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**Early Bristol Medical Institutions, the Medieval Hospitals,
and Barber Surgeons**

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EARLY BRISTOL MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS,
THE MEDIÆVAL HOSPITALS, AND
BARBER SURGEONS.

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(WITH TWO PLATES).

THE records bearing on early medical matters in Bristol are extremely scanty and such facts as we get are incomprehensible unless compared with what existed elsewhere. A Bristol annalist has however before him a special warning against imaginary pictures in Chatterton's most brilliant but fictitious and absurd account of the library and medical work in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which he palmed off on his contemporaries in spite of its ludicrous mistakes.

Were there any medical institutions in mediæval Bristol? Now we find Garrison¹ saying that the chief glory of mediæval medicine lay undoubtedly in the organization of hospitals and nursing. At the end of the twelfth century a sudden enthusiasm spread over Europe and even over Moslem lands for building and endowing hospitals and refuges for the sick and infirm. For two centuries this fashion continued to be the inspiration and delight of men of all classes, leading to increased skill in building and great endowments. The little town of Bristol, like others, was filled with charitable institutions, and we have to ask of what kind they were. Quite early in the movement Pope Innocent III, struck by the warmth of public feeling, made a special effort in 1198 to start the building of hospitals of the Holy Spirit all over Europe. This was to be and remained a lay effort, the hospitals were

¹ Fielding H. Garrison. *History of Medicine.*

managed by laymen and often by the municipalities. Four hundred such hospitals were formed in France; Prof. Virchow found that 155 had been built in Germany. Only a year or two ago we read of a terrible fire in the hospital of S. Spirito in Sassia, one of the original houses remaining in Rome. There were hospitals of the Holy Spirit in England at Taunton, Hereford, Warwick, Canterbury, &c., but the records are scanty. To raise funds and organize their building, nursing and maintenance, Innocent took over a lay fraternity of the Holy Spirit, founded by Guy of Montpellier, and gave it great privileges and exemptions. This order spread a network of collectors every where, had an enormous revenue, and founded lodges or commanderies in the towns¹. Now this fraternity had a branch in Redcliffe, Bristol, and is found to be connected with and assisting a hospital there. The meaning of this Redcliffe fraternity and the objects of the order do not seem to have been noticed by any Bristol writers, though the few facts given are clear and the order one of the most successful in Europe. I shall speak of this later on.

Though this movement had little to do with the religious orders, the *Monasteries* had always contained excellent infirmaries for their own members and sometimes for the sick poor, equipped with first rate appliances for heating, drainage and hot and cold water. They often consisted of a hall with cubicles along the sides, a chapel at one end, and perhaps small private wards. Such departments would be found in all the great monasteries of Bristol—in St. Augustine's, St. James, the Carmelite House and the Friaries—but they have been described elsewhere.

HOSPITIA. Miss Clay found that there were 750 of these in England.² (1). Many of them were merely alms-

¹ Virchow. *Der Hospitaliter Ordern*. Brune. *Histoire de L'ordre Hospitalier*. De Smidt. *L'ordre Hospitalier*.

² R. M. Clay. *Mediæval Hospitals of England*.

houses or guest hostels. (2). Some 200 were leper houses during the epidemic from 1100 to 1350, and were converted to other uses when it died down. (3). Others like St. Bartholomew's in London were devoted to the sick only until they had recovered from their illness. (4). Many were of the type of a poor law infirmary, both treating the acute cases and nursing the infirm and aged. The numbers would be much greater if we included the colleges and the commanderies of the knights. Of this latter kind there was perhaps a house in the Temple district. In Somerset, at Buckland Brewer, the commandery seems to have been a training school for nurses. Gasquet¹ reckons 16 hospitals in Bristol, but as the annals are scanty and the buildings destroyed or rearranged, it is hard to say how many were hospitals in a medical sense. Two were definite leper houses, St. Lawrence, outside the Lawford Gate, for men, founded by King John when Earl of Morton, and St. Mary Magdalen outside Redcliffe for women. Both were converted to other uses later on. I am of opinion that several others had a leper annexe or hut in the garden, as St. Bartholomew's, London, had. This will explain the records which speak of a house in one place as a leper asylum and in another as a general hospital.

We must rule out, too, the almshouses pure and simple, which were not primarily for nursing the sick. There were about 10 of these in Gasquet's list; Sampson reckoned thirty-five in all, down to modern times.

Five of the hospitals were more or less devoted to the sick poor, St. Mark's, St. John's in Redcliffe, St. Catherine's Brightbow, St. Bartholomew's and possibly Holy Trinity hospital and almshouse. They were not monasteries. In most of them as in St. Bartholomew's, London, we find a master, brethren, and sisters under some form of the rule of St. Austin. Let us consider them in detail.

