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A King's Hospital

BY WALTER MUCKLOW

When the average man—if there be such a creature—thinks of King Henry VIII, of blessed memory, he may dwell on his magnificence, as illustrated in the Field of the Cloth of Gold, or he may recall the book which the king wrote to prove the fallibility of Martin Luther and to earn for himself the title of “Defender of the Faith,” to which he proved his right when he caused the English parliament to deny the authority of the pope and to proclaim King Henry the supreme power in England in ecclesiastical as well as in other matters.

The reader may recollect that the king reigned from 1509 to 1547, and one is sure to remember his somewhat catholic taste in the matter of queens; but many overlook all that he did to strengthen his kingdom and many are not aware of the charitable acts which he performed. Possibly, his own diseased leg caused him to include among these the foundation of the hospital of St. Bartholomew the Less, now generally known as “Bart’s”—a foundation which should have interest for the business man, and especially for the accountant, of today, as it affords perhaps the earliest, and certainly the most widely known, instance of anything approaching what we are accustomed to regard as modern improvements—such as budgeting and cost accounting.

Fortunately, in the latter part of the sixteenth century there lived near the Royal Exchange in London, the son of a tailor who (although so poor that, each morning, he had to go to the Minories to bring in the milk for his family) had a gift for observation, a love of gossip, a power of narrative, and an affection for the city of London which led him to acquire such a mass of historical matter that he was accused of sorcery because he had so many books. He became recognized as an authority on archeology and wrote a number of works, of which the only one which actively survives is one contained in six books, written in 1598, which was, and continues to be, the best account which we have of the old city, and to this day John Stow's *Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* is without a rival.

I have before me an edition of this book dated 1720, which, in addition to the “six books,” contains an appendix consisting of a

series of chapters on various matters connected with the city: chapter VII being devoted to the rules governing the hospitals of St. Bartholomew, of St. Thomas, of Christ's hospital and of Bridewell, while chapter IX consists of "ORDERS & ORDINANCES, for the better government of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew the Less.

"Published in the Reign of K. EDWARD *the Sixth*, for the Vindication of the Citizens Care thereof, and the faithful Discharge of their Trust in the said Hospital, committed to them by King HENRY *the Eighth*: Against certain Clamours and Slanders raised by some ill-minded Persons in those days."

In the "Preface to the Reader" it is stated that "It pleased the King's Majesty, of famous Memory, Henry the Eighth (Father to this our most dread Sovereign Lord now reigning) to erect an Hospital in WEST SMITHFIELD, for the continual Relief and Help of an Hundred Sore and Distressed. And the same endowed with the Yearly Revenue of five hundred Marks, to give unto the said City and Citizens conditionally, that they also for their Part, should add other five hundred Marks by the Year."

The amount of the king's endowment was to be raised from the rents of certain houses, "some in great Decay, and some rotten and ruinous," while others were covered by long-term leases on disadvantageous terms, all of which caused the citizens to have much difficulty in raising sufficient funds. "In the Hospital itself . . . was found so much of Household Implements and Stuff, toward the Succouring of this hundred Poor, as sufficed three or four Harlots then lying in child-bed, and no more; yea, barely so much, if but necessary Cleanliness were regarded. So far had the godly Meaning of the gracious King been abused at those Days; and yet was little then smelled, and less talked of."

The writers of that day usually preferred using the word "spade" to any such phrase as "an agricultural implement suitable for delving."

It appears that certain persons having "all their Zeal in their Tongue only" made misrepresentations to the ministers, and these were repeated until the slanders became widespread. To refute these, the governors issued a pamphlet, giving particulars of the number of patients cured and other facts regarding the operations, after which they felt that, if the slanderers "well weighed these Things, already alleged, and the Wages of the Chirurgeons, and such Officers and Servants as needfully are at-

tendant about the Poor; the Charges of Bedding and Shift for so many Sore and Diseased, and the excessive Prices of all Things at this Day; They might marvel how so many are there relieved, and daily maintained; and with Repentance for what they have mis-said, endeavor themselves, with as much good Report and Praise, to advance both the Deed and the Doers; to wipe away the Slander as they have spread."

