

The Rotunda Charter

Guide to The Charter of The Hospital for the Relief of Poor Lying In Women Dublin Commonly Known as The Rotunda Hospital

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The Rotunda Charter

**Guide to The Charter of The Hospital for the Relief of Poor Lying In Women Dublin
Commonly Known as The Rotunda Hospital**

Compiled by Anne M. O'Byrne
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With acknowledgment to printed histories of the Rotunda Hospital

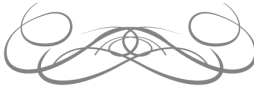
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CARING FOR GENERATIONS
SINCE 1745



Chapter 1: Introduction

Page 1

Chapter 2: Sections I and II

Pages 2 - 3

Section I: Petition

Section II: Individuals willing to subscribe. Murder of infants prevented. Practitioners instructed at home.

Chapter 3: Sections III, IV, V, VI

Pages 5 - 8

Section III: Success of first attempt by Dr Mosse with 24 beds.

Section IV: His Majesty grants a Charter.

Section V: Governors and guardians appointed. Ex officio governors.

Section VI: A body politick and corporate named. Name or title.

Chapter 4: Sections VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII

Page 10 - 14

Section VII: and that they and their successors may have and use such seal as they shall think proper; and that it may be lawful for them and their successors to change, break, alter, and make new the same from time to time, as they shall think fit.

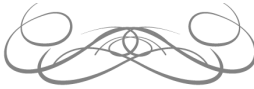
Section VIII: To purchase lands. Personal estate without limitations.

Section IX: To have six presidents and six vice presidents. First president. First six vice presidents. First treasurer. Dr Mosse to continue Master for life.

Section X: To meet, choose servants, committees etc.

Section XI: Four general meetings with powers. Annual election of members.

Section XII: Salaries not to exceed one-fifth of the yearly profits interest or produce. Officers and servants removable. Quoram at charter boards.



Chapter 5: Sections XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX

Page 17 - 20

Section XIII: President or vice president to be chairman and have a second vote.

Section XIV: President may summon a general board. Election of governors.

Section XV: Governors limited to sixty.

Section XVI: Appoint agents, audit accounts, collect money.

Section XVII: Masters, assistants, may instruct pupils.

Section XVIII: No Master to continue more than seven years.

Section XIX: Assistants. Preference.

Chapter 6: The Great Seal

Page 22

Illustrations

Royal Charter - Figure 1 Pertaining to Sections I and II

Page 4

Royal Charter - Figure 2 Pertaining to Sections III, IV, VI

Page 9

Royal Charter - Figure 3 Pertaining to Sections VII through XII

Page 15

Royal Charter - Figure 4 Pertaining to Sections VII through XII

Page 16

Royal Charter - Figure 5 Pertaining to Sections XIII through XIX

Page 21

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Royal Charter of the Lying-In Hospital, was commissioned by Bartholomew Mosse, the founding Master of the Rotunda Hospital. It was granted by Royal Charter on the 2nd of December, 1756, by his Majesty, King George II. The Charter raised the status of the hospital from a small charitable institution to an institution of national status, ensuring it's ongoing government funding.

It discussed the overall governance of the hospital and the appointment of the Master at a fixed term of seven years which is non-renewable, and the appointment of a Board of Governors to manage and control the trust. This legally binding document was produced in parchment and was the subject of a conservation project during the Rotunda Hospital's tercentenary year in 2012.

The conserved document is on display adjacent to the Front Hall and Boardroom of the Rotunda Hospital, at Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Due to age and quality, only one of the five pages of the document are on display, although all sections of the document have been digitised. The text of the Charter appears in the document of the same name but is text only explaining the sections of the Charter. This guide brings together the text of the Charter and the beautiful graphics which was previously unavailable to a wide audience.



