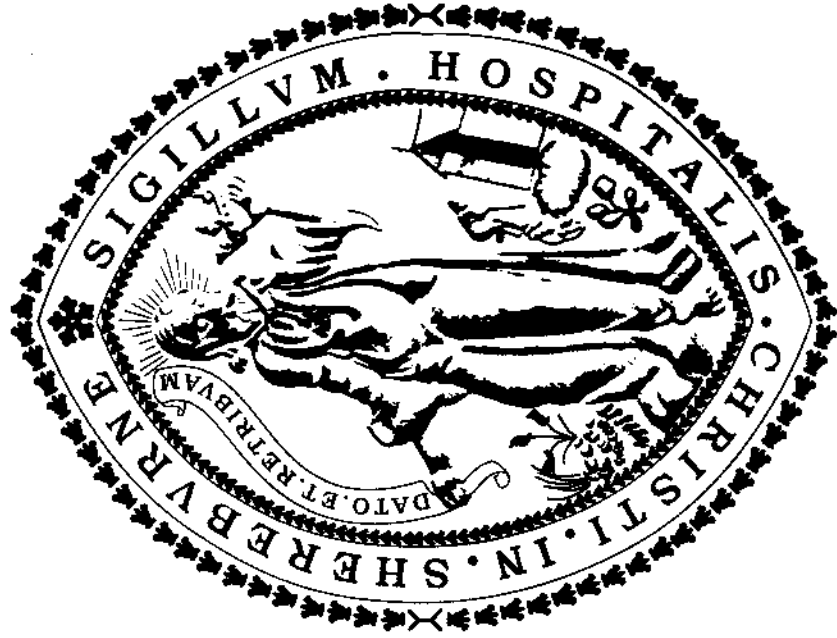


# SHERBURN HOSPITAL



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# SHERBURN HOSPITAL DURHAM

This booklet, compiled at the request of the Governors to mark the eight hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Sherburn Hospital, is emphatically not a definitive history. Such a work should be very much longer, for it would include a recital of the foundation deed in full, and also of the later deeds introducing modifications of the constitution. The numerous Schemes of the Charity Commissioners would have to be quoted at considerable length and the many changes in sources of income would have to be catalogued. As explained elsewhere, however, the work would be hampered by deficiencies in the records. It is hoped, however, that the following pages will give a picture of the origin, development and present state of the Charity, and will hint at some of the problems posed by an interesting and in some ways unusual institution.

Even this small effort could not have been accomplished without help from many people. If any have been omitted from the following list of names, it is by the author's deeply regretted inadvertence. Their voices, alas, did not always speak in unison. The author alone must be blamed for errors.

Lt. Colonel K. J. Archer, Mr. R. S. Bournemouth, Miss P. Carter, The Rev. Canon D. E. Davison, Mrs. J. L. Drury, Mr. J. E. Fagg, Dr. J. M. Fewster, Dr. J. A. Findlay, Mr. B. J. T. Hanson, Mr. E. Luxmoore, Mr. C. Machin, Miss M. S. McCollum, The Master, The Worshipful The Rev. E. Garth Moore, Mr. P. Mussett, The Ven. M. C. Perry, Mr. F. S. Ritson, Professor B. Smythe, Mr. M. G. Snape, Mr. J. R. Taylor, Mrs. L. Yorke and above all, Mr. M. C. Norwood, Clerk to the Governors.

C.W.G.

*The Governors of Sherburn Hospital would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Gibby for the considerable time and effort he has given in the preparation of this booklet.*

## INTRODUCTION

In the record of Bishop Chandler's Visitation of Sherburn Hospital in 1731 we read "Having in our visitation upon the place discovered that all local statutes made by our predecessors since the foundation of the said Hospital by Queen Elizabeth were either lost or concealed or of no validity for want of a ratification under episcopal seal . . ." This was based on a statement by the then Master. "In the hospital there is not a scrap of paper left of any charters, title deeds or other evidences, or any remembrance of such in the hospital. But I have been told by some antiquaries and believe that they were mostly embezzled in Queen Elizabeth's time and the rest a few years after".

A similar statement might be made today. Under the first scheme of The Charity Commissioners, which came into operation in 1858, a Board of Governors was constituted. From then until 1962, although the clerk was to take minutes of its meetings, only one volume survives, covering, usually in a very cryptic style, the years 1864/5/6/7. In 1867 estimates were accepted for the erection of a Gas Works and for the introduction of a main water supply, but neither plans nor specifications are to be found. The private gas works continued in use until 1920, when mains electricity was brought in, but there is no information as to the efficiency of its working. There is no complete set of accounts at the Hospital before 1962.

There are references to preparations for the reception of patients into the newly built hospital (in the modern sense of the word) but the only records of the running thereof between 1872 and 1947 are in one volume giving a list of about 25,000 operations performed from 1920 to 1947, and another giving details of the admission of 114 probationer nurses and their ultimate fates (35 qualified, 6 "ran away") from 1914 to 1947. The surviving minutes refer to reports on the working of the dispensary rendered by the Medical Officer, but there are no copies of the reports themselves.

Great destruction during the Civil War period may account for the disappearance of the earlier records. It is tempting, though unprofitable, to speculate as to the reasons for the absence of the later ones.

## LEPROSY

Until 1847 the word "leprosy" was applied to a large number of skin conditions caused by scabies, tuberculosis, syphilis and psoriasis. In the Middle Ages the same Latin word was used for mange in animals and for mildew. In the year mentioned, leprosy was shown to be a distinct clinical entity, and in 1873 Hansen, in Norway, identified *Mycobacterium Leprae*, which causes it. It is impossible to estimate reliably the extent of leprosy in the Middle Ages, when diagnostic methods were based on little knowledge.

Sherburn Hospital was founded for 65 "lepers". By the early fifteenth century the disease had diminished so much that a revised constitution provided for two lepers "if they can be found". The reason, or reasons, for the decline, are uncertain.

The Hospital and Homes of St. Giles were first established in 1914, at East Hanningfield, near Chelmsford, Essex, for British subjects in Great Britain who suffer from leprosy; now the only such institution in the United Kingdom. From 1914 to 1924 they were staffed by the Brothers of the Divine Compassion, and then, after twelve years of temporary expedients, by the Anglican order of Sisters of the Sacred Passion. They are supported by the National Health Service and by voluntary contributions, including, since 1917, one from Sherburn Hospital, which thus maintains a link with the purpose of its original foundations. There is accommodation for twenty patients. Another hospital, in Surrey, was short-lived.

Leprosy became a notifiable disease in this country in 1951, and over a thousand notifications were received up to 1976. Nobody has been known to contract leprosy in this country 1936-76 and only four persons in this century. Most of the cases involve immigrants or returned expatriates.

## FOUNDATION

Sherburn Hospital was established in or about the year 1181 by Bishop Pudsey. It was dedicated to our Lord, to the Blessed Virgin, to St. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. The establishment was for the reception of lepers. Sixty-five persons suffering from that disease, male and female, were to find refuge within its walls. The foundation charter mentions the church of the hospital, and also an inner chapel, within the house of the infirm, erected in honour of St. Nicholas. The original constitutions were revised and extended by Bishop Kellaw. They throw a curious and deeply interesting light on the internal management of the establishment at an early period.

Pudsey provided that the establishment should include three priests and four clerics, two of whom were to celebrate divine offices at the altar of St. Mary Magdalene, and the third at the altar of St. Nicholas, "and this shall be the mass for the leprous sisters within whose house, on the south side, the said chapel is situated". But Bishop Kellaw appointed a fourth priest, to whom was deputed the office of the Blessed Virgin, "in the new chapel which he has constructed in honour of the Blessed Virgin on the north side of the greater chapel." This was to be the mass for the leprous brethren. On Lord's days and the greater feasts high mass was to be celebrated in the principal chapel, when the priests and clerks were to be present, as well as all the brethren and sisters, the brethren coming and going under the conduct of the prior, and the sisters under that of their prioress. The proctor, who was the one to whom the charge of the whole establishment was committed, was to be a priest, religious or secular, the former if possible. His establishment was not to include more than three horses. Priests and clerks were to sleep in the chamber near the chapel, except the proctor should elect to have one of them with him in his own chamber; but all, as well as the proctor, were to dine and sup together in the hall. In winter the priests were to rise at midnight to nocturnes<sup>1</sup>, after which they slept till dawn, when they silently returned to church to lauds. But in winter they were to rise at such an hour that nocturnes might end just as day dawned. A lamp was to be kept burning in the greater church "in the presence of the body and blood of our Lord," and at the high mass and the mass of the Virgin two lamps at least were to be lit.

Every brother and every sister was to have each day a loaf weighing five marks<sup>2</sup> and a gallon of ale. Three days in the week they were to eat flesh and the remaining four, fish. One dish, either of flesh, fish, cheese or butter, was to serve for two persons. On certain feast days they were to have a dish each. On the feast of St. Cuthbert, in Lent, each inmate had a dish of fresh salmon if it could be procured, and if not, then a dish of other fresh fish. On St. Michael's Day a goose was allotted to every four inmates, but if that fell on Friday or Saturday the geese were reserved for the following Sunday. Every brother and sister was to receive annually three ells<sup>3</sup> of woollen cloth, russet or white, and six ells of linen cloth, and six ells of canvas were allowed for towels. Each inmate had fourpence a year to provide shoes and six times in the year grease was supplied for their shoes. Each had four stones of tallow in the year. On three occasions in the year they had three trusses of straw, and as

1. "Clerics" is an unsatisfactory translation of the Latin "clericus", which was understood in the Middle Ages to refer not only to bishops, priests and deacons but also to the minor orders such as sub-deacons, acolytes, doorkeepers and exorcists. No single, modern English word is adequate.

2. "Religious" belonged to one of the monastic orders; "seculars" were the clergy living in the outside world, such as the parish priests.

3. The daily round of monastic services, which was copied in some other establishments, varied at different times and in different places. It was referred to as the "hours", and consisted, more or less, of matines, mass, lauds, prime, tierce, sext, none, vespers and compline.