However, the mayor, or "maior," felt that the public should be fully informed and, therefore, he decided to publish the "Over-seers and Orders by him appointed," and issued a document containing some eleven thousand words.

When one studies these rules it is difficult to remember that they were prepared over three centuries ago, and, as he reads, one hears, as an echo, whispers from the treasurer, the trustee and the superintendent of a hospital of our own time.

From these eight foolscap pages of closely printed rules for the guidance of officers I propose to make a few selections for the purpose of showing how our ancestors handled their business and how slightly conditions have changed since their days.

The document, after describing the organization, addresses each class of person associated with the house, and outlines their respective duties in a series of "charges," each of which is addressed to one particular group.

"It behoveth first to understand for the more Evidentness of that that followeth, that there are in this Administration two Sorts or Kinds of Men: The one called *Governours*— . . . placed there by the Lord Maior, as Patron of this Hospital: And the others called *Officers*, that for Wages are hired, for to have the necessary Doings in the Service of the House and the Poor."

In modern language we have here our board of trustees and our staff.

"The Governours so change, that the One Half remaineth two Years in their Governance, to help and instruct the later elected, which also become Instructors to their Followers. And these are in number twelve, whereof four are Aldermen and the Residue Commoners; and according to their Governance thus they are named.

"The President, always the Senior Alderman, Surveyors four, one Alderman and three Commoners.

"Almoisners four, one Alderman and three Commoners.

"The Treasurer, a Commoner.

“Scrutiners two, both Commoners.

“The *Officers* are seven in Number, continuable or removeable, as the Governours shall find Cause, and be thus called:

“The Hospitaler

“The Renter-Clerk

“The Butler

“The Porter

“The Matron

“The Sisters, twelve

“The Byddles, eight

“There are also as in a Kind by themselves, three Chirurgions in the Wages of the Hospital, giving daily Attendance upon the Cures of the Poor.

“And a Minister, named *The Visitor of Newgate.*”

“The Governours are always elected by the Lord Maior and his Brethren, who yearly elect six. . . . The whole Company of the twelve old Governours sitting in Assembly together, cause their Clerk to read unto the six newly elected the Charge hereafter following.”

“The Charge”: The governors are reminded that they are elected for two years and for all that time “all your other Business set apart, as much as you possibly may, ye shall endeavour yourselves to attend only upon the needful Doings of this House, with such a loving and careful Diligence, as shall become the faithful Ministers of God, whom you chiefly in this vocation are appointed to serve, and to whom for your Negligencies and Defaults herein ye shall render an Accompt.”

They are to care for the sick and “to the best of your Wits and Powers, so to comfort, order and govern this House . . . that at the last Day ye may appear before the Face of God as true and faithful Stewards and Disposers of all such things.”

Each newly elected governor promised so to do in the hearing of his brethren and was then admitted into the fellowship, for, apparently, then as now, membership on the board carried with it some social distinction.

The president was the “chief Ruler and Governour” and his duties were identical with those of a president of today.

The treasurer and his charge: “All the Treasure of this House is committed to your Charge . . . of the which ye shall keep a true and just Account And it shall not be lawful for you to pay any manner of Person, any Sum or Sums of money (except it be to the

Steward of this House for the visting of the same; and the ordinary Fees and Wages that goeth out thereof) but ye shall first have the Names of those Persons subscribed to the said Sum of Money, under whose Office and Charge such Payment shall happen to rise and grow."

"Ye shall also keep one several Account between the Renter and you, by which may appear not only the Charge of the said Renter and his Arrearages, but whether the Rents of the Lands pertaining to the said House encrease or decay.

"Ye shall also yearly the 20 day of October yield and give up to the President and Governours of the same, a true and perfect Account of your whole Charge during the year of your Treasurership and then the said President and Governours shall name and appoint among themselves four to be Auditors of the same. And the second day of *November* next following, ye shall likewise resort to the said Hospital, at the Hour of eight a Clock in the forenoon, that ye may then answer and clear your Account."