¹ *English Monastic Life.*

ST. MARK'S OR GAUNT'S HOSPITAL in Billeswick was founded in 1230, by Maurice Berkeley and enriched by a great stream of benefactions. Leland calls it an Augustinian Priory, others claim them as Bon-Hommes. They wore the same dress, except the badge, as the canons of Lechlade and their duties were to be the same (Lechlade was a Priory of Black Canons and a hospital). They had a master, 12 clerical and 5 lay brothers, 15 poor men, 12 choir boys to educate, and gave a daily meal to 100 poor folk. No mention is made of sisters. No extern might eat in the house "except in the infirmary," *i.e.*, I suppose in the hospital department, for the house was clearly also a school and a chantry. I can find nothing in the charters as to the management of the infirmary, nor as to whether the 15 poor men were admitted for life or for the duration of their illness.

ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL was founded by two other Berkeleys, Robert and his brother Thomas, 1189-1220. Mention is made of the master, 2-4 brethren, sisters, and 12 poor men, apparently under the rule of St. Austin.¹ There was evidently nursing of the sick going on, and the Sarum charters refer to leprous women here, but if this is not an error for St. Mary Magdalen close by, there must have been a leper annexe. The house was not a rich one and few details of its life have survived. It is curious to note that its Master in 1446 was Thomas Abyngdon, musician of the Chapel Royal and another in later days was the celebrated John Bridgwater, the Cardinal Newman of his time, who, finding his opinions unsettled, gave up revenues of £3000 a year including the Rectorship of Lincoln, Oxford, retired here for a while to think out his position, and then fled to Douay and life long exile.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, REDCLIFFE, was founded in the early days of the hospital movement, at any rate it is

¹ *Proceedings of Clifton Antiq. Club*, A. E. Hudd, i, p. 257; ii, p. 244.

mentioned in 1207 as sharing in Berkeley's great water conduit. It had large buildings running down to the river and we are told that King Henry VI was lodged here in 1446, probably because it was the most convenient house to receive his retinue. The master, brethren and sisters under the rule of St. Austin, seem to have had unusually exciting times from their law suits, threatened bankruptcy and at one time a suspicion of Lollardry, which figure so often in Bishop Bubwith's register.¹ Here we get brief though decisive evidence of the work of the Fraternity of the Holy Spirit in the organization of hospitals and their funds. In 1254 Thomas Sessum, precentor of Wells, built close by a chapel of the Holy Spirit. In 1383, the Fraternity undertook the cost of its maintenance, while the hospital was to have the use of it. Probably the Fraternity took over more and more of the management of the hospital. Changes in the constitution are noticed about 1398. It ceased to be collegiate and the gift of the mastership was transferred from the Diocesan to the Corporation of Bristol. Latimer thought it was a mere leper house because of the sisters, but as we have seen, these were part of the usual staff of a hospital for the sick. There is evidence indeed that it had a leper annexe, but the king would hardly have been sent to lodge in a simple leper asylum. Though details of the work are very scanty, I think that we shall not be wrong in regarding this house as one of the chief hospitals for the sick in Bristol.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL has gained some fame, because it was converted into, or was in a sense, the parent of the Grammar School. It was founded by Lord de la Warre before 1287, and was at first a Priory of Austin Canons and then became a hospital for the poor. We read of a warden, a prioress and sisters. In 1445, there

¹ Somerset Record Society, vol. 29, *Bubwith's Register*.

occurs in the Red Book¹ a petition to the mayor sheriff and worthy council of the city and to other persons, notably masters of ships and mariners, that a gild of sailors might be formed whose headquarters should be in the existing hospital of St. Bartholomew by the licence of the master thereof. A priest and 12 poor sailors were to be lodged there and to pray for all in peril on the sea and to be supported by a tax of 4d. a ton on shipping and certain dues from the sailors' wages. This petition was granted, sealed and entered in the Red Book. Probably Chatterton was right that many other sick persons were lodged and treated there besides these sailors, but records are silent.

THE HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY AND ST. GEORGE was founded or enlarged by Barstaple and his wife about 1390, inside the Lawford gate. It contained, as we know it, a warden and 12 poor men. We do not hear of any brethren or nursing sisters, so that at first sight it appears to be only an almshouse, but not only is it described in the calendar of Papal Registers of 1399 as a hospital for the sick poor, but as late as 1572 mention is made of the sick and destitute travellers who were taken in for one to three days at a time. This house alone escaped confiscation.

Thus besides numerous almshouses and monastic infirmaries, two leper houses and perhaps a commandery, we have five hospitals where there is some reason to think the sick poor were taken in, nursed and treated. None of them however seem to have rivalled the great hospitals of York, Gloucester, London, or Canterbury (with its great library of medical and other books). St. Mark's or Gaunt's Hospital in Billeswick was the wealthiest and perhaps had the finest buildings.

Let us next ask what medical men were available.

