



*J. Wale del.*

*-Hide not thy Face from thine own Flesh.*

*Lamb. Ch. 53. 17.*

*C. Grignion Sc.*

A N

# A C C O U N T

OF THE

## Westminster New Lying-in Hospital,

Begun and finished under the Patronage of the

Right Honorable Earl PERCY, President.

Sir Edward Ashley, Bart.	} Vice-	} Presidents. {	John Crewe, Esqr.
Sir Joseph Mawbey, Bart.			Thomas Dundas, Esqr.
Major General Williamsen.			Thomas Hearne, Esqr.

IN the Year 1765, Dr. JOHN LEAKE, of *Craven-street*, in the *Strand* (a Member of the College of Physicians, *London*) purchas'd a Piece of Ground on a Building Lease on the *Surry Side* of *Westminster Bridge*, and afterwards presented to the Public the *Original Plan* for the Institution of this Hospital:—As soon as the *Hospital* was built, by Public Subscription on the above Ground, he voluntarily, and



and without any Consideration whatever, assign'd over to six *Trustees* chosen by the Governors at a *General Meeting*, all his Right and claim to the above *Premises*, in Favor of this Charity; otherwise, in Case it had not continued to subsist, the *Building* rais'd on his Ground wou'd have legally become his own Property.

Being honor'd with the Patronage of the Right Honorable Earl PERCY, together with several Gentlemen of *Rank* and *Distinction*, and being also favor'd with the Assistance of his *Friends* and the *Public*, which he is desirous most respectfully to acknowledge, he at last had the Satisfaction of seeing this charitable Design carried into Execution, after the repeated Exertion of his utmost Endeavours, to that end.

The Institution of this Charity is principally designed for the Relief of those Child-bearing Women who are the Wives of *poor industrious Tradesmen* or *distress'd House-keepers*, who, either from *unavoidable Misfortunes* or the Expence of maintaining large Families, are reduced to real Want: Also for the Reception and immediate Relief of indigent *Soldiers* and *Sailors* Wives, the former, in particular, being very numerous in and about the City of *Westminster*; but it being represented to the Governors of this Hospital, that great *Hardships* do arise to poor Women with Child, who, from their Inability to *produce Certificates* of their *Marriage* are excluded elsewhere; in order to remove such Inconveniences, and to render this Charity more *extensively useful*, they have unanimously resolv'd, at a *General Meeting*, not to require any *Certificates of Marriage* towards the Admission of such Women, as are otherwise properly recommended as *Objects of real Want*;—but least the Perversion of this Circumstance should tend to *encourage Licentiousness*, they have thought proper to limit this Indulgence to the *first Time only*, in which, such Women have been unwarily seduced from the Paths of *Virtue*.—This Resolution, being founded in *Humanity*, the Governors have no Doubt, will meet with the Approbation of the Public, as several Melancholly Instances have occur'd where *unfortunate Women*, when shut out from all *Shelter*,—destitute of *Hope, Money, or Friends*,—overwhelm'd with *Shame*, and wounded with *Contrition* for their past Indiscretion, have been driven to a state of Dispair by such complicated Misery, and were tempted to *destroy themselves* or to *murder their Infants*.

It is much to be lamented, that many of those poor Creatures who lie-in at their own wretched Habitations, from their *extreme Poverty*, and the *high Price of Provisions*, are often bereft of such Comforts as tend to the immediate Preservation of their own Lives, as well as those of their *Infants*, who, in due time, might become serviceable to their *Country*. Amidst the Severity of the coldest Seasons, they are often destitute of *Firing, warm Cloathing, or sufficient Nourishment*; and besides, are frequently in want of *proper Care and Nursing, till the Perils of Child-bed are over*:—The Evil does not always end here;—because, in *præternatural Labours*, or Cases of absolute Danger, where extraordinary Skill is required, the poor Sufferer for want of proper Advice and Assistance, sometimes dies undelivered.

In short, were the Generous and Humane but Eye-Witneses of the Wretchedness, and Want, that many poor Women undergo at this *critical Juncture, when they most stand in need of Tenderness and Indulgence*; a Representation of this Kind would almost become unnecessary;—for, nothing would more powerfully excite their Compassion, or enforce their Bounty, towards the Establishment and Support of this Charity.



To the Sanction and humane Consideration of the *Ladies*, this Charity is recommended by the Governors in a particular manner; especially to those who are *Mothers* themselves, and have experienced the Fears and Sufferings of that Condition which attends the *Objects of their Bounty*.

As no one is so *rich*, but he may become *poor*; nor any one so *happy*, as to exclude the Possibility of becoming *miserable*; 'tis earnestly hoped, that all such as have been successful in the World, and live in Affluence and Plenty, will not withhold their Assistance from the *Poor* and *Needy*; but cheerfully spare them a little, as a grateful Acknowledgement to Providence for their own happier Fate.

These Hints are submitted to the *Good* and *Great* of both Sexes, to whom it would be an Indignity to point out further Motives for *this Institution*; since those who are influenced by the *Divine Spirit of Charity*, follow not the Dictates of others, but of their own benevolent Hearts.