After all accounts and money had been turned over to the new Treasurer, the retiring Treasurer was directed "the same day to dine within the said Hospital with the Governours thereof. And in Recompense for your Pains, ye shall be assured of the Mercies laid up for you in the Promises and Blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Would not a committee of the American Institute of Accountants issue similar directions today?

"Surveyors": To these was committed the care of all the lands and leases belonging to the hospital, each of which was to be recorded in the "Reportory Book" by the clerk "To the Intent that the Governours of this House may always be assured what Grants have passed then, and both whereunto they have bound themselves, and also whereunto their Tenants are bound."

They were to work in conjunction with the treasurer and were to meet at least once in every fourteen days, when they were to interview the tenants, make new agreements and warn defaulters. All agreements were to be entered into a book, signed by the surveyors and then committed "to the Oversight of the Renter." Every year, at the feast of St. Michael, new surveyors were to be appointed and by October 12th following, or within two days thereof, there was to be rendered "a general View and Survey of all the Lands pertaining to this House."

For "your Pains taken here, God hath promised to give you Rest and Pleasure in Heaven perpetually."

Almoners: These were obliged to meet at least once a week and, whenever cause existed, they were to call before them any or all of the officers and enquire "if every man did his duty therein according to his Charge and whether there be Peace and Quietness maintained."

They were to take such steps as they deemed meet and if any officer refused to be ordered by them, they were to report the case to the president and governors.

They were to enquire if the chirurgeons did their duty, to ascertain the number of persons healed each week and to admit new patients. They were directed to "view from Time to Time this House, keeping one entire and perfect Inventory of the Utensils and necessary Implements thereof, in a book," and to make provision for the supplying of wood, coal and necessary furniture and also to provide whatever else should appear to be necessary.

Also "Ye shall see unto the keeping sweet of the Poor, and in your proper Persons visit them once every week at the least, and to see that their service of Bread, Meat and Drink, be truly and faithfully delivered unto them. And for your Labours and Pains, ye shall be sure of the Reward that God Hath promised to all of them that succour his Members."

Do not these instructions have a familiar ring in the ears of members of modern visiting or examining committees?

Scrutiners: These were charged as follows: "Ye shall be ready and diligent to make Search and Enquiry from Time to Time for all such Gifts, Legacies and Bequests, as have been, or shall be given or bequeathed to the Succour and Comfort of the Poor of this House."

All money was to be turned over to the treasurer, who would give a receipt for it, but the scrutiners were to keep a book in which they were to enter full particulars as to each sum received. Each year they were to report to the governors and to deliver their full records to the new scrutiners, also "at the Audit of the Treasurer's Account, the Scrutiner's Book of Gifts and Bequests shall in like Manner be examined and allowed."

"Finally, ye shall in every Place where you shall have Occasion to come in the Company of good, vertuous and wealthy Men, to the uttermost of your Power, commend and set forth the good Order of this House, and how rightly the Goods given to the Poor,

are here bestowed, to the Encouragement of other to extend their Charity thereto."

They were also to move the preachers to "provoke the Devotions of the People to the Help and Comfort of the House," and were promised the same rewards as were the almoners.

Today, should we not call the scrutiners our finance committee?

An Admonition to the Auditors: "Into your Audit must be brought these sorts of Books:

"First, the Hospital Book, being in the Custody of the Hospitaler, to which also ye shall look, that every page or total Sum thereof be subscribed with two of the Hands of the Almoners: And this Book ye shall confer with the Steward's Book, who first maketh the Provisions.

"Ye must also have the Scrutiner's Book, to examine the Account of the Treasurer for Money delivered unto him by Gifts and Bequests.

"Also the Book of Survey, to confer the Bills Brought in by the Treasurer, with the Allowances of Reparations, expressed in the said Book.

"Also ye shall demand of the Renter his Rental for that year, not forgetting always to charge him with the Arrearages that remain the Year before (if any be) and to confer the Sums of Money, received by the Treasurer, with the Charge and Account of the said Renter.

"And lastly to have special Regard, if any Sum of Money have been paid by the Treasurer, by any Decree or General Order of this House, to look in the Journal for the same.

"And thus in the whole Affairs of this House shall ye perfectly be instructed."

Could more comprehensive instructions be so briefly outlined?

