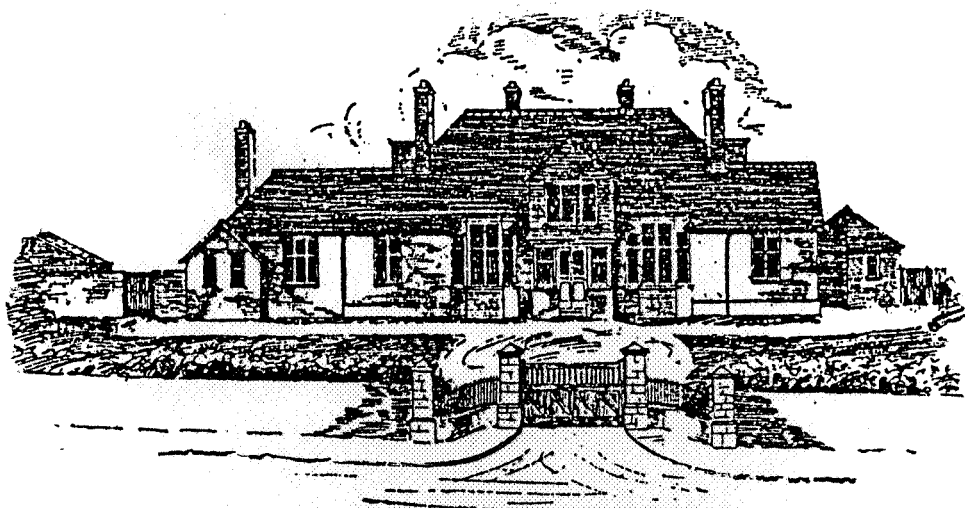


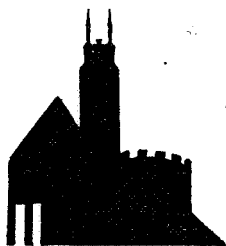
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Totnes Cottage Hospital

Elizabeth Earle

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COTTAGE HOSPITAL
TOTNES.

February 25th 1891.

To
His Grace the Duke of Somerset.

My Lord Duke,

I am deputed by
the Committee of the Totnes
Cottage Hospital to tender
their sincere sympathy and
condolence on the loss of
the late Duke your lamented
brother.

His Grace was the sole
patron of the Hospital.

The Committee sincerely
trust that your Grace will
be pleased to confer the same
favour and honour by becoming
Patron of this most useful
and philanthropic Institution.

I have the honour to be
Your Grace's most obedient
servant

W. M. Tollet. (ffr 63)
Gen. Secretary.

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A History of the Totnes Cottage Hospital

ELIZABETH EARLE

Design and illustration by
Harry Waghorn and Geoff Kidd

TOTNES COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

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INTRODUCTION

The Totnes and District Cottage Hospital, when established, was funded purely by voluntary means and those who were interested in the establishment succeeding went to many measures to raise money for this purpose. Various entertainments were held in the town, these being fetes, bazaars, stage entertainments etc and a large percentage of the money needed to keep the hospital solvent was raised on these much supported occasions.

The following poem was written by a leading Totnesian, Major Trist, who was always much involved in any of the fund raising events. To some extent, the poem reflects the commitment shared by those who fought to establish the hospital. Many copies were sold to raise funds for the hospital.'

*I am the Cottage Hospital
Of this most ancient town,
And very much in want of funds
To keep me from going down!
So this grand bazaar is started
In hopes that it may bring
Into my coffers many pounds-
Give me an upward spring!*

*I'm a noble Institution,
And require great support!
I much hope this day's proceedings
Will give me a good report!
That to-morrow's will the like do,
And that by the end of all
So much money may be gather'd
There'll be no fear of my fall!*

'Tis to help THE POOR AND NEEDY
That I appeal for aid!
Oft' times from some sad accident
A POOR MAN low is laid,
He's ta'en to me - the Hospital -
And when admitted there
A good Samaritan attends
And binds his wounds with care!

Th' afflicted too, in other ways,
As oft' admittance gain!
God's blessing sure will rest on all
Who ease THE POOR of pain!
Your hearts then open to their cry!
Aid me to give relief,
Remembering that CHARITY
"Is of all gifts, the CHIEF!"

"The poor shall ever be with you!"
"Freely ye have received,"
"As freely give! 'Tis God's command
THE POOR should be reliev'd!
"For whoso giveth to the poor"
"He leadeth to the Lord"
This solemn truth, no one can doubt,
'Tis told us in HIS WORD!

And further we are told by ONE
Who never spake in vain
"And look that what he layeth out"
"Shall be paid him again!"
"Turn not thy face then from the poor,"
(If thou wouldst Heaven see!)
"And then the face of God above"
"Wil ne'er be turn'd from Thee!"

Then up - arise - Totnesians!
Your purses open wide!
Give freely to your Hospital,
Lest strangers should deride, and say
You've parsimonious grown!
That Totnes, (and its neighbourhood),
Will not support its own!

Cast back such slander with contempt!
That 'twould be slander prove!
Show each and all that FOR THE POOR
Totnes abounds in love,
And that its Cottage Hospital
Shall in future rise
To be a blessing TO THE POOR,
And one they'll highly prize!

Forming A Committee

During the latter half of the 1880's it came to the attention of many of its leading citizens that Totnes, unlike numerous other small communities, did not have the benefit of a cottage hospital. On 7th January 1885, the committee of the Totnes Church Deanery Institute met at the Coffee Tavern in Totnes to question whether or not it would be desirable for the town to follow the examples of Ashburton and Newton Abbot and establish a Cottage Hospital for the impoverished infirm of Totnes and its sixteen parishes.

The committee resolved that it would indeed be desirable to establish such an institution and proceeded to elect a sub-committee to promote this decision.

The first act of the sub-committee was to enlist the support of the town for its scheme and this was done with much success. The Mayor, T.C. Kellock, was presented with a deposition signed by 160 leading Totnesians calling for him to convene a public meeting where the founding of a Cottage Hospital could be discussed. This meeting was held at the Guildhall on 5th March 1885 and the proceedings amply covered by the *Totnes Times* of 7th March 1885. A great number of

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the community attended, including magistrates, doctors, vicars and a large gathering of ladies.