PHYSICIANS existed who were taught and licensed by the

¹ *Little Red Book of Bristol*, ii, p. 186.

universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Montpellier, Paris and the Italian schools. For there was much more intercourse with the continent than later on, and a great revival of medical studies had taken place. Among English physicians we meet with Tyngewick, John of Mirfield, Gilbert Anglicanus and John of Gaddesden. Sometimes we find them acting as wardens of the hospitals, as Dr. Pascal at Preston, Dr. J. Arundell at Bethlem, Dr. Recouchez at Pontefract, but no Bristol name marked *medicus* has survived earlier than John Free, who was born of Bristol parents, took his degree at Balliol in 1449 and was made rector of St. Michael's church, *i.e.*, I suppose received a grant of the greater tithes, and was sent by the Bishop of Ely to study in Italy. He became a lecturer on medicine at Padua, Florence and Ferrara and was a writer of some eminence. Many members of monastic orders took medical degrees even when in the priesthood in spite of various canons confining them to their proper functions. These restrictions were more stringent with respect to surgeons, but dispensations were granted them on good cause shown as in the case of the great surgeon Chauliac and others.

SURGEONS. An important group of these was formed by the military surgeons, such as those to whom Edward I committed the care of his army in Scotland, and the surgical staff of Henry V in France under Master Morstead. It is curious that our City possesses a copy of the edition of "Chauliac's Surgery," made for the use of these very army surgeons in France, with an English glossary by command of the English Regent in France, 1422. Great care was taken of the sick and wounded in war and ambulances and nurses provided. The Knights Hospitallers too as we have seen had their depots all over the country. There were also a few surgeons, examined and licensed, not only by the Italian Universities, but also at Cambridge

and Oxford. This has been denied as to the latter places, but I have found some evidence in their favour—notably in 1302 and 1462.

THE BARBER-SURGEONS were a strange and peculiarly English institution. Barbers in many countries have carried on minor surgery, bleeding, and toothdrawing, and were in vogue in Europe during the leprosy period when they often managed the Turkish or Roman baths which were very numerous then. But in England they became united into legal corporations which gradually absorbed every class of surgeons, and sometimes physicians and other crafts, just as the medical guild to which Dante belonged comprised 36 crafts, such as artists, book-binders and mercers.

These Barber-Surgeon corporations were granted by the law a monopoly of surgical practice in the towns, and for 400 years included, educated, and licensed, almost all the British surgeons, among them such brilliant men as Wiseman, Clowes, Cheselden and Percivall Pott.

The surgical members built up a system of education by their apprenticeships, lectures, anatomical teaching and examinations; and they also become a sort of public health service. This was especially the case in London, which became a model for other towns and provided surgical lectures as early as about 1350.¹

Most of the records of Barber-Surgeons have perished, but I have traced them in some 25 towns in the United Kingdom, and in 12 places there are copies of their Ordinances, “showing every variety of organization from the simple guild of barbers in some towns up to the great surgical corporations of London and 4 or 5 other places where a separate and somewhat oppressed section of barbers, wafer makers and others was linked up by law with the surgeons.” Thus we find often in them barbers,

¹ Annals of Barber Surgeons of London, by Sidney Young.

barber-surgeons, and surgeons of the highest class, both civil and military. This was not the case on the continent, where they formed separate bodies.

The first stage of the legal union began with the Act of Parliament of 1363, that every man must belong to a gild. Then followed another in 1370 that apprenticeship in every craft should last seven years. Society was organized on syndicalist lines and these became more definite after a time. There was such a Barber-Surgeons' Society in Bristol, but the date of its foundation is unknown.

In the *Little Red Book* under the date 1395, we first find a reference to the Gild.¹ There is indeed no mention of surgical work, but the full Ordinances are not given, only a single new regulation made by William Frome, the mayor, the sheriff and the 40 who ruled the town, with the consent of the Barbers Gild, that no exercise of the craft in tonsure or in anything pertaining to the craft should be allowed on Sundays with certain exceptions. There happened to be a strong sabbatarian movement at the time, which explains this regulation. See Archbishop Chichele's injunctions.

Again in the *Red Book* in 1418, under Robert Russell, mayor, at the request of the Gild there is an enactment that the old Ordinances should be confirmed and it is laid down as to barbery that no one may carry on the craft unless he belongs to the Gild and unless he is also free of the town.² One or two minor regulations are added. Here we see the "Recognition of the Gild" and its monopoly, but again the text of the Ordinances is not given.

In 1421 Parliament passed a law against practitioners of physic who were not licensed by a University and surgeons who were not licensed by the Masters of the Art; in 1436 it went on to order the Ordinances of all Gilds (and therefore those of Barber-Surgeons) to be submitted to the

¹ *Ibid.*, ii, 69.

² *Ibid.*, ii, 135.

Magistrates of each town for ratification. Accordingly the Barber Surgeon Gilds in London, York, Bristol, Newcastle, Salisbury, Exeter and Durham applied for municipal licences.

In 1439, in the *Red Book*, an entry shows that the licence is granted.

The old ordinances were confirmed and fines for offences against them were to go partly to the town funds and partly to the Gild. The fines were now enforced by the Magistrates and the Gild or Company had a legal status under the common seal of the town. We find in a later writer that the Chirurgions Company were third in the order of precedence, following only the Merchant Taylors and the Weavers and the Mayor himself.

Not only the ordinances of this period but the names of the members are almost entirely lost. John Cheltenham was master of the Gild apparently in 1395 and with him were Pigot, Colchester, Stephens, Lawrence and at least half a dozen more. In 1418, Colchester was master, Adam Hardy a warden.