4. A mark was a unit of both account (it was never a coin) equal to 13s/4d (69p) and of weight, about 160z.

5. An ell or cloth-yard was 45 inches.

often they had four bundles of rushes. When they had fresh fish, fresh flesh, or eggs, they were allowed the twentieth part of a raser<sup>6</sup> of salt. During Lent they had a raser of wheat to make furmenty<sup>7</sup>. The brethren elected their own prior, and the sisters their prioress. The brethren dwelt by themselves and the sisters the same. Four fires were allowed for which, from St. Michael's Day till the feast of All Saints, two baskets of peat were granted on each day on which the inmates had a double quantity of food, and from All Saints Day till Easter the fuel was measured at four baskets of peat a day, with two additional baskets on the double mess days. A basket of peat was to contain a measure equal to five rasers of wheat and two kenyns<sup>8,9</sup>. On Christmas Eve they had four great trunks (i.e. Yule-logs), each of which was to be a cart-load. When any leprous brother or sister was sick, he had fire and candle and all necessaries "until he either improved or died". On the day on which any one was buried, meat and drink were allowed to those who interred him. Similarly the tailor had his meat and drink on the day on which he cut the clothes of the inmates. Every Sunday they had ten white loaves, five for the men and five for the women, which were disposed of by the prior and prioress, the needs of the sick having the first consideration. The diet of the inmates at least twice a week was to consist of fresh fish, if it could be procured; but if this was impossible red herrings were to be substituted, three of which were to be allowed to each person. At other times cheese or butter took the place of fresh fish, according to the season. A stone and a half of cheese or butter was the quantity allowed for one day for the whole community. From Easter to Whitsuntide, when fish, cheese or butter could not be had, eggs took their place, three per day being allowed to each person. In Lent they had two rasers of beans, for boiling, and at Michaelmas they had the same quantity of apples. They were to have a kitchen and a cook, and fuel sufficient for the kitchens, as well as convenient utensils. Sometimes they had cabbage, sometimes onions, and sometimes beans, according to the season, and when they had cabbage they were to have on every day except Saturday a measure of coarse oatmeal containing the seventh part of a raser; but on Saturday they were to have that measure and half as much more of pulse to make gruel. On certain feast days they were to have pulse. On the days when they had fish they had a measure of salt containing a sixty-third part of a raser to salt their pottage<sup>10</sup>. The old woman who waited on the sick had every week three wheaten loaves and a dish of flesh or fish, as the case might be.

They had two lavatories whereat on Saturdays they were to wash their heads, twice a week their clothes, and every day their utensils. One of the four chaplains was appointed to hear confessions, and on holy days and the greater feasts to read the Gospel in the leper houses to those who were not able to go to the church, and also to perform the offices of the dead. They were to have in their chapels, whilst

6. A raser was about 32 gallons. A twentieth of a raser for the community would be about a fifth of a pint per head.

7. Furmenty - porridge.

8/9. A basket of peat holding 5 rasers and two kenyns held about 1 cubic yard.

10. Pottage - soup.

the divine offices were celebrated, a sufficiency of lights, and also incense at the proper times, and on Sundays a distribution of holy water, holy bread, and other things which were due. Their servants were to be allowed to come and go without impediment. Their friends and benefactors were to visit and comfort them without hindrance, and if they came a considerable distance they were allowed to stay a night in the hospital; but if they lived in the neighbourhood they were expected to depart the same day. All their houses were to be well roofed, and the water conduit was to be well looked after, and they were to be allowed to go freely to the well beside the graveyard to get water to cleanse their houses. Their gates were not to be closed before the ringing of the bell. All the brethren and sisters who were strong enough were to rise at dawn and enter their respective chapels and say their hours as they were accustomed. Afterwards every inmate was to say five-and-twenty paternosters for his own sins, and as many for the souls of the bishops of Durham and of all the faithful departed. The feeble were to raise themselves in bed and there say their matins, but those who were unable to do this were to lie in peace and say what they could. The bell was to be rung every hour, and before and after dinner, except from complines till primes. This was to be done by one of the healthier brethren appointed to the duty. Each brother and sister received annually five shillings and fivepence on the day of Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It may be safely asserted that the sick fared better in the Hospital than they would have done outside.

In the time of Bishop Langley grave complaints were made as to the management of the Hospital: the brethren were neglected and some of them dispersed, and part of the revenues had passed into private hands. The bishop appointed commissioners to make inquiry on the matters complained of, and procured a bull from Pope Eugenius, authorising him to re-constitute the establishment, one of the reasons being that very few persons could now be found who were afflicted with leprosy. His new statutes were promulgated in 1434.

The establishment, as before, was to include four priests and four clerks, as well as two boys to assist them, who were to be "learned in reading and singing." The number of lepers was reduced from sixty-five to two, if they could be found, but thirteen poor men were also to be sustained in the hospital, and were to have food and drink to the value of tenpence a week, and six shillings and eightpence a year to provide themselves with fuel and clothing. An honest woman was to be engaged to wait on the sick and to wash the clothes of the inmates.

In the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII and in that of Edward VI great abuses occurred in the administration of the funds of the Hospital. In 1552 Anthony Salvin, a member of the family of Salvin of Croxdale, was appointed Master, and by his exertions and those of his successor the evils were in great part remedied. In 1585 an Act of Parliament was passed for the regulation of the Hospital. Revised regulations have from time to time been drawn up by the bishops of Durham.

## Endowment

Pudsey gave to the Hospital the vill of Sherburn, with the water-mill on the Sherburn House Beck and its appurtenances, lands at Ebchester, Whitton, Garmondsway, Raceby, Sheraton, and the churches (i.e. the tithes due to them) and the advowsons of Ebchester, Kelloe, Grindon, Sockburn and Bishopton.

Other benefactors at various times gave land at Whitton, Garmondsway, Raceby and Smallmoor. In particular, in 1331 John Harpyn, Lord of the Manor of Thornley, gave to God and the Master, Brethren and Sisters of the Hospital all his lands in South Sherburn. This last gift is probably the origin of the right of the Lord of the Manor of Thornley to nominate one of the Brethren, known as the Thornley Brother, and until 1917 to be one of the ex-officio Governors. The Lordship of the Manor passed from the Harpyns to the Trollops and then to the Spearman. In the 1940's it was held by the Rev. John Lovebond Langdon Fullford, a descendant of the Spearman, who duly nominated a Thornley Brother, but at the time of writing the present holder has not been identified.

## The Constitution and Status of the Hospital

The late Canon Jack Norwood, sometime Master of the Hospital, once wrote that it was "peculiar but not a Peculiar"; his phraseology was apt. The full title of the institution is "The Liberties of Christ's Hospital in Sherburn", and it is certainly not a "Peculiar", for that term refers to an area exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop within whose diocese it lies and subject to some other ecclesiastical authority, e.g. the Allertonshire Peculiars - Northallerton and certain adjacent parishes, some of which were subject to the Bishop of Durham and some to the Dean and Chapter of Durham, although all lay geographically within the Diocese of York. The Bishop of Durham has rights as patron, for he appoints the Master from among three clergymen in priest's orders in the Church of England whose names are submitted to him by the Governors, and the Master is subject in all respects to the Bishop as ordinary (the noun "ordinary" is used here as a technical term meaning "an ecclesiastical superior"). "Liberties" were originally areas exempt from the jurisdiction of royal officials, or, in the case of the County Palatine of Durham, from that of the Bishop's Sheriff. The Hospital enjoys another kind of freedom for it is "extra-parochial", i.e. it is outside the jurisdiction of any of the contiguous parishes of Sherburn, Shadforth, Cassop-cum-Quarrington and Shinccliffe, and was apparently never under the control of the large and ancient parish of Pittington out of which it was carved.

The Liberties of Sherburn Hospital also form an independent Civil Parish: Sherburn House (the Hospital was originally known as a "House" of Lepers).

Counsel's opinion, taken in 1819, reads "A constable has been regularly appointed since 1803. One of the inhabitants has generally acted as such without regular appointment. If a place has a constable it is a township, for which overseers

may be appointed and in which settlement may be gained. Sherburn Hospital is a vill or township". (It is unfortunate that Counsel used the words "regular" and "regularly" in two different senses). "Vill" and "township" are terms denoting a unit of local civil government. "Gaining a settlement" refers to the Poor Law of 1535, now obsolete.

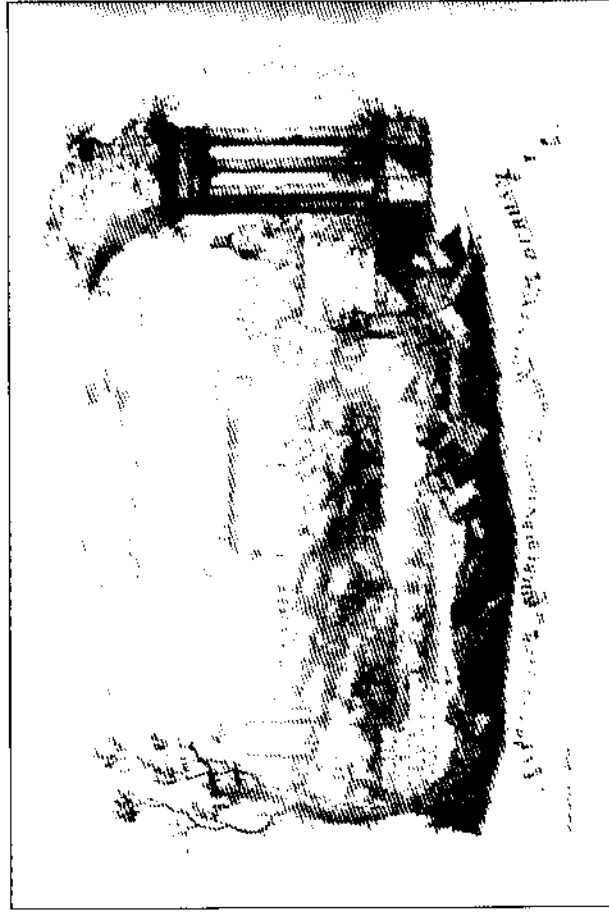
The status of the Chapel of the Hospital is unusual. It can be used by the 185 or so inhabitants of the Liberties, and of the adjacent extra-parochial district of Whitwell House as if it were their parish church. They have rights of baptism, marriage and burial: appropriate records have been kept since 1678, and in the days when copies had to be sent to the Bishop, "Bishop's Transcripts" were duly sent in (only 1813-35 survive). But in other ways the Chapel is unlike a parish church, for it has no churchwardens, no Parochial Church Council and no Electoral Roll. It pays no "Quota" to diocesan funds. At any rate since 1858 the Master, although he has "cure of souls" (i.e. charge of spiritual welfare) has not had a "parson's freehold", as he can be required by the Governors to resign, for good cause, subject to appeal to the Bishop. The fabric of the Chapel is maintained, the furnishings and fittings are supplied, by the Governors, and paid for out of the funds of the Charity. The Governors also decide what services are to be held, even though out of the fifteen Governors only two, the Dean of Durham and the Archdeacon of Durham, are perforce members of the Church of England. It can probably be assumed that the Governor who is nominated by the Bishop will always be "C. of E.". Neither the Master, who conducts the services, nor the members of the congregation have any right to decide upon the services. Presumably the Charity Commissioners, who laid down these arrangements, took for granted reasonable behaviour on the part of all concerned.

