

mutton provided by the matron was not sufficient, "she is therefor to provide that each patient shall have a pint of broth and a chop of mutton."

The religious observances of the staff were carefully looked after, for on January 19th, 1684, Susannah Cooke, cook of St. Bart's, was desired to "satisfy the Governors as whether she had within 12 months past received the Sacrament according to the usage of the Church of England." Susannah confessed she had not, and declared "she could not do the same." The Governors gave her a week to consider it, and on February 16th she was dismissed "by reason the refusal to receive the Sacrament according to the usage of the Church of England." On March 15th, 1680, there is a note that the ancient custom of the house was for Sisters to wear livery of such coloured cloth or stuff as the Governors did approve. "It had not been observed of late years though the Sisters were paid 22s. 6d. a year to buy livery." It was therefore ordered that "all Sisters are to wear a livery of such coloured cloth as the Governors think meet, and any refusing are to be dismissed."

In 1687 the Sisters expressed their willingness to wash the poors' sheets and linen with soap, and were allowed twopence per week for washing the men-patients' linen, and threepence a week for the women-patients' linen.

In the seventeenth century, the Governors would not allow a Roman Catholic to hold the post of Sister, and in 1699 one Marenda Davis who was a Sister in Charity Ward, on "acknowledging that she was of the Roman Catholic faith, was ordered to be discharged forthwith, the sum of ten shillings being given to her."

On February 26th, 1704, Elizabeth Bond "did propose to kill and clear the beds and wards of bugs within this house, at the rate of 6s. per bed." The Governors also proposed to give her 40s. to clear the Sisters' room of bugs, but she was not to be paid till Christmas.

There was an interesting order made on June 29th, 1714, instructing that the "stones taken out of the patients that are cut within the hospital are to be brought into the Compting house and showed to the Governors and the Treasurer at their next meeting, and are to be hung up there according to custom."

Smoking in the wards was strictly prohibited in the eighteenth century, and Sisters were admonished "not to suffer any tobacco to be smoked therein, neither were they or the nurses to drink with patients or entice them into public houses."

The salaries paid to the staff in the eighteenth century as may be expected were very small. Thus in 1771, the stipend of the Matron was £40 a year, a gratuity of £20, with a house, coal, small beer and 6 dozen pounds of candles. This was increased later to £80 a year with gratuity. In 1782, the settled Sisters received 5s. weekly, settled nurses 3s. a week, unsettled sisters 4s. a week, unsettled nurses 1s. 6d. a week, and the watchers, or women who sat up with the patients and who lived out-door, got 6d. a night.

In March, 1728, a hot and cold bath, probably the first to be installed, was ordered to be made at the cost of £100.

In 1744, a patient who was sufficiently strong was ordered to attend each surgeon as a "box carrier." His duties were to carry the surgeon's box of dressings when he went through the house to dress the patients. He received no fee, "only his diet and money as the other patients."

St. Bart's had a woman barber in 1762 whose name was Barbara Cripple. Her duties were to cut the hair and shave the patients when necessary. For this she received £20 a year, and an extra allowance for shaving. In 1787 the Sisters' room was ordered to be partitioned off the wards and the common sleeping room was abolished, which was no doubt a much needed reform.

A revision of salaries came in 1814, when each Sister received 1s. on the admission of a patient, and the 24 Sisters

of the "clean wards" £32 6s. 10d. a year. The Sisters of the two operation wards received £37 16s. 10d. a year. The nurses had 4s. a week and 6d. a night extra for night duty, also 6d. on the admission of each patient. The total nursing staff at that time consisted of 31 sisters, 31 nurses, and 33 night nurses.

It is interesting to note, that in 1815, iron bedsteads were first ordered for some of the wards, but baths were not installed on each floor until 14 years later.

In 1821, a cloak called a "night rail" was provided for the Sisters. It is mentioned in connection with the death of a sister who was "buried in her night rail." It was probably a loose white overall made like a cloak and was abolished in May, 1843.

Dr. Patrick Black once told Sir Norman Moore that he remembered seeing the Sisters going to church in their "white night rails." Thus from these gleanings of the old journals, we are enabled to get a glimpse of what nursing at St. Bart's was like in bye-gone days.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Sir Kingsley, Wood Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, in opening a public recreation ground of thirteen acres, presented by Mr. W. J. Courtauld to the towns of Braintree and Bocking said that the Ministry of Health was doing everything it could to encourage local authorities to exercise their powers in the provision of open spaces for the people. In 1924-5 the Ministry spent £1,250,000, and in 1926 £1,260,000 on the purchase of open spaces. It aimed at stopping indiscriminate building over such health-giving places as the Sussex Downs and the beauty spots on the River Thames, which were in danger of being destroyed. He congratulated the inhabitants of Braintree and Bocking on having in their midst so beneficent a friend as Mr. Courtauld, who had already given them a hospital and was now giving them the recreation ground with pavilion and shelters, and an endowment which would amply maintain it without adding a penny to the rates.

Nothing is more important in the interests of the National Health than the provision of recreation grounds, both to the present and coming generations, and also the preservation of open spaces, and the Ministry of Health is doing excellent work in this connection.

It is startling to learn from Dr. Ralph Pickin, Schools Medical Officer at Cardiff, that approximately one-fourth of the children starting school for the first time are suffering from disease or defects, principally enlarged tonsils, adenoids, cardiac disease and chronic bronchitis.

The death of a patient from tetanus at Charing Cross Hospital following an operation under a local anæsthetic, which was quite successful, was the subject of a subsequent inquest. Evidence was given to show that every precaution had been taken in the preparation of syringe, instruments and catgut.

Dr. Baly, of Lambeth Hospital, said that he found a bead of pus in the neighbourhood of the sac where the operation was performed, and he was of opinion that death was probably due to tetanus following the operation. The only explanation was that it was conveyed by the catgut which was very difficult to sterilize inside.

The Coroner (Mr. Oddie) said there was no doubt the woman died from tetanus, and the presumption became irresistible that the germ entered at the site and time of the operation. He had no doubt it got there by means of the catgut. There might have been some germ inside the recesses of the catgut, which had been subjected to proper sterilization. He recorded a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

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