Such a gathering surely demonstrates the genuine interest and commitment towards establishing a hospital. There were those, however, who doubted the need for, or wisdom of, such a venture and so a number of advocates spoke of the advantages which a cottage hospital would bring to the town. The *Totnes Times* reported an inspiring speech made by Mr Cornish-Bowden in favour of the hospital:

'It always happened that there were a certain number of people who took a melancholy view of new proposals but if they all pulled together and succeeded in ultimately attaining the objectives they had in view, they would not only be conferring an inestimable benefit on the poor but on the community generally. (Hear,Hear.) He could not help referring incidentally to the kindly feeling that had prevailed amongst the committee. (Hear,Hear.) They had met on the most kindly terms and nothing could be more cordial than the manner in which the members of the different denominations had met and discussed the matter with them. (Applause.) This was a good augury of success and he hoped this feeling would continue to be displayed. (Hear,Hear.) They should remember that the greatest help to their poorer neighbours was not by pauperising them but by rendering assistance in the time of dire necessity. This was the object of the Cottage Hospital. (Hear,Hear.) No-one could talk with a person who had received the benefit of an institution of that kind without feeling struck with the deep gratitude with which he regarded the institution. They all knew that when a man was on his bed of sickness it was the best time to get at his heart and it was astonishing what good feelings between class and class could be engineered by this means.'

The Mayor also spoke in favour of the founding of a hospital. He felt that the number of signatures on the deposition handed to him, illustrated how popular the proposal had been. He noted that the deposition had been signed by many of the principal inhabitants of Totnes and that these people would be happy to contribute to the funding of the hospital. He added, however, that if a hospital did not prove a practical idea, the town should at least be served by a dispensary, meaning that the poor would no longer need to rely entirely upon the parish doctor or the Poor House to obtain their drugs. This idea also met with considerable approval from those present.

For the benefit of those who felt that Totnes was too small to support a hospital, Mr Cornish-Bowden and the Reverend J. Jones both pointed out that the Cottage Hospital at Ashburton was successful and had recently needed enlargement.

Mr C.W. Croft drew attention briefly to the fact that Totnes was the centre of 16 parishes and calculated that a sum of £200 would be required to build and furnish the hospital while a further £150-£200 would be required to maintain it from year to year. Already £54 had been promised in donations and £25 in yearly subscriptions, which seemed extremely encouraging to all those in favour of the proceedings. Besides this, several clergymen had promised yearly offertories and a number of other ladies and gentlemen in the neighbourhood had intimated that they would give both a donation and subscribe annually. As far as Mr Croft could see, he had no doubt that concerning the funds, they would have no difficulty in maintaining the hospital. To those who felt that such an Institution would be abused by the poor, it was suggested that this could be prevented by making very clear and definite rules which would be fully explained to all patients and their families. Mr

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Cornish-Bowden was called upon to move the first resolution that 'It is desirable to establish a Cottage Hospital in Totnes for the town and neighbourhood.' It was seconded by the Reverend J. Jones and carried unanimously. The Reverend Champernowne, Vicar of Dartington then moved the motion that a Provisional Committee be appointed with the task of establishing the hospital. The motion carried the proviso that a management committee should succeed the Provisional Committee if the founding of the hospital proved successful. Again the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr Paige Browne proposed 26 names to constitute the Provisional Committee;

Reverend J.M. Burrough
Reverend A.J. Everett
Reverend R. Champernowne
Reverend James Johns
Reverend W.R. Bowman
Reverend N.K. Torre
Reverend A. Gill
A. Champernowne, J.P.
F.J. Cornish-Bowden
J.B. Paige Browne
F. Bowden, J.P.
T. Bond
S.H. Vibert
Dr Currie
Dr Raby
J.T. Cape
W. Condy
T.H. Edmonds
G.E. Furneaux
B.W. Hayman
G. Henson
J.E.L. Lloyd

A.E. Mortimore
A. Pike
F. Prideux
T.W. Windeatt

This committee was made up of respectable local people; tradesmen, doctors, magistrates, and councillors, who were in a good position to know the genuine needs of the patient. It is to be noted that there were no representatives of the poorer classes.

The motion was seconded by Mr T.W. Windeatt who took the opportunity to remark that the vicar of Totnes, the Reverend J.M. Burrough was conspicuous by his absence. It was later learnt that the Reverend Burrough was against the establishment of the hospital, refusing to make any collections in his churches on the grounds that as far as he was concerned, a hospital was not wanted in Totnes and that patients would receive better care in a larger institution, either at Plymouth or Exeter. His collections were made on behalf of these places and he was not prepared to change from that. The establishment of a hospital, Mr Windeatt said, was no easy task and it would depend upon the co-operation of all. The motion was carried unanimously and Mr E.W. Windeatt and Mr W.W. Tollit were elected as honorary secretaries and Mr C.W. Croft as honorary treasurer.

Another issue that was raised at the first meeting, by Mr A. Champernowne, was whether or not it was intended to have infectious wards at the hospital. Mr Croft said that he expected under no circumstances would patients with any kind of infectious disease be accepted. This was put forward, seconded and carried unanimously. The Mayor closed the meeting, observing how successful it had been and remarking that with so many ladies and gentlemen of influence lending their

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support to the hospital's establishment, the future looked very encouraging indeed.



*Algoa Villa - the original hospital,
now the Smuggler's Inn*

Preparation & Opening

The primary concern of the newly formed Provisional Committee was to find a suitable building to house the proposed hospital and to raise sufficient funds to purchase and furnish that building.