When a new Master takes office the Bishop uses a form of words which runs: "we do duly and canonically institute you in and to the said Mastership or Place of Master and do invest you with all its rights members privileges and appurtenances and by these presents fully commit unto you the care and Government of the said Hospital Subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Scheme for the management and regulation of the said Hospital and Saving Always and in all things our Episcopal Rights and customs and the Dignity and Honour of Our Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Durham". (When the Bishop is patron "collate" is more usual than "institute").

The Archdeacon of Durham inducts the new Master upon the same terms, some of which tend to obscure reality, as is shown elsewhere, but he claims no subsequent rights over the Chapel, such as including it in his periodical Visitations. Records of the Archdeacons' Visitations from 1775 to 1790 do not mention Sherburn Hospital, nor do the surviving Act Books of the Official of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The Bishop, however, has rights, as shown for example in 1735, when Bishop Chandler held a visitation to enquire into alleged abuses.



*Front of Masters House and Chapel*



No law-abiding incumbent, church-wardens or Parochial Church Council (but not all are law-abiding) makes any change in the fabric or furnishings of a parish church without the permission of the bishop. In practice, the bishop delegates decisions in such matters to his Consistory Court, which is presided over by his Spiritual Chancellor, who is appointed by the bishop but who, once appointed, is an independent judge of a royal court. The Chancellor may be clerical or lay, but is always learned in church law. He can and does call upon an advisory committee for advice, but he alone is responsible for granting or refusing permission in the form of a "Faculty." The Chapel seems to be de facto outside the faculty jurisdiction of the Durham Consistory Court, though documentary justification for this, as for the absence of archidiaconal authority, is lacking. Perhaps "custom and usage" might be pleaded, for no record of any grant can be found in the list of Faculties from 1767 to 1980. The Chapel was almost completely rebuilt without a Faculty in 1868, at which time the Spiritual Chancellor was an ex-officio Governor. A portable font was introduced into the Chapel as a memorial to Canon Norwood, and various substantial pieces of woodwork were put in a few years earlier, all without Faculties. This was all done while the late Dr. Cecil Ferens was both Chairman of the Governors and Diocesan Registrar. In the latter capacity he was an official of the Consistory Court and would have made certain that its authority, if it existed, was respected. Parish churches are required to have a quinquennial inspection of the fabric by a qualified architect; the Chapel is inspected every five years as a voluntary act by the Governors.

Many College chapels are exempt from the faculty jurisdiction of Consistory Courts, but the striking feature of Sherburn Hospital Chapel is the coupling of its exemption with a partial resemblance to a parish church.

Although the Consistory Court has no jurisdiction over the building, it has certain disciplinary powers over errant clergy, and the Master might, qua cleric, still fall foul of it.

Garmondsway Moor, an area of some 1,100 acres, belongs to the Hospital, and there is some evidence that residents there had at one time rights in the Chapel. We find in the marriage Register "June 18th 1747, James Walker and Ann Shepherd, both living within the Liberties of this Hospital (Garmondsway Moor)".

The original endowment of the Hospital by Bishop Pudsey consisted of a great deal of land, most of which is still owned by the Charity, together with the advowsons and tithes of the churches of Kelloe, Sockburn, Bishopston, Ebchester and possibly Grindon (the last named may have been the gift of a Conyers). The advowson (right to nominate the parish priest) of Kelloe was lost in the sixteenth century by malpractice on the part of one of the Masters, and ultimately passed to the Bishop. The first Scheme of the Charity Commissioners gave the Governors power to sell the advowsons of Sockburn, Grindon, Ebchester and Bishopston. Of these only Sockburn now remains; but as late as the 1917 Scheme part of the Hospital income consisted of the Tithe Rent Charges in respect of **Bishopston, Kelloe** and Sockburn. By 1969 all these had been extinguished.

Before the 1858 Scheme the patronage of Sockburn lay with the Master and Brethren; after 1858 it was to be exercised by the Governors acting on behalf and in the name of "the Master and Brethren", but "on the nomination of the Bishop". This appears to mean that the Bishop chose the incumbent and nominated him to the Governors, who then presented him to the Bishop, who accepted him. This roundabout procedure, which is most unusual, may be unique even in the Church of England, where anomalies are not uncommon. They usually enshrine some interesting piece of history, but in this case the origin is unknown, for the Charity Commissioners did not publish their reasons. It makes the Bishop the effective patron of the living and may perhaps be considered to cancel out the limitation of the Bishop's right to appoint the Master to one of a *terna* put forward by the Governors. A parallel but more easily explicable case is the appointment of bishops. In 1973 the Queen asked the Dean and Chapter of Durham to choose a new Bishop, and at the same time told them whom to choose.

The patronage of Dinsdale, adjacent to Sockburn, belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The benefices were united by an Order in Council in 1928, and the patronage then alternated. In 1975 the Bishop made a Pastoral Order to the effect that Dinsdale-with-Sockburn was to be held in plurality with the adjoining parish of Hurworth (patrons - The Church Society Trustees), and that the patronage was to be exercised jointly by all three patrons. At the last appointment the three patrons seem to have agreed upon a nominee, whose name they sent to the Bishop, who accepted him. In previous cases it is difficult to find out exactly what happened, partly for lack of records and partly, in one case at least, because an apparent shortage of clergy willing to be nominated. The Charity Commissioners in their 1969 Scheme (the current one) state that the patronage of Dinsdale with Sockburn is exercisable as an "alternative" right, by which it is to be presumed that they mean "alternatim".

Certain annual payments used to be made to the incumbents of Dinsdale-with-Sockburn (£100), Grindon (£100), Ebchester (£130), Bishopston-with-Great Staunton (£70), Kelloe (£150), Wingate (£50) and Thornley (£50), but they are now made to the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance.

### The Chapel

The Chapel was badly damaged by fire in 1866, but some years previously the tower had been refaced. An estimate for its restoration of £1590 was agreed to in 1867, and the work was completed in the following year.

The south wall of the nave is original, though the windows are partly restored. Three sedilia, with ogce trefoiled arches, and the adjacent double piscina, may also be original though partly restored. If the design of the tower were unchanged in the refacing and restoration, it may be concluded that the lower part was of Pudsey's time and the upper part thirteenth century. The chancel was originally stalled for the use of the brethren: the nave seating was introduced in the nineteenth century. If the

rebuilding of the chapel followed the style of the original building, it would appear that the arcade on the north side of the nave was of the early thirteenth century.

Another interesting feature is a brass plate let into the sanctuary floor on the north side bearing the inscription "Thomas Leaver Preacher to King Edward the Sixte He Died in July 1577". Leaver was Master from 1562, and described as "an eloquent Preacher, and highly valued for his learning and piety". He had been in exile during the reign of Mary Tudor, but returned on the accession of Queen Elizabeth.

The Church Plate consists of a Chalice dated 1564-5, with the quaint inscription

"DEALE JUSTLI, FOR GOD DOTH SE  
THAT SHERBORNE. HOUSE OWYTH ME."

There are Paten and Flagon of 1712, and some more modern pieces.

The lecturn was made by Mr. C. Machin, the present Estate Joiner, who also made the entrance door and screen, and the furnishings of the St. Nicholas Chapel and the vestry screen. The icon on the wall of the Chapel is of St. Nicholas and recalls the fact that an altar of St. Nicholas was once provided in the Hospital for ministering to those who were too infirm to attend Church. The organ is by Harrison and Harrison of Durham. There is one bell in the tower, cast by Smith of York in 1724.

### The Elizabethan Constitution

By an Act of Parliament of 1585 the establishment was to be known as "The Master and Brethren of Christ's Hospital in Sherborne near Durham" and thirty named brethren were incorporated. All leases subsequently made other than for twenty-one years or for three lives were to be void. The Bishop of Durham was to have nomination of the Master, a preacher having no other charge or cure of souls; the Master was to nominate the Brethren, except for one who was to be chosen by the Lord of the Manor of Thornley. The reference to a "preacher" reminds us that not all clergy were allowed to preach at that time. Rules for the conduct of the Hospital were to be made by the Bishop, and all future Masters and Brethren were to take an oath to abide by them.

Eight years later a Commission of Enquiry found that the regulations were being observed.

Orders for the better government of the Hospital made by several later Bishops were all repealed by Bishop Chandler in 1735, on the grounds that they were "lost, concealed or mislaid or were invalid for want of ratification under seal". The most important of Chandler's regulations were:

1. That the Master should be in Holy Orders and at least a Master of Arts, capable of business and willing to apply himself to it, especially for the maintenance and prosperity of the Hospital estates.
2. That the Master or a deputy appointed by him should usually reside in the Hospital.

3. That the Master, even if not constantly resident should often preach and read lectures, hear complaints and see that they were redressed. (It seems to have been taken for granted that all complaints would be well founded).

4. That the Common Seal of the Hospital was to be in the custody of the Master, and also were counterparts of leases.

5. That no leases were to be granted without the Common Seal.

6. That all the Brethren were to be constant members of the Church of England and to take the oath on admission.

7. That no woman, child or male relative should lodge in the room of a Brother, except the nurse.

8. That no Brother should absent himself from prayers or leave the Hospital without the permission of the Master, such permission to be sparingly given and not for more than three days.

9. That the Master should fill vacancies within one month, or at most six weeks. If he did not, the Bishop should fill them.

10. That the Brethren should attend morning and evening prayers and the Sacrament when administered.

11. That the Chaplain should be constant in reading morning and evening prayers, administer the Sacrament at least four times yearly and visit the sick.

12. That no Brother should be a drunkard, commit a notorious crime or live a disorderly or offensive life. The Master was to warn offenders and if necessary report them to the Bishop.

