holland and the Committee might think most advisable. This sum was afterwards invested in the joint name of the Treasurer and Mrs. Holland, the interest of which was to be applied in aid of the funds of the Association, in connection with the Weston Sanatorium.

The Committee considered that the time had arrived, having regard to the large number of patients admitted into the Infirmary, when a qualified House Surgeon should be appointed. This annual meeting was made special pursuant to notice inserted in the local papers, and a resolution passed empowering the Committee to appoint or discharge a House Surgeon to the Infirmary.

At a meeting of the Committee on the 8th of November, 1883, a letter was read from Mr. J. Ruscombe Poole, resigning his appointment of Chairman of the Committee of Management, from the fact that he was seldom in Bridgwater.

A resolution was passed by the Committee expressing regret at his resignation, and recording their\* high appreciation of the valuable assistance which he had so kindly and efficiently rendered for many years, and that a copy of such resolution, signed by the Chairman and Secretary, should be sent to Mr. Poole.

At a Committee meeting on the 3rd January, 1884, Mr. Clifton Sturt was appointed House Apothecary of the Institution from the 1st of January, 1884, at a salary of £65 a year, subject to a month's notice on either side to determine the engagement.

As the time of the House Apothecary was much occupied in accompanying the Medical Officers through the wards, on the days of



# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

25

their attendance an assistant dispenser was engaged for a few hours in the morning of such days, at the rate of £10 a year.

A resolution was passed at a meeting of the Committee that members of provident clubs or other persons who were already provided with medical assistance should not be admitted as out-patients except in cases of emergency or where operative proceedings were necessary.

Directions having been given to the House Apothecary, he reported that he had obtained dietary tables from several Hospitals, and a scale for the Bridgwater Infirmary having been laid before the Committee, and being carefully considered with the assistance of the medical officers such scale was approved and adopted, and copies were printed for the use of the Institution.

It should be specially noticed that the number of in-patients admitted for the year ending the 1st of September, 1884, had apparently diminished to 222, as compared with 354 for the previous year. This arose from the fact that up to the 1st September, 1883, from the date of the establishment of the Infirmary, every patient admitted who had been in the House over the period of one month, was entered in the in-patients' book, as a new patient; so that each patient was counted as many times as he or she had been months in the House. This was so misleading that the Honorary Secretary altered the system, and each patient was entered as one only who had been in the House for any number of months.

At the annual meeting of the 8th of October, 1885, the Committee stated that it was with much regret that they had to report the death of Mr. P. Farmer, one of the valued medical officers of the Institution, who had acted in that capacity for upwards of 18 years, and they desired to express their sympathy with the family in the bereavement they had sustained.

A special general meeting of the Subscribers was held pursuant to notice on the 5th of November, 1885, for the purpose of appointing a Medical Officer to succeed the late Mr. Farmer; Mr. Lilly, President for the year, in the chair; the following gentlemen offered themselves as candidates for the appointment (their several diplomas having been examined and found satisfactory by the Committee of Management), viz : Mr. Timothy Daly, and Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, Licentiate of

the Royal College of Physicians, &c.. Edinburgh ; Mr. Henry Marcus Kemmis, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and Licentiate of King's and Queen's Colleges of Physicians, Ireland; Mr. Thomas Marsden, Doctor of Medicine of the Aberdeen College of Physicians, Master of Surgery of the Aberdeen College of Physicians, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England; and Mr. John Bain Sincock, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London. The show of hands being largely in favour of Mr. Kemmis, he was declared duly elected an Honorary Medical Officer of the Infirmary.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 22nd September, 1886, the House Apothecary's salary was increased to £70 a year.

At the annual meeting held on the 14th of October, 1886, the Committee had the satisfaction of reporting that although the past year had not been marked by any circumstance of a special character, the comfort and well-being of the patients has been well looked after in every respect, and the efficiency of the Institution had been fully maintained, the sum of £100 had been added to the reserve fund, and a large balance remained in the Treasurer's hands.

At the anniversary meeting, of the 11th of October, 1887, Mr. Lilly (late Honorary Secretary), President for the year, in the chair, the Committee had the gratification of reporting that as to the nursing in the Institution decided progress had been made. Some years previous the nursing was a weak point in the Infirmary; the nurses then engaged not having had the benefit of special training for their work. As changes had occurred from time to time, skilled nurses had been obtained, and the Committee were then able to report that all the day and night nurses in the establishment were trained and certificated.

The Hospital Sunday and Saturday Fund had maintained about the usual average. The number of in-patients had been 192, as against 188 for the previous year, and the out patients had been 1673. The President during his year of Office had given to the Institution a third donation of £70, in aid of its funds, and also a handsome and large-size mahogany book case, an invalid carrying chair, a self propelling chair, and eight-day spring clock, several useful articles of

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

26

furniture, and subsequently a set of dining tables for the men's outer ward.

At a special meeting of the Committee, held on the 10th of November, 1887, Mr. A. Max Sully, a duly qualified medical man, was appointed House Surgeon of the Institution (being the first appointment of the kind) for one year, from the 1st of December then next for one year certain, at £80 a year, to be terminated at the end of that period by giving three months' previous notice.

At the annual meeting of the 18th of October, 1888, the Committee reported that the most striking feature in the transactions of the year was the large increase in the in-patients: the number admitted was 252, as compared with 192 for the previous year. Many of these cases, both surgical and medical, were of a severe character, necessitating a protracted stay in the Infirmary. The number of out-patients had been 1669, being practically the same as last year.

Various branches of income had, for several reasons, shown considerable fluctuation during the last year. The Committee regretted that there had been a further falling off in the annual subscriptions; and a hope was expressed that as the cloud of depression which had been hanging over the country for so long a period, showed some signs of lifting, the falling off in the annual subscriptions would not only be stayed, but that a steady increase would set in. *"This important branch of income is constantly lessened by deaths and removals, and the Committee would confidently appeal to those who are competent to subscribe, and also to fresh arrivals in the town and neighbourhood to fill up the ranks."*

The Committee also regretted to state that the Hospital Sunday fund had shown a large falling off, the sum received being £105 13s 4d, compared with £187 7s 0d for the previous year. This might be attributed in great measure to the unfavourable season of 1888. The Committee were satisfied that there was no lack of earnestness on the part of the clergy and ministers in advocating the cause of the charity, and no diminished interest on the part of the givers, and they therefore felt that this important and highly appreciated branch of income would regain its former position.