An order for the safe keeping of all evidences and writings appertaining to the hospital: "There shall be one fair and substantial chest provided and the same shall be set in the most convenient and surest Place in the House." It was to have several locks, the keys of which were to be delivered, one to the president, one to the treasurer and one to a commoner appointed by the whole house.

No original document might be taken from the hospital. If a copy were required it was to be taken in the presence of the three officers holding the three keys.

“Officers of the Household, with their particular Charge.”
“The Renter Clerk and his Charge.”

“Your Office is, with all care and Diligence, to collect and gather the Rents due of the Lands and Tenements appertaining to this House” and to pay them over to the treasurer.

“The renter was to report at least once a week to the president, or the treasurer, and to attend all meetings of the governors and of the surveyors and almoners and ‘register all such Decrees, Orders and Determinations, as by them and every one of them in their several Charges shall be decreed, ordered and determined.’

“And for that . . . it shall be requisite that ye keep diligently four several Books, the Names whereof, and the Use are here described:

- “A Reportory
- “A Book of Survey
- “A Book of Accounts
- “A Journal

“And first you shall note, that before every of these Books ye must have a Calendar [i.e. an index] into which ye may enter by Order of Letters of the A. B. C. all proper Names and Matters that shall be contained in every of them. And for the better accomplishing hereof, ye shall, with your Pen, in the Head of the Leaf, number the Pages of every Leaf, in every of these Books, and then adding in your Calendar the Number of the Page, where the Name or Matter is entered in your Book, the Reader, without any Difficulty, may turn to the same.”

As to the use of the first Book called a reportory, in this there were to be entered “the Foundation of the Hospital and also all Deeds, Leases, Obligations, Acquittances and other Specialties, using always in the Margent of the said Book, to note in a few *English* words the sum and content of every article.”

“The use of the second Book, called a Book of Survey.” In this book there were to be entered each year the names of all tenants with full particulars and showing “in the Margent the Leaf of your Reportory, where every of their Leafes is entered.”

The renter was to attend the surveyors when they made their surveys and was to enter in this book all “grants of Reparations,” i.e., repairs, as were agreed to, all defaults, etc. The treasurer was to bring in his account, showing his bills of reparations, each of which was to be signed by two surveyors. The book was also to show the amount of the rent and any variations in that amount

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which occurred. Increased rentals were to be shown separately under "augmentation of rents," reduced rents were to be entered under the heading "decayed rents," and any changes in tenants, etc., were to be shown under "alteration of rents."

"The Use of the Third Book, called a Book of Accounts." In this book there were to be entered all the accounts of all the treasurers that had been since the hospital was first committed to the city of London, showing all arrearages of the renter for each year, after these had been examined by the auditors.

The "calendar" was to show the name of the treasurer and the page of his account, and in the "margent" of each such account was to be shown the page in the book of survey on which the entry occurred.

"And for the ready finding of every Matter contained in every Account, ye shall in the Margent of this Book use, as is aforesaid, to denote divers general Words, Accompts, Provisions, Liveries, Gifts, Legacies, Rewards, Agreements, Surrenders, Bargains, Suits, Recoveries, Pensions, Fees &c. Adding to every one of these, being placed in your Calendar, the Leaf where every of them is mentioned in any of the Accounts contained in this Book, that at a Word may be seen what hath been done in all these Things, from the first Treasurer to the last."

"And for a perfect Declaration of the whole Affairs of this House, ye shall also out of another Book (which shall contain the Doings of the Almoners, and shall be called the Hospital Book) enter into this Book of Accounts, as well a perfect Inventory of all such Implements as then shall be found within the Hospital as also a full Remainder of all the Provisions and Victuals first subscribed by two of the said Almoners."

At the end of this book were to be entered the names of all patients who had been cured, of those who had died and of those who remained in the hospital at the end of the year, giving their full names, "the Name of the Shire in which each was born, and their Faculties, Exercise or Occupations."

Could a twentieth century bookkeeper show greater care?

"The use of the fourth Book, called a Journal." "This Book must also have a Calendar, it shall always be brought forth at such Time as the President and most Part of the Governours shall sit within the Hospital, for the general Affairs of the same."