13. That idle vagrants should be discouraged from applying for alms at the gate, but that honest necessitous travellers should be relieved. Such as had no "legal settlement" were not to be made burdensome by indiscreet relief. (These instructions reflect the problems of Elizabethan poor relief).

14. That the farm at Sherburn House should be kept by the Master and not let, so that a good stock of young cattle, with adequate hay and corn, should be available for the needs of the Hospital. Every Master on entry should make an exact inventory.

In 1830 an enquiry showed that some land belonging to the Hospital was let at annual rents, but that far more was on leases for three lives. The rents and fines paid on renewal of leases produced an average annual income of about £2,500 for the maintenance of the brethren and the buildings. The outgoings were about £1,400 and the difference, viz. about £1,000 formed the average annual emolument of the Master. A fine is not a penalty but a lump sum.

The establishment at that time consisted of a Master (The Rev. Andrew Bell), a chaplain, a nurse and thirty Brethren. Some of the latter preferred to live out. The Brethren who lived in received one quart of good beer and one pound of boiled or roast meat daily (except on Fridays and fast days, when one pound of pudding replaced the meat) together with eighteen (old) pence weekly instead of the bread,



cheese and small beer envisaged by Bishop Chandler's regulations. There were special allowances for food on feast days; but only beer and meat received specific mention. The tenant of the home farm provided and cooked the meat and paid the cash allowance for £350 p.a. Each brother had two loads of coal delivered to his door annually, and at each Christmas a suit of strong drab cloth. Furniture, beds and bed linen (washed by the nurse) were provided. The Master provided, as a free gift and not as an obligation, a cloth cloak annually. There was also a cash allowance of 3s/6d per head per quarter, with 1/- per week for good behaviour. In the event of bad behaviour the shilling of the errant Brother was shared out among the other Brethren.

The nurse received £12 p.a. with a house and three loads of coal; the surgeon £14 p.a. for attendance and medicines. The Chaplain was appointed by the Master and licensed by the Bishop at £120 p.a. together with a house, garden and clothes worth £30 p.a. He assisted the Master and deputised in his absence. The Master and the Chaplain were stated to pay great attention to the wants of the Brethren especially their provisions (the report does not allude to pastoral care). Some of the Brethren received small payments for acting as clerk, sexton, bell-ringer and porter in the Chapel.

By 1853, owing largely to the prosperity of the coal mining industry, the surplus income available to the Master had risen to about £4,600 p.a.

### The New Regime

In 1857 a Scheme for the administration of the Hospital was put forward by the Charity Commissioners, bringing great changes.

The general management lay with a body of fifteen Governors, seven of them being the Master (Chairman), the Dean and the Archdeacon of Durham, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Mayor of Durham City, the Chairman of Quarter Sessions and the lord of the Manor of Thornley. The Governors were solely responsible for the entire management of the property of the Hospital. Instead of the Master paying all the expenses of running the establishment and retaining for himself the balance of income over expenditure, he and other officers were paid fixed salaries, (generous by the standards of those times). Fifteen In-Brethren were to have free board, lodging, clothing and attendance, with four shillings per week. The right of nomination to vacancies lay with the Master, with the concurrence of the Governors. There was great competition for vacancies.

Provision was made for the education of poor children resident in the townships of Sherburn House and Whitwell by setting money aside for the erection and maintenance of a school, and for grants to schools in Durham St. Giles, Shadforth and Shincliffe, attended by children of miners or labourers living on Hospital estates.

The Master was to be a clergyman appointed by the Bishop and was to have the general supervision of the inmates and officers, subject to the overriding authority of the Governors.

The total number of Brethren was to be thirty: fifteen living in and fifteen living out. There was no longer any reference to the casual relief of wayfarers at the gate.

The construction of a hospital in the modern sense of the word was envisaged, the number of patients being initially limited to thirty-five, and the building was completed by 1863. For various reasons admissions did not begin until 1872.

A dispensary, providing free medical treatment for the poor, was opened in part of the Master's house in 1858 and later in a special building. The average annual attendance soon exceeded 3,700.

The 1875 Scheme operated without great modification until 1917, when a new one was approved by the Charity Commissioners. The chief changes were:—

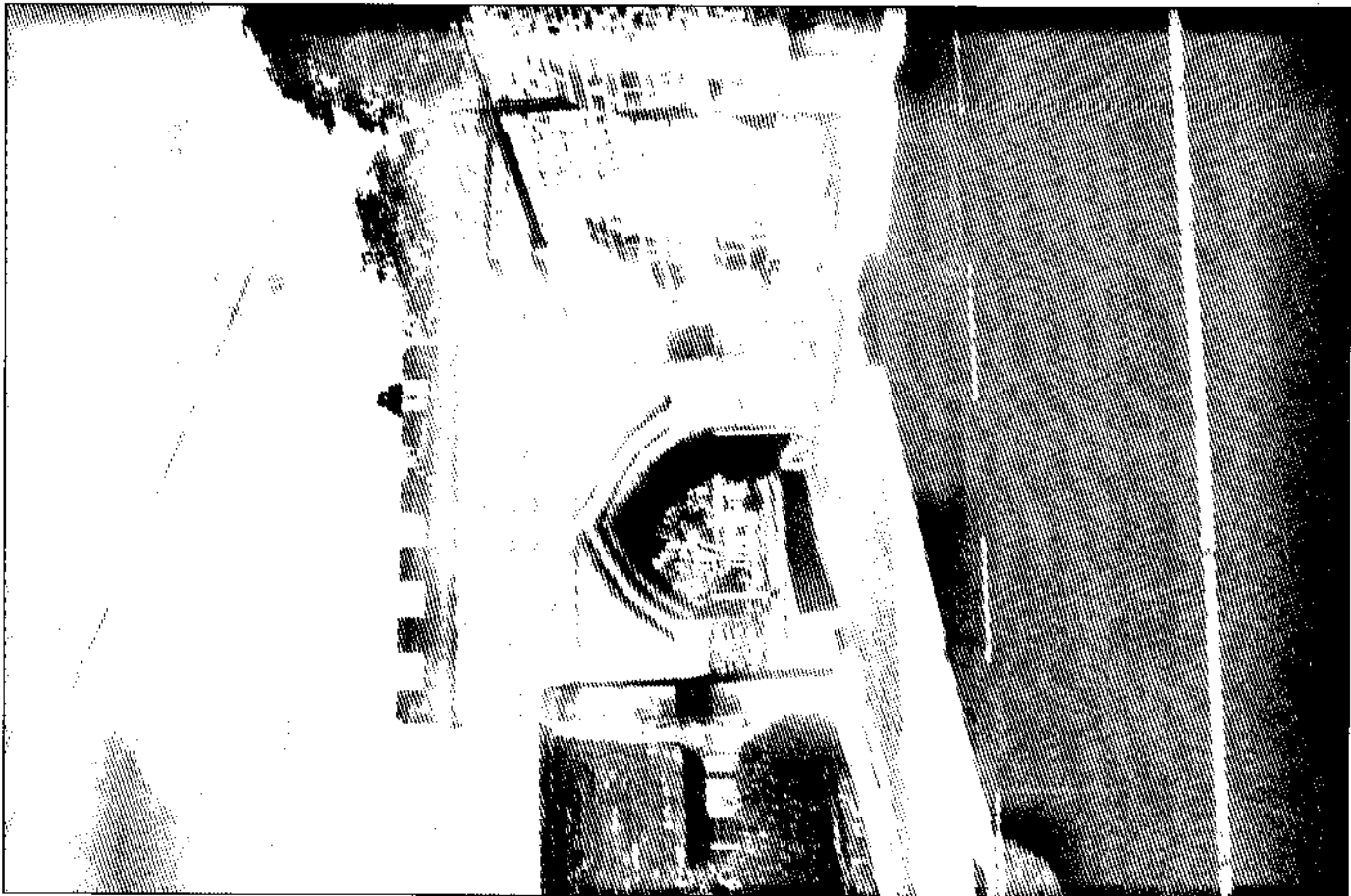
1. The Governors were to be three ex-officio members viz. the Dean of Durham, the Archdeacon of Durham and the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, eight representative governors, appointed by Durham County Council, (2) Northumberland County Council, Durham City Council, Newcastle City Council, Sunderland Borough Council, Durham Rural District Council and the Council of the College of Medicine in the University of Durham, and four co-opted Governors.

It will be noticed that the Master was not a Governor, unless co-opted, still less was he to be Chairman of the Governors. He was to have the general supervision and control of the whole establishment except for the hospital (in the modern sense) and the Dispensary, as well as the spiritual and moral care of the In-Brethren, patients and staff. He was to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishop, and was not to hold any other "cure of souls".