*The Royal Charter of the Lying-In
Hospital, Dublin, was granted by
Royal Charter on the 2nd of
December, 1756, by his Majesty,
King George II.*



Chapter 2

Sections I and II

Section I - Petition

Royal Charter - Figure 1

George the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, to all onto whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas several of our Lords, clergy, and gentlemen of our Kingdom of Ireland, benefactors of the hospital in George's Lane, Dublin, for the relief of poor Lying-in Women, in behalf of themselves and the rest of the benefactors of the said hospital, by their petition to our right trusty and right entirely beloved cousin and counsellor Lionel Duke of Dorset, then our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of our said Kingdom, setting forth, that in many parts of our said Kingdom, but more especially in the city and suburbs of Dublin, there are always many poor and distressed women great with child, who, by the sickness, death, absence, neglect, or extreme poverty of their husbands, wholly depend upon their own daily work for even common necessities; and are lying-in, frequently both themselves and infants lost, not only by the difficulty of obtaining the care and attendance of some skilful person, but even through the want of such covering, lodging and sustenance as are necessary for women in that condition; many instances of which (if required) could be produced, more especially in the case of wives and widows of the soldiers and sailors of our army and navy.



there are always many poor and distressed women great with child, who, by the sickness, death, absence, neglect, or extreme poverty of their husbands, wholly depend upon their own daily work for even common necessities



**Section II: Individuals willing to subscribe. Murder of infants prevented.
Practitioners instructed at home.**

Royal Charter - Figure 1

And that already a considerable sum had been collected, and many persons of quality and distinction, as well as others, had declared their intentions to contribute largely towards the building and supporting an hospital for the reception and relief of all poor and distressed lying-in women, as soon as we should be graciously pleased to grant letters patent for erecting such hospital. That several legacies had been bequeathed to the same purpose, to be paid by executors, when such hospital shall be properly established. That such hospital, when established, will be a means not only of preserving the lives, and relieving the miseries of numberless lying-in women, but also preventing that most unnatural (though too frequent) practice of abandoning, or perhaps murdering, new-born infants. And that it may prevent such gentlemen as intend to practise midwifery in our said kingdom from going abroad for instruction. That by admitting and instructing in such hospital, women, who, after some time spent there, being duly qualified, may settle in such parts of our said kingdom, as most stand in need of such persons, it will be a means of preventing the unhappy effects owing to the ignorance of the generality of country midwives. That by preserving the lives of many infants, who, in all probability, must otherwise perish.



That such hospital, when established, will be a means not only of preserving the lives, and relieving the miseries of numberless lying-in women, but also preventing that most unnatural (though too frequent) practice of abandoning, or perhaps murdering, new-born infants.





Royal Charter - Figure 1
 Pertaining to Sections I and II

Chapter 3

Sections III, IV, V, VI

Section III: Success of first attempt by Dr Mosse with 24 beds.

Royal Charter - Figure 2

And further setting forth, that the petitioners were the more encouraged in their application to our said then Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland, from the great success which then had already attended an attempt towards an hospital of this kind made by Dr Bartholomew Mosse of the said City of Dublin, surgeon and man midwife, who being convinced of the great usefulness of the undertaking, and encouraged thereto by the subscriptions of several well disposed persons, had opened, some time since, for this purpose, an house furnished with twenty four beds, and the necessities in proportion; and in the space of four years and half, one thousand two hundred and forty women, with proper certificates of their poverty and good character, had been admitted, and safely delivered of one thousand two hundred and sixty two children (several having had twins) and discharged; during which whole time there had been no instance of any child exposed or murdered in the city or any of the suburbs of Dublin. The said petitioners did, by such their petition, apply to our said then Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom, to intercede with us for our Royal Charter to incorporate such persons as we should think fit, by the name of the Governors and Guardians of the hospital for the relief of poor lying in Dublin, with a power of purchasing lands to the value of one thousand pounds per annum, together with such powers, and under such regulations as to us should seem proper. And Whereas our said Lieutenant General and General Governor did, by his order, bearing date the 12th day of March, one thousand seven hundred and fifty two, refer the said petition to our attorney and solicitor general of our said Kingdom, to examine and consider the allegations of the said petition, and report unto our said Lieutenant General and General Governor whether it would be advisable for us to grant the Charter thereby desired; who, by their report, bearing date the fifth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and fifty two, are of opinion that the granting the petitioners such a charter as is desired will be of great benefit and advantage to our said Kingdom of Ireland.

Section IV: His Majesty grants a Charter.

Royal Charter - Figure 2

We therefore being so graciously pleased to encourage so laudable an undertaking: Know ye and we, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and well-beloved cousin and counsellor James, Earl of Kildare, and right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor Brabazon Earl of Bessborough, our Justice General and General Governors of our said Kingdom of Ireland; and according to tenor and effect of our letters under the privy signet and sign manual, at our court in Kensington, the twenty six day of July, one thousand seven hundred and fifty six, in the thirtieth year of our reign, and now enrolled in the rolls of our High Court of Chancery in our said Kingdom of Ireland.



and according to tenor and effect of our letters under the privy signet and sign manual, at our court in Kensington, the twenty six day of July, one thousand seven hundred and fifty six, in the thirtieth year of our reign, and now enrolled in the rolls of our High Court of Chancery in our said Kingdom of Ireland



Section V: Governors and guardians appointed. Ex officio governors.