Finding a suitable building proved extremely difficult for the committee and considerable time was spent by them in searching for such a building and also in considering various alternatives. The first obstacle was encountered at the committee's inaugural meeting. Mr Henson had been negotiating to purchase a portion of View House, Dartington, but had pulled out of the negotiations upon learning that the owner, Mr Whitmore Baker was engaged in a law suit respecting an alleged trespass in regard to a stream which ran at the bottom of the orchard. Mr Henson stated that as far as he was concerned the committee were free to negotiate for the property on their own account. A letter from Mr Baker was read out in which he offered the property for £750, £50 more than he had previously asked. It was decided to inform Mr Baker that the Committee were not interested in the property any longer. After further discussion it was decided that the best way of securing accommodation was to advertise in the *Totnes Times*.

The advertisement brought several responses but after considering the various houses and cottages offered for rent and sale, the committee determined that none of them exactly matched the requirements which were being sought. How the building eventually came to the notice of the committee, we do not know but at a meeting in June 1885, it was decided to accept an offer of 'Algoa Villa' for a term of three years. 'Algoa Villa' was a large building situated on the banks of the river Dart and was on land owned by the Duke of Somerset. The house did not fully satisfy

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the requirements of the committee but it was hoped that in the interim, something more suitable would become available. The original hospital still stands today with building additions on the banks of the river Dart in the form of 'The Smugglers Inn'.

With a building found the Provisional Committee turned its attention to matters of finance and to the furnishing of 'Algoa Villa'. It was agreed that the committee issue a statement regarding the acquisition of 'Algoa Villa' and at the same time ask all to forward their donations and subscriptions to the treasurer, Mr C.W. Croft, at the Devon and Cornwall Bank. A code of rules was ordered to be drawn up and submitted at the next meeting. The Building Committee which had since been formed, promised to visit Dawlish and other hospitals in the area with a view of gaining information as to the interior and exterior of the hospital. They would then be able to use this knowledge to avoid making mistakes with the Totnes Cottage Hospital.

It was the Committee's wish that 'Algoa Villa' could be furnished quickly and it was hoped that those who were sympathetic to the project would assist by contributing articles of general household use. Many people were extremely generous and contributed gifts which included bed linen, table linen, cutlery, furniture etc and these went a long way in the initial 'fitting up' of the hospital. We know that there were two wards each with three beds, men in the downstairs ward and women upstairs. 'It was strikingly bright, and cheerful and the outlook was all that a lover of nature could desire, the scenery being really beautiful, if not sublime.'³ There was also a commodious room for surgical operations and special cases, and accommodation for the matron and her nurses as well as the servants. By the beginning of September 1885 the hospital had been well fitted out, the nurses and

matron installed and it was ready to take the first patients. The first matron of the hospital was Miss E. Henderson. She came from St. John's Sisterhood in London but apart from the fact that she proved to be very efficient at her job, nothing is chronicled of her time at the hospital. On 12th September 1885, a meeting of the subscribers to the Cottage Hospital was held in the hospital under the presidency of the Mayor, T.C. Kellock. At this meeting the Officers and Committee were elected as follows:

President: The Duke of Somerset who later declined the presidency owing to not having sufficient time to dedicate to the hospital. This position was then offered to Mr A. Champernowne of Dartington who accepted it.

Vice Presidents
General Mitchell.
J.F. Cornish Bowden.
Mr Prideaux.
Mr Paige Browne.
Mr T.C. Kellock.

Committee
Reverend J. Everett.
Reverend R. Champernowne.
Reverend W.R. Bowman.
Mr Bond.
Mr Pike.
Mr Edmonds.
Mr E. Windeatt.
Mr Lloyd.
Mr T.W. Windeatt.

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Medical Officers
Doctor Currie.
Doctor Raby.

Ladies Committee
Mrs Currie.
Mrs Tollitt
Mrs Johns.
Mrs Pike.
Mrs Edmonds.
Mrs Everett.
Mrs Prideaux.
Mrs T. Windeatt.
Mrs Bowman.
Miss E. Champernowne.
Miss Manley.
Miss Kellock.

With the exception of Mr E. Windeatt all those who made up the Management Committee had been on the Provisional Committee. The Ladies Committee was established for the purpose of furnishing the hospital, the gentlemen agreeing that they would carry out those duties better than they could. They were also to become very involved in fund raising events and as regular visitors to hospital.

It was decided at this meeting that all that necessitated the establishing of the hospital had been done and that the date of 16th October 1885 be fixed for the public opening, nine months after that first meeting of the Church Deanery Institute. On 16th October 1885, just before two in the afternoon, the Duke of Somerset was met at the Seymour Hotel in Totnes by the Mayor and Corporation and escorted to the hospital. There was great excitement at his arrival where many people, both rich and poor were waiting for him. Miss Maude Mary Wallington, daughter

of Mr George Wallington was chosen to represent the poor of the community and presented the Duke with a bouquet of flowers.

The Duke and Corporation viewed the interior of the hospital and then proceeded to a large tent in front of it, where many people had gathered and where the opening proceedings took place.

The Chair was occupied by the President, Mr A. Champernowne of Dartington, with the Duke of Somerset on his right and the Mayor of Totnes on his left, who was himself accompanied by the town clerk, Mr E. Windeatt. Prayer was offered at the start of the opening proceedings by the Reverend A.J. Everett and this was followed by the Reverend J. Johns reading a portion from the scriptures. Mr Champernowne gave a short speech stating that although the hospital had been opened privately a few weeks earlier and contained one patient, it was desirable that it be opened with some ceremony to encourage a continued flow of funds. It was felt that having the Duke of Somerset as Patron of the hospital would be beneficial and the Duke having been asked had consented to this.

The Duke was requested to make a speech and in beginning, said how glad he was to attend the opening of the hospital. He stated that he was already a subscriber to a hospital at Bulstrode and spoke out in favour of Cottage Hospitals. He said that if a man or woman met with an accident they could be taken directly to the hospital, whereas if they had to go on a long journey to another hospital they could well deteriorate or be hurt more seriously. 'Such things constantly arose in the country, therefore Cottage Hospitals were most useful and it was with the greatest of pleasure that he was able to assist in the opening of the Totnes Cottage Hospital.'⁴ He thought as soon as people knew the hospital was open and working they would make use of it, thus increasing support

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for the hospital. That had been found to be the case in the neighbouring town of Newton Abbot. The Duke ended his speech by declaring the hospital open and wishing it similar success as others had had in every other place in the country.

