

1869 B. o. w. Cottage Hospital 3rd in Cranleigh
DR. JOHN MOORE MRC S
FOXES YARD REGULAR NURSE

Bourton's First Cottage Hospital

VILLAGE or Cottage Hospitals are said to date from the year 1859, when the first was established at Cranleigh, Surrey.

The Bourton-on-the-Water and Cotswold Village Hospital was founded by Dr. John Moore, and opened on 11th March, 1861. It was the third cottage hospital in England; literally in a cottage rented for £12 a year. Dr. Moore was the Medical Officer — the establishment consisted of "a regular nurse, who shall have occasional assistance"; and the disbursements during 1861, including repairs, alterations and the wages of the nurse, totalled £130.9.2½d. Wine, spirits and linen were supplied chiefly by private munificence. The accounts showed a balance of £30.14.7½d., from which the Committee hoped to supply a bath and such other necessities as they hesitated to purchase in the first year of experiment.

By the end of the year, 22 in-patients and 208 out-patients had been treated. Of the former, twelve were discharged cured, one improved, four discharged to out-patients, and one died from "imnutrition" after discharge; but a girl aged nine years, who was admitted on July 22nd, was "Discharged July 27th, for bad conduct." The Annual Report states that the Hospital was limited to three in-patients, one extra bed being reserved for emergencies.

Such were the beginnings of the Bourton-on-the-Water Hospital. Subsequent annual reports record slow but steady development. In August, 1864, a bazaar raised £226.12s.10d., which provided and furnished a new bedroom and a convalescent room, and also "many medical and surgical appliances, previously unattainable." In-patient admissions rose to 52 in 1872. The Report for 1874 states that the only paid attendant in the Hospital was the Nurse, who had to do the work of the house as well as attend to the patients. In that autumn the Committee appointed a Matron, "who having a servant under her is able to give her time and attention to the patients more fully than was possible before." Apparently the appointment was not a success, because the Report

COMPILED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS
AND OTHER SOURCES.

for 1875 says that it was found necessary to dispense with the Matron's services in April and to engage a Nurse in her place.

By 1878 the Committee had decided that a better hospital should be provided, with adequate cubic space and sanitary arrangements, and a more convenient situation. An appeal for funds was launched, and a new hospital was built, and the Bourton-on-the-Water and Cotswold Village Hospital closed down on 29th September, 1879. In its lifetime it had treated 691 in-patients and 3,800 out-patients, the largest number of beds occupied at any time was nine, and the expenses averaged about £125 a year.

The Second Cottage Hospital

THE Bourton-on-the-Water Cottage Hospital was opened on 26th September, 1879, by the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire (Mr. E. Rhys Wingfield). It was a brick building of two storeys covered with Broseley tiles, and included a men's ward, women's ward, accident ward, convalescent room, out-patient room, dispensary, nurse's room, kitchen and "the usual offices." The site was given by Mr. W. S. Stenson, who had been a member of the Committee from its inception. The total cost, including furniture, was £1,189 4s. 4d. The architect was Mr. J. E. K. Cutts, of London, and the builders were Messrs. H. and C. Burden, of Chipping Norton.

Dr. John Moore was still the Medical Officer, but Dr. Alfred Burt was associated with him, and Dr. W. C. Coles (Retired Surgeon-Major, H.M. Indian Army) was Honorary Physician. The bye-laws stated that "The Nurse shall occupy the ward set apart for that purpose, and, if married, her husband may reside in the Hospital. Children or other members of their family are not allowed."

The Diet Table was published for the first time in the 1879 Annual Report.

Ordinary allowance for each Patient per week	
	Female, or child
Meat	Two pounds
Butter	Four ounces
Sugar	Eight ounces
Milk	Seven pints
Bread, potatoes and rice or sago pudding	As required
Extra Diet: Beer Wine or Spirits etc., etc.	As required by special order of the Medical Officers, to be entered in the Diet Book and on the Admission Card.

In 1882 a female surgical ward (two beds) was built at a cost of £100, given for the purpose by Mr. H. A. Brassey, M.P. During the following year the Committee approved an extension of out-patient work "by furnishing medicine, at a trifling sum, as well as advice, to deserving applicants, on two days in the week."

Dr. John Moore, in addition to being the Senior Medical Officer, took over the duties of Honorary Secretary in 1888 and continued to hold this office until 1894.

The Annual Report for 1891 states that the Committee, after mature consideration, decided to appoint as Matron a regularly trained and certified Nurse. The lady, selected from 45 candidates, was Miss V. A. Wilson, who had had three years' training in the London Hospital, and "her economic and dietary arrangements have fully justified her appointment." Under Miss Wilson's regime the expenses of food, fuel, lighting and washing were reduced from 8s. 8d. to 6s. 7d. per patient per week, notwithstanding that tea was now provided from the hospital funds; formerly patients found their own. Miss Wilson resigned in 1896.

Dr. Moore resigned his office of Medical Officer in 1893 and was appointed one of the Honorary Consulting Surgeons. He remained

Honorary Secretary, but in the Report for 1894 the name of Dr. F. R. S. Corsier appears in that capacity.

The drainage system was found to be defective and was improved in 1891, and a hot water heating system was installed in 1894. Mr. George Frederick Moore, son of Dr. John Moore, is shown as a member of the Committee in 1896.

Nearly 36 years after the establishment of Bourton's first cottage hospital its founder and first Medical Officer died (15th February, 1897). Dr. John Moore had been "the centre and leading spirit of the institution," and the tradition which he established was nobly carried on by his son.