Royal Charter - Figure 2

Have made, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents we do make, nominate, constitute, and appoint our Lieutenant General and Governor General of our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being; The Most Reverend Father in God the Lord Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland; the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor of our said Kingdom; the Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons of our said Kingdom; the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin, the Most Reverend Father in God the Archbishop of Dublin, Primate of Ireland; the Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of Kildare; the Right Honourable the Commander in Chief of our Forces in our said Kingdom; the Reverend Dean of St Patrick's Dublin; the recorder of the said city, all for the time being; our right trusty and well-beloved cousin and Counsellor James Earl of Kildare, and the Earls of Kildare for ever, our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor John Earl of Shelburne; the Right Reverend Father in God Robert Lord Bishop of Clogher; the Right Reverend Father in God Jemmat Lord Bishop of Cork and Ross; the Right Reverend Father in God Robert Lord Bishop of Raphoe; the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Gore, Baronet; the Right Honourable John Ponsonby, Esq.; the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Taylor, Baronet; the Right Honourable Hercules Langford Rowley, Esq.; the Reverend John Whittingham, Doctor of Divinity; Nathaniel Clements, William Henry Dawson, William Forward, Ralph Sampson, William Whittingham, and Edward Sterling, Esquires, Ellis Price, Merchant, and Bartholomew Mosse, Doctor of Physick; and such others as shall from time to time be elected, in the manner herein-after directed, to be one body politick and corporate, in deed and in name, by the name of the Governors and Guardians of the hospital for the relief of poor lying-in women in Dublin.

Section VI: A body politick and corporate named. Name or title.

Royal Charter - Figure 2

And then our said Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland, or other our Chief Governor or Governors of our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being, the said Lord Archbishop of Armagh, the said Chancellor of our said Kingdom, the said Speaker of the House of Commons of our said Kingdom, the said Mayor of the City of Dublin, the said Archbishop of Dublin, the said Lord Bishop of Kildare, the said Commander in Chief of our Forces in our said Kingdom, the said Dean of St Patrick's, Dublin, the said Archdeacon of the City of Dublin, the said Recorder of the said City, and the said High Sheriffs of the said City, all for the Time being; the said Earl of Kildare, and the Earls of Kildare for ever, the Earl of Shelburne the said Robert Lord Bishop of Clogher, the said Jemmat Lord Bishop of Cork and Ross, the said Robert Lord Bishop of Raphoe, the said Arthur Gore, Baronet, the said John Ponsonby, Esq.; the said Sir Thomas Taylor, Baronet, the said Hercules Langford Rowley, Esq., the said John Whittingham, Doctor in Divinity, the said Nathaniel Clements, William Henry Dawson, William Forward, Ralph Sampson, William Whittingham and Edward Sterling, Esquires, the said Ellis Price, and the said Bartholomew Mosse, one Body Politick and Corporate in deed and in name, by the name of the Governors and Guardians of the hospital for the relief of poor lying-in women in Dublin.



one Body Politick and Corporate in deed and in name, by the name of the Governors and Guardians of the hospital for the relief of poor lying-in women in Dublin.