Mr. W.M. Tollitt, the honorary secretary, briefly drew the attention of those present to matters of finance and announced that the subscribers numbered over 100 and that nearly £300 had been received in donations, subscriptions and collections in two churches, but further help would be needed and those present were asked to take collecting boxes.

The Town Clerk reminded the gathering 'that tradition told them that although Totnes was twice decimated about 250 years ago by the plague it never entered the manor of Bridgetown and as late as 1832 when the cholera broke out, Bridgetown was exempt. That was somewhat singular in the establishment of a hospital at Bridgetown.'⁵ The proceedings were terminated with many of the people assembled going to look over the hospital.

Soon after the hospital was opened the Duke of Somerset died and was succeeded by his brother, Lord Archibald St. Maur, who took over the patronage of the hospital. Just before the Duke died he gave the hospital 3 brace of pheasants, a waterbed, 3 air pillows and a macintosh.

Although many difficulties had to be overcome in establishing the hospital, by the end of the first year it was apparent that the hospital had become a success and was not in debt. The number of patients that had been admitted that first year was eighteen. Eight had been cured, six relieved, three had died and one was still under treatment. The finances, although they proved to be a constant source of worry for the committee after the first year, were encouraging and there was a balance of £78 8s 10d in the bank.

Amongst expenditure were sums for furnishings and alterations which came to £140 8s 11d and household expenses of £79 8s 4d. . Receipts amounted to £249 15s 15d; £140 8s 11d from donations, £98 5s from subscriptions and £11 2s 6 d from patients' receipts. Hospital boxes and cards brought a total of £27 5s 4d and offertories £27 17s 6d.

Change To New Premises

From the very beginning, Algoa Villa was regarded as merely a temporary home for the hospital. The committee were well aware that there still existed, especially amongst the poorer classes, a prejudice against institutions. As this prejudice was broken down by the realisation of the hospital's benefit, the committee knew that Algoa Villa would not be able to cope with the increased demand. Consequently, a 'Permanent Building and Furnishing Fund' was established for the purpose of providing a permanent building, equipped to carry on the good work. It was also felt that the situation of the temporary hospital was wrong, being out of the sight of the public eye and the Building Committee were convinced that a larger building, more centrally situated, would have the effect of drawing to itself, a larger portion of public support.

The Committee encountered extreme difficulties in their quest to provide a permanent hospital and after one or two abortive efforts, finally brought this about in 1901. Much time was wasted in the interim especially where the Committee relied upon the Champernownes to provide a site for the building and enough money to build the hospital. In 1887, the Committee received a letter from Mrs Helen Champernowne saying that she wished to be able, with the help of some friends, to offer sufficient money to build a moderate sized hospital as a memorial to her husband Mr Arthur Champernowne who was the first president of the Cottage Hospital. Mrs Champernowne wanted to collect money without the Committee being involved but it was agreed that the hospital would also collect money for a building fund which could be amalgamated with Mrs Champernowne's afterwards if required, or else be devoted to furnishing and other

purposes. From 1887 onwards there appeared the following appeal in the yearly reports:

'Permanent Building and Furnishing Fund - it being the wish of the subscribers to establish a fund for erecting and furnishing a permanent building, subscriptions or donations towards the same will be thankfully received by the honorary treasurer or the honorary secretary. The amount subscribed to be appropriated by the Committee for either purpose at their discretion as may be required.'

Between 1887 and 1892, two sites were offered to the Committee, but these sites were thought to be unsuitable and so the Committee refused them. There seemed to be no other sites available but when Mrs Champernowne's son attained his majority in 1892, he offered a site for the Memorial Hospital which the Committee accepted. This site was in close proximity to the town and near to the railway station. However, possession was delayed by the tenant and therefore Mr Champernowne offered an alternative site but this was declined, the Committee preferring to wait for the original site offered.

It was not until November 1895 that Mrs Champernowne was able to write to the Committee stating that the site matter would be concluded by Christmas. The Committee wrote thanking Mrs Champernowne, at the same time pointing out that due to the excessive delay, they had lost the offer of another site and had been prevented from receiving subscriptions towards a new building. The Champernownes were greatly upset by this and wrote back pointing out that the Committee's letter had been erroneous and that they had not prevented the Committee from receiving subscriptions. Angry at what she felt was the committees cavalier attitude, Mrs

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Champernowne felt it impossible to continue with the Memorial Hospital and arranged to return the subscriptions to all who had given money with the exception of two people who had died. £600 was paid to the Committee being the sum that the Champernownes had promised and also £200 as cash equivalent for a site.

The loss of the Railway site was a great blow to the Committee and caused a set back of many years. The Site Committee were instructed to look for another site and searched the whole neighbourhood for one but to no avail. They eventually wrote to the Duke of Somerset for assistance who agreed to help by providing a site on his land. The site offered to the Committee was at Bully Hill, then occupied as allotments and adjoining the reservoir in Jubilee Road. This site was offered in perpetuity subject to a ground rent of £6 per annum and on certain conditions, one of which stipulated that the hospital should at no time be used for infectious diseases. It was also thought that this would probably be the only site that the Duke would offer. Opinion varied as to the suitability of the Bully Hill site but for a variety of reasons, most people were against it. The most common reason being that the hospital would be too far out of the town for visitors to visit their families on foot and as nearly all of the patients were from poor families, they would be unable to pay the cost of a carriage. It would also be a long way from the doctors residences, causing delay in serious accidents.

Despite the objections, the Committee went ahead and accepted the Duke's offer of Bully Hill, fearing that if they refused it, they may not find another site. At a special meeting of the subscribers in March 1897, called because of the disagreement over the Committee proceeding with the Bully Hill site, a vote was taken proposing that the site not be accepted. The

outcome of this vote was 8 for the site and 24 against it, the Committee having to let the site go.