The expenditure for the year had been unusually large, which might be accounted

for from the fact that a largely increased number of patients had been admitted during the year. This expenditure had been met, and there was a small balance of £5, in favour of the charity, and while the Committee were thankful in having been able to accomplish this, they desired to call attention to the fact that the expenditure of the Institution, for the past year, had exceeded its legitimate current income. They hoped that the mention of this fact would cause the subscribers and friends of the charity to give their continued and unwavering support to an Institution which had for three quarters of a century done so much to alleviate the suffering of the poor, in the town of Bridgwater and neighbourhood, and which they hoped and believed was destined to be increasingly useful in the future.

The capital of the Infirmary then amounted to £5,350, invested at interest on mortgage and other sound securities, in addition to which the infirmary received the income of lands at Wembdon and Glastonbury, purchased at a cost of £7,375, by Mr. James Broadmead, of Langport, for the benefit of the Institution in perpetuity.

At a special Committee meeting, held on the 25th of October, 1888 Miss Corven, who had been for several years matron of the Infirmary, having resigned from ill health, Miss Alice Tearoe was appointed matron in her place, at a salary of £40 a year, subject to a month's notice, to determine the engagement.

At a Committee meeting, held on the 19th November, 1888, Mr. A. Max Sully, the House Surgeon, having given notice to resign his appointment at the end of the year, as originally agreed on, the Committee desired to express their regret at losing his efficient and valuable services, which had given so much satisfaction during the short period he had been connected with the Institution. Mr. F. B. Farmer, M. R. C. S. (a son of the late Mr. F. Farmer, one of the medical officers of the Infirmary) being duly qualified, was appointed, at a salary of £80, with board, lodging, &c., in the house, for one year certain, but that the engagement could be terminated at the end of the year by three months' previous notice being given, or at any subsequent date by a similar notice.

At the seventy-sixth anniversary meeting of the Infirmary, held on the 17th of October, 1889, the Committee presented to the subscribers a favourable report of the affairs

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

27

of the Institution. The number of in-patients during the financial year had amounted to 258, shewing a slight increase over that of the previous year ; but there had been a large increase in the number of out-patients, the figures being 1746, as compared with 1669 for the previous year. This is the largest number admitted for many years past. It was a subject for regret that the amount of annual subscriptions had been falling off for some years, the sum for the past year being £406 0s 0d only, as compared with £418 19s 5d for the year 1879. Great importance is, of course, attached to this branch of the income of the charity, and now that better times have set in it is hoped that the amount will be largely increased, and regain its former satisfactory position. With increasing demands on the resources of the charity it does not appear satisfactory that such a source of its annual income should have so materially fallen off.

It was announced that during the previous year bequests had been made of £100 by the Rev. Alexander Luttrell, late of East Quantoxhead, and of £200, less legacy duty, by Mr. George Lovibond, late of Horton House, Ilminster; and but for these very opportune bequests, the financial statement would have shewn a balance of £136 2s 9d against the Infirmary, its ordinary receipts being insufficient to meet the expenditure. The Committee had also the satisfaction of reporting that "*Mr. Francis James Thompson, a respected townsman of Bridgwater, and the representatives of his late brother, Mr. Charles Thompson, J.P., of Cardiff, had most generously presented to the Infirmary the valuable freehold dwelling-house, large garden, and premises, immediately contiguous to the Infirmary property. For the present the property will be let, and its income applied to the general purposes of the Infirmary, but will always be available for any additions or improvements that may at any future period be required, to be added to the present building.*"

At a Committee meeting held on the 18th of November, 1889, Miss Tearoe having resigned the office of Matron, Miss A. L. Smith (who had been highly recommended) was appointed to supply the vacancy, at a salary of £40 a year, subject to three months' notice on either side to terminate the engagement.

On the 29th of November, 1889, Mr. E. R. Farmer having resigned the post of House Surgeon to the Infirmary, Mr. T. E. Spencer, M.R.C.S. England, &c., after due

inquiries, was appointed in his stead, at a salary of £80, on the usual terms as to notice to terminate the engagement. .

Here let us make a retrospective pause. We have traced the fortunes of this noble Institution from its humble birth to its present vigorous prime ; and what voice can speak, what pen chronicle, a tithe of the incalculable good done by its aid, thanks to the help of a long line of good Samaritans, many of whom, although they have passed to that bourn from whence no travellers return, are cherished in the memories of those left behind. If

*"The actions of the just  
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust,"*

what a wealth of sweet-smelling savours must cling around our Infirmary !

To-day the Institution is second to none, in importance and usefulness, in the town. From the date of its establishment, in 1813, to the first September last (a period of 76 years), no less than 11,621 in-patients have been treated, whilst 73,793 outpatients have been relieved. Dental operations have numbered 4,173. The total amount of expenditure has been £49,752 6s 6d. The first cost of the original Infirmary buildings was £900, since which time £2,500 has been expended in alterations and improvements ; total £3,400. The capital or reserve fund (invested on good security) amounts to £5,350. In addition to this there are the endowments already detailed at length—land to the value of £7,375 given by Mr. James Broadmead ; and the freehold dwelling-house adjoining the Infirmary. May the Institution long continue to exert its humanising and beneficent influence in the town; and may it find as many generous friends in the future as it has in the past.

## APPENDIX.

The affairs of the Infirmary are managed by a Committee of eight members, who are elected by the subscribers at their annual meeting (four of whom retire annually). Of two of the present Committee, Mr. Holland and Mr. Rowe, chairman and vice-chairman, it may be said that they have taken a most active and painstaking part in the management for the past 15 years. Mr. John Coombs, the present Honorary Secretary, who was elected in the year 1881, is an *ex officio* member of the Committee. He has continued the course adopted by his predecessor, in the collection of all the annual subscriptions every year, since his appointment, without leaving a single

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

28

outstanding arrear. He has managed and received the rents of the lands, so generously presented by Mr. James Broadmead, attended all the meetings of the Committee, kept the minutes of all their proceedings, and generally managed the affairs of the Institution with great efficiency and zeal, during the whole time that he has held the office of Honorary Secretary.