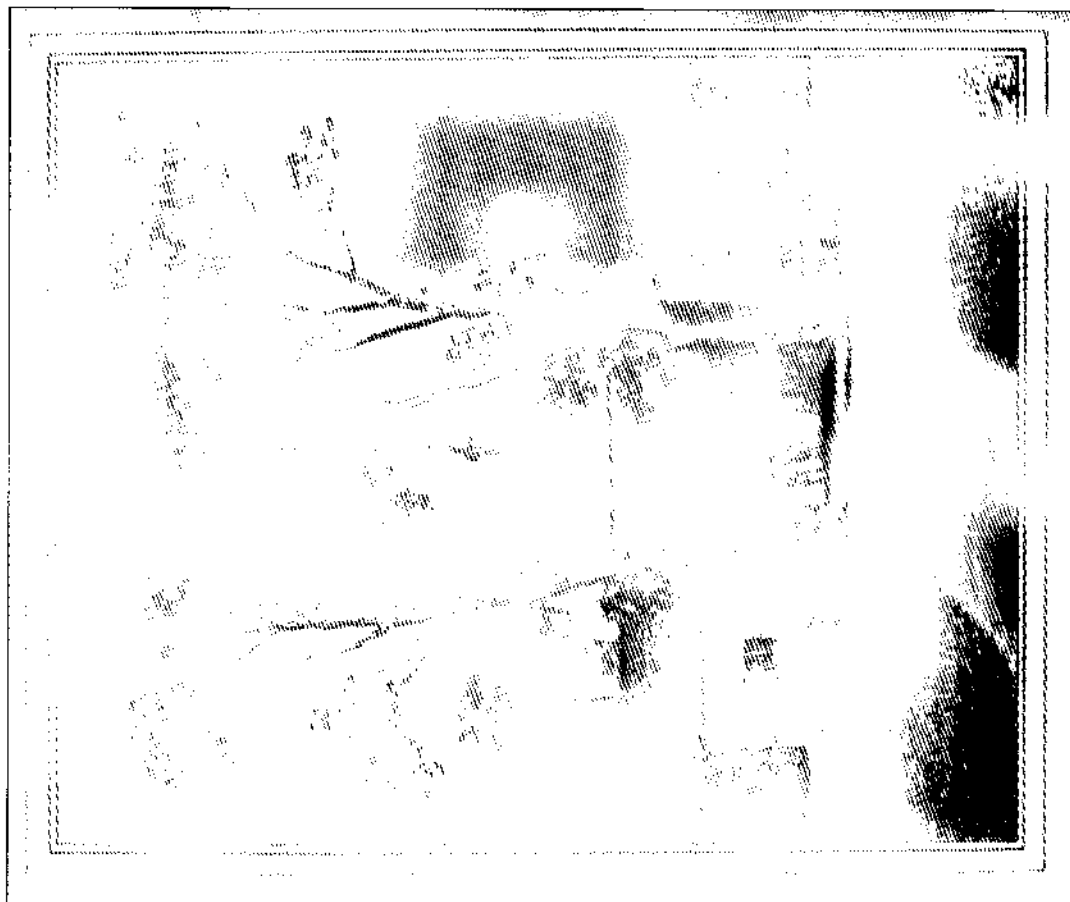
2. There were to be fifteen In-Brethren. The numbers of Out-Brethren and (Out) Sisters was to depend upon the funds available.
3. In-Brethren were to have between four and six shillings per week each, Out-Brethren ten shillings and Sisters eight to ten shillings. The In-Brethren and patients might be supplied with clothing in special cases. The Master was no longer to nominate applicants for admission to the Governors.
4. After payments for repairs, insurance and administration, the first charge on the funds was to be the salary of the Master and the second the maintenance of the Chapel. A yearly sum was to be paid for the benefit of persons in the United Kingdom suffering from leprosy. The link with Bishop Pudsey's foundation was thus revived for the first time.

1953 saw yet another Scheme, in which the principal changes were:—

1. The Board of Governors was to consist of sixteen members. One of the ex-officio members was to be the Chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County of Durham (for whom the Circuit Judge of the Durham Crown Court was substituted in due course). Seven Representative Governors, including two from Durham County Council and one from the Court of the University of Durham. One Governor nominated by the Bishop of Durham. Four co-optative Governors.



*The Gatehouse*



*Gateway of Sherburne Hospital*

2. In addition to In-Brethren, Out-Brethren and Sisters, a fourth class of beneficiary was envisaged as a possibility viz. "Elders".
3. The Master was to be appointed by the Bishop from among three men in Priest's Orders nominated by the Governors.
4. The number of Elders was to depend upon the funds available. They were to be aged poor persons. Out-Brethren and Sisters should receive eight to ten shillings per week if not entitled to an Old Age Pension, or five shillings per week if so entitled. Elders were to be required to contribute to the costs of maintenance. In-Brethren and Elders were to be lodged and boarded, but, apart from the uniform for In-Brethren, provided with clothing only in special circumstances.
5. The right of presentation of the Thornley Brother should lapse to the Governors if no presentation were made through lack of a Lord or Lady of the Manor of Thornley of full age.

In 1969 a further Scheme, the current one, came into operation. The membership of the Board of Governors remained unchanged, but the Master was not to be eligible for appointment by the Bishop as a "Nominated Governor".

The Governors might appoint an administrator, (but it was not specified that he should have the title of "The Administrator") who was to be responsible for the general management of the Charity, subject to the direction of the Governors.

The Governors might permit retired clergymen of the Church of England to occupy flats in the large building the whole of which was formerly the Master's House. In-Sisters appear for the first time and part of the building was assigned for their accommodation.

The Master was to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the residents and staff (but no longer for their moral welfare), for conducting the chapel services, for investigating the characters and circumstances of applicants and for giving to the Governors "such general advice as they may require".

The salaries of the Master and the administrator were bracketed as a first charge on the income after the expenses of management.

The Governors might make it a condition of appointment that brothers, sisters and elders, whom they appointed, should contribute towards the cost of maintaining themselves, subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners.

A new provision under "Relief in Need" allowed the Governors to relieve either individually or generally persons resident in the area of the Ancient Diocese of Durham (i.e. the modern Diocese of Durham and most of the Diocese of Newcastle).

## The Brethren

The Governors act in the name of "The Master and Brethren of Christ's Hospital Sherburn", but the status of both the Master and the Brethren has changed a good deal over the centuries. That of the former has diminished progressively.

To Bishop Tunstall's Enquiry in 1557 complaint was made that two Masters had granted or leased property of the Hospital without the knowledge and consent of the brethren and sisters; but in later statutes there is no implication that the Brethren were to be involved in the management of the affairs of the Hospital.

By the 1857 Scheme there were to be 15 In-Brethren and 15 Out-Brethren, one of the former being the Thornley Brother. They were to be poor and deserving men, unable to maintain themselves. Sickness apart, the In-Brethren were to attend all the Chapel services.

Patients in the new hospital wards were to be styled "Inmates", not exceeding 35 in number being male and female in approximately equal numbers. They were to be deserving persons resident in the Diocese, married or single, "decayed or indigent". They were to be appointed by the Governors after consultation with the Master, for fixed periods with the possibility of extension. Those suffering from chronic sickness were to have preference. Except in special cases each In-Brother and each Inmate was to have a separate room, but spouses might live in. The Master might, with the concurrence of one or more Governors, suspend the allowance of an Inmate for misconduct.

By the Scheme of 1895 Out-Sisters to the number of not more than 15 were added to the foundation. They were to be widows or spinsters who had resided in the Diocese (the present one) for not less than a year, during which time they must not have received poor relief. Their allowance was to be ten shillings per week. They were appointed by the Governors after report by the Master. No In-Brother or Inmate might be absent overnight, without leave of the Master.

Further changes followed in 1917. Out-Brethren and Out-Sisters were to be appointed in numbers dependent upon the funds available. The same applied to the Inmates, now styled Patients. The In-Brethren received from one to six shillings per week, the Out-Brethren ten shillings, the Sisters from eight to ten shillings.

At this time there occurs the first modern reference to uniform clothing for the In-Brethren, apart from cloaks. The last reference in the Minutes of the House Committee is in 1939; at the beginning of the Second World War there was difficulty in obtaining the cloth. At one time Brethren were often seen in the City, wearing their brown suits of distinctive cut. A group photograph of about 1960 shows the Brethren still wearing uniforms.

The life of In-Brethren in 1872 is illustrated by the following quotations:—

"The following is the dietary of each in-brother:— One pint of milk daily; and on Sundays, cold roast beef, suet pudding with currants; Monday, roast mutton,



*The Master, Canon J. Norwood*



*The Master, the Rev. D. S. Boufflower*

potatoes and rice pudding; Tuesday, three pounds, two ounces of white bread, boiled beef, broth and potatoes; Wednesday, roast beef, potatoes and rice pudding; Thursday, boiled beef, broth and potatoes; Friday, roast mutton, potatoes and plain suet pudding; Saturday, half a pound of butter, three pounds, two ounces of white bread, boiled beef, broth and potatoes; Christmas Day, roast beef, potatoes, plum pudding, one pint of mulled ale for each brother. One bottle of ale is allowed to each brother every third day. Three candles a week for each brother during the winter months."

"The rules of the hospital require:— Every brother to wear his best suit on Sundays, and to appear in a clean Hospital suit on every other day. If attending a funeral, or visiting distant friends, he may wear plain clothes. But, with the exception of attending a funeral, in Durham and near the Hospital he must wear the Hospital suit. On the death of any brother, his best suit is left to his successor. (Fit?). No brother is allowed to go to a distant town, or to stay out for the night, later than nine o'clock, without leave from the Master; the nurse is bound to report any such absence if unpermitted. Any brother may visit his friends for a period not exceeding, in the whole year, three months; his money allowance continues during his absence, but not his allowance of food. If any brother gives the cook notice of a permitted absence from dinner, and that he shall return in the evening, his dinner is reserved for him by the nurse. Every brother is required on his appointment, to promise that he will obey the rules and customs of the Hospital, and also, that (unless exempt by the medical officer) he will render willing assistance when required by the Master through the hind of the Hospital, in raking and sweeping and the grass, etc., in the quadrangle, the long walk, and the brethren's yard. He is also told that he is expected to make himself generally useful in the service of the Hospital when required. Prayers, with a portion of Holy Scripture, are read in the chapel daily by the Master, when at home, and not reasonably hindered, in accordance with the rubric. If the Master shall be absent or unwell, the clerk of the brethren reads the prayers for that day in the brethren's hall. Every brother is required to attend these services; and also, unless prevented by ill-health, both the services on Sunday. He is desired, but not compelled, to receive the Holy Communion".

### Education

The Hospital Foundation has from time to time had an educational aspect, which may stem from the original provision for singing-boys, who were to be taught. The 1857 Scheme laid down that the Governors might establish a school for poor children in the townships of Sherburn House and Whitwell and provide annual sums for its support. They might also make grants to schools in the parishes with which the Hospital had special connection, viz. Ebechester, Sockburn, Grindon, Bishopton, Kelloe, Thornley and Wingate, and to parishes in which schools might be attended by the children of miners or labourers employed in the mines or estates belonging to the Charity, viz. Shadforth, Shircliff and Durham St. Giles.

These provisions were amended by the Scheme of 1898, principally by the provision of Exhibitions of not more than £15 per annum for not more than five years for the higher education of children from public Elementary Schools.

In the 1917 Scheme these specific provisions were replaced by a more general one, that the Governors might apply surplus income to other charitable purposes for the benefit of persons in the County of Durham, subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners. This was continued in the 1953 Scheme, but in the 1969 Scheme it was again changed to "Relief in Need" of persons resident in the Ancient Diocese of Durham, i.e. most of the area from the Tees to the Tweed.

