
LAWS, ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS,

OF THE

EDINBURGH GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

To the PUBLIC.

Those who are engaged in the practice of Midwifery have often occasion to see large families of children suddenly deprived of a mother, by whose vigilant care they were accustomed to be protected from those accidents to which infancy is exposed, by the want of that management during child-bearing which opulence can procure.

It is well known also, that women in low life are subject to disorders in consequence of improper treatment during the critical season of lying-in, which render the latter years of their existence miserable, and which frequently prevent them from making those exertions on which their own sustenance, as well as that of their family, may depend.

For these reasons, the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh allotted, for many years, a Ward for Pregnant Women; but the number of patients having been restricted to six, their humane intentions were beneficial in a partial degree only; and from the state of their funds, they have lately been obliged to shut up that Ward entirely.

The increase of workmen in this city has been very great
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within these few years, while at the same time the ordinary wages of labour are so low, that in general a workman cannot, by his own industry alone, support a family of children. The assistance of his wife's work, therefore, is necessary for this purpose. Hence, during lying in, the funds of the family are lessened, while the necessary expences are increased; consequently the unhappy mother must either be deprived of that care which is absolutely essential to her recovery, (if she have escaped the dangers of child-bearing), or a debt must be incurred, which may prove the source of much distress.

A Lying-in Hospital, on a proper plan, must obviate many of those evils. — On the continent, there is an Hospital of that kind in almost every large city. In London, there are twelve different institutions for the relief of poor pregnant women. In Newcastle, there are two; and in Manchester one. A Lying-in Hospital, on a large scale, was established in Dublin in the year 1745.

In many of these Hospitals married women alone are received; in some a provision is also made for unmarried women; and in a few the benefits of the Charity are extended only to out-patients.

The Directors of the Edinburgh General Lying-in Hospital have adopted a plan which comprehends all the advantages of those different institutions; while at the same time they have endeavoured, by proper Regulations, to guard against every inconvenience which might be dreaded from so extensive a plan.

Convinced that the inhabitants of Scotland cannot be destitute of those feelings which have occasioned the establishment of similar Charities in every other civilized country, the Directors of the Edinburgh General Lying-in Hospital have advanced a very considerable sum of money in the purchase of a house, area, &c. that the poor of this city may be no longer deprived of an institution from which they must derive so many advantages.

LIST OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR 1793.

President,

The Right Honourable the Lord Provost.

Vice Presidents,

The Lord Chief Baron,

The First Bailie,

Dr Monro,

John Davidson, Esq; of Halreese.

Ordinary Directors,

The College Bailie,

The College Treasurer,

Dr C. Stuart,

Professor Dugald Stewart,

John Buchan, Esq; writer to the signet,

Hugh Warrender, Esq;

James Williamson, Esq;

Dr James Hamilton junior,

Treasurer,

Mr Archibald Mackinlay, South Bridge.

Ordinary Physician,

The Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

Extraordinary Physician,

Dr C. Stuart.

Assistant Physician,

Dr James Hamilton junior.

WET NURSES.

A Register for Wet Nurses is to be kept at the Hospital, and shall be always open to the Subscribers.

The Nurses entered in this Register must be women of an unexceptionable character, who are in every respect properly qualified for the important duty in which they wish to engage.

That none but women of this description be registered, every Nurse must apply to the Physician, who alone is entrusted with the charge of the Register, and who will attend at the Hospital, for that purpose, every Tuesday and Friday, at Three o'clock P. M.

Subscriptions and Benefactions for the Edinburgh General Lying-in Hospital, are received by Mr A. Mackinlay, Treasurer, South Bridge.

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