The staff of the Infirmary consists of four medical officers (acting gratuitously) and a house surgeon, &c., as follows

Mr. John Parsons, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, England (elected December 1845). This is the medical officer to whom a Testimonial was presented in 1878. Mr. Parsons has served the Infirmary for nearly 45 years.

Mr. W. L. Winterbotham, M.B., London, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England (elected October 8, 1863).

Mr. F. J. C. Parsons, L.R.C.P., London, and Member of the University Royal College of Surgeons, England (elected January 25th, 1872).

Mr. H. M. Kemmis, L.K.Q.C.R., I., and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England (elected November 5, 1885).

Mr. T. E. Spencer, M.R.C.S.E., House Surgeon.

Mr. C. Neville Brameld, Licentiate of Dental Surgery, appointed in 1880.

Miss A. L. Smith, Matron.

Two Auditors are annually appointed.

## **PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, AND SECRETARIES.**

The following is a list of the Honorary Physicians, Surgeons, and Secretaries, from the date of the establishment of the Infirmary:—

### **PHYSICIANS.**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Dunning       | Dr. Cubett   |
| Dr. Haviland      | Dr. Gapper   |
| Dr. Marshall Hall | Dr. Southby. |
| Dr. MacMullen     |              |

### **SURGEONS.**

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Jonathan Toogood | Mr. Richard Axford     |
| Mr. Henry Axford     | Mr. Alfred Haviland    |
| Mr. Haviland         | Mr. W. L. Winterbotham |
| Mr. Stradling        | Mr. John Masters       |
| Mr. T. N. Davis      | Mr. Henry Brook        |
| Mr. Wm. Trevor       | Mr. W. H. Axford       |

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. John Giles Toogood | Mr. F. J. C. Parsons |
| Mr. James Coles Parker | Mr. Fredk. Farmer    |
| Mr. John Parsons       | Mr. H. M. Kemmis.    |

### **SECRETARIES.**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Morley Chubb   | Mr. W. J. Heard  |
| Mr. Charles Trevor | Mr. H. C. Heard  |
| Mr. T. H. Watson   | Mr. E. Lilly     |
| Mr. Clifford Gill  | Mr. John Coombs. |

### **PRESIDENTS OF THE INSTITUTION.**

1814 Sir Philip Hales, Bart  
1816 Jeffreys Allen, Esq.  
1817 Jeffreys Allen, Esq.  
1818 Rev. Elias Taylor  
1819 Joseph Jeffery, Esq.  
1820 Sir Alexander Hood, Bart  
1820 Charles Kemeys Kemeys Tynte, Esq., M. P.  
1822 William Dickinson, Esq.  
1823 Sir Thomas B. Lethbridge, Bart., M. P.  
1824 Vincent Stuckey, Esq.  
1825 John Evered, Esq.  
1826 P. P. Palmer Ackland, Esq. (afterwards Sir Peregrine)  
1827 Rev. Lord John Thynne.  
1828 Major General Slade  
1829 Robert Guy Evered, Esq.  
1830 William Astell, Esq. M. P.  
1831 Charles John Kemeys Tynte, Esq.  
1832 George Warry, Esq.  
1833 Francis Popham, Esq.  
1834 Francis Fownes Luttrell, Esq.  
1835 Rupert Guy Evered, Esq.  
1836 Hon. and Rev. George N. Grenville  
1837 Hon. Phillip Pleydell Bouverie  
1838 Henry Bull Strangeways, Esq.  
1839 Thomas Dyke Acland, Esq., M. P.  
1840 Andrew Cross, Esq  
1841 F. H. Dickinson, Esq. M.P.  
1842 Bickham Escott, Esq., M.P.  
1843 John Philpotts, Esq., M.P.  
1844 Right Honourable Lord Clifford.  
1845 Ralph Neville, Esq., M.P.  
1846 Right Honourable the Earl of Cavan.  
1847 Henry Broadway, Esq., M.P.  
1848 The Right Hon. Lord Taunton.  
1849 The Right Hon. Lord Taunton.  
1850 John Roy Allen, Esq.  
1851 E. U. Vidal, Esq.,  
1852 B. S. Follett, Esq., M.P.  
1853 Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart.  
1854 C. A. Moody, Esq., M.P.  
1855 Jonathan Toogood, Esq., M.D.  
1856 Sir P. P. F. P. Acland, Bart.  
1857 A. W. Kinglake, Esq., M. P.  
1858 H. A. F. Luttrell, Esq.

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

29

1859 Sir Frederick W. Slade, Bart.  
1860 John Clavel Mansell, Esq.  
1861 W. Gore Langton, Esq., M.P.  
1862 Lieutenant-Colonel Graham.  
1863 Philip Pleydell Bouverie, Esq.  
1864 Colonel Pinney. '  
1865 Henry Westropp, Esq.  
1866 Philip Vanderbyl, Esq., M.P.  
1867 Gabriel Stone Poole, Esq.  
1868 Sir Alfred Slade, Bart.  
1869 Joseph Ruscombe Poole, Esq.  
1871 Captain Victor G. Hickley, R.N.  
1871 John Lovell Sealy, Esq.  
1872 Benjamin Cuff Greenhill, Esq.  
1873 T. P. Broadmead, Esq.  
1874 Edward James Stanley, Esq.  
1875 Captain R. A. Loraine-Grews. .  
1876 Lieut.-Colonel The Hon. A W. Hood, M.P.  
1877 Edward Saunders, Esq.  
1878 Vincent Stuckey, Esq.  
1879 The Rev. Henry A. Daniel.  
1880 Mordaunt Fenwick-Bisset, Esq., M. P.  
1881 John Toller Nicholetts, Esq.  
1882 William Gooding, Esq.  
1883 Colonel C. K. Kemeys Tynte.  
1884 Charles I. Elton, Esq., Q.C., M.P.  
1885 Edward Lilly, Esq.  
1886 E. G. Broderip, Esq.  
1887 R. Moss King, Esq.  
1888 R. E. Price, Esq., Broomfield Hall.  
1889 F. Valiant, Esq.

