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THE ORIGIN OF THREE DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

DUBLIN has long been famous for its hospitals, which are not only numerous, but, in many instances, of ancient foundation and, in one case at least, of international repute. There are ten general clinical hospitals in Dublin, with three lying-in hospitals, two hospitals for children, another for contagious diseases, an orthopedic hospital, an ophthalmic hospital, a dental hospital and several other special institutions. Of all these the Steevens' Hospital is the oldest, but the most famous is, of course, the Rotunda.

The Rotunda Hospital had its origin in the sympathetic and far-sighted energy of Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, who was born in 1712 in County Down, the son of an Irish clergyman. Making his resolution to study medicine, Bartholomew was apprenticed to Mr. John Stone, a surgeon of Dublin. Completing this apprenticeship in 1773, Mosse determined to enter the army and, after examination by Surgeon-general John Nichols, who pronounced him a physician well qualified to practice the art of surgery, Mosse was given medical charge of troops in various British garrisons. In 1738 he went with a contingent to Minorca. Here he seems to have withdrawn from the army service, and after traveling for a time on the continent, he returned to Dublin, and in 1742 was admitted a licentiate of the Irish College of Physicians. By this time he had become particularly interested in obstetrics, an art then far more highly advanced on the continent than in Britain, and he realized the utter inadequacy of the care that could be given to the poor women of Dublin in their homes. He, therefore, undertook to raise the necessary funds to establish such an institution, and finally on March 15, 1745, first opened "an hospital for poor women in George's Lane." This first building of what afterwards became the Rotunda Hospital was a three-storied house, which, with an outbuilding, afforded accommodation for twenty patients.

The difficulty which now confronted Mosse, a difficulty which still constitutes the chief problem of most charitable institutions, was that of obtaining adequate means to maintain the hospital thus established. After the first interest of the public had worn off, sufficient funds could not be raised by mere private subscriptions, and Mosse showed great ingenuity in supplementing these by lotteries, theatricals, concerts, dances and other entertainments. He succeeded so well in fact, and his hospital immediately proved of such value to the community, that he was encouraged to plan a much larger and more ambitious building. The story of this new building, as told by Dr. Kirkpatrick in his admirable history* (reviewed in the issue of the *Lancet* for Feb. 14, 1914), is in part as follows:

"In August, 1748, he took upon himself the responsibility of a lease for three generations of four acres and one rood of land on the north side of Great Britain street, whereon to erect a lying-in hospital for at least 150 patients. He first laid out the grounds as public gardens, after the model of the Vauxhall Gardens, London, upon which he expended some £2000 of his own money, walling-in the grounds, erecting an orchestra, concert room, and coffee room, and planting trees and shrubs. Here he organized a series of entertainments with a view to producing a yearly income for the benefit of his char-

* The Book of the Rotunda Hospital. An illustrated history of the Dublin Lying-in Hospital from its foundation in 1745 to the present time. By T. Percy C. Kirkpatrick, M.D., M.R.I.A., Fellow and Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Edited by Henry Jellett, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., Master of the Hospital. London: Adlard and Company. 1913.

ity. His expectations were not disappointed, and in fact to this day the hospital still draws a considerable income from the entertainment rooms and pleasure grounds established by him.

"The foundation-stone of the new hospital was laid on July 9, 1751. In December, 1756, a Royal Charter was granted. Mosse was appointed Master for life, and shortly afterwards a parliamentary grant of £6000 was paid over to the governors, less £180 deducted at the treasury in certain imposts.

"Nearly a year later a committee of the Irish House of Commons gave a further grant of £6000 for the completion of the hospital, and a benefaction of £2000 to 'Bartholomew Mosse, Master of the said Hospital, as a reward for his great Care and Diligence in Attending the Lying-in Hospital in *George's-Lane*, thirteen years, and superintending the new Hospital in *Great Britain-Street* nine years and a half, by which he hath greatly injured himself in his profession, and hurt his Family in their Circumstances, having never received any reward.' Thus, after the overcoming of stupendous difficulties the New Hospital, from designs by the great contemporary architect, Richard Castle, was opened on Dec. 8th, 1757, 12½ years after the establishment, as a private venture, of the original hospital in George's-Lane. At the time of the transfer from the old to the new hospital Mosse was able to report that 3975 women had been delivered in the old hospital, with a maternal mortality of 1.10 per cent, 'mostly of fever several days after they were safely delivered,' at a total cost of £3913 13*s* 0¾*d*."