It was to be another two years before the Site Committee were successful in securing a suitable site for the new hospital. The Duke of Somerset eventually stepped in and offered a site in perpetuity for a new hospital in an orchard at Coldharbour Bridgetown, at a ground rent of £2 10s per annum for the first six years and at a rate of £10 per acre afterwards.

At a meeting of the subscribers they were told by Mr Barran that 'the sites situation would give a southerly aspect with an outlook over the green fields towards the Dart. The frontage was on the main road to Paignton and Totnes where the building would be in evidence to appeal to the benevolent for the contributions necessary to assist it. There would be a good water supply and excellent drainage for the site. Although close to the town the hospital would not interfere with a single house in the vicinity of it. It was within a few feet of the towns water and gas supplies and the drainage system under the new system would be complete. The terms were easy for the first six years and it was good to know that the site was not leasehold but obtained in perpetuity.' All were in favour of the new site and it was decided to invite competitive designs for the hospital and to offer a premium of 10 guineas. The Committee subsequently advertised for designs for the new hospital and twenty two were submitted to them from all over the country. It had been necessary to secure an assessor for the best architectural design and the committee invited a Mr Henman F.R.I.B.A. of Birmingham to act in this capacity. Mr Henman came to Totnes and spent several days evaluating the designs, eventually advising the Committee to award the premium of 10 guineas to the design named 'Workable' submitted by Mr Edward Richards, an architect of Torquay. The plans were

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considered to be so good that Mr Henman recommended them for adoption with just a few modifications. Mr Richards and Mr Henman met each other to discuss the modifications thought necessary and came to an agreement over them. The principal alteration was that the toilets would lead directly out of the main wards. This would enable the rest of the building to come in line and be moved to a level site, thus saving cost in excavating. It was also thought that the mortuary should be placed beside the gate and fenced with shrubs. Mr Richards said that these alterations would increase the cost but hopefully no more than by £150 of the original estimate exclusive of the boundary walls, approaches and drainage. He said that an old drain ran from Coldharbour cottages and some villas ran under the site and he proposed that it should be taken down to the lower end and then carried into the roadway.

This was explained to a meeting of the subscribers where Mr Henman was called upon to explain why he had chosen the design called 'Workable'. He told them that the designs submitted had generally embraced three types of plans:

A) With wards on either side, the nurses room and all staff bedrooms on one floor level.

B) The wards separated by intervening rooms or corridors.

C) Either of the above arrangements but with the kitchen department on a different floor level.

For convenience and economy Mr Henman preferred type A. The next consideration he had to look at was the position of the building on the site and the most suitable aspect for the wards and other rooms. He thought that the majority of the competitors had failed to inspect the site prior to preparing the

designs and had not taken advantage of the flat portion of the site at the road end, nor had they secured a good aspect. Another serious difficulty common to most of the designs had been the narrowness of the passageways and the awkward turns in the same by which it would be difficult and sometimes impossible to get helpless patients in and out of the wards. Only six of the designs avoided these defects and only one actually achieved, in an acceptable manner, the requirements of the 'Workable' plan, designated as type 'A'. It had been illustrated by a carefully prepared set of drawings. Elevations on this design were simple and quite suitable for the purpose and economical in first cost and in regard to maintenance and administration.

The subscribers were fully in favour of accepting Mr Hennmans decision so the plans were adopted and they made it clear that they were happy to leave the decisions of the building in the hands of the Committee but wanting another meeting called if the cost was likely to exceed the original estimate greatly.

The plan adopted was hoped to present to the town a hospital unique in character, its architecture differing from that of any other building in the locality. It was to be constructed of red brick with a steep roof covered with Bridgewater tiles. Opening out from the lobby there was to be a corridor giving access to two wards of four beds each, facing south and divided by a nurses room which would facilitate the discharge of duties. The matrons room would immediately adjoin the entrance, together with an operating room, bath room and other necessary offices. A good sized kitchen, scullery and other accommodation would also be provided on the ground floor, the upper storey being devoted to three bedrooms for the use of the nursing staff and servants. The Committee were

eager to commence the building work and this was to be carried out as soon as the agreement had been ratified with the Duke of Somersets agents.

The question of money was raised at this meeting and the Chairman of the Committee gave a brief outline of the finances. He said that the amount in the bank to the credit of the building fund was £1,102,8s,7d; on building fund current account £22,14s; from bazaars and other sources which could be used at the discretion of the Committee £412,14s,6d and the endowment fund of £63,3s,3d, making a total of £1,601,0s,4d. This was thought to be only barely adequate and it was to be hoped that more money for the building fund would be forthcoming.

Tenders were subsequently invited for the building of the new hospital and it was decided to accept that of Mr T. Brook, builder from Bridgetown, Totnes. Mr Brook had already proven his work record in Totnes, improving the suburb by the erection of villas and other residences. The Dukes agents were in agreement with the building proposals and so work was able to begin.

On 3rd May 1900, much to the delight of many Totnesians and especially to the Committee and to the subscribers of the Cottage Hospital the public function of laying the corner stone of the new hospital was performed. At the start of the ceremony, Mr Edward Richards asked the Mayor to accept a handsome silver trowel bearing the inscription:

'Presented to T.W. Windeatt, Esq, Mayor of Totnes, on the occasion of his laying the corner stone of the Cottage Hospital, May 3 1900, E. Richards, architect.'

He hoped that it would act as a memento of the day's function. Mr Richards declared that he was very proud to be the architect involved in the Cottage Hospital

and that he hoped to bring the building to a successful end.