Besides these men, and John Grene, the witness of Canynge's will, hardly a name has been found to which *Cirurgicus* or *Leche* is added. I shall be asked why I do not mention William of Worcester among the medical men of the time, in view of his physic garden and his supposed authorship of the *Collectiones Medicales*, Sloane MSS. 84. It seems to me that his claims are very shadowy. The late Sir Norman Moore wrote to me that he had been over the MS. for me and found it was a collection of extracts and receipts of much later date, with also a discussion on the care of the health, by Dr. Kymer, physician to Duke Humphry of Gloucester. On the whole Worcester seems to have had no hand in it.

In the Tudor period Parliament enacted in 1540 that the London Company of Barber-Surgeons should be

¹ *Ibid*, ii, 152.

united to the existing Gild of Military Surgeons, and gave the new corporation great powers, and the right to have the bodies of two criminals a year for the study of anatomy, decreeing however that the barbers should entirely abstain from surgery and the surgeons from barbers' work. Vigorous educational measures followed under able teachers. The diploma in surgery was not given till after two or more examinations. Exhibitions to the universities and compulsory post-graduate lectures were founded, and the brilliant surgeons of Elizabethan and later times were the result. The London graduates obtained the right to practise all over England. Other towns followed their example. York sent to them for teachers of anatomy, Newcastle formed a great anatomical school. Edinburgh, Salisbury and Aberdeen got grants of bodies for dissection. Local companies copied even their coat of arms. The monopoly of surgery in the towns was strictly confined to these bodies for 200 years more, but in the height of their prosperity the lawyers found their rights defective, and public opinion grew against monopolies. The *laissez faire* theory of trade became accepted, and municipal close companies withered away. Parliament in 1745 was obliged to separate the London Barbers Company from the Surgeons, who afterwards became the Royal College of Surgeons. About the same time separation took place in York, Edinburgh, Bristol, Newcastle, Dublin and Norwich. State regulation ceased and henceforth anyone could practise without licence or examination till the nineteenth century brought in a new system.

Now as to Bristol, the second city of the kingdom during this period, what do we find. The company had a huge number of members, evidently teaching men for the rural districts as well as the city, a fine examination hall and dissecting room, but every minute book and register has perished. The site of their hall and their armorial bearings were forgotten. It was impossible to get a list

of their members until Mr. W. R. Pountney and I independently copied their names from the burgess books. This forms a most interesting list from about 1545 to 1745 when the practical breakdown and separation took place, giving the names of 500 admissions, many of them names well known today. There were also some 250 apothecaries and about 36 physicians, but the burgess books do not tell us how many of the 500 were passed as "skilled" in surgery, or how many were barbers, or what lectures or examinations they had. One copy of their Ordinances dated 1652, and in a contemporary handwriting, came into the possession of the late Mr. Francis Fox of Yate House. His family have kindly allowed me to transcribe it as the only text of the Ordinances of any date known to exist.¹ This section of the volume is headed "The copies of the Ordinances of severall Companies in Bristol, viz. (1). the Barber Chirurgions, etc." It is written on a stout paper 11½ by 7½, watermark a bell with lamb and flag.

The interesting points in these Ordinances are, as in those of other towns, the compulsory consultations in all serious cases or "cures"; the restriction of surgery to those passed as skilful in surgery and free of the company, or as a later document calls them "the other part of the Company called Surgeons"; the rule forbidding a surgeon to take over another man's patient until the first man's account had been settled; the punishment for any neglect of a patient; the rule for free attendance on the poor; and the supervision of medical stores on ships. The Ordinances unfortunately do not include the regulations and minutes on teaching, but the MS. gives a later order of 1672 restricting still more the number of apprentices as the company was becoming too large.

We do not know where their hall was in mediæval times, possibly they shared the Gild Hall with others. By the kindness of Mr. Wilfrid Leighton, I find in the

¹ See appendix.

papers of the Municipal Charities notes of deeds in the 17th century relating to the hall. In 1620 a building already known as Barbers Hall in the Court Place in a lane out of Corn Street was leased to the Barber Chirurgions by Mr. John Whitson, for 41 years at a rent of 20s. and a stipulation made that the premises should not be sublet for a school, victualling or tipping house. In 1656 this lease was renewed till 1697 at a rent of 40s. and mention is made of the upper chamber above the hall.