### **Surgery at Sherburn**

Stanley Ritson was Medical Officer to Sherburn Hospital from shortly after the end of the First World War until the surgical unit closed as a result of the introduction of the National Health Service. He was born in Jarrow, and trained at King's College Hospital, London, qualifying in 1911. During the First World War he was a captain in the R.A.M.C., serving in this country and in Egypt. He was invalided out with an estimated life expectancy of six months; he died in 1977 at the age of 88 as the result of a fall.

In addition to his work at Sherburn Hospital he was for 25 years Honorary Surgeon to Monkwearmouth Hospital, and also worked at Grindon Hospital and Sunderland Royal Infirmary. He is believed to have performed well over 50,000 operations, and had a tremendous reputation in the north-east, particularly for thyroid gland operations; but judging by such records as survive at Sherburn, he was a general surgeon in the best sense of the term.

For over 20 years he was honorary surgeon to Sunderland Association Football Club. In 1941 he was appointed a Director of the Club, and was Chairman from 1958 to 1960. He was a J.P. and was awarded the O.B.E. in 1973.

### **The Dispensary**

In 1858 some disused rooms at the western end of the Master's House were walled off and fitted up as a dispensary. A year later Mr. Gillespie was appointed Medical Officer and continued until 1880. By that time the number of patients attending had grown so much that, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, a new building was erected at a cost of £2,000+ from the designs of Mr. C. Hodgson Fowler of Durham. At the turn of the century about 18,000 consultations per annum were being held. 4,000 tickets were issued per annum to Clergy and large employers of labour. The Medical Officer at that time was Dr. Lionel Booth. A Dispenser was employed, medicine being provided free. The building remains, put to other uses, but the Dispensary as an institution came to an end with the start of the National Health Service in 1946.

### **Action by Charles II**

The discretion of the Master in the admission of Brethren was temporarily curtailed in 1666 by a Royal Command, transmitted to the Master by Bishop Cosin.

### **ORDER concerning Maimed Seamen and Soldiers**

*The ORDER of Bishops Cosin's to John Machon Master of Sherburn Hospital to admit none but Maimed Seamen and Soldiers into the Hospital, pursuant to an Order of the King and Council. 7th August 1666.*

**W**HEREAS his Majesty of his Princely Care and Tendernefs towards those who in his Wars have exposed their Lives at Sea, in His and their Country's Service, and have therein either by losfs of Limbs or otherwise been rendered unable to gain a Livelyhood for the future: having amongst other comfortable Provisions designed for their Relief and Subfiftance, directed and commanded, that the Aims Mens Places in all the Hofpitals within this Kingdom, which are at present or fhall become void, be preferred and kept for fuch as are or fhall be fo maimed as aforefaid.

These are therefore by exprefs Order from his Majesty and his moft honorable Privy Council, to require You in his Majesties name, not to difpofe of any Aims Mans or Brothers Place or Places which are or fhall be vacant in your Hofpital, to any Perfon or Perfons whatsoever, but that You referve the fame with all neceffary Accommodations thereunto belonging, for the relief and fupport of fuch maimed Seamen and Soldiers as fhall be fent unto You from his Majesties Commiffioners for fick and wounded Men (whose Names are hereunder fet down) to whom You are to give fpeedy Notice of any fuch Place that is or fhall become void in your Hofpital, and further to fignify to You, that if You fhall aliter the Receipt hereof fill any vacant Place or Places with any other Perfon or Perfons, You will not only thereby incur his Majesties Difpleafure, but his Majesty will caufe fuch Perfon or Perfons to removed to make room for fuch maimed Seamen. Given at *Auckland Caftle* the *Seventh Day of Auguft* in the *Eighteenth* Year of his Majesties Reign.

Reign, Annoq; Dom. *One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Six.*

*To Mr. John Machon Master of Chriffs Hofpital in Sherburne in the County of Durham, who is desired to give me Notice of the Receipt hereof, fo foon as it comes to his Hands.*

*The Commiffioners for maimed Seamen.*

*The Earl of Manchester* Sir George Carteret

*The Lord Craven* Sir William Morrice

*The Lord Arlington* Sir John Nicholas

*The Lord Hollis*

JO. DURESME.

At present (1981) the tendency is to refer to all "In-Brethren" and "Elders" as "Residents", although the older terms have not been officially abolished.

### The Masters of the Hospital

The following account of the Masters of Sherburn Hospital is incomplete and probably can never be otherwise. In some cases, particularly the early ones, the available records are inadequate: even in some of the later ones information is lacking. Some sources are mutually contradictory.

Up to the end of the eighteenth century it was the accepted system in the Church of England for appointments of clergy to depend on personal, family or political influence. The holding of several posts simultaneously was an economic necessity if they were poorly paid, and was condoned even if they were well paid. Dates of appointment obtained from different sources do not always agree, and dates of resignation sometimes cannot be found at all, except, as will be seen, by searching in the records of places far from Durham. It must not be assumed, therefore, that plurality was as great as appears at first sight.

The information available does show, however, that many of the Masters of the Hospital were eminent and able men, that some of them took their duties very seriously and served the Charity loyally, while others abused their position scandalously to their own personal profit and to the detriment of the Foundation.

**Arnold or Ernold de Aucleit or Aclent** (Auckland) "rector of the house of lepers". His name occurs 1200-1210.

**Warren Godet**

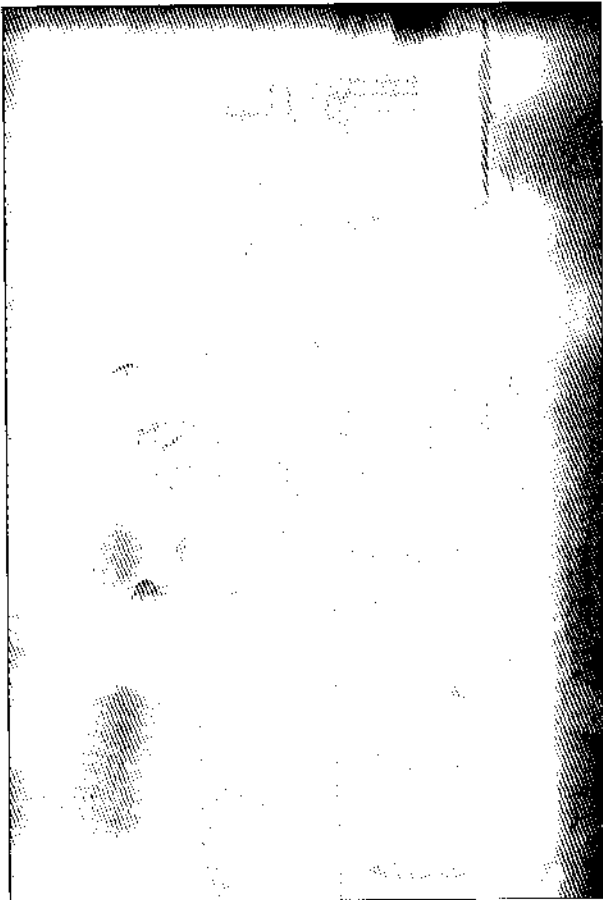
**Ralph the Monk** by 1225.

**Martin de Sancta Croce** "rector, proctor or procurator". His name occurs 1245-60. Rector of Bishopwearmouth 1249, of Gerardston, Sarum 1237. Prebendary of York 1260.

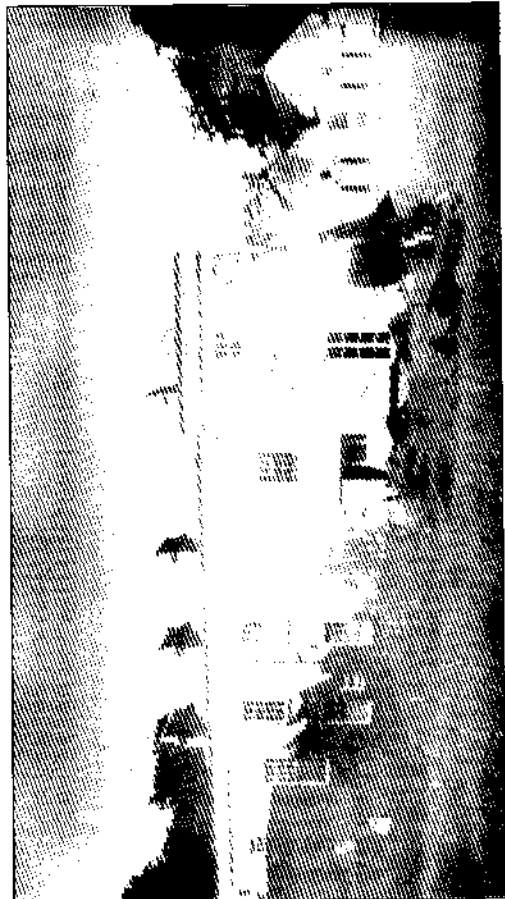
**Roger de Seyton** "custos" occurs about 1270. Official to Bishop Kirkham. Rector of Wyke Harmon, Lincs. in 1258, Judge of Common Pleas 1268. Chief Justice 1272-78. Canon and Prebendary of York.

**William de Insula** "rector" in 1302. Rector of Wearmouth in 1288. Baron of the Exchequer 1332.

1. Prebendary - one who enjoys a prebend, a share of the income of a cathedral or collegiate church, granted as a stipend.
2. Official - the presiding officer or judge in an archbishop's or bishop's court was known as the Official Principal: he is now identical with the Spiritual Chancellor. In an archdeacon's court he was known as the Official, but not the Official Principal.
3. The Court of Common Pleas - one of the divisions of the Royal Court. Originally it was the only higher Court of Record having jurisdiction in civil actions between private individuals. It is now the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.
4. Baron of the Exchequer - before the Judicature Acts of 1873 the Judges of the Exchequer Courts were called Barons, and the chief judge was the Lord Chief Baron.
5. The Court of Exchequer - one of the divisions of the Royal Court: it had a separate existence by 1200. Originally only for matters concerning public revenue, e.g. Crown v debtors, it later dealt with actions between private individuals. It was divided into two parts, Common Law and Equity, but the latter was later transferred to the Court of Chancery. It is now represented by the Queen's Bench Division.



Sherburn Hospital, 1780



Back of Masters House and Chancel end of Chapel

**Lambert de Torkyngham** "custos" by 1315. Judge of Common Pleas of the King's Bench 1316-20, Baron of the Exchequer 1320.