Before laying the corner stone, Mr T.W. Windeatt (Mayor) gave an inspiring speech. The mayor said his first words must be those of thanks to the architect for the very handsome present, which would certainly be a most valued souvenir to himself and those who came after him - (applause). His next words must be of congratulation to the Chairman of the Building Committee (Mr Barren), the Hospital Committee, the Subscribers and those identified with the work of the Hospital in the town and neighbourhood at the position in which they found themselves. They were entering a new era in connection with the Hospital, and he congratulated them on having secured such a fine site and on being able to move their hospital from an out of the way position into one where the building which was to be erected would not only be a source of succour to the sick and suffering but a handsome addition, judging from the plans, to the town and neighbourhood - (hear hear). The right note in the proceedings had been struck by the religious portion of the ceremony. Christianity was the handmaid of hospitals and hospitals had always followed, more or less, in its wake, the two being bound up together. Hospitals of late years had reached such a pitch of excellence that in England they had some of the finest in the world, with men attending them possessing the highest experience and scientific knowledge, and nurses devoted to their duties - (hear hear). The hospitals in large centres of population were not able to supply all the needs, and consequently, they found Cottage Hospitals springing up all over the land and doing an immense amount of good. They could not meet together at this time without their thoughts going out to South Africa and having it on their minds and hearts - (hear hear). When they saw the life of the

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Nation being given for liberty and justice, and its wealth poured out to succour the wounded with the highest medical skill and every effort being made to carry out that work, they must not let it interfere - however strong their minds and enthusiasm were drawn out - with the home institutions. The brave soldiers of the Queen, upholding the honour of the Country, would not like to feel that the care taken of them was at the expense of the sick and suffering at home. Their duty was to support the Cottage Hospitals and not let them suffer - (hear hear). It was said "He prayeth best who loveth best," and surely those who best love their fellow men were those who strained every nerve at home to give sympathy and assistance to their sick and stricken brethren around them. There were not only heroes of the battle field but of the sick chamber, and there was a battle field of life at home. Those who realised it were those who were pushing this movement forward, and those who gave their help and aid to these institutions, feeling that in doing so they were following in His footsteps, who when on earth went about doing good and ministering to the sick and stricken, realising the truth of the Divine assurance "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren ye have done it unto me" - (applause).¹³

Mr Windeatt then laid the cornerstone, with the dedication, 'I lay this cornerstone in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. I declare this cornerstone duly laid.'¹⁴

Various speeches were made after the stone was laid, many of them thanking all those who had long been involved over the years in making the occasion possible. The proceedings finished with the singing of the National Anthem and cheers for the Mayoress. It was estimated that the funds would require another £500 to enable the completion of the new building and

for the fitting up and furnishing of the institution. Appeals were made throughout the year and money came in by way of donations, entertainments etc and the deficit was met completely one week after the opening of the hospital. The total sum expended finally exceeded £2,222.

Exactly a year to the month that the corner stone was laid the formal opening of the Totnes and District Cottage Hospital took place, on May 18 1901. This had been the day that so many people had been waiting for for many years and there was great excitement in Totnes on that day. Delightful weather favoured the occasion which took place at four in the afternoon. Unfortunately three of the more important people expected to attend the ceremony were absent, these being the Patron, the Duke of Somerset, the President of the hospital, Mr M.A.M. Singer, and Mr F.B. Mildmay, M.P.. However the Duchess of Somerset who was staying at Barton Pynes, consented to perform the opening ceremony after explaining that the Duke was absent having been delayed in Lancashire. A large gathering attended the ceremony and amongst them were a great many of the principal residents of the town and neighbourhood. In opening, prayers were offered by the Reverend H.S. Prinsep, vicar of Berry Pomeroy after which the St. Johns Church Choir led the singing of the hymn "Thine Arm O Lord, In Days Of Old". Mr T.C. Kellock acted as Chairman that day having been involved in the welfare of the hospital ever since its foundation. He gave a speech which amongst other things included a potted history of the hospital since its beginning and gave mention by name of those people who had supported the hospital most in time and in money, these being the Champernownes, Mr Mortimer Singer, and Mr Pendareves Trist. Reference was also made to Dr. W.B. Kellock who had also been a great support to the hospital funds. After a short

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word from Mr Nicholls, the Treasurer, on finances the proceedings were handed over to the Duchess of Somerset. Before she continued with the proceedings, Mr Kellock presented to her a silver key (on one side of which was the Somerset crest with the motto "Foy pour devoir" and on the other a commemorative inscription) with which to open the hospital. The Duchess gave a favourable speech and declared the hospital open much to the delight of all those assembled. She opened the door and going inside the hospital was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers made up of iris, lilies of the valley and asparagus plumosa, by the Matron of the hospital Mrs Tucker. Various other speeches and votes of thanks were made until finally the days proceedings ended with the Reverend G.D. Evans offering prayer and "God Save The King" was sung by all those assembled. The company were then entertained to a tea at the Hospital.

A description of the finished hospital was found in the *Totnes Times*:

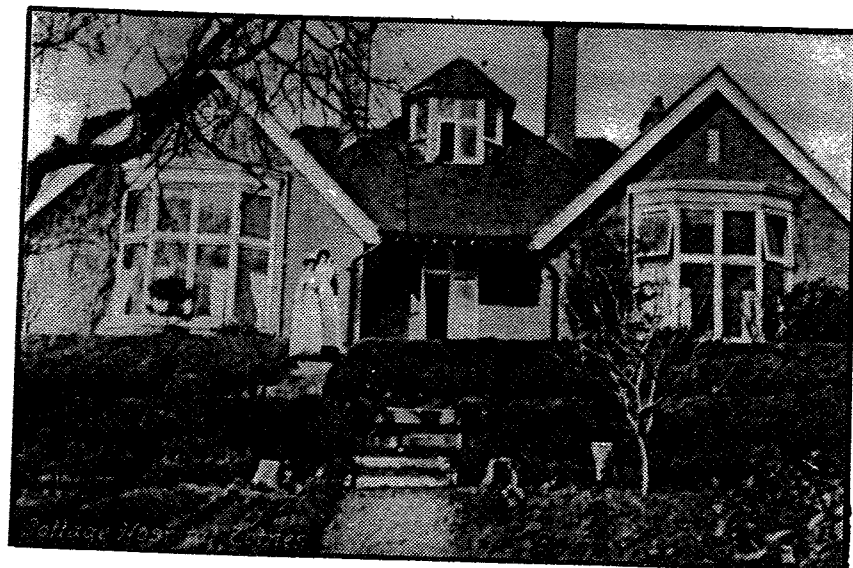
'The new hospital, which is not only unique in its architectural features, are [sic] far as the Borough is concerned, presents an attractive appearance viewed from the Bridgetown Hill, standing back from the road in grounds nicely laid out with rockery work, flowers and shrubs, and bordered with an iron railing. Passing through an ornamental entrance gate, a winding path leads up to the main entrance. The building is constructed throughout with red brick, and is roofed with Bridgewater tiles. Immediately inside the door is a lobby which opens out into a roomy and well lighted corridor, 60ft. long and six feet in width. From this the two large wards, each containing four Lawson Tait bedsteads and a cot, are entered by glass-panelled doors. The wards are 20ft. by 20ft. with a height of