Sometime

since for this purpose an House purchased with Twenty four Beddes and other
 necessaries in proportion and in the space of four years and on halfe one thousand two hundred and no
 forty women with proper certificates of their poverty and good character had been admitted and capably delivered
 of one thousand two hundred and sixty two children. Several hoarding had evins and Discharged during which
 more time there had been no instance of any child disposed or murdered in the city or any of the suburbs of Dublin
 the said Petitioners did by said their Petition Apply to our said then Lieutenant General and General Governor of our
 said Kingdom to Introduce writs us for our Royal Charter to incorporate such persons as we should think fit by
 the Name of the Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the relief of Poor lying in Women in Dublin with
 a power of purchasing lands to the Value of thousand pounds per annum together with such other powers and
 under such regulations as to us should seem proper. **And Whereas** our said Lieutenant General and
 General Governor did by his Order bearing date the twentieth day of March our thousand seven hundred and fifty two
 direct the said Petition to our Attorney and Solicitor General of our said Kingdom to examine and consider the
 allegations of the said Petition and Report unto our said Lieutenant General and General Governor in due
 manner. It would be advisable for us to Grant the Charter hereby desired unto by their Report bearing date the fifth
 day of May one thousand seven hundred and fifty two are of Opinion that the granting the Petitioners said
 Charter as is desired will be of great benefit and advantage to that our said Kingdom of Ireland. **We** therefore
 being graciously pleased to encourage so laudable an Undertaking. **Know ye** that we
 of our Special grace certain knowledge and intention by and with the advice and Consent of our Right Honourable
 and well beloved Council and Counsellor Robert Viscount Down our Chancellor of our said Kingdom of Ireland
 our Right Justice and Right well beloved Council and Counsellor James Earl of Eildare and our Right Justice
 and Right well beloved Council and Counsellor Dalrymple Earl of Downborough our Justices General and General
 Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland and according to the tenor and Effect of our Letters under our Privy
 Signet and Sign Manual bearing date at our Court at Westminster the seventh sixth day of July one
 thousand seven hundred and fifty six in the fifth year of our said Majesty and now enrolled in the Rolls of
 our High Court of Chancery in our said Kingdom of Ireland **HAVE** Made Constituted constituted and appointed
 and by these presents do make constitute constitute and appoint our Lieutenant General and our
 General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland or other our Chief Governor or Governors of our said
 Kingdom of Ireland for the time being the most Reverend Father in God the Lord Archbishop of Tuam
 Vicar of all Ireland the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor of our said Kingdom the Right Honourable
 the Lord Bishop of Down the Right Honourable the Lord Bishop of Clogher the Right Honourable the Lord Bishop of
 the City of Dublin the most Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of Eildare the Right Honourable the
 Commander in Chief of our forces in our said Kingdom the Reverend the Dean of Saint Patrick's Dublin
 the Reverend the Chancellor of the City of Dublin the Recorder of the said City and the Right Justices
 of the said City all for the time being our Right Justice and Right well beloved Council and Counsellor
 James Earl of Eildare and the Barons of Eildare for ever. Our Right Justice and Right well beloved
 Council and Counsellor John Earl of Newcastle the Right Reverend Father in God Robert
 Lord Bishop of Clogher the Right Reverend Father in God Edmund Lord Bishop of Cork and
 Ross the Right Reverend Father in God Robert Lord Bishop of Down the Right Honourable
 Sir Arthur Lord Mount the Right Honourable John Mordaunt Esq. the Right Honourable Sir
 Thomas Dingle Esq. the Right Honourable Robert Mordaunt Esq. the Reverend
 John D'Armagh Esq. John D'Armagh Esq. William D'Armagh Esq. William D'Armagh Esq.
 and D'Armagh Esq. John D'Armagh Esq. William D'Armagh Esq. and Edward D'Armagh Esq. all for the time being
 the manner herein after directed to be our Body Politick and Corporate in deed and in Name by the
 Name of the Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the relief of Poor lying in Women in
 Dublin.

Royal Charter - Figure 2
 Pertaining to Sections III, IV, V, VI

Chapter 4

Sections VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII

Section VII: and that they and their successors may have and use such common seal as they shall think proper; and that it may be lawful for them and their successors to change, break, alter, and make new the same from time to time, as they shall think fit.

Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

Section VIII: To purchase Lands. Personal estate without limitations.

Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

We do make, nominate, constitute and appoint by these presents, and by the same name, to have perpetual succession, to purchase and take, hold, receive, and enjoy, to them and their successors, any manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments whatever in our said Kingdom of Ireland, and all manner of goods, chattels and personal estate of what nature and value soever and also by the same name to sue, and to be sued, plead, and be impleaded, answer, and be answered unto, in all the courts and places whatsoever, of us our heirs and successors, in all suits, plaints and demands, whatsoever.



and by the same name, to have perpetual succession, to purchase and take, hold, receive, and enjoy, to them and their successors, any manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments whatever in our said Kingdom of Ireland



Section IX: To have six presidents and six vice presidents. First president. First six vice presidents. First treasurer. Dr Mosse to continue Master for life.

Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

And our further will and pleasure is, that the said corporation, and their successors for ever, shall have one President, six Vice Presidents, one Treasurer, one Secretary, and one Master of the said hospital; and that our Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland, shall be the first President; and the most Reverend Father in God the Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland; the Right Honourable James Earl of Kildare; the Reverend Father in God Robert, Lord Bishop of Clogher; the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Gore, Baronet, the six first Vice Presidents; Ralph Sampson, Esq.; the first Treasurer; and Edward Sterling, Esq.; the first Secretary; and Bartholomew Mosse, Doctor of Physic, the first Master of the said hospital. Each of them the said President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary of the said Hospital, from the date of these our letters patent, until the first in the month of November one thousand seven hundred and fifty six, and until others shall be chosen in their respective rooms, unless they shall sooner die, resign or be removed; and the said Bartholomew Mosse to continue in his Office of Master of the said Hospital; during his natural life, unless he shall resign, or be removed for reasonable cause.



the said Bartholomew Mosse to continue in his Office of Master of the said hospital; during his natural life, unless he shall resign, or be removed for reasonable cause.



Section X: To meet, choose servants, committees etc.

Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

And our further will and pleasure is, that we do hereby authorize and direct, that the said President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Master of the Hospital, and the rest of the Members of the said corporation, also above named, or as many of them the said President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Master of the Hospital and members as conveniently can or may, shall within forty days after the date of these letters patent, meet together, at such time and place as the said president or in the case of his decease, absence or default, the said Vice Presidents, or such of them as shall be in the city or suburbs of Dublin, shall appoint, by summons or other notice, which he or they is or are by these presents empowered and required timely issue for that purpose, to the said members, or such of them as live within the city or suburbs of Dublin: where they or the major part of them then present, may choose all such inferior officers and servants as shall be thought necessary or useful for the purposes of the said corporation, to serve in the said offices until the first Friday in November, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-six, and until others shall be elected in their rooms, unless they shall die, resign, or be removed; And further may choose and appoint one or more committee or committees, out of the members of the said corporation, to consist of such number and persons, as to the major part of the members then present shall seem fit, to continue until the first Friday in the month of November, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-six. And our further will and pleasure is, that such and all and every committee or committees, elected or appointed according to the directions of these presents, shall have full power to direct, manage, and transact, all the business, affairs, estate and effects, of the said corporation; and to take in, relieve, and discharge all poor lying-in women, according to such rules and directions, as shall be made and established from time to time by general courts.

Section XI: Four general meetings with powers. Annual election of members.
Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do further authorize and appoint, that there shall be every year four stated general meetings of the governors and guardians of the said corporation at the said Hospital, or other convenient place, to be held on every first Friday in May, August, November, and February, respectively; at which meetings, and no other, the said corporation, or the major part of the members then present, shall and may execute leases of the estates of the said Hospital, for any term not exceeding thirty-one years, or three lives, in possession, and not in reversion, at the best rent that can be had or got for the same. And we do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant to the said general courts full power and authority to make all such bye laws as shall think meet, for the well-governing of the said corporation, provided by the bye-laws be not repugnant to the laws and statutes of our said Kingdom of Ireland. And our further will and pleasure is, and we do further authorize and direct, that at the general meeting of the said corporation on the first Friday in November, in all future time, shall and may be the election of all succeeding Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Master of the hospital, and committees, by majority votes of all the members then present, to continue in their respective offices until the first Friday in the month of November following and until others shall be chosen in their room, and all other inferior officers shall be annually appointed, or oftener, if needful, by the major part of the members then present at their general meeting, at such salaries as shall think reasonable.



And our further will and pleasure is, and we do further authorize and appoint, that there shall be every year four stated general meetings of the Governors and Guardians of the said corporation at the said Hospital, or other convenient place, to be held on every first Friday in May, August, November, and February, respectively



Section XII: Salaries not to exceed one-fifth of the yearly profits interest or produce. Officers and servants removable. Quoram at charter boards.

Royal Charter - Figure 3 and 4

Provided that the said salaries of officers or servants, to be employed by the said corporation, shall not in the whole, at any time, exceed one-fifth part of the clearly yearly profits, interests and produce of real and personal estate to them at the time belonging. And moreover, we grant that the members present at all general meetings, or the major part of them then present, may from time to time, remove and displace any officers and servants of the said corporation, for misdemeanours, at their will and pleasure, and put others in their rooms: and that the committee of the time being, may, on any just cause suspend or displace any inferior officers or servants, and put others in their rooms, until the next general meeting. Provided that no act in any general meeting shall be valid, unless seven, or more members be present, and the major part of such shall be present be consenting to.