**Thomas de Hessewell** 1330-39. The first to be styled "Master" as were all his successors.

**Thomas de Nevill(e)** 1339-62. Rector of Sedgfield 1313. Prebendary of Chester-le-Street 1333, of Norton 1330, of St. Patrick's Dublin 1335, of Lincoln 1340, of Darlington, of Howden 1351. Archdeacon of Durham 1334. (The Nevilles, of Raby, were a very influential family).

**Alan de Shodlyngton** "presbyter" (i.e. in priest's orders) 1362-67. Rector of Hemingburgh 1348-75, of Middleton-St.-George 1359-65, Steward of the Halnôte Courts<sup>6</sup> 1362-72, Vicar-General<sup>7</sup> 1365.

**Thomas de Bernalby** 1367-80(?). Master of St. Mary Magdalene Hospital, Bamburgh 1366. Canon and Prebendary of Auckland 1373.

**John de Waltham** 1384-88. Canon of Abergwili 1349, of Shrewsbury 1353, of Lichfield 1361, of York 1368, of Auckland 1379, of Lanchester 1381, of Hereford 1380, of Lincoln 1381, of Southwell and of Howden. Master of Bawtry Hospital 1362. Archdeacon of Richmond 1384-88. Rector of Berkhamstead 1379, Lord Privy Seal 1386. Master of the Rolls<sup>8</sup> and Bishop of Salisbury 1388.

**Thomas Haxey** Master in 1388. Rector of Pulham 1384, of St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey 1384, of Toppesfield 1386, of Dengy 1387, of Crawley 1387, of Histon St. Andrew 1390, of Laxton 1393, Master of Leysingbury Hospital 1391. Canon and Prebendary of Chester 1384, of Lichfield 1390, of Southwell 1405, of Sarum 1390, of York 1405, of Ripon 1419, of Beverley 1423, of Howden. Treasurer of York Minster 1418. Master of York Mint 1423.

**Henry Godebarne** LL.D. Master in 1389. Rector of Egremont 1372, of Hornsey 1374. Master of Leysingbury 1384. Canon and Prebendary of Ripon 1371, of York 1372.

**John Burgeys or Burgess** 1388(?) - 1403. Canon and Prebendary of Landewi Brefi 1379, Master of Greatham Hospital 1384-1407, Vicar of Hesledon 1384-5, Rector of Meldon 1384-87, Bishop's Treasurer 1387, Dean of Lanchester 1388-99, of Auckland 1395-1409. Removed from Mastership by Bishop Skirlaw for malversation.

**Alan de Newark** 1403-09. Canon and Prebendary of Lanchester 1399, Vicar of Norton 1401. Archdeacon of Durham 1408, Master of Nantwich Hospital.

**John Newton** 1409-27. Rector of Ashe, Essex 1395, of St. Benet-Sherchog, London 1396, Master of St. Edmund's Hospital, Gateshead 1407-10, Rector of Haughton-le-Skerne 1410, of Wearmouth 1424-26. For some reason he was regarded as a great pluralist, though not obviously worse than some others. Is said "to have nearly ruined the Foundation by leases, grants and pensions".

6. The Halnôte Court was a manorial court dealing with small debts, minor misdemeanours and all matters relating to copyhold tenures.

7. Vicar - general, a deputy for the bishop for all official acts not requiring episcopal rank.

8. Master of the Rolls - originally a keeper of records and assistant to the Lord Chancellor; now a Judge of the Court of Appeal who is also responsible for the custody of manorial and title documents.

**Nicholas Dixon** 1427-33. Rector of Cheshunt, prebendary of York, Howden and Sarum. Baron of the Exchequer. Did much to repair the harm done by his predecessor.

**John Marchall** 1433-69, LL.B. Vicar-General of the Bishop Langley, Prebendary of York.

**Alexander Lyghe or Legh** 1469-89(?), M.A., LL.D.(?). Rector of Fen Ditton 1468-73. Canon of Windsor 1469. Prebendary of York 1471-1501. Temporal Chancellor<sup>9</sup> 1490. Rector of St. Bride's, London 1471-85, of Houghton-le-Spring. For some years the King's Resident Ambassador in Scotland.

**Robert Dykar** 1489-1501. Came from Bath and Wells with Bishop Fox. He was a layman and a Notary Public; he was ordained sub-deacon four months before becoming Master. When Bishop Fox left Durham for Winchester, Dykar plundered the Hospital to his own profit and allowed the buildings to decay. He sold the advowson<sup>10</sup> of Kelloe, but it was taken later by the Bishop, with whom it still remains.

**Roderick Gundisalve** 1501(?). Appointed by Henry VII during a vacancy of the See.

**Geoffrey Wren, M.A.** Known to be master in 1524. Chaplain to Henry VII and Henry VIII. Rector of Loughborough, Rector of Boldon 1502-05, Prebendary of York 1508, of Lichfield 1511. Rector of St. Margaret, Fish Street, London and of Hanslope, Bucks. Canon of Windsor.

**Edward Fox, M.A., D.D.** 1527-35. Provost<sup>11</sup> of King's College, Cambridge. Prebendary of York 1527, Rector of Combe Martin, Devon. Archdeacon of Leicester and Dorset. Bishop of Hereford 1535. Often employed as Ambassador.

**Thomas Leghe** LL.D. 1535-45. One of the King's Commissioners for the Visitation of the Monasteries. Followed the example of some of his predecessors in plundering the Hospital. Had valuable grants of land on the dissolution of various monasteries and was one of the Commissioners who received the surrender of Durham Abbey.

**Anthony Bellasis** 1545-52. Prebendary of Chester-le-Street. Rector of Whickham 1533, Vicar of St. Oswald's, Durham 1533-39, Rector of Brancepeth 1539. Prebendary of Westminster 1540, of Auckland 1541, of Ripon 1543. Archdeacon of Colchester 1543. Prebendary of Lincoln 1543, of York 1549. Master of St. Edmund's Hospital, Gateshead; in addition to other appointments.

**Anthony Salvin** B.D., 1552-59. One of the Salvin family of Croxdale. Prebendary of Norton 1544. Rector of High Ham, Som. 1552, of Winston 1545-59. Prebendary of Durham 1556-59. Master of University College, Oxford 1557-58. Vicar-General of Durham 1558. Rector of Ryton 1558-59. Rector of Sedgfield 1558. Deprived<sup>12</sup> of all his offices 1559.

**Ralph Skynner, M.A.** 1559-62. Warden of New College, Oxford 1551-53. Rector of Sedgfield 1562-63. Temporal Chancellor of the Diocese 1561. Dean of Durham 1561-63. M.P. for Leicester 1547-52, Bossiney, Cornwall 1554, Westbury 1559. Rector of Broughton Astley 1550-53.

9. Temporal Chancellor - the judges of the Chancery Court of the County Palatine of Durham (absorbed into the Chancery Division of the Supreme Court 1972).

10. Advowson - the right of choosing the incumbent of a parish.

11. Provost of King's College, Cambridge - the Head of the College.

12. "Deprived"; for refusing to submit to the Act of Uniformity of the Second year of Queen Elizabeth I.

**Thomas Dampier M.A., D.D.**, 1774-1802, Dean of Rochester 1782-1802, Prebendary of Durham 1778-1808. Vicar of Bexley, Kent 1771-74, Bishop of Rochester 1802-08. Bishop of Ely 1808-12.

**Andrew Bell L.L.D., D.D.**, 1809-32. Was born at St. Andrew's in 1753 and graduated there. He took Holy Orders and in 1789 became minister of St. Mary's Church, Madras and Chaplain to Fort St. George. Becoming interested in the Military Orphanage there and finding an unworkable ratio of pupils to teachers, he devised the "Madras System". A master taught the older children, who in turn taught their juniors, stimulated by financial rewards for success. In 1797 he published a book on his system and was asked to organise schools in England, where there were at one time over a thousand schools using this method, including the Bluecoat School in Durham City. The National Society for the Education of the Children of the Poor in accordance with the Principles of the Church of England, which supported him, founded the first teacher training college in this country. At his death he left about £30,000, almost the whole of it for educational purposes in Scotland. He was alleged by his successor to have neglected the material welfare of the Hospital.

**George Stanley Faber M.A., B.D.**, 1832-54. Vicar of Stockton-on-Tees 1805-08, Rector of Redmarshall 1808-32, of Longnewton 1811-32. Prebendary of Sarum 1830. Greatly improved the Hospital estate. He was the last Master of the old order having charge of finance and administration as well as the cure of souls.

**Edward Prest M.A.**, 1854-57 ad interim. Rector of Galshead and Master of King James' Hospital 1861-81. Canon and Archdeacon of Durham 1863-82. Rector of Ryton 1881-82.

**Edward Prest M.A.**, 1857-61. Did much to restore the Hospital estate.

**James Carr**, 1862-74. Perpetual Curate of South Shields 1831-62, of Westoe 1853-62.

**Henry Arthur Mitton M.A.**, 1874-1914. Vicar of St. Andrew Auckland 1868-74.

**Douglas Samuel Boufflower M.A.**, 1914-34. Vicar of Newbottle 1887-96, of Monkwearmouth 1896-1909, of Christ Church, Bishopwearmouth 1909-14.

**Percy L'Argent Bell M.A.**, 1934-37. Vicar of Monkshesleden 1908-25, of Muggleswick 1925-34.

**Thomas Romans M.A., F.S.A.**, 1937-58. Vicar of St. Mark, Millfield, Sunderland 1922-37. Hon. Canon of Durham. A distinguished archaeologist.

**Jack Norwood B.A.**, 1958-72. Vicar of St. Aidan, South Shields 1938-46, of St. Giles, Durham 1946-58. Hon. Canon of Durham.

**David Edward Davison M.A.** Vicar of West Harton and Chaplain to South Shields General Hospital 1949-61. Vicar of Sholton 1961-72. Master of Sherburn Hospital and Curate-in-Charge of Pitlington 1972-77. Hon. Canon of Durham.

**Graham Bentley Pattison B.A.**, 1977-. Team Vicar of Tong and Holme Wood 1970-74, Rector of the same 1974-77. Master of Sherburn Hospital and Social Responsibility Officer for the Diocese of Durham 1977-.

**Thomas Lever M.A., B.D.**, 1562-77. Master of St. John's College, Cambridge 1551-53. In exile at Zurich during the Marian persecution: chief pastor of the English congregation there. A staunch puritan and non-conformist, but was not on that account barred from the Mastership. Rector and Archdeacon of Coventry 1559-77.