This Charity, from its *general Utility*, having hitherto met with great Encouragement from the Public, 'tis hoped, by the *Governors*, that many of the *Nobility* and Others, and also that Gentlemen of Rank both in the *Army* and *Navy*, will follow the laudable Example of *those*, by whose generous and charitable Assistance the *whole Building* is now raised; being *One Hundred Feet* in Front, and large enough to contain *Seventy Beds*, or thereabouts.

The *Governors* also think it proper to acquaint the Public, that altho' the Benefactions and Subscriptions already received, have enabled them to finish the *Building*, the *Centre* of which, for upwards of twelve Months past, has been *open for the Reception of In-Patients*; a great Number of which, have, already, been deliver'd and reliev'd there, many of whom were in the utmost Distress and must, otherwise, have been *destitute*, especially those who were unable to produce *Marriage Certificates*; yet a considerable Sum of Money is still wanted to furnish the inside of the Wings; which, the *Governors* also hope, thro' the Assistance of the *Public-spirited* and *Humane* to complete and open in a short Time, according to the *Plan originally proposed*.

Dr. LEAKE being unanimously elected Physician to *this Hospital*, attends in all *præternatural Labours* or *Cases of real Danger*, where extraordinary Assistance is requir'd, and in order to extend the Benefits of this Charity (at the Request of the *Governors*) he will also give *Advice* every *Friday* at twelve o'Clock at the said Hospital, to such *Poor*, as shall then offer themselves as *Out-Patients*, with a Recommendation from *Governors* or *Subscribers*, for Relief in the *several Disorders* incident to *Child-bearing Women* or *Infants*, and to whom, *proper Medicines* will also be dispensed according to the Exigence of their several Complaints.

*Subscriptions* are received at the *Hospital*, near *Westminster Bridge*;—at *Richard Dixon's*, Esqr. near *Buckingham-Gate*, *Treasurer*;—at Mess. *Drummonds*, and Co. at *Charing-Cross*; and at Mess. *Fullers*, and Co. Bankers, in *Birchin-Lane*, *Cornhill*; at all which Places, a *Printed Account* of the Present State of this Charity may be had.

Every Benefactor of *Fifty Pounds*, *One Hundred Pounds*, or more, will be unlimited with Respect to the Number of Lying-in Patients, as well as those recommended to the Hospital Weekly for Advice in the *several Disorders incident to Child-bearing Women* or *Infants*.

Privilege of  
Governors &  
Subscribers.

Benefactors



Benefactors of *Thirty Guineas*, at one Time, will be deem'd *Governors for Life*, and may yearly recommend *Five In-Patients*, and one *Out Patient*, *Weekly*, for Advice.

Every Gentleman or Lady subscribing *Five Guineas annually*, becomes a Governor, and may recommend *Five Lying-in Patients* yearly, and *Out-Patients* as above.

Subscribers of *Three Guineas*, may recommend *Two In-Patients*, and *One Out-Patient* for weekly Advice.

Subscribers of *Two Guineas*, may recommend *One Patient* into the Hospital, and *Out-Patients*, as above.

The Business of this Hospital is regularly transacted by the Governors at a *Board* held at the said Hospital *every Tuesday at twelve o'Clock*, precisely, where the Attendance of Governors or Subscribers will be deem'd a valuable Addition to their Subscription;—and, as several *Letters of Recommendation* are frequently obtain'd from *Governors* or *Subscribers* by Women whom they have not an Opportunity of seeing or asking Questions;—the Governors, &c. are desired to observe, that the *Weekly Board* has a discretionary Power to make a proper Enquiry of the *Patients* then presenting, respecting the Nature of their Circumstances, in Order to prevent the Admission of *those*, who are not found to be *real Objects of Distress*, or who do not come within the true Intent and Meaning of this Charity.

*Note*, No Governor or Subscriber can have more than *One Patient in the House*, at a Time, and they are particularly requested not to sign any *Letters of Recommendation*, except for those Women who are in the *last Month* of Pregnancy.

The Governors have given Orders to the *Matron*, to wait on such *Ladies* round the *Wards* as are pleas'd to view the *Hospital*, or to see the Treatment of the Patients, several of whom, from their *healthy Appearance* and *decent Behaviour* are frequently recommended as proper *Wet-Nurses*; a List of such Women, only, being kept for that Purpose.

The following Form is humbly recommended to those, who, by their *last Will*, or any *Codicil* thereto, are disposed to bequeath any *Legacy* for the Benefit of this Hospital, as yet in it's *infant State*, viz.

*Item.* I Give and bequeath unto A. B. and C. D. the Sum of \_\_\_\_\_ upon Trust, and to the Intent, that they, or one of them, do pay the same to the Treasurer for the time being of a Society, who now call themselves the Governors of *The Westminster New Lying-in Hospital* near *Westminster Bridge*; which said sum of \_\_\_\_\_ I will, and desire, may be paid out of my Personal Estate, and applied towards carrying on the charitable Designs of the said Society.

\* \* By the Statute of *Mortmain*, charitable Bequests of *Manors, Lands, or Money*, if directed to be laid out in *Lands*, are *void*, unless by Deed indented and executed before two Witnesses, at least *Twelve Months* before the decease of the Donor, and inrolled within *Six Months* next after the Execution of the same.

The Patients are attended by  
A Physician Man Midwife.  
A Physician Man Midwife extraordinary.  
A Consulting Physician.  
A Surgeon.  
Two Visiting Apothecaries, and  
A Matron.