12ft. and attached to each are a lavatory and other conveniences, while for heating purposes, patent Manchester grates are utilised. Dividing the wards is a nurse's room, 12ft. x 13ft. x 12ft. which looks out from a bay window over the garden at the rear of the premises. The Matron's room 12ft. x 12ft 6in x 12ft., is entered from the lobby, and adjoining it is the accident ward, the dimensions of which are 10ft 6in x 12ft 6in x 12ft. On the side of the corridor opposite the wards is an operating room 14ft. x 12ft. 6in. by 12ft., with a bath room 8ft. 6in. x 8ft. x 12ft., containing a full-size cast iron enamelled bath, with hot and cold water fittings, and on this side are also placed the kitchen 11ft. x 12ft. 6in. x 12ft., which open into the larder and scullery, and thence into a closed yard, to which there is a separate entrance. All the accommodation necessary for the administrative work of the hospital is thus compactly arranged on the ground floor, the post mortem room being separated from the main building, as are also some of the other offices. The upper storey of the hospital contains three bedrooms 16ft. x 13ft. and 12ft. x 13ft. x 8ft. 6in. respectively, these being reached by a staircase, and all opening on to the same landing. The main wards and the matron's room have bay windows, as has also the operating room, the windows being filled with plain glass, except in some of the lower casements, in which it is fluted. The corridor, wards and other rooms on the ground floor have a cemented dado of a dull stone colour, along the top of which and under the ceiling runs a band of marone [sic] tint, while the walls looked bright and pleasing, being distempered a silvery grey colour. For the furnishings of the wards, the committee have received numerous gifts from sympathisers with their work, and they have been able to make them attractive with oil and other paintings, book-cases, etc. There are electric bells throughout,

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the town water is laid on, and the sewers are connected with the Borough main drain."°

So began the work of the new hospital in Totnes.



*The newly built hospital at Coldharbour
erected by voluntary subscription*

Funding

In its early years, the Cottage Hospital relied almost exclusively upon the generosity of the public for its financial support. Only a small percentage of its income was derived from the payments made by patients. The public generosity which conceived and sustained the hospital was provided in the form of legacies, donations and subscriptions. This income, never adequate, was supplemented by the organization of a large and varied array of dramatic entertainments, concerts, bazaars, fetes and other fund-raising events. Finance was, for the management committee, a matter of constant concern. The enthusiasm generated by the campaign to open the hospital was such that at the end of the first year, a healthy balance at the bank was achieved. From this date, however, the level of subscriptions began to fall. The Committee were compelled to raise funds from other sources but felt that they should encourage a greater income from subscriptions as the fund-raising events which they were promoting did not constitute a very dependable source of income. The necessity of increasing the hospital's list of subscribers was first discussed at the Annual General Meeting of 1888. It was lamented on this occasion, that many of the town's clergy and tradespeople were conspicuous by their absence on the list of subscribers. Periodic appeals were made to all of the townsfolk to subscribe more generously to the Cottage Hospital. 1897 saw the lowest subscription list in the hospital's history and steps were taken to remedy the situation. An annual subscription of 10s 6d had qualified a subscriber to vote at Subscriber's Meetings and to recommend one patient every year for a hospital bed. This figure was reduced to 5s. This measure proved successful; the

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income from subscriptions climbing significantly the following year.

The hospital's ailing economy prompted the Management Committee to promote a large number of special fund-raising events over the years. A concert held at Harberton raised £16 7s 1d in 1887, a children's stall of useful and fancy work, held in the grounds of the Cottage Hospital, raised £50 in 1889 and an evening of entertainment held at the Seymour Hotel, raised £40 in 1918.

One of the most successful events arranged for the benefit of the Cottage Hospital was a bazaar and fete held on the Island in the summer of 1887. The Duke of Somerset had lent the Committee the Island free of charge for the two days of festivity. To ensure a most delightful scene for the public to enjoy, the Committee, assisted by the 'elite' of the town and neighbourhood, worked zealously in preparing the Island of its numerous stalls, bunting, flowers and other decorations. Dramatic and other entertainments were arranged for the daytime, and for the evenings, the Totnes Volunteer Band provided music for people to dance to. The stalls were arranged in a semi-circle in the centre of the Island and the scene around became very animated as people flocked to the stalls to purchase their bargains. At the stall of Mrs Champernowne (who was unable to attend because of ill health) Lady Baker of Newton Abbot took charge, assisted by the Misses Champernownes and Miss Cope. This stall was crowded with articles of the most valuable description; clocks, Indian tables, Chinese umbrellas, purses, photograph frames, silver ware, cigar and cigarette cases, brass letter holders and many many more items. Numerous other stalls offered a great variety of merchandise. To name a few, the fun amusements consisted of Totnes Cottage Hospital Magic Well, coconut shies, Aunt Sally, Mr Pyke's begging dog

and a fish pond. Dramatic entertainments throughout the day were well patronized and the two days of merriment proved highly profitable for the Cottage Hospital, with over £269 being raised. The contributions made to this magnificent sum by the individual stalls and amenities are recorded below.''