**Ralph Lever M.A., D.D.** 1577-85. Brother of Thomas. Rector of Washington 1565-76, of Howick 1566-74, of Stanhope 1575-77. Prebendary of Durham 1567-85. Archdeacon of Northumberland 1565-73.

**Valentine Dale, D.C.L.**, 1584-89. A layman<sup>13</sup> Dean of Wells 1574. Archdeacon of Surrey 1573. Mostly absent, being frequently employed by Queen Elizabeth as an ambassador.

**Robert Bellamy M.A., D.Physic.** 1589-1608. Chaplain to Bishop Barnes. Rector of Egglecliffe 1577-89, of Houghton-le-Spring 1584-89. Prebendary of Durham 1573-85.

**William Shawe M.A., D.D.**, 1623-36. Rector of Egglecliffe 1623.

**John Machon M.A.**, 1636-42. Prebendary of Lichfield 1631-71. Vicar of Hartburn 1632-36. Ejected by the Parliamentary Commissioners 1642.

**John Fenwick**, layman. 1642-54. A Newcastle tradesman. Guide to Lesley's Scottish army when he invaded England.

**John Fenwick**, 1654-60. Son of the above.

**John Machon**, as above, 1660-79.

**John Montagu M.A.**, 1680-99. Fourth son of Edward Montagu, Earl of Sandwich and nephew of Bishop Crewe. Master of Trinity College, Cambridge 1683-1700. Prebendary of Durham 1683-1700. Dean of Durham 1700-28.

**Thomas Rundle D.C.L.**, 1727-35. Chaplain to Bishop Talbot. Rector of Sedgefield 1722-27. Treasurer of Salisbury and Archdeacon of Wiltshire 1720. Bishop of Derry 1735 (resigning all his appointments in England).

**Wadham Chandler M.A.**, 1735-38. Younger son of Bishop Chandler. Rector of Bishopwearmouth 1732-35, of Washington 1733-35. Prebendary of Durham 1735-38.

**Robert Stillingfleet M.A., D.D.**, 1738-59. Chaplain to Bishops Talbot and Chandler. Rector of Gateshead 1731-32, of Ryton 1732-38. Prebendary of Worcester 1737, of Durham 1743-59.

**David Gregory M.A.**, 1759-67. Canon of Christ Church, Oxford 1736-56, Dean 1756. The first Professor of Modern History in Oxford 1724-36. Erected the range of buildings comprising separate rooms for the In-Brethren, with a central common hall.

**Mark Hindessley M.A., D.D.**, 1767-72. Vicar of Hitchin, Herts. 1731-55, Rector of Hrolwell, Beds. 1735-67. Prebendary of Lincoln 1754-72, Bishop of Sodor and Man 1755-72.

13. Lay Dean - According to an Act of Parliament of the reign of Charles II, a dean must be in priest's orders, but previously laymen might hold the office by special licence from the Crown. There were two Lay Deans of Durham, Thomas Wilson, 1580-81 and Adam Newton 1606-20.



## Railway Services

Sherburn House Station lay a quarter of a mile north-west of the Hospital, on part of what was originally the Durham and Sunderland Railways. The line ran from Sunderland via Ryhope, Seaton, Murton (junction for Stockton, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough), Hecton, Pittington and Sherburn House to Shincliffe. The Shincliffe station, opposite the Railway Tavern, was opened in 1837, and until 1844 provided the only means of getting from Durham to Sunderland by rail. In 1887 there were six trains each way passing through Sherburn House, on weekdays only. In 1893 Shincliffe Station was closed to passenger traffic and trains through Sherburn House ran to the new station known as Durham Elvet, which was situated at the eastern end of Old Elvet, on the site of the present Magistrate's Courts. In 1914 there were nine west-bound and eight east-bound trains through Sherburn House, with an additional east-bound train on Saturday afternoons. Durham Elvet Station was closed to passenger traffic in 1931, except on Miners' Gala Day, when it continued in use until 1953. Sherburn House Station closed at the same time and is now represented by the house named "Five Acres". A branch line ran from Sherburn House to Whitwell Colliery from the opening of the latter until its closure in 1884.

## Heraldry in Sherburn Hospital (by Mr. Robert S. Boumphrey)

In the Chapel:-

In the porch there is a memorial inscription to George Stanley Faber, S.T.B.\* (Master 1832-54) died 1854, aged 81 and his wife Eliza Sophia, died 1857, aged 77. She was the younger daughter of Major John Scott-Waring of Woodcote, Salop, M.P. for Stockbridge. Arms - Or a rose gules on a chief azure two mullets argent (Faber), impaling gules on a fess engrailed or between three stags' heads cabossed argent as many clariens sable (Waring): 2 and 3, or three catherine wheels sable (Scott).

The heraldry described by Surtees (History of Durham, Vol. 1) as being displayed in the chapel windows has all disappeared, probably in the fire of 1866.

On the porch of the Master's House:-

On a stone shield, the arms of the See of Durham impaling those of Bishop Van Mildert, during whose episcopate the house was rebuilt.

On a stone shield the arms of Faber as above. Crest:- out of a ducal coronet or a cubit arm erect vested gules holding in the hand a rose slipped proper.

The Dispensary:-

On the east wall a stone shield:- The See of Durham impaling barry of six or gules on a bend sable three escalops argent (Lightfoot).

The Dispensary was built in 1883, during the episcopate of Bishop Lightfoot.

Footnote: \*Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus - now more usually B.D. - Bachelor of Divinity.

## Stained Glass Windows:-

Front (1) The See of Durham (2) Bishop Lightfoot (3) Per pale gules and azure an eagle with two heads displayed argent within a bordure comonly counter-compony argent and azure (The Rev. Henry Arthur Mitton, Master 1874-1914). Back:- (1) The See of Durham impaling Bishop Lightfoot (2) Mitton.

## The Present State of the Hospital

Entering by the main gate, we see on the right the building erected in 1832 as a residence for the Master. It is now divided to provide smaller and more convenient accommodation for him, together with four flats occupied by retired clergy. At one time the Brethren lived with the Master, in a mediaeval building on the same site: no trace of it remains, though pictures and descriptions show it as having towers, parapets and buttresses. In the middle of the eighteenth century quarters for the Brethren were built on the opposite side of the quadrangle, and were later modified to provide two rooms for each Brother, with an adjacent communal dining hall. This row of buildings has now been named "Thornley House," to perpetuate the long connection of the Manor of Thornley with the Hospital; it houses both men and women. Behind it is the former laundry building, now converted into self-catering flats, and named Ferens House in memory of Dr. H. Cecil Ferens, for many years Chairman of the Governors.

Facing the entrance is the large nineteenth-century building, originally the medical and surgical unit, now housing elderly men and women. Each has a bed-sitting room and the use of common rooms.

Although according to the current Charity Commission Scheme, there are In-Brethren, In-Sisters and Inmates, the present tendency is to refer to them all as "Residents".

The present Governors are:-

Mr. W. K. Wills - Co-optative Governor, The Archdeacon of Durham - Ex Officio. Mr. W. B. Allan - Co-optative Governor, Dr. R. M. Tyndall - Bishop's Nominee, The Dean of Durham - Ex Officio, Councillor R. B. Carr - Durham District Council, Councillor J. E. Wright - Durham District Council, Mrs. J. Davies - Newcastle City Council, Councillor M. Corrigan - Durham County Council, Councillor R. N. Morrissey - Durham County Council, Councillor Mrs. C. Buckingham - Sunderland Borough Council, Dame Enid Russell-Smith - University of Durham, His Honour Judge A. Sharp - Circuit Judge, Mr. A. Gordon - Co-optative Governor and Mrs. L. Chapman - Co-optative Governor.

### Miscellaneous

Some extracts from the Minutes of the House Committee 1919-40 (the only ones which survive):

1921 Bro. Ditchburn guilty of insobriety – The Master to remonstrate with him.

Later – again guilty of insobriety – his stipend to be withdrawn for one week.

1923 Pensioner Parker intemperatc – removed.

1920 Manufacture of gas discontinued.

Poultry Farm – £100 to be spent on hen houses etc. and suitable person to be engaged.

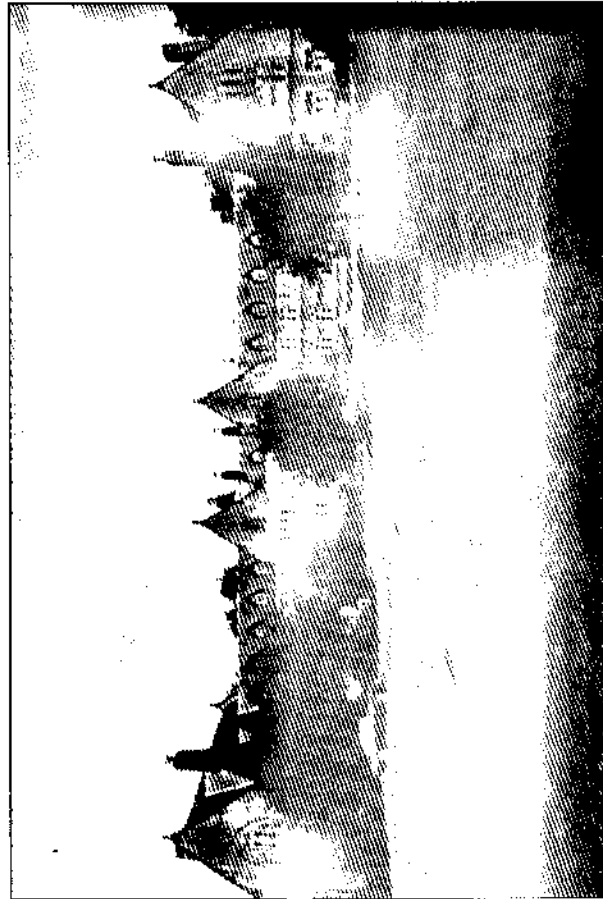
1923 A reference to piggeries and the extension of the poultry farm.

1925 The Hospital recognised as a training school. Tonsil and Adenoid cases to be undertaken for Durham County Council "by contract".

Extract from Burial Register:-

"20/9/1799 Michael Jurdison, aged 89. This death seemed to be hastened by intemperance".

Thirty In-Brethren died between 1794 and 1812. Their average age at death, as recorded in the Register, was 83.4 years, the greatest being 95.



*Front of Main Building*