

had previously promised this land to his favourite, Nell Gwyn; she, upon being told of the plan returned it gladly for this purpose.

In 1681 the plans for the proposed building were given into the hands of Sir Christopher Wren, who had already become famous in his designing of many city churches.

This was his first secular task and he accepted the sum of one thousand pounds for the work. Before this work was finished he was an old man and two monarchs had succeeded to the throne occupied by Charles II when he became its founder.

As you turn off the noise and traffic of the King's Road, Chelsea, there in the distance, you see the Hospital, little changed in appearance since Wren's time, in spite of the scars of two World Wars.

The Hospital is built round a quadrangle, Wren having consideration for the old men, whose home it was to be in their declining years.

They may sit protected from north and east winds on wooden benches under the shelter of the Colonnade, looking south across gardens which run down to the river. Broad stair cases, shallow steps and handrails are within easy reach.

Lifts, central heating, radio, bathrooms and a recreation room where guests of either sex can be entertained have brought the Royal Hospital into line with modern needs.

In the northern section we find the Chapel and the Great Hall divided by a porch with a domed roof from which is suspended a lantern as also in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Certain aspects of life in the Royal Hospital have changed with the passing of time in this centuries-old building, yet there is much which remains unaltered.

No longer can we use the grounds as a main thoroughfare. No longer can dealers congregate in the Colonnade, buying and selling second hand clothing from the Pensioners. This perquisite came to an end as late as 1890, when compensation "rag-money" was paid instead.

The last person to receive this allowance died in 1936.

The water gardens, laid out in the French manner of great beauty, having two canals, have disappeared, and here we have now the recreation ground where the Chelsea Flower Show takes place annually.

Many memories of famous and interesting people are awakened in this old building.

The priceless silver-gilt plate bears the cypher of James II; to this has to be added a beautiful Cross bearing the cypher of our own Queen Elizabeth II.

Doctor Burney was once the official organist and it was in his apartments here that he was joined by his celebrated daughter, Fanny, who later became Madame D'Aibley, after her health gave way under her strenuous duties at the court of George III and his Queen Charlotte.

Of her life at this time she wrote "I live in the most quiet and retired manner possible. I have never been so pleasantly situated."

In the Great Hall, James Boswell was a frequent guest, likewise Dr. Johnson and there also could be found that famous "character" and surgeon, Dr Messenger Moressey.

Here a century later the Duke of Wellington lay in state and Queen Victoria herself was the first to pay homage to the Iron Duke. The oak table upon which his body rested is still preserved.

One name there is which is revered above all others and on one day in the year the Royal Hospital honours its Founder's memory in its time-honoured way nearly as old as the British Army. May 29th is "Charlie's Day." On that day the Grindling Gibbons statue is decorated with branches of oak, the four hundred and fifty pensioners wearing sprigs of oak, line the quadrangle, some who are too infirm to stand sit on chairs or benches and an augmented band plays martial music. On this great day no pensioner need feel forgotten or unhonoured, and old voices are raised and hats

are raised in "three cheers for King Charles II, our pious founder."

The onlookers must thrill to joyous thankfulness that this gracious bounty of this dead King has been kept so alive throughout the centuries, giving peaceful security to these old soldiers who have served their country so well.

The Hospital's Charter

Charles The Second, by the Grace of God, King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas We doe intend to erect an Hospital for the relief of such land Souldiers as are, or shall be, old, lame, or infirm in ye service of the Crowne, and to endow the same with a revenue suitable thereunto.

Letters Patent under the Great Seal. 22nd Dec. 1681.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A MEETING OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1, on June 25th, 1954. The Chairman, Miss D. M. Smith, presided.

Birthday Honours

It was agreed that congratulations be sent to Sir Russell Brain and the Countess of Limerick, upon the honours they had received in Her Majesty's Honours List, having served as members of the Council in previous years.

It was agreed that £75,000 stock held in Transport Stock should be converted to 3½ per cent. War Loan.

Finance

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sums of £5,600 for Cash Account, £500 for Postage and £9,000 for Examiners' Claims allowed.

It was agreed that the sum of £327 0s. 4d. be approved for 500 copies of the List of Persons admitted to the Register of Nurses January-April, 1954; also that £298 19s. be spent on new typewriters.

Education and Examination

It was agreed that, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, the Council approve for a period of five years the following scheme of training, in which the hospitals taking part appear to the Council to be institutions suitable for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of training under the provisions of Section 3 of the Nurses Act, 1949:—

A training of four years' duration for admission to the part of the Register for Mental Nurses and to the part of the Register for General Nurses, whereby nurses recruited by Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, who complete three and a half years' training between that hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, London, W.2, for admission to the Final Mental Examination, may enter for the Final Examination for the part of the Register for General Nurses on completion of a further six months' training at St. Mary's Hospital; such further period of training being allowed to count from the date of completing the Final Mental Examination (provided the three and a half years' training has been completed by such date) and provided application for registration on the part of the Register for Mental Nurses is made within 30 days of the receipt of the results of the Final Mental Examination and such application is accepted; providing always that in the event of a candidate failing the Final Mental Examination or failing to make application for registration within 30 days of the receipt of the examination results, training for admission to the part of the Register for General Nurses may not be deemed to commence until the date of registration on the part of the Register for Mental Nurses.

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