In this book were to be entered all such orders and decrees as were passed. "And in the Margent thereof ye shall do as is as-

signed in the Book of Reportory, in few words set forth the sum of every Decree, Order &c contained therein. . . . And ye shall not fail, but in five or six days after the Entrance of any Thing into this Book, to enter the same by a general Word in the Calendar that as well when you are absent as present, the Governours may, without difficulty, be satisfied of that they seek therein."

"The Office of Hospitaler": "Your office is chiefly and most principally to visit the Poor in their Extreame and Sickneses, and to minister unto them the most wholesome and necessary Doctrine of God's comfortable Word. . . . To receive also into this House, of the Steward, to the use of the same Poor, such Victuals and other Provision as by him shall be provided, entering the same into your Book, and safely to keep them to their Use.

"Also to deliver unto the Cook of this House from Time to Time, so much of the same Victuals as shall be needful from the present Time to be dressed for the Poor. And the same being dressed, to see seasonably and truly delivered and distributed among them."

The hospitaler received new patients and had them examined by the chirurgions to see whether or not their diseases were curable and, if the patient were accepted, he delivered him to the matron. He was also to receive any valuables which a patient might have and to deliver them to him when he was discharged and was to keep a book of all patients received to show to the governours. All discharged patients were to be registered and each was to receive "a passport" to be made according to precedent and form.

"The Office of the Steward and Butler": "Your Charge is faithfully and truly to make Provision of such needful Victuals, as from Time to Time ye shall be appointed by the Almoners to provide for the Poor of this House, remembering always that whereinsoever you shall hinder, or negligently burden this House, either with excessive prices, or not making your Provision in due Time, the Dammage and Hurt you do unto God, whose Members the Poor are . . .

"Your Charge is also to keep a true and perfect Account of all such Victuals as by you shall be bought, and to make Deliverance of the said Victuals unto the Hospitaler of this House, declaring unto him the just Weight, Number, and Prices of the same, that he may make due and true Entrance and Account thereof."

The steward was to be present at meals served to the patients. "The Office of the Matron": "Your Office is to receive of the Hospitaler of this House, all such sick and diseased Persons, as he by his Warrant signed from the Almoners of this House, shall present unto you, and the same Persons to bestow in such convenient Places within this House, as you shall think meet.

"You have also the Charge of Governance and Order of all the Sisters of this House, to see from Time to Time that every of them in the Wards committed to their charge, do their Duty unto the Poor, as well in making of their beds, and keeping their Wards as also in washing and purging their unclean Cloaths and other Things. And that the same Sisters every Night after the hour of seven of the Clock in the Winter, and nine of the Clock in the Summer, come not out of the Womans Ward, except some great and special cause (as the present Danger of Death or needful Succour of some poor Person.")

Yet even this permission was restricted to those whom the matron "shall think virtuous, godly and discreet."

When the sisters were not nursing, they were to be set to "spinning, or doing of some other Manner of Work, that may avoid idleness, and be profitable to the Poor of this House." The matron was to receive the flax used in spinning and this was to be weighed and the resulting cloth was to be measured. She had charge of all the bedding and implements in use and might not allow anyone to sit and drink in the hospital.

From all of which it is evident that the troubles of a superintendent are not of recent birth.

"The Sisters": "Your Charge is, in all Things to declare and show yourselves, gentle, diligent and obedient to the Matron of this House, who is appointed and authorized to be your chief Governess and Ruler."

They were to serve the sick "in all their Griefs and Diseases, as well by keeping them sweet and clean, as in giving them their Meats and Drinks, after the most honest and comfortable Manner." They were to give them "good and honest Talk", to abandon all wanton and foolish gestures and words and finally were told "And above all Things, see that ye avoid, abhor, and detest Scolding and Drunkenness, as most pestilent and filthy vices."

They might make no visits outside the hospital without first obtaining permission from the matron, "and, so much as in you

shall lie, ye shall avoid and shun the Conversation and Company of all Men."

Apparently the "sisters" of the sixteenth century and the nurses in a training school of the twentieth century have much in common, and the flirtatious sister is a throw-back rather than a product of the twentieth century.