A new operating room was provided by Captain Edgar Brassey and Mr. Edwin Brassey in 1906, and Mr. G. F. Moore was elected Honorary Secretary in the same year.

The First World War brought a considerable increase in the cost of provisions, and the Committee asked the Medical Officers not to admit other than really urgent cases. The admissions fell accordingly:

1913	42 cases
1914	36 cases
1915	39 cases
1916	24 cases
1917	22 cases

The Matron, Miss Whiteside, was granted six months' leave of absence in July, 1915, to serve with the Red Cross Society in France.

Admissions rose to 154 in 1919, and from time to time anxiety was expressed about the financial position of the hospital. The Committee reported that in 1922:—

"With a view to the possibility of effecting an economy in staff and salaries, information on the subject was obtained early in the year from the four neighbouring Cottage Hospitals of Cirencester, Moreton, Burford and Winchcombe. It transpired, however, that in every case the expenditure was in excess of our own, and in one case, with a similar number of beds, it was nearly double as much.

It was clear, therefore, that no reduction in that respect could reasonably be contemplated."

But, thanks to subscriptions, donations, the small investment income, gifts in kind, the egg collection, and the work of the Ladies' Linen League, the hospital continued its services to the sick people of the district. In 1924 — "the introduction of the telephone service to the Hospital is an improvement of the greatest convenience."

Mr. G. F. Moore, who was elected President of the Hospital in 1925, was determined to provide a completely new hospital, and gave £10,000 for the purpose. Unfortunately he died within a month of the commencement of the building, in June, 1927.

When the Bourton-on-the-Water Cottage Hospital closed in 1928 it had treated over 2,500 in-patients and earned itself an honourable discharge. It was sold for £1,610, and, in a different guise, is now known as the Red House.

The Moore Cottage Hospital

THIS Hospital was entirely the gift of Mr. G. F. Moore, who not only found the money for its erection but gave the land on which it stands and provided the building stone from his own quarry. It was opened on 4th July, 1920, by Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. Brassey, D.S.O., M.C., who had been elected President in succession to Mr. Moore. The builders were Messrs. Alfred Groves and Son, Milton-under-Wychwood.

Whereas Dr. Moore's first hospital began with four beds and the second hospital eight to ten, the Moore Cottage Hospital had two public wards with six beds (now seven) each and two private wards. The medical staff had grown from one medical officer to four, and there were also an honorary consulting physician, an honorary consulting surgeon, and an honorary radiologist.

An X-ray apparatus was provided in 1930 and housed in a small extension built for the purpose. The additional bed accommodation led to a considerable increase of work, and the admissions

reached 245 in 1931. Small numbers of Service patients were admitted in the early years of the Second World War. In 1944 the name of Major E. Birch appears as Assistant Hon. Secretary, and in 1946 he is shown as Hon. Secretary.

The first hints of a national hospital service receive mention in the Annual Report for 1944, and two years later the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1946, is recorded. The last meeting of the Committee of Management was held on 2nd July, 1949.

The National Health Service Act became effective on 5th July, 1948, and the hospital passed under the aegis of the Banbury and District Hospitals Management Committee. A House Committee was appointed, with Lieut.-Colonel Brassey as Chairman and eight other members, all former members of the Committee of Management. Lieut.-Colonel Brassey and Dr. L. R. King were also members of the Banbury and District H.M.C. Major Birch was appointed Assistant Secretary, a title which was later changed to Hospital Secretary.

Unlike many institutions which changed hands in 1948, the Moore Cottage Hospital was handed over in excellent order. There has been no development of note apart from the acquisition of a nearby house, "Thorp Arch," for physiotherapy and eye clinics and resident staff quarters.

Major Birch resigned his post as Secretary on 31st March, 1953, in his 81st year. His successor, Mr. D. L. Driver, died in May, 1958. Lieut.-Colonel Brassey retires from the House Committee this year at his own request. He has been connected with the management of the hospital for over 40 years and presided over it for 28 years.

The Moore family is represented on the House Committee in the person of Mrs. Harper.

Innumerable benefactors and workers have played their parts in the development of the hospital and in perpetuating its tradition. But above all stand the names of Dr. John Moore and his son, Mr. George Frederick Moore, who together gave 67 years of devoted service.

Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.

6

The BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER and COTSWOLD VILLAGE HOSPITAL

1861

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

- The Rev. C. W. Payne Crawford (Visitor and Manager)
- The Hon. and Rev. H. P. Cholmondeley
- The Rev. E. F. Witts
- The Rev. D. Royce
- W. Stenson, Esq.
- W. Kendall, Esq.
- John Moore, Esq., M.R.C.S.

Honorary Secretary: J. D. Eames, Esq.

THE BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER HOUSE COMMITTEE

March, 1961

The Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan (Chairman)

- *Lady Anderson
- Mrs. R. Bagnall
- Mrs. C. Barnard
- *Lt.-Col. E. P. Brassey, D.S.O., M.C.
- A. Hunter Darling, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.
- Mrs. E. Harper
- Miss M. N. Kennard
- *A. A. Robertson, Esq., M.D.
- D. S. Robinson, Esq., M.B., B.S.
- The Right Hon. the Lord Sherborne
- Mrs. L. M. Stewart

*Member of the former Committee of Management

H. C. Jennings, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(Chairman of the Banbury & District Hospitals Management Committee)

J. C. Wharton, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(Vice-Chairman of the Banbury & District Hospitals Management Committee)

Matron - - - - Miss M. G. Smith, S.R.N.
Hospital Secretary - - - Mrs. J. P. Burdett

Group Secretary: C. G. Tomlinson, M.A.(Admin.)

7