Then follow some measurements of the property. Now it is curious that these do not agree with those of the present building, which was used as the hall in the later years of the Company. This measures 40 feet by 26, whereas the lease gives 27 by 25. Either the house was enlarged or a new one built. Moreover the style of architecture shows that the present house was not designed so early as 1620 or 1656. On the whole we may be fairly certain that the existing hall was erected by the company as another document states, and that the date of this was about 1690-9. An argument for this view is given by a deed of 1699 where an agreement is recorded that Messrs. Jones and Burgess are to have the room "*formerly* called the Barbers Hall, and the room over it, situated over two of the cellars of Mr. T. Burgess," "that goeth athwart Cypher lane." There existed therefore the old hall and the new one. The latter was the scene of important meetings at the time of the break up of the Company and again just before the foundation of the Infirmary, when it was known as the Surgeons Hall. Several of the first meetings of the subscribers and committee of the Infirmary were held here. It is a building of some dignity, one front is in Shannon Court and the other is in Exchange Avenue. On the lowest floor were perhaps the committee rooms. On the first floor the hall seems to have occupied the whole area, and a narrow staircase led up to the anatomical theatre on the upper floor. Here additional

light was given by a glazed dome 18 feet in diameter. In the centre of this is still a hook from which according to tradition the bodies were raised and lowered by pulleys. Endless alterations have been made in the rooms but a fine moulding runs round the ceiling of the hall, now a billiard room. After the disruption of the Company the house was let¹ in 1745 to Andrew Hooke, the journalist, as a coffee house. It was mortgaged in 1750 by Isaac Page (master), J. Deverell, S. Pye, W. Hargest, J. Rosewell, sen., J. Hillier, Alex. Morgan and Sam. Tipton for £500 to Standfast Smith, apothecary and Charity Smith, spinster. In 1759, Thomas Ellis being master, the company bought up a ground rent of £4 on part of the premises. In 1767, T. Parsley, master, with other feoffees charged another mortgage of £100 on the building, advanced by Standfast Smith; Charity Smith was dead and Standfast was her heir.

In 1775, the premises were assigned to W. Baker of Tickenham by Charles Armitage, master, and other feoffees. Standfast Smith was dead and his executors accordingly appear in the deed.

At last in 1790, it was sold to Matthew Wright, merchant.

The deed recites that T. Parsley, barber surgeon, Charles Armitage, master, peruke maker, John and Philip Crocker and two other peruke makers being the only other members left of the Barber Surgeons, grant to Matthew Wright for the sum of £900 that messuage standing in or near the new Market, behind the Exchange, and fronting on a lane called Shannon Court and erected by the said company and formerly called Surgeons Hall, Committee Room and Anatomical Theatre, at one time occupied by Andrew Hooke, as his coffee house, and since by three successive tenants, together with the adjoining void ground and right of entry from

¹ Braikenridge Collection, Bristol Reference Library, *All Saints*: abstract of title deeds, p. 419.

Corn Street, and the right of taking water from the pump. A deed poll from another member who had not signed was added a month later.

As the West India Coffee House, the building was an important place of resort for merchants, since the Commercial Rooms were not in existence. Mr. A. E. Habgood of Shannon Court tells me that down to about 1840 Bills of Exchange were often made payable there. It is now a licensed house called "The Grapes." The ground floor is used as the Grotto Restaurant, and the entrance from Shannon Court is closed. My best thanks are due to Messrs. Forbes and Cayzer, the proprietors, for very kind help and permission to have photographs taken.

The history of the separation of Surgeons and Barbers in Bristol is traced with difficulty. In the minutes of the City Council, May 16, 1739 is a petition from Isaac Page and 31 others of the Barbers representing the impositions and grievances they lay under "from the other part of the Company called Surgeons." A counter petition follows from the master and wardens in answer "to the complaint of these uneasie members." The matter was referred to a Committee, but no report appears. Again in March, 1740 another petition from the master and one warden prayed that the Ordinances might be revised, owing to the great inconveniences felt, but nothing was done. Latimer¹ tells us that at the opening of the Exchange, 1743, the Surgeons Company appeared for the last time in the civic procession "marching with music."

Apparently about this time the Surgeons left the Society and ceased to qualify under it. As the monopoly had gone there was no use in belonging to a useless and expensive body. However Mr. John Page, one of the surgeons of the Infirmary, and his colleague James Ford, started courses of lectures on anatomy in the theatre of the hall in 1744, 1746, and 1747. As Page in a volume

¹ *Annals of Bristol*, 18th century, p. 219.

dated 1741 styled himself Prælector of Anatomy, he may have been lecturer under the Company. It is amusing to notice the bitterness and contempt with which the Barber Surgeons are spoken of after the separation, but in reading, for instance, Mr. Munro Smith's amusing stories, we must remember that the most highly polished of the Infirmary surgeons had been trained by and were members of the Company. Thus William Thornhill, a charming handsome man of good family who dressed in black velvet with a rapier by his side and who retired to his estate in Yorkshire on leaving the Infirmary,¹ was a member of the Company, apprenticed to W. Shepherd, and admitted to the freedom, 1719. Thomas Page, who lived in the great mansion in Redcliffe where Queen Anne had been entertained, was an apprentice of R. King and admitted in 1716. His son John was admitted 1737. James Ford, another of the honorary Surgeons, was an apprentice of T. Rosewell and admitted 1739, as my list from the Burgess Books shows. Later on he studied in London and Paris and became Surgeon to Queen Charlotte.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS. The Company appears to have used the arms of the London Company, but no representation of them, or banner, was known to exist till lately when Mr. W. D. Fripp found and purchased a beautiful silver tobacco box bearing a coat of arms with two inscriptions—"The gift of Mr. Standfast Smith, 1769," and "Mr. Thomas Ellis, third time Master." Now Standfast Smith was a prominent apothecary in Corn Street, admitted to the freedom of the city 1738, and had been elected as Apothecary to St. Peter's Hospital. We have seen that he lent the decadent Company £600 on mortgage and died in or before 1775. Thomas Ellis was a Barber Surgeon admitted 1739, and is mentioned as Master in 1750. The arms are simply those of the London body and were used rightly or wrongly by Dublin, New-