Unhappily Dr. Mosse did not live long to enjoy the fruition of his labors and to carry out his plans in the administration of the new institution. He died on February 16, 1759, and was succeeded as Master by Dr. Sir Fielding Ould. In his estimate of Mosse's character, Dr. Kirkpatrick says:—

"We find no trace of self-seeking in any of the work done by Mosse. His hospital was everything, and though he claimed honour as its founder, it was only through it and its success that he made any such claim. There is no evidence that he ever used the hospital for his own advantage, either in the way of making money by it, or to advance his professional reputation. Indeed, for the hospital he seems to have sacrificed his entire income and to have abandoned any hope of rising to professional eminence. But little evidence is forthcoming as to his private life, but such as there is seems to proclaim him a good husband and father and a generous friend."

It is evident that Dr. Mosse was a man of unusual personality, of energy, persistence and a genuinely charitable disposition, and the hospital which he established, later acquiring the name of the Rotunda, has retained to this day the stamp of the individuality of its founder.

Older than the Rotunda hospital, in fact the oldest in Dublin, though not nearly so well known, is the Steevens' Hospital at Kingsbridge in the west end, an institution founded by Dr. Richard Steevens and his twin sister Grizell, children of the Reverend John Steevens, an enthusiastic Scottish Jacobite exiled to Ireland by the iron hand of Cromwell. Born in Athlone, Richard Steevens, after studying divinity for a time, abandoned it for medicine and, removing to Dublin, developed an extensive practice among the poor of that city. There were then no free dispensaries in Dublin, no charitable organizations except the churches, and not a single hospital. The need of medical relief and care was urgent. For years Dr. Steevens and his sister, neither of whom was ever married, devoted their labors and their private fortune to such ministration as could be carried out in the homes of the poor. It was the doctor's dream to establish a hospital similar to those in the large cities of the continent, but he died in 1712 at the height of his popularity and activity as a medical practitioner without carrying his plan into execution. His sister Grizell, however, on the day following his death, made over to a board of trustees the estate bequeathed to her by her brother reserving for herself only an income of £150 a year. With this fund, the trustees purchased a suitable site near the southern bank of the river Liffey in the poorer quarter of the city and began to accumulate the necessary money for a building. In this there was considerable delay, but finally, in 1720, the first hospital ward in Dublin was begun. It was not completed, however, until 1733. By this time all the members of the original board of trustees had died and had been successively replaced by others, among whom may be noted the distinguished name of Jonathan Swift, then dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, whose signature may still be seen in the records of trustees' meetings and in other archives of the hospital. The faithful Miss Grizell Steevens resided at the hospital and acted as its superintendent until her death in 1746 at the age of 93 years. In her time the capacity of the hospital was 40 beds, but it has since been enlarged to over 200. The original building, however, remains as the centre of the present institution, and in it are treasured the portraits of Dr. Steevens and his sister, the documents and other relics pertaining to the hospital's history,

and the living memory of the two faithful and devoted founders who, after years of self-sacrifice and endurance, established for the suffering poor of Dublin their first institution of charitable medical relief.

Neither so old nor so famous as the Steevens' Hospital or the Rotunda, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital is one of the older and more notable hospitals of the city. Sir Patrick Dun, for whom it was named, was a native of Aberdeen. He was an army surgeon and was present at the battle of the Boyne where he is said to have treated the Prince of Orange for some slight injury. Subsequently Sir Patrick did not return to Great Britain but settled in Dublin, where he became a noted local practitioner and acquired considerable estates in County Waterford.

On his death in 1714, he left his property to the Irish College of Physicians to establish a library and to endow a professorship of medicine. For a century his estate grew rapidly in value so that in 1800 the accumulated income was sufficiently large to establish a hospital in Dublin which was named in honor of Sir Patrick. It was opened for patients in 1808 and enlarged to its present size in 1814. Since this time, however, the value of the Dun estate has steadily dwindled and the hospital has become dependent like others on public charity. In June, 1914, was observed the bicentennial anniversary of the death of Sir Patrick Dun and the centennial of the completion of his hospital; and at this time a considerable sum of the money was raised to constitute the nucleus of a new endowment fund. The hospital has always been closely associated with Trinity College Medical School and the majority of its staff are professors in that institution. Besides caring for the sick poor, therefore, this hospital has had a conspicuous part in medical education in Ireland. It now accommodates about 100 patients. There has recently been opened in the hospital a new ward to be used exclusively for wounded soldiers and sailors, the funds for which have been given by the County Wicklow Red Cross Society. Thus in its present, as well as in it past, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital has maintained the military association appropriate to an institution deriving its name and origin from a distinguished army surgeon.

These three hospitals of Dublin, unlike the larger and more modern institutions of many cities, have thus a personality and distinction dependent on the circumstances of their origin. They were not built and fully equipped at their outset with adequate funds derived from taxation or from large charitable gifts; but were conceived in the hearts of men and women who earnestly and sincerely desired to help their poor and suffering fellow citizens. They were dreamed of and worked for, suffered for, earned and brought to full development and usefulness only after years of effort and uncertainty. They are living institutions whose character represents the personalities and lives of those to whom their origin is due.