## **PREACHERS OF THE ANNUAL SERMON**

### **In St. Mary's Church in aid of the Funds of the Institution**

1820 Rev. Henry Stanbury.  
1821 Rev. John Poole.  
1822 Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Gloucester.  
1823 Rev. Walter King.  
1824 The Venerable Archdeacon Trevelyan.  
1825 Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.  
1826 Rev. Noel Thomas Ellison.  
1827 Rev. W. Gordon.  
1828 Rev. John Barnwell.  
1829 Rev! Lord John Thynne.  
1830 The Venerable Archdeacon Hamilton.  
1831 Rev. Canon Pulsford.  
1832 Rev. Samuel Starkey.  
1833 Rev. John N. King.  
1834 Very Rev. Dr. Goodenough, Dean of Wells.  
1835 Rev. W. T. Parr, Brymore.  
1836 Rev. Canon Woodhouse.  
1837 Rev. Jonathan James Toogood.  
1838 Rev. T. B. Coney.  
1839 Honourable and Rev. G. Neville Grenville.  
1840 Rev. John H. Pinder, Wells.  
1841 Honourable and Rev: Chancellor Law.  
1842 Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Exeter.

1843 Rev. J. T. Roswell.  
1844 Rev. D. Nihill, Vicar of Bridgwater.  
1845 Rev. Joseph Ditcher, Vicar of South Brent.  
1846 Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Dean of Wells.  
1847 Rev. W. F. Neville, Vicar of Butleigh.  
1848 Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.  
1849 Rev. George Anthony Dennison, M. A.  
Vicar of East Brent.  
1850 Rev. T. G. James, Vicar of Bridgwater.  
1851 Rev. A. Trewman, Vicar of North Petherton.  
1852 Rev. R. J. Luscombe, M. A. Vicar of Moorlinch.  
1853 Rev. T. Mason., M. A.,  
Vicar of Shapwick & Ashcott.  
1854 Rev. R. J. Stephenson, M. A.  
Rector of Lympsham.  
1855 Rev. John Sedgewick, M. A.  
Curate of Greinton.  
1856 Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.  
1857 Rev. M. F. Sadler, Vicar of Bridgwater.  
1858 Rev. George Trevor, Canon of York.  
1859 Rev. W. E. Buller, M. A.  
Rural Dean and Vicar of Over Stowey.  
1860 Rev. W. R. Clark,  
Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton.  
1861 Rev. W. C. Lake, Vicar of Huntspill.  
1862 Rev. T. B. Coney, Vicar of Pucklechurch.  
1863 Rev. E. Huxtable, Vicar of Westonzoyland.  
1864 Rev. W. G. Fitzgerald, Vicar of Bridgwater.  
1865 Rev. J. W. Robinson, Vicar of North Petherton.  
1866 Rev. F. J. Smith, Incumbent of St John's Taunton.  
1867 Rev. J. H. Macaulay,  
Incumbent of St John's Highbridge.  
1868 Rev. T. Dupuis, Vicar of Burnham  
1969 Rev. J. Y. Rector of Aller.  
1870 Hon and Right Rev. Lord Bishop of  
Bath and Wells.  
1871 Rev. J. D. Oland Crosse, M. A. Vicar of Pawlett  
1873 Rev. Henry Wall, M. A. Rector of Huntspill.  
1872 Rev. William Pope, M. A., Rector of Cossington.  
1874 Rev. J. G. Lonsdale, M. A., Vicar of Huntspill.  
1875 Rev. Churchill Julius, M. A.  
Vicar of Shapwick & Ashcott  
1876 Rev. Frederick Meade-King, M. A.,  
Vicar of of Stoke Courcy  
1877 Rev. Henry A. Daniel, Rector of Stockland Bristol  
1878 Rev. Frederick Seale, B. A.  
Vicar of St John's Bridgwater  
1879 Rev. A. H. Lutman, Vicar of Westonzoyland  
1980 Rev. C. E. Unwin, Rector of Cossington  
1881 Rev. W. Wheeler Aldridge, M. A.  
Vicar of Woolavington & Puriton  
1882 Rev. W. Westcott, Vicar of Highbridge  
1883 Rev. George Trevor,  
Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bridgwater  
1884 Rev. Arthur Newman,  
Vicar of Wembdon  
1885 Rev. Prebendary Rowley, M. A.  
Vicar of Woolavington  
1886 Rev. G. Eden Peake, M. A.  
Vicar of St John's Bridgwater  
1887 Rev. E. Tapsfield, M. A.  
Vicar of Nether Stowey  
1888 Rev. C. Bazell, Vicar of Bridgwater  
1889 Rev. E. S. Elwell, Vicar of Edington