¹ Munro Smith, *History of the Bristol Royal Infirmary*.

castle and Chester as well as by Bristol. They had been granted in 1569 by the Heralds College to the United Company. Originally the Society of Military Surgeons bore a rose gules crowned gold pierced by a spatula, with saints Cosmo and Damian as supporters. The Company of Barber Surgeons from the time of Henry VI bore three fleams (or bleeding lancets) argent with a chevron. These were finally combined quarterly with a cross gules over all and a lion passant gardant gold, an opincus as crest, and two lynxes as supporters, just as given in the present instance.

Our survey of medical institutions began at the time of the first great movement for founding hospitals, *i.e.* in the 13th century. An even greater enthusiasm for them suddenly grew up in the early 18th century, to which we owe so many existing hospitals. I cannot now do more than refer in a few words to the new institutions which sprang up in Bristol. For two centuries the country had been practically without any hospitals—an unthinkable state of things to modern ideas. The Act of Elizabeth had authorized hospitals, or poor houses for single parishes, but hardly any were built, till Bristol obtained Carey's Act for combining parishes into unions and erecting a joint hospital. The extraordinary success of the Bristol Union and St. Peter's Hospital, 1696, led to the general adoption of the plan. The great voluntary hospitals began with the founding of the Westminster Infirmary in 1719, and some 20 towns soon provided themselves with stately buildings by local subscriptions. Bristol again was actually the first town in the English provinces to build and open an Infirmary in 1737. Dispensaries to supply medicines grew up in the same unexpected way all over the country, and in this too Bristol shared.

APPENDIX.

THE ORDINANCES OF BARBER CHIRURGIONS.¹

Whereas the Company of Barber Chirurgions of and within the City of Bristol have been anciently incorporated and made a Society and Fellowship, known and called by the name of the Master, Wardens and Company of Barber Surgeons of the City of Bristol, and by the same name may purchase lands and tenements to them and their successors, and sue and be sued, and do execute and perform all other acts, deeds or things consonant and agreeable to law and reason as fully and absolutely for the better Reglement of the said Company as any other Company or Society may or might lawfully do within the said City. And whereas divers Ordinances, laws and constitutions heretofore made, granted and established for the welfare and government of the said Company and confirmed and approved by the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the said City, are now worn out, defaced and become illegible, and therefore [it is] fit and requisite they should be quickened and revived and the said Company ordered and enjoined to observe the same orders and government as formerly hath been used and accustomed. We therefore the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the said City, at the humble suit and petition of the said Master, Warden, and Company of Barber Chirurgions of the said City of Bristol, having taken the premises into consideration, and finding the same to be true, do as much as in us lyeth, and according to the ancient use and custom of the said City time out of mind used, approved and allowed,—re-establish, ratify, and confirm the said Company and Society of Barber Chirurgions of the said City, by the name of the Master, Warden and Company of the Barber Chirurgions of the City of Bristol, that by the same name of incorporation may sue and be sued, and be capable to purchase, have, receive and take lands, Tenements, or other hereditaments to them and their successors, and may from time to time make good and reasonable laws, ordinances and constitutions agreeable to law and reason, the customs and privileges of the said City, for the better order rule and government of the said Company and Society as to them from time to time shall seem meet and convenient.

(1). And it is ordered, agreed and established that, as anciently hath been used, the said Master Wardens and Company of Barber Chirurgions of the said City shall yearly upon the 16th day of September, if it be not Sunday, or the next day following,

¹ Transcribed by permission from a copy preserved at Yate House.

assemble and meet together in their common Hall to elect and choose one of the said Company to be Master for the year then next following, at which time, if any of the said Company being summoned and warned shall not attend and appear—unless in case of sickness or other reasonable cause of absence, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten shillings in current money ;

(2). In like manner for not appearing upon any quarter day, if summoned or his house warned to that purpose, or not paying such Quarterage as commonly hath [been] used and accustomed, shall forfeit for every time neglecting or refusing, the sum of three shillings and four pence to be divided as hereafter is expressed.

(3). And it is agreed that whatever person or persons of the said Company shall be elected Master of the said Company and shall refuse to take the said office upon him or them, and take his oath before the Mayor for the time being within twenty days after his election, as anciently hath been accustomed, then every such person or persons so refusing or neglecting shall forfeit and pay for such refusal or neglect 40 shillings, the one half of which forfeiture shall be paid to the said Mayor of the City of Bristol for the time being for the use of the poor, and the other half to their said Company for the use and benefit of their common Hall and Company.

