

## The Midwife.

### A NOTABLE PIONEER.

The interesting portrait published on this page is of Mr. Bartholomew Mosse, who, on March 15th, 1745, struck by the miserable condition of the poor mothers of Ireland, opened a Lying-in Hospital in George's Lane, Dublin. The portrait is from a print found amongst some old papers by a friend of the Rev. C. F. Breay, Senior Chaplain, Madras Establishment, to whom we are indebted for the information.

Mr. Mosse was the second son of the Rev. Thomas Mosse, and grandson of Michael Mosse, of Cork. His father was a chaplain to William III., and was presented by that monarch to the Rectory of Maryborough, Diocese of Leighlin, and the Prebend of Fethard, Diocese of Ferns.

Bartholomew Mosse was born in 1712, and apprenticed to Mr. John Stone, a Dublin surgeon, receiving a license to practise surgery in 1733. He travelled much on the Continent, and then settled in Dublin, where he specialized in midwifery. Though often referred to as M.D., there is nothing to show that he obtained that degree. He was twice married, first in 1734, to Elizabeth Mary Mallory; and secondly, in 1744, to Jane, daughter and sole

heiress of the Ven. Charles Whittinghame, Archdeacon of Dublin.

The lying-in hospital established in St. George's Lane, Dublin, was the first institution of its kind in the United Kingdom, and was only preceded by

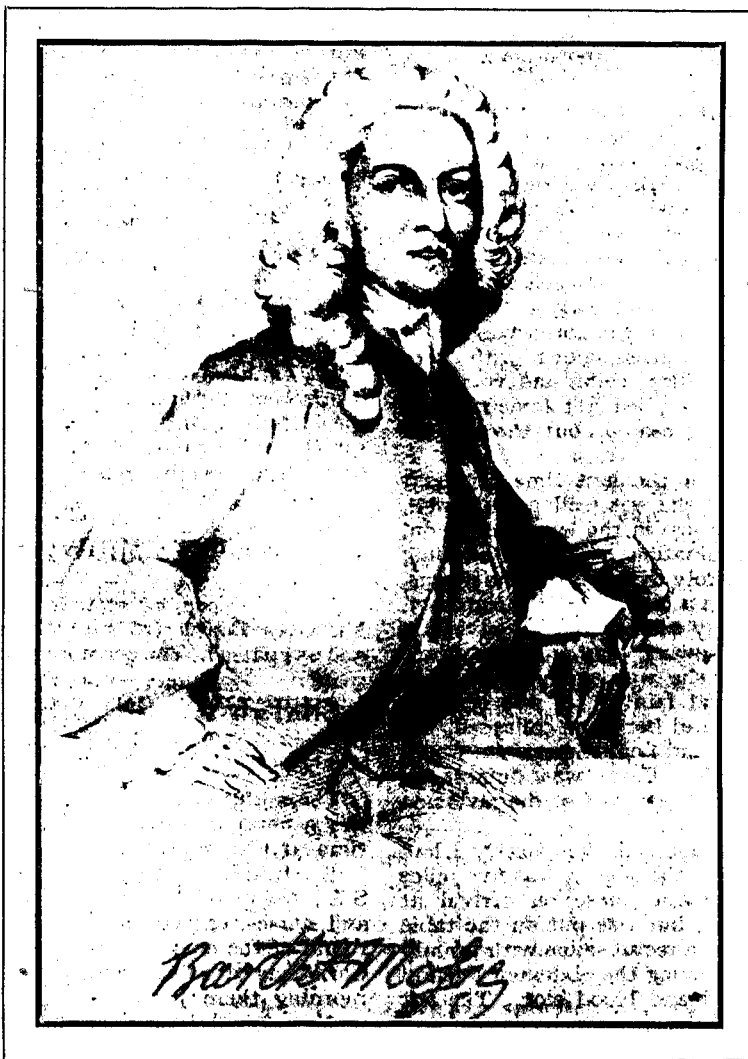
a few months by one in Paris, the first in all Europe.

Mr. Mosse purchased land in Dublin, where he proceeded to erect the present Rotunda Hospital, the designer being Mr. Richard Cassels, a famous Dublin architect. The first stone was laid by the Lord Mayor, on May 24th, 1751. The hospital was granted a Royal Charter on December 2nd, 1756, and opened on December 8th, 1757.

Parliament granted £6,000 to the Hospital, and £2,000 to Mr. Mosse in 1757, but he spent all his fortune on the hospital, and died in somewhat indigent circumstances on February 16th, 1759, being buried at Donnybrook.

Parliament subsequently granted a further sum of £9,000 to the hospital; and £2,500 to Mosse's widow and children.

The Board Room of the hospital contains a portrait of its founder, and in the hall is also a bust reputed by Van Nost. From the date of its foundation to the present time thousands of poor women have reason to be grateful to Mr. Mosse,



THE FOUNDER OF THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

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