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

30

|   |           |  |            |
|---|-----------|--|------------|
| William Astell, Esq.  | £150 0 0  | Thomas S. Forman, Esq., M.P.               | £25 0 0    |
| Jeffreys Allen, Esq   | £25 0 0   | Miss S. Axford                             | £100 0 0   |
| Mr John Dunning   | £21 0 0   | John Roy Allen, Esq.                       | £40 0 0    |
| Sir Philip Hayles, Bart   | £31 0 0   | Sir P. P. F. P. Ackland, Bart              |            |
| Joseph Jeffery, Esq   | £21 0 0   | (2nd donation)                             | £50 0 0    |
| Right Honourable the Earl of Poulett  | £50 0 0   | Mrs. Phippen                               | £20 0 0    |
| Sir George Pocock, Bart, M. P.  | £50 0 0   | John Philpotts, Esq., M.P.                 | £100 0 0   |
| Rev. Elias Taylor   | £30 0 0   | Miss Middleton, Bath                       | £20 0 0    |
| James White, Esq  | £21 0 0   | Colonel C. J. K. Tynte, M.P.               | £25 0 0    |
| Sir P. P. F. P. Ackland, Bart.  | £20 0 0   | Bridgwater Musical Society                 | £25 0 0    |
| William Dickinson, Esq  | £20 0 0   | William Browne, Esq.                       | £21 0 0    |
| Right Honourable the Earl Waldegrave  | £20 0 0   | John Browne, Esq.                          | £21 0 0    |
| Henry Seymour, Esq  | £20 0 0   | Mrs. Bailey, Middlezoy                     | £99 15 0   |
| The Honourable William Ponsonby   | £20 0 0   | Dr. Bradley, Yeovil                        | £99 0 0    |
| Sir T. B. Lethbridge, Bart  | £20 0 0   | Miss Bradley                               | £90 0 0    |
| William Porter, Esq.  | £21 0 0   | Mrs. Elizabeth Davey                       | £50 0 0    |
| Jonathan Toogood, Esq.  | £25 0 0   | Samuel W. Browne, Esq                      | £21 0 0    |
| Mrs. Susannah Toogood   | £100 0 0  | Alexander Acland Hood, Esq.                |            |
| Miss Seymour  | £100 0 0  | (afterwards Sir Alexander)                 | £25 0 0    |
| Mr John Grant   | £102 0 0  | William East, Esq., Chard                  | £20 0 0    |
| Joseph Jeffery, Esq (2nd donation)  | £200 0 0  | Mr. James Hartnall                         | £20 0 0    |
| Gentlemen of the Bridgwater Glee Club,<br>(per Messrs. J. and M. Chubb<br>and Mr William, Jones | £48 10 0  | Mr. John Hoare (bequest)                   | £100 0 0   |
| Mrs Charles Toogood   | £40 10 10 | The Right Honourable Lord Taunton          |            |
| Sir Alexander Hood, Bart  | £20 0 0   | (2nd donation)                             | £20 0 0    |
| Gentlemen of the Bridgwater Glee Club,<br>(2nd donation)  | £51 12 0  | B. S. Follett, Esq., M.P.                  | £25 0 0    |
| Jeffreys Allen, Esq., (2nd donation)  | £132 0 0  | Miss Elizabeth Axford (bequest)            | £100 0 0   |
| Charles, Kemeys Kemeys Tynte, Esq   | £50 0 0   | Mrs. Tucker ditto                          | £100 0 0   |
| Gentlemen of the Bridgwater Glee Club,<br>(3rd donation)  | £28 10 0  | Mr. Richard Smith,                         |            |
| Benjamin Cuff Greenhill, Esq.   | £50 0 0   | Solicitor, Bridgwater                      | £21 0 0    |
| Mr Thomas Bailey  | £100 0 0  | Miss Mary Ann Ruscombe Poole               |            |
| E. A Sandford, Esq  | £20 0 0   | (now Mrs. Luttrell)                        | £50 0 0    |
| Ferdinando Anderton, Esq  | £120 0 0  | George Reed, Esq., Burnham                 | £25 0 0    |
| F. Fownes Lutterell, Esq  | £20 0 0   | Mr. Edward Saunders, Highbridge            | £20 0 0    |
| Mrs Savidge   | £100 0 0  | Sir A. Acland Hood, Bart.                  |            |
| William Tayleur, Esq., M. P.  | £20 0 0   | (2nd donation)                             | £20 0 0 0  |
| Miss B. Lake  | £50 0 0   | Mr. G. S. Poole                            | £20 0 0    |
| Mrs Toogood   | £20 0 0   | Miss Mary Ann R. Poole,                    |            |
| Mrs Lovett  | £100 0 0  | now Mrs. Luttrell (2nd donation)           | £30 0 0    |
| Rev. William Gordon   | £20 0 0   | Rev. Noel T. Ellison,                      |            |
| Very Rev. Dr. Goodenough,   |           | and Mrs. Noel Ellison                      | £25 0 0    |
| Dean of Wells   | £20 0 0   | Amateur Concert, Bridgwater                |            |
| Rev. Thomas Hobbs   | £90 0 0   | (per Mr. W.V. J. Ford)                     | £52 15 0   |
| Right Honorable H. Labouchere, M.P..<br>(afterwards Lord Taunton                                | £20 0 0   | Sir P. P. F. P. Acland, Bart.              |            |
| Henry Broadwood, Esq., M. P.  | £25 0 0   | (3rd donation)                             | £30 0 0    |
| Philip Courtney, Esq., M. P.  | £25 0 0   | H. A. F. Luttrell, Esq.,                   |            |
| Gentlemen of the Bridgwater Glee Club,<br>(4th donation)  | £21 17 0  | Badgworth Court                            | £20 0 0    |
| Mrs: Thomas Lane Coulson  | £25 0 0 0 | Mr. James Hartnall                         |            |
| Jeffreys Allen, Esq., (3rd donation)  | £40 0 0   | (2nd donation)                             | £100 0 0 0 |
| Edward Sealy, Esq   | £25 0 0   | Late Rev. Noel T. Ellison, by Mrs. Ellison |            |
|   |           | (2nd donation)                             | £100 0 0   |
|   |           | Mr. Richard Gooding, Hamp, Bridgwater      | £100 0 0   |
|   |           | Second Amateur Concert, Bridgwater,        |            |
|   |           | per Mr. W. J. Ford                         | £43 18 0   |
|   |           | Third Amateur Concert, ditto               | £50 9 7    |