(4). Item that the said Company shall upon the same day elect and choose one or two Wardens of the said Company to attend on the said Master of the said Company, and to take his or their oaths in like manner before the Mayor, as anciently hath been used ; and if any person or persons shall be elected Warden or Wardens of the said Company and shall refuse to take the said office upon him or them and to be sworn as aforesaid, that then every person or persons so refusing shall forfeit and pay for every such offence 20 shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(5). Item it is ordered that no person or persons of the said Company shall take any apprentice for any lesser term than seven years, to be bound by indentures to be made at and entered in the Tolzey of the said City according to the customs thereof,—upon pain that every person or persons doing the contrary shall forfeit and pay for every such offence 40 shillings to be divided as aforesaid, and that no person or persons of the said Company shall keep above two apprentices at any one time, unless he be or hath been Master of the said Company, on pain to forfeit and pay for every such offence 40 shillings, and besides shall forfeit 3s. 4d. for every day he shall retain and keep such an apprentice or servant

contrary to this order, and that such person or persons that have or hath been or hereafter shall be Master or Masters of the said Company shall and may keep three apprentices at one time, but not more than three upon pain that every person or persons offending and doing the contrary shall forfeit and pay for every such offence 40 shillings, and 3s. 4d. for every day after as aforesaid, the same penalties to be divided as aforesaid.

(6). Item that no person or persons of the said Company whatsoever shall receive or retain into his service any journey-man stranger without leave of Mr. Mayor for the time being, or any other to be a journey-man for any lesser or longer term or time than one whole year, without leave from the Masters and Wardens of the said Company for the time being, on pain of 40 shillings for every month that he shall keep any such, and the said journeyman so received and admitted shall pay to the Masters of the said Company for his entrance 2s. 6d.; and every Master shall pay for the entrance of every apprentice, 12 pence for the benefit of the Hall; provided that for a stranger travelling upon the way, it shall be lawful for any of the Company to keep and retain such stranger by leave of Mr. Mayor for the time being, by the space of twenty days and not above, and having also leave of the Master of the said Company, and not otherwise upon pain that every person or persons by doing the contrary shall forfeit and pay for every such offence 40 shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(7). Item that no person or persons whatsoever shall from henceforth keep any house, chamber or shop within the said City or suburbs thereof to the intention to work or use the mystery or occupation of a barber or shall use or exercise that trade or mystery in Bristol before he shall be sworn and made a free Burgage of the said City and Company and received into the Society aforesaid, without special cause allowed by the Mayor and Aldermen for the time being, upon pain that the person or persons retaining or keeping any such in his or their house to forfeit for every week offending 20 shillings, and the party using or exercising such mystery to forfeit and pay for every offence 13s. 4d. to be divided as aforesaid.

(8). And that no Master of the said Company shall make any stranger or person whatsoever, not having served seven years as an apprentice in Bristol, free of the said Company and Society upon pain to forfeit 20 pounds to be divided as aforesaid, unless the whole Company and Society shall thereunto assent and agree.

(9). Item that no Barber of the said Company shall trim,

barb, or shave any person or persons whatsoever within the liberties of the said City upon a Sabbath day, upon pain to forfeit or pay for every such offence six shillings and eightpence to be divided as aforesaid.

(10). And that no person or persons whatsoever of the said Company or City shall from henceforth take in hand any Cure within the liberties of the said City before such time as he shall come to the Hall of the said Company and be allowed by the said Company to be a sufficient workman and skilful in the art of Surgery and made free of the said Company—unless it shall be in a time of extremity when no chirurgion of the said Company or City can within convenient time be found, or unless it be done gratis to a poor body in the time of necessity, or upon some other reasonable cause to be allowed by the Master and Company as aforesaid upon pain to forfeit for every such offence and pay forty shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(11). Item, that no chirurgion or chirurgions of the said Company shall take any Cure out of another's hands without his consent, or before such time as he which took the same Cure first in hand be satisfied contented for his pains in such reasonable sort and manner, as shall be thought fit and adjudged by two different persons, the one to be chosen by the chirurgion and the other by the patient; or that he be excused by the Mayor for the time being, upon pain to forfeit and pay for every such offence, 20 shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(12). And that no person or persons of the said Company taking in hand any Cure, shall suffer such a Cure to perish for want of looking unto, but shall do his uttermost endeavour and give due attendance upon every such patient as he or they shall take in hand, to the best of his power and skill until such a Cure be ended—upon pain to forfeit for every such offence, £5, to be divided as aforesaid.

(13). Item, that no person or persons of the said Company shall at any time hereafter use any opprobrious unseemly or uncomely words to anyone that is, hath been, or shall be Master of the said Company, upon pain of forty shillings, and to be further dealt with as the Mayor of the said city for the time being, shall think fit.

(14). And that no person or persons of the said Company having lawful warning to appear at the Hall of the Company shall refuse to come, and absent himself or themselves from the Common Hall at the usual times of meeting or at Quarter Days,

unless he or they have lawful excuse to the contrary, to be allowed by the Master and Company for the time being, upon pain that every such offender or offenders shall forfeit and pay for every time of absence or refusal, 6s. 8d. to be divided as aforesaid.