"The Chirurgeons": "Your Charge is faithfully and truly, to the Uttermost of your Knowledge and Cunning, to help to cure the Grievs and Diseases of the Poor of this Hospital, setting aside all Favour, Affection, Gain or Lucre."

In consideration of their pay from the hospital, they were to be always ready to examine sick persons, chiefly to determine whether or not they were curable, as no incurables were to be admitted. They were to attend dressing of any diseased person and to give them wise counsel "And above all things ye shall take nor receive of no Person any Gift or Reward for the curing or helping of them, either of them or their Friends, but ye shall first make the same Offer or Reward known unto the Almoners of this House."

If they accepted as a patient one whom they had been treating for money, they were to be dismissed.

"The Office of the Porter": "Your Charge is to keep the Doors, opening and shutting them in due Time and to give good Heed to, all such Persons as shall at any Time pass to and fro out of this House, as well for the conveighing or embezelling of anything that pertaineth to the Poor of this House, as Wood, Coal, Bread, Meat or Drink, as also, all suspicious Persons, as Men to resort to the Womans Ward, or Women to the Mens Wards."

They were to go into every ward at night and see that no nurses were there contrary to the orders given by the matron.

Anyone who swore, or contemned any officer of the House, or refused to go to bed at the lawful hours, was to be punished in the stocks and reported to the aldermen.

The porter was also to perform any other duties which might be assigned to him.

"The Bedels": "Your Office and Charge is to give Attendance from Time to Time upon the Governours of this House, and to do such Business as they shall assign to you."

When the governors sat, the "bedels" were to walk the streets and, if they saw any sick persons therein to the annoyance of the public, they were to report the cases to the governors. If they

found a discharged patient begging, they were commanded to "immediately commit him or them to some Cage" and give "Knowledge thereof to the Governours." They were not to consort with "poor and beggarly Persons," "neither shall ye receive any Bribe or Reward of any of them, least, by Occasion thereof ye should wink at them, and so lewdly license them to beg, upon Pain of being dismissed of this House."

Finally they were to apprehend all sturdy vagabonds whom they found begging.

After all, human nature changes little.

"The Visitor of Newgate": "Your Charge is faithfully and diligently to visit all the poor and miserable Captives within the Prison of Newgate and minister unto them such ordinary Service, at Times convenient, as is appointed by the King's Majesty's Book for ordinary Prayer."

He was to learn by heart "the most welcome Sentences of Holy Scripture, that may comfort a desperate man" and repeat them to the suffering; he was to refuse Bribes and was to exhort the prisoners "with the uttermost of your cunning to make restitution of Things falsely gotten," and in "their Extreames and Sicknesses" he was to "comfort them with the most pithy and fruitful Sentences of God's most Holy Word."

He was also to beg support for the hospital from any persons of substance whom he met and was to turn over sums collected to the almoners or scrutiners and at least four times a year do service in the church.

Evidently one of the duties of each of the "officers" was to watch his fellow officers, for the charges to the hospitaler, the steward and butler, the matron, the sisters, the chirurgions, the porter, all close with such a paragraph as the following, which is addressed to the matron:

"Herewith ye are charged and not with any other thing. But if there shall be anything done by any Officer or any other Person of this House that shall be unprofitable thereto, or that may be Occasion of any Disorder, or shall engender Slander to the same, then ye then declare it to some one or two of the Governours of this House, and to none other Person, nor no farther to meddle therein."

"The Estimate of the Yearly Charges of this Hospital": While there had been heavy expenses required to bring the hospital into a proper condition, these are not discussed "but the yearly Ex-

pences only, sustained for the Maintenance and Continuance of the same. And albeit these Charges following be all and every one of them ordinary, and of Necessity; yet for that there is a Difference in the Certainty of the one and the other, they are divided into two Kinds, with these Titles: Charges certain and Charges uncertain."

"Charges certain": "Are these, the Yearly Wages and Fees of those Officers and Servants that necessarily serve and attend for the Poor as ensueth, and after them the Charges of Household, Reparations, and such like."