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

31

|  |           |   |           |
|--|-----------|---|-----------|
| Lieutenant-Colonel Graham, Cossington            | £20 0 0   | John Browne, Esq., Elmwood                      |           |
| Mr. James Bull, Bridgwater                       | £20 0 0   | (3rd donation)                                  | £100 0 0  |
| J. H. Anderdon, Esq                              | £20 0 0   | Curators of the University of Oxford,           |           |
| Rev. Dr. Jeffery (bequest)                       | £100 0    | Lords of the Manor of Chedzoy                   | £25 0 0   |
| Mrs. Noel Ellison (ditto)                        | £45 0 0   | Captain Victor G. Hickley, R.N., Ashcott        | £50 0 0   |
| A. K. Deane, Esq                                 | £50 0 0   | Mr. E. Lilley, Honorary Secretary               |           |
| John Browne, Esq. (2nd donation)                 | £20 0 0   | (2nd donation)                                  | £110 0 0  |
| W. Gore Langton, Esq., M.P.                      |           | W. Gore Langton, Esq., M.P.                     |           |
| (2nd donation)                                   | £25 0 0   | (3rd donation)                                  | £50 0 0   |
| Mr. Edward Lilly, Honorary Secretar              | £21 0 0   | H. F. Nicholls, Escl., Mayor of Bridgwater      | £20 0 0   |
| Henry Fownes Luttrell, Esq                       | £20 0 0   | Mr. Alfred Nicholls, Bridgwater                 | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. Gabriel Stone Poole (2nd donation)           | £20 0 0   | Mr Joseph Palmer ditto                          | £21 0 0   |
| Mr. George Henning Pain                          | £20 0 0   | Mr. John Parsons ditto                          | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. William Brice                                | £20 0 0   | Mr. G. S. Poole (4th donation)                  | £20 0 0   |
| Henry Westropp, Esq                              | £20 0 0   | Mrs. Edward Saunders, Huntspill Court           |           |
| Bridgwater Vocal Class (Mr. Lucette, Head Master |           | (2nd donation)                                  | £20 0 0   |
| of Dr. Morgan's School, Conductor)               | £61 0 0   | Messrs. Spiller and Company                     | £21 0 0   |
| Mr. Richard Smith, Solicitor, Bridgwater         |           | J. L. Sealy, Esq.                               | £20 0 0   |
| (2nd donation)                                   | £20 0 0   | Stuckey's Banking Company, Bridgwater           | £25 0 0   |
| ditto(3rd donation)                              | £20 0 0   | Mr. James Ware, Cardiff                         | £26 5 0   |
| Mr. Gabriel Cripps, Huntspill                    | £20 0 0   | " Nemo," per Dr. Farmer                         | £20 0 0   |
| E. G. Broderip, Esq., Cossington                 | £20 0 0   | B. C. Greenhill, Esq. (2nd donation)            | £30 0 0   |
| Bridgwater Vocal Class (2nd Concert)             | £32 10 3  | Langley St. Albyn, Esq.                         | £100 0 0  |
| Colonel Pinney, M.P.                             | £21 0 0   | E. J. Stanley, Esq                              | £20 0 0   |
| Mrs. Sarah Dean, London (bequest)                | £100 0 0  | Mr. Henry Lovibond                              | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. Reuben Bond, Bridgwater (ditto)              | £20 0 0   | Proceeds of Amateur Concert, 4th November, 1873 |           |
| Mr. William Mills Baker, Bristol                 | £248 15 0 | per Messrs. Ford and Lucette).                  | £83 13 10 |
| Miss Axford and Mr. W. H. Axford                 |           | Mr. J. W. Jones, North Petherton (bequest)      | £1000 0 0 |
| (Executors of the late                           |           | T. P. Broadmead, Esq. (2nd donation)            | £30 0 0   |
| Mr. Henry Axford, Bridgwater)                    | £25 0 0   | James Broadmead, Esq. (2nd donation)            | £70 0 0   |
| Bridgwater Foresters' Fete (per H. Hobbs)        | £30 5 2   | H. B. Strangways, Esq., Shapwick                | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. James Hartnall (bequest)                     | £200 0 0  | E. G. Borderip, Esq., Cossington                |           |
| Mr. Robert Bowles (ditto)                        | £100 0 0  | (3rd donation)                                  | £25 0 0   |
| Right Honorable Lord Taunton                     |           | Mr. Gabriel Stone Poole (5th donation           | £50 0 0   |
| 3rd donation)                                    | £20 0 0   | X., per Rev. A. W. Grafton, Highbridge          | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. Richard Smith, Bridgwater                    |           | Rev. Charles J. Allen, Stocklinch, Somerset     |           |
| (4th donation, making £100)                      | £39 0 0   | (bequest)                                       | £100 0 0  |
| P. Vanderbyl, Esq., M.P.                         | £21 0 0   | Proceeds of Second Amateur Concert,             |           |
| Mr. Edward Saunders, Huntspill Court             |           | 12th Nov., 1874                                 | £81 1 6   |
| (2nd donation)                                   | £20 0 0   | Ditto Third ditto 11th Nov., 1875               |           |
| Mrs. Sarah Hurley, Bridgwater (bequest)          | £50 0 0   | (per Mr. Lavington)                             | £70 0 2   |
| Mr. Gabriel Stone Poole (3rd donation)           | £25 0 0   | E. J. Stanley, Esq., President                  |           |
| Mr, William Symons, Bridgwater                   | £25 0 0   | (2nd donation)                                  | £100 0 0  |
| Mr. Eustace Barham, Solicitor                    | £20 0 0   | P. P. Bouverie, Esq                             | £30 0 0   |
| Mrs. J. H. B. Carslake, Bridgwater               | £20 0 0   | Mr. S. S. Baker, of Halse,                      |           |
| R. Guy Evered, Esq. (High Sheriff)               | £20 0 0   | in remembrance of his late brother              |           |
| Mrs. Wilkins, Taunton (bequest)                  | £50 0 0   | Mr. Robert Baker                                | £200 0 0  |
| Miss Julia Craik ditto                           | £100 0 0  | Captain Bridges (bequest)                       | £50 0 0   |
| Mrs. Edward Saunders, Huntspill Court            | £100 0 0  | Rev. E. C. Led ward,                            |           |
| A Friend, per Mr. William Vale, Edington         | £20 0 0   | late curate of North Petherton (bequest)        | £50 0 0   |
| .James Broadmead, Esq., Langport                 | £30 0 0   | James Broadmead, Esq., Langport                 |           |
| T. P. Broadmead, Esq., Enmore Park               | £20 0 0   | (3rd donation)                                  | £100 0 0  |
| E. G. Broderip, Esq., Cossington                 |           | Mrs. Edward Saunders,                           |           |
| (2nd donation)                                   | £20 0 0   | Weston-super-Mare (3rd donation)                | £210 0 0  |