(15). Item, that no man of the Company of Barber Chirurgions shall keep at any time more than one shop or house to use the art or occupation of Barbing, or shaving within the liberties of the City of Bristol, upon pain of every week so doing 40 shillings, to be divided as aforesaid; that is, one half to the Mayor for the use of the poor and the other half to the Masters and Wardens of the Company for the good of the Hall.

(16). Item, that no person or persons of the said Company shall from henceforth take upon him or them to cure any person of any wound or grief which is in danger to lose his life or limb, before he acquaint two or three of the chiefest and most skillful therewith, who may view the same Cure before he take it in hand upon [pain] to forfeit for such offence five pounds to be divided as before said.

(17). Item, that every stranger to the liberties of this City, which shall be shipped as chirurgion for a voyage in any ship, barque or vessel out of or from this port of Bristol, shall pay to the said Company at his return from sea, being demanded by the Master or Wardens of the said Company for the time being or any of them, the sum of 2s. 6d., and for refusal to pay the same, shall forfeit and pay 5s. to be divided as aforesaid.

(18). Item, that if any poor or impotent person of this City shall by any accident be hurt, or any other way diseased, wherein he shall have cause to use the help of a chirurgion for his better recovery that in such cases the Master of the said Company shall appoint a sufficient man to cure him and upon curing of such party or parties, the chirurgion shall present a bill of charges wherein the Mayor and two aldermen shall set down what the party cured shall pay for the salve and medicine, the chirurgion to do such a Cure gratis where there is not ability for the party cured to pay for the same.

(19). Item, it is ordered and established that all Chirurgions whatsoever exercising the Art and Mystery of Surgery, whether Burgesses or freemen of this City, or strangers and not freemen of this City, that shall be at any time hereafter entertained to go Chirurgion, in any ship or vessel bound out or from this city or any the ports harbours or creeks thereunto belonging, in any voyages whatsoever, shall before he or they send his chest aboard any ship or vessel, give notice thereof to the Master and Wardens

of the said Company for the time being, to the end [that] the said chest may be reviewed and examined by the Master of the said Company and two others at least of the said Company for the sufficiency and well furnishing thereof with all things necessary for the said voyages, upon pain that every freeman of the said City, or stranger that shall offend in doing the contrary shall forfeit the sum of 20 shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(20). Item, it is ordered that every free Burgess of this City or his servant upon or after viewing of his chest, and allowance thereof, shall presently give and pay to the Master of the said Company to the use and benefit of their Hall and Company 2s. 6d., or in default of payment thereof shall forfeit the sum of 5s. 8d., and every stranger not being a free burgess shall give and pay to the use aforesaid, 3s. 4d., or otherwise shall forfeit the sum of ten shillings to be divided as aforesaid.

(21). Item, it is ordered that if the Master of the said Company shall not within 24 hours after notice to him given of any chest to be sent abroad, either view such chest himself, or cause the same to be viewed by others of the Company as aforesaid, such Master shall forfeit the sum of 6s. 8d. and the person retained may send his chest aboard and deliver the key thereof to the master or owners of the ship or vessel, so as he or they receiving the key, do first see the chest himself and allow thereof.

(22). Item, it is ordered that after view of any chest by the Master or others of the said Company the same chest shall be locked up by the Master if approved of, and the key thereof delivered to the master or owners of the said ship or vessel to which such chirurgion shall belong, and if any differences shall grow or arise thereof betwixt the viewers and owners of any chest touching insufficiency in provisions or else, the same shall be determined by the master and owners of the ship in which the chest is [?] and in default of their agreement, the Mayor and any two aldermen of the City or more of them, shall put an end thereunto and order what they think meet therein.

(23). And lastly the said Mayor and Aldermen and Common Council of the City having passed and considered of the before mentioned articles do approve of them as reasonable and convenient for the said Company from henceforth to observe, and for the avoiding of outrage and breach of the peace, which is occasioned by and upon taking of distresses for breach of articles by which Companies are regulated, as by common experience appeareth. We therefore do order appoint and decree that for

breach of these and any other articles ordinances and constitutions by which the said Company is governed, or which are or shall be made for their regulation or government, it shall be lawful for the Master of the said Company to bring an action of debt in his name for the recovery of any pains or penalty, that from henceforth shall be forfeited by any person or persons for or by reason of the said articles orders and constitutions or any of them; the same action or actions to be prosecuted in the Court of Record, to be holden in the same City before the Mayor and Aldermen there, and the sum or sums which shall be there recovered, to be distributed, bestowed in manner and form as before is limited and appointed, that is to say the one half of such fine to the said Mayor and Aldermen for the time being, to the use of the poor of the said City, and the other half to the use of the said Company; provided that if any article act or thing herein contained shall be found hereafter repugnant to law reason or the common profit of the City and people therein, and thought not meet to be continued or put in execution; that then so often the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the said City shall and may rectify reform and redress the same as to them shall seem meet and requisite.

In witness whereof, we the said Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the said City of Bristol have caused the common seal of incorporation of the said City, to be hereunto set and affixed, the seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord God, according to the Computation of the Church of England, 1652.