And moreover, we grant that the members present at all general meetings, or the major part of them then present, may from time to time, remove and displace any officers and servants of the said corporation, for misdemeanours, at their will and pleasure, and put others in their rooms



Within

the City or Suburbs of Dublin where they or the Major part of them then present may Choose all such Inferiour Officers and Servants as shall be thought necessary or needful for the Purposes of the said Corporation to Serve in the said Offices until the first Friday in November Due Allowance Seven hundred and fifty six and until others shall be Elected in their Rooms unless they shall sooner Die Resign or be Removed and further may Choose and Appoint One or more Committees or Committees out of the Members of the said Corporation to Consist of such Number and Persons as to the Major part of the Members then present shall seeme fitt to Continue until the first Friday in the Month of November Due Allowance Seven hundred and fifty six. And our further Will and pleasure is that such and all such Officers Committees and Committees Elected or Appointed according to the Directions of these our Statutes shall have full Power to Direct Manage and Cause all the Business Affairs State and Affairs of the said Corporation and to take in Receive and Discharge all Payers lying in Pouch according to such Statutes and Directions as shall be made and established from time to time by General Courts. And our further Will and pleasure is and We do further Authorize and Appoint that there shall be every year four Stated General Meetings of the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation at the said Episcopal or other convenient place to be held on every first Friday in May, August, November, and February respectively, at which Meetings and no other the said Corporation or the Major part of the Members then present shall and may do all such Business and no other the said Corporation or the Major part of the Members then present shall and may do all such Business as they shall think meet for the well Governing of the said Corporation. Provided that no such Business be not Repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of our said Kingdom of Ireland. And our further Will and pleasure is and We do further Authorize and Direct that at the General Meeting of the said Corporation on the first Friday in November in all future times shall and may be the Election of all such Officers Presidents Vice Presidents Deputies Secretary and Master of the Hospital and Committees by the Majority of Votes of all the Members then present to Continue in their respective Offices until the first day Friday in the Month of November following and until others shall be Chosen in their Rooms and all other Inferiour Officers shall be Annually Appointed or Officer if needfull by the Major part of the Members then present at their General Meeting at such Salaries as they shall think reasonable. Provided that the said Salaries of Officers or Servants to be Employed by the said Corporation shall not in the whole at any time Exceed One fifth part of the then yearly Profits Nettes and produce of the Real and Personal Estate to them at that time belonging. And Moreover We Grant that the Members present at all our General Meetings or the Major part of them then present may from time to time Remove and Displace any Officers and Servants of the said Corporation for Misbehaviours at their Will and pleasure and Successors in their Rooms and that the Committees for the time being may on any just Cause Suspended or suspend any Inferiour Officers or Servants and put others in their Rooms until the next General Meeting. Provided that no Act in any General Meeting shall be Valid unless Seven or more Members be present and the Major part of them shall be present be Consulting thereto. And our further Will is and We do hereby Authorize and Require that in all General Courts or Meetings the President or in case of his Absence the Vice President first Chosen in the List of Vice Presidents then present be the Chairman of the said Court and have a double or Casting Vote in case of Equality of Votes and in case of the Death or Absence of the President and of all the Vice Presidents that the Majority of Governors then present may Appoint any Governor present to be Chairman of the said Court and also that the same may have a double or Casting Voice in case of Equality of Votes. Provided also that no Act in any General Meeting be Valid unless five or more Members be present and the Major part of them present. Consulting.

Royal Charter - Figure 4
Pertaining to Sections VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII

Chapter 5

Sections XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX

Section XIII: President or Vice President to be chairman and have a second vote.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And our further will is, and we do hereby authorize and require, that in all general courts or meetings, the President (or in the case of his death or absence, the Vice President first named in the list of Vice Presidents, then present) be the Chairman of the said court, and have a double or casting vote in case of equality of votes. And in the case of death or absence of the President, and all the Vice Presidents, that the majority of Governors then present may appoint any Governor present to be Chairman of the said court, who shall likewise have a double or casting vote, in case of equality of votes. Provided also that no act in any committee be valid unless five or more members be present and the major part of them present consenting thereto.