# The Bridgwater Infirmary

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

32

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| A. B.   | £100 0 0  |
| William Browne, Esq.,<br>late of Bridgwater (bequest)   | £100 0 0  |
| William Pine, Esq., ditto   | £205 4 0  |
| Executors of Mrs. Mary Meade, Huntspill   | £20 0 0   |
| Mrs. George Dean, Huntspill   | £20 0 0   |
| Mrs. Edward Saunders, Weston-super-Mare<br>(4th donation)   | £100 0 0  |
| Rev. Dr. Symons, Oxford (bequest)   | £100 0 0  |
| Rev. W. Gordon, Spaxton, ditto  | £173 8 4  |
| Miss Dean, Huntspill  | £50 0 0   |
| Rev. H. A. Daniel, President  | £50 0 0   |
| Mrs. A. H. F. Luttrell, Minehead  | £100 0 0  |
| Mrs. Marshall, Bettws Vicarage, North Wales   | £25 0 0   |
| Philip Hewett, Esq., Boulogne.  | £1049 2 9 |
| Mordaunt Fenwick Bisset, Esq.; M.P.,<br>President   | £50 0 0   |
| Miss Mary Elizabeth Griffin, Drayton  | £25 0 0   |
| James Broadmead, Esq., Langport.<br>Endowment of Freehold Land at Glastonbury<br>purchased at the cost of | £4500 0 0 |
| John Toller Nicholetts, Esq., President   | £20 0 0   |
| James Broadmead, Esq.,<br>Second Endowmen Freehold Land at<br>Wembdon, purchased at the cost of           | £2875 0 0 |
| William Gooding, Esq., President  | £21 0 0   |
| Mr. James Cook, Town Clerk of Bridgwater  | £52 10 0  |
| William Gadd, Esq., West End, Ilminster   | £50 0 0   |
| A. M. Luscombe, Esq., formerly of Moorlinch   | £20 0 0   |
| Mr. William Vale, Edington (bequest)  | £100 0 0  |
| Mr. William Collins, Wembdon (bequest)  | £45 0 0   |
| Mr. Edward Lilly (3rd donation)   | £70 0 0   |
| E. G. Broderip, Esq., President<br>(4th donation, making £115)  | £50 0 0   |
| Mr. Robert Adams, Over Stowey, (bequest)  | £71 15 6  |
| R. Moss King, Esq., President   | £20 0 0   |
| Rev. Alexander F. Luttrell (bequest)  | £100 0 0  |
| George Lovibond, Esq., Ilminster (bequest)  | £180 0 0  |
| R. E. Price, Esq., President  | £20 0 0   |

## RULES OF THE INFIRMARY

### I.

That the following Rules be adopted for the management of the Bridgwater Infirmary.

### II.

That the said Infirmary be under the direction of a President and Committee of Management, who shall meet at the Infirmary once at least in every month, at such days and times as such Committee shall from time to time appoint.

### III.

That all persons making, or having made,

a donation of twenty pounds or more to the charity inland or money, be Governors of the Institution for life, and permanent Members of the Committee ; and that all persons subscribing annually five guineas be Governors of the Institution, and members of the Committee, £0 long as their subscriptions continue to be paid.

### IV.

That in addition to the President and Governors, the Committee shall consist of the Physician and the Surgeons, the Consulting Physicians and Surgeons, the Treasurer and Secretary, and of eight annual Subscribers chosen at the anniversary meeting, four of whom shall retire annually, but may be re-elected.

### V.

That the President, the Secretary, or any two Members of the Committee, shall have power to call a meeting of the Committee whenever the same shall be deemed expedient, at which meeting any three members shall be empowered to act; and that the manner of summoning such Committee from time to time, shall be by notice from the Secretary sent by post or otherwise to the President, and to each of the elected Members, and also to such of the life Governors as have intimated to the Secretary their wish to be summoned to all meetings of the Committee of Management.

### VI.

That an Anniversary Meeting of Subscribers and friends to the Institution be held at the Infirmary, to receive the reports of the Committee and the accounts of the Treasurer, to appoint a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee of Management for the ensuing year, and to transact the general business of the charity; and that every Governor, Physician, Surgeon, Treasurer, and Secretary, and every Subscriber of one guinea, or more, of six months' standing, be entitled to vote at such anniversary meeting, and at all other general meetings of the Subscribers, the chairman to have the casting vote ; no proxies to be allowed, and no parish or firm subscribing to the Institution, to be entitled to more than one vote in consequence of such subscription.

### VII.

That the Committee, on requisition from the President or of any ten Subscribers, or the Committee themselves by their own authority, shall call special general meetings



# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

33

of the Subscribers; and that fourteen days' notice of such meetings be given by public advertisement, and by circulars sent by post or otherwise to each Subscriber, specifying the object of every such meeting.

VIII.

That annual Subscribers be entitled to recommend within the year, for every guinea subscribed, four out-patients, or one in-patient and one out-patient; and that cards or tickets of admission on the above scale, be sent at the commencement of the year to each Subscriber.

IX.

That persons making or having made a benefaction of not less than £10 be, in respect to recommending patients, on a footing with annual Subscribers of one guinea; those of £20 with annual Subscribers of two guineas; and so on in proportion for every £10 subscribed; and that those giving benefactions and subscriptions have a right to recommend, both in respect to benefactions and subscriptions.

X.

That every subscription shall become due annually on the first day of January, and be considered annual until notice in writing to withdraw it be given to the Secretary;

XI.

That two Members of the Committee be appointed at each monthly meeting as visitors for the month.

XII.

That the Matron and House, Surgeon, or House Apothecary be appointed -and discharged by the Committee.

XIII.

That two Subscribers be appointed annually to audit the accounts of the Institution.

## **RULES FOR ADMITTING OUT-PATIENTS.**

XIV.

That all persons recommended by a Benefactor or Subscriber, attend at the Institution, to deliver their card of recommendation and to be admitted as patients, on every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, from half-past nine to half-past ten o'clock, or on such other days and at such other times as the Committee of Management shall from time to time appoint, and that

none be admitted at any other time, except in cases of emergency.

XV.

That no persons be admitted as in-patients whose cases will allow of the same relief with regard to advice and medicines as out-patients.

XVI.

That all out-patients bring with them such phials, gallipots, &c., as may be requisite.

XVII.

That every out-patient shall attend on the mornings and hours appointed by the Committee of Management, or by the Medical Officer having charge of the case, and shall pay the person appointed by the Committee (on presenting the card of recommendation) the sum of one shilling, in aid of the expenses of the Institution; but if any patient shall fail to attend at the time appointed for his appearance, he shall be considered and treated as discharged, and shall not be re-admitted without a fresh card of recommendation, and paying a further sum of one shilling. If, however, the patient be incapable of attending, or shew any reasonable excuse for his absence, such forfeiture shall not be incurred.

XVIII.