Then follows a list of the salaries:

"To the Hospitaler	x l.		
"To the Renter Clerk	x l.		
"To the Butler	vi l.	xiii s.	iv d.

"To the Matron for her Livery", etc, etc,	xiii s.	iv d.
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"Charges for the Household."

"For the Dyets of 100 Persons, at two Pence the Person for every day—	CCC l.	vi s.	viii d.
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"For 68 Loads of Coal at xvi s. Per Load	liii l.	viii s.
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"For Wood yearly	xxiv l.
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"For Candles yearly	v l.
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"For yearly Reparations of the Hospital and Tenements appertaining to the same	xl l.
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"Sum of the Charges certain—	DCCxcv l.	ii s."
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"The Charges uncertain (forasmuch as it cannot be certainly known to what they may amount) are here set forth without sums, only to signify unto you, that there are many Charges more to be considered, then certain Account can be made of."

"Charges uncertain" include cost of clothing for the poor and needy, sugars and spices, flax cloth, baskets, brooms, incense, juniper, rolls, "Ashes to buck their Cloaths," etc. "The which uncertain Charges amounted one Year to the sum of lx l."

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“So cometh the certain Charges of this House Yearly to the Sum of DCCxcv *l. ii s.* besides the uncertain Expences, and other extraordinary Charges, which cannot be rated or accounted.”

“Toward the which is yearly received by the Endowment of the King's Majesty CCCxxxiii *l. vi s. viii d.* And by the like Endowment of the City of *London* CCCxxxiii *l. vi s. viii d.* The which in the whole is DClxvi *l. xiii s. iv d.*

“So is the Hospital charged yearly of certain (besides the uncertain Expences) over and above the sum of their Revenues Cxxviii *l. viii s. viii d.*

“Which only riseth of the Charity of certain merciful Citizens, for whose Continuance, with the Increase of moe, we earnestly pray unto the Fountain of Mercy, *Jesus Christ*, the Lord of all, to whom for ever appertain the Kingdom, the Power, the Glory, World without End. *Amen.*”

A verification of these figures—and the additions are correct—arouses sympathy for the bookkeeper of old and indicates that, if principles have remained unchanged, accounting facilities have been both simplified and improved.

The chapter closes with “A Thanksgiving unto Almighty God, to be said by the Poor that are cured in the Hospital, at the Time of their Delivery from thence, upon their Knees in the Hall before the Hospitaler, and two Masters of this House at the least.”

And this the hospitaler should charge them to learn “without the Book, before they be delivered.”

The thanksgiving contains about three hundred words and, after a patient had recited it, he was to receive a passport stating that he was cured on a certain day and charging him to report to the place of his nativity or to the place of his last abode and “there to exhibit this present Passport to the Head Officer or Officers in either of the places appointed, that they may take further Order for his Demeanour.”

I think it is safe to say that those who have read thus far, who have had experiences with any modern hospital and are not familiar with the ways of the old Londoners, will be vastly astonished to see how little matters have changed in the last four centuries.

The story opens with the impoverished condition of the institution, brought about by neglect and abuses, so that there were not sufficient supplies to care for the three or four ladies mentioned in the preamble, and there was much open slander and privy whis-

pering; so the citizens caused a survey to be made. The findings are not published, but the resulting ordinances indicate clearly what was found, and in the reorganized house we have the governors, corresponding to our boards of trustees; we have a complete operating force from the matron (or superintendent) down, including internes, and a nurses' school, a steward who represents the modern dietician, and a very complete and convenient system of accounts with detailed directions as to how they are to be kept.

Inventories are to be maintained and there is instituted something which can not be called anything but a budget, so carefully and scientifically drawn as to show clearly the distinction between what we know as fixed charges and variable charges. All the information necessary to show the daily costs per patient-day is provided.

Throughout the document are mingled the shrewd common sense, business ability and sincere piety which distinguished the London citizen and made possible the immense expansion of English trade which commenced in the days of Henry III and was so startling throughout the reigns of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs.

It is pleasant to remember that the heritage they left descends equally to those who now live in the lands which are touched by both the eastern and the western waves of the Atlantic Ocean, and it is salutary to enquire whether or not we all live up to that heritage.