Section XIV: President may summon a general board. Election of governors.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And we do moreover grant, that the President (or in the case of his death the Vice President, as named in the list of Vice Presidents) may at any time, as there shall be an occasion, summon a general meeting or court, over and above the four general stated meetings, the said corporation and their successors, or the major part of the members then present, may from time to time elect and nominate such fit and able persons to be Governors and Guardians, as they shall think most likely to encourage and promote the charitable designs of the said Corporation: which the Governors and Guardians so elected, shall, from and after such election, be adjudged and deemed members of the said corporation, and as such shall be summoned, and admitted to vote and act, by theses presents, to all intents and purposes, as if their names were particularly inserted to be members thereof.

Section XV: Governors limited to sixty.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

Provided always that the members of the said corporation, shall never be more in number, in all elections or nominations of any person or persons, over such number of sixty Governors or Guardians, to be void and of none effect, and to the intent that the said corporation may have continuance forever, we do hereby ordain and grant, that at whatsoever any member or members thereof, shall happen to die, the surviving members shall remain incorporate, by the name aforesaid, to all intents and purposes, as if all the Members thereof had continued.

Section XVI: Appoint agents, audit accounts, collect money.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And our further will and pleasure is, and we moreover direct that the said corporation and their successors, shall and may have power to authorize and appoint such persons as they shall see fit, to take subscriptions and collect money or monies, as shall by any person or persons, bodies politick, and corporate companies or other societies, be given or contributed for the purposes aforesaid; and revoke and make void such authorities and appointments as they shall cause. And moreover we further order and direct, that the said corporation shall and may cause fair and just accounts in writing to be kept of all receipts and payments, by or to them their officers and agents respectively, in relation to the premises, which shall be liable to view and inspection not only of any member of the said corporation, but also any subscriber or subscribers, benefactor or benefactors: which said accounts shall on the first Thursday in June, every year, or within fourteen days after, be examined, audited, adjusted, and subscribed by the members present at such a meeting, or the major part of them.

Section XVII: Master, assistants, may instruct pupils.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And we do hereby authorize and direct, that the Master of the Hospital for the time being, be always some experienced practitioner in midwifery, and that he shall have two assistant men midwives, to be proposed by him the said Master, and to be approved of by the then sitting committee. And that all students in physic, surgeons, or apprentices to surgeons, and all such others, whether men or women, as intend to practice midwifery, and shall be approved of by the said Master, shall and may have full liberty to attend the said hospital, and be instructed under the said Master and his two assistants.

Section XVIII: No Master to continue more than seven years.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And that from and after the death, resignation or removal for reasonable cause the said Bartholomew Mosse, whom we do hereby appoint first Master of the hospital, and continue in the said office for and during the term of his natural life, unless he shall sooner resign, or be removed for reasonable cause, no one person, however deserving, shall be capable of being elected Master of the said hospital, who has been Master for seven years, either successively or at different times, but amounting in the whole to seven years.



the Master of the Hospital for the time being, be always some experienced practitioner in midwifery, and that he shall have two assistant men midwives



Section XIX: Assistants. Preference.

Royal Charter - Figure 5

And our further wills, that in all future elections of Master of the hospital, regard be always had, and preference given to such as have been assistants to the former, or any Master of the hospital, and that in proposing and appointing all future assistants, regard always had, and preference given to such as have been instructed in the said hospital, and we do further authorize and direct, that no one person shall be continued Assistant of the Master, longer than for the space of three years. And our further will and pleasure is, that these our letters patent, and every thing therein contained and specified, or the inrollment thereof, shall be, in all and every thing or things, firm, valid, and effectual in the law, according to the purport and tenor of these our letters patent. Provided always, that these our letters patent be inrolled in the rolls of our High Court of Chancery, in our said Kingdom of Ireland, within the space of six months, next ensuing the date of these presents. In witness whereof we have caused these letters to be made patent.

WITNESS our aforesaid Justices General and General Governors of our said Kingdom of Ireland, at Dublin, the second day of December, in the thirtieth year of our reign.

Domville.

Chapter 6

The Great Seal

Examined by Mich Nowlan, Deputy Clerk of Crown and Hanaper.

A Royal charter is a royal document issued by a monarch as letters patent granting a right or power to an individual or body corporate. A royal charter is produced as a high quality work of calligraphy on vellum. The official seal is two sided: the man on horseback is the displayed side, made of beeswax.





Rotunda Hospital circa 1830