That every out-patient who has been three months on the books shall be required to produce a new card of recommendation, and to pay a further sum of one shilling towards the funds of the Institution.

## **RULES FOR IN-PATIENTS.**

XIX.

That every in-patient shall, if required, bring from some responsible person, a security to defray the expense of removal or burial in case of death, and also shall pay the Matron two shillings per week for board; but that all patients receiving parochial relief, shall pay to the Infirmary five shillings per week for their board.

XX.

That all in-patients come provided with a change of linen and needful clothes, and find their own washing; and on being admitted to pay one month's board in advance, such advance to be continued during their residence in the house, the balance, if any, to be returned on leaving the Institution.

XXI.

That no in-patients leave the Institution

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

34

without permission from the Physician or Surgeon under whose care they may be placed, nor enter any ward but their own without leave.

XXII

That convalescent patients, and such as are capable, do, at the request of the Matron, assist in cleaning the wards and waiting on the other patients.

XXIII.

That patients who offend against any of the rules of the house, or behave themselves irregularly or indecently, be expelled, and that no patient after such expulsion be again admitted without an especial order from the Committee.

XXIV.

That no person disordered in his senses, or suffering from the venereal disease, or in a dying or incurable state, shall be admitted as a patient.

## **RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF PHYSICIAN AND SURGEONS.**

XXV.

That the medical department of this Institution do consist of four Medical Officers and the consulting Physicians and Surgeons.

XXVI.

That the election of Medical Officers shall be made at a special general meeting ; and the Committee of Management shall have power from time to time to appoint any Physicians or Surgeons to be consulting Physicians or Surgeons of the Infirmary, but that such appointments shall confer no authority on the consulting Physicians or Surgeons to meet in consultation in the case of any patient of the Infirmary, except with the concurrence of the Medical Officer under whose care such patient may be.

XXVII.

That no Medical Officer be eligible to this Institution unless he be a Member or Licentiate of one of the Colleges of Physicians or Surgeons, in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin ; or has taken a degree in medicine and surgery at one of the Universities in Great Britain or Ireland!

XXVIII.

That no person be eligible to act in this Institution, either as a Physician or Surgeon, unless he reside within two miles of the Infirmary.

## **RULES FOR THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.**

XXIX.

That the Physician and Surgeons of this Institution shall attend (by seniority) on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday in every week, from half-past nine to half-past ten o'clock in the morning, or on such other days or at such other times as the Committee of Management shall from time to time appoint, to receive and examine the persons who may be recommended as patients.

XXX.

That patients remain, so long as they continue in the Institution, under the care of the same Physician or Surgeon who may admit them.

XXXI.

That it shall be in the power of any Physician or Surgeon to call a consultation of the Medical Officers of this charity (either inclusive or exclusive of the consulting Physicians and Surgeons) as often as he may think fit, and that no important operation shall be performed without such previous consultation, unless in cases of emergency.

XXXII.

That all pupils who shall in future attend the Infirmary shall give a donation of ten guineas, or a subscription of two guineas per annum.

XXXIII.

That the Medical Officer of this Institution, who may have to perform an operation, or may have any interesting case under his care, may invite any medical gentleman or medical pupil, whether resident in the town or elsewhere, to witness such operation or observe the treatment of such case.

XXXIV.

That no certificate of attendance be granted to any pupil who has not strictly conformed to the rules of this Institution.

XXXV.

That the Committee be empowered to make such bye laws for the management of this Institution as may at any time be considered necessary, provided such bye laws are not inconsistent with the foregoing rules, and provided the same be propounded at one meeting and confirmed at another.

XXXVI.

That the foregoing rules shall not be

# *The Bridgwater Infirmary*

by Sydney Gardnor Jarman

1890

35

altered nor any new rules made and adopted, unless it be proposed at a special general meeting of the subscribers convened for that purpose agreeably to rule VII.

December 11, 1873.


## FORM OF BEQUEST.

The proper form by which any Benefactions may be given to the Infirmary, to prevent any doubt or mistake, is as follows :—

*I give unto the Treasurer, for the time being, of the Bridgwater Infirmary, for the 'purpose of that Institution, the sum of .....*

*to be raised and paid exclusively out of such part of my estate as I can by Law charge with the payment of the same.*

N.B. —This form is given on account of some unhappy mistakes in Wills, by which Legacies have been lost to Charitable Institutions, and the good intentions of Testators have been entirely defeated, because the sums bequeathed have been ordered to be raised or paid out of lands or real estates, which is not permitted by law.

 **Cloth for Rollers, Old Linen, and Calico, would be esteemed valuable presents to the Institution.**

Advertisement] [

## **The History of Bridgwater**

By SYDNEY GARDNOR JARMAN.

SECOND EDITION. PRICE 3/6 NETT.

With Fourteen Illustrations, including a Portrait of Mr. F. C. Foster, Mayor of Bridgwater

### **Press Notices**

*Bridgwater Mercury.* —“A. very comprehensive and thoroughly reliable history of the old and loyal borough. Altogether the production is one highly creditable alike to Mr. Jarman and to the borough whose deeply interesting historical records he has so faithfully chronicled.”

*Bridgwater Independent.* —“The large and handsome volume before us shows, in addition to wide and painstaking research, considerable literary ability, being not only packed with interesting information, but eminently readable.”

*Bristol Times and Mirror.* —“A well-written and exhaustive volume of local history which must we think, take its place honourably beside the various town and county histories that are now rapidly accumulating.”

*Western Daily Press.* —“Mr. Jarman has done his work very carefully and very satisfactorily. The volume may be recommended, not only to Bridgwater people,

but to all classes in the county.”

*Somerset County Herald.* —“The History is a carefully compiled one.”

*The Antiquary.* —“There is much useful information in this book.”

*Literary World.* —“Mr. Jarman has done his work very creditably.”

*The Academy.* —“Deserves, and will probably obtain, recognition from a public outside the locality chiefly concerned.”

*The Athenaeum.* —“Turning to the interesting volume before us as the birthplace of Blake, if for no other reason, Bridgwater deserved to have its history written; but in truth the town is rich in historic associations.”

*The Spectator.* —“There is much that is interesting in this volume.”

*Kept in Stock by the Bridgwater Booksellers*