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Stall # 1 | £79 11s 3d |
| Stall # 2 | £39 10s 8d |
| Stall # 3 | £22 5s 10d |
| Stall # 4 | £37 10s 8d |
| Refreshment Stall | £20 12s 11d |
| Cigar Tent | £ 2 19s 7d |
| Theatre & Concert | £10 5s 2d |
| Fish Pond | £ 5 19s 6d |
| Coconut Stall | £ 3 6s 4d |
| Aunt Sally | 8s |
| Cloakroom & Parcels | 8s 7d |
| Flower Show | £ 2 17s 1d |
| Major Trists Poems & Programmes | £ 2 1s 7d |
| Takings At Gate | £29 6s 5d |
| Mr Pyke's Begging Dog | 14s 6d |

Of great assistance to the maintenance of the cottage hospital and comfort of the patients, were the many gifts of a diverse nature which were presented to that institution. The gifts received by the hospital in 1890 have been recorded in the Annual Report for that year. These gifts included flowers, fruit, buns, books, vegetables, graphics, puzzles, firewood, eggs, old linen, rabbits and pheasants! Medical goods were also donated; Dr. Hains presented the hospital with a

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stretcher and leg cradle and Dr. Raby presented various surgical instruments. These gifts naturally alleviated the financial demands made on the hospital for its day to day operation.

The Ladies Committee, which did so much in support of the hospital, encouraged the donation of gifts through the inauguration of an annual 'Pound Day'. Gifts, primarily foodstuffs, but including useful items such as blankets, crockery, kitchen utensils and cleaning materials were collected and measured in terms of their weight. The 'Pound Day' held for 1918 saw the collection of over 900 lbs of gifts. Another of the many 'institutions' founded for the purpose of promoting funds for the hospital was known as the 'Hospital Saturday'. On the first 'Hospital Saturday', held in September 1890, volunteers collected a total of £40 18s 10d from a number of 'stations' strategically located around the town, at the market, Plymouth Road, the Plains, Exeter Road, opposite St. Mary's Church, at the Steamer Quay and in South Street.

The hospital's income from payments made by patients increased as a percentage of its overall income throughout the first thirty years of its life. This was the result of a decline in the generosity of the public, an increase in the number of patients admitted to the hospital and the effects of the Employer's Liability Act of 1903. At the end of 1885, only £11 was contributed to the hospital's income of £349. By 1920, when the income was only marginally higher, the patients payments amounted to £170. Prior to 1903, patients paid at two rates, 2s 6d and 3s 6d according to their circumstances. Upon the introduction of the Employer's Liability Act however, it was resolved by the Management Committee, that all patients should pay the full rate. Patient's payments fell far short of financing the hospital. Receipts from this source for 1908 are recorded at £20 10s 6d. For

that year however, the cost of treating a patient for one week was calculated at £1 1 2s 8d and 61 patients were admitted. By 1910, the cost had increased to £2 2s 8d of which only 10s was found from the patients.

The various sources of income and the manner in which this was expended is recorded in the hospital's annual report for 1888 and is transcribed below:¹²

INCOME

| | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------|
| Donations | £ 5 | 6s |
| Subscriptions | £ 76 | 18s |
| Patients Payments | £ 25 | 15s 8d |
| Collecting Boxes & Cards | £ 10 | 2s 9d |
| Bazaar Fund | £217 | 4s 4d |
| Entertainments | £ 18 | 6s 11d |
| Legacy | £ 10 | 10s |
| Interest on Current Acc. | £ 1 | 11s 6d |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|------------------------|------|--------|
| Drugs | £ 15 | 3s 8d |
| Wages | £ 51 | 1d |
| Rent, Rates & Taxes | £ 34 | 2s 5d |
| Printing & Postage | £ 6 | 19s 1d |
| House & Other Expenses | £115 | 6s 1d |
| Furniture | £ 4 | 13s |

The accounts for 1888 illustrate to what an extent the Cottage Hospital relied upon fund-raising events for its survival; with about 65% of its income for that year derived from this source. The relatively secure source of subscriptions, provided only 21% of

income for that year. A similar picture is painted by the accounts for 1908, ten years later. Donations, patients' payments and subscriptions amounted to £164 19s 6d while a variety of extraneous efforts had raised £230 12s 1d. Much of this money was raised through the efforts of a Mr P. Trist, who up to 1913 had been responsible for £4,500 of the hospital's income. It was accepted by the Committee at the Annual Meeting for 1908, that, without this extra income, the hospital would be seriously in debt.

1919 saw an increase in taxation which seriously diminished the hospital's income from subscriptions. It was reported to the Annual Meeting that the hospital was in debt to the sum £4 16s 5d. At this meeting, the possibility that the State might take over this, as well as other institutions, was bemoaned by those assembled. Mr Windeatt thought that operated by the State, the hospital would not be run as economically or efficiently and this was echoed by many others present, including the medics.

Patient Care

The Cottage Hospital was intended for the benefit of Totnesians and those from the surrounding villages. The Annual Report for 1894 records the home villages of the patients admitted that year; Totnes, Bridgetown, Berry Pomeroy, Dartington, Littlehempston, Morleigh, Harberton, North Huish, Stoke Gabriel and Combe Fishacre.

The same Annual report records the occupations of the patients admitted for that year; illustrating the social background of the infirm for which the hospital was founded. Of the 28 patients; six are recorded as labourers, seven as servants, and six as having no occupation. The remainder of the patients were represented by a gardener, a blacksmith, a hawker, a railway porter, a printer, a widow and the wife of a mason.

The first year of the Cottage Hospital saw the admittance of 18 patients. Over the years the number accepted increased considerably, with 35 being treated in 1892, 44 in 1902 and 69 in 1920. The highest number of patients admitted in a single year up to 1920 was that of 93 in 1915. Many of these were soldiers transferred from the V.A.D hospital.

Rule (3) of the Cottage Hospital Regulations stipulated that a patient should not remain in the hospital for more than six weeks unless an application is lodged by the relevant medical officer. It was pointed out at the Annual Meeting of 1895, that patients in the male ward were staying for 24, 11, 10 and 8 weeks, while in the female ward, the length of stay was known to be 17 and 13 weeks. At this same meeting, the Committee decided not to accept patients under the age of four years. The bed occupancy for 1915-1916 was 278 weeks (an average of 25.25

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days/patient) and for the following year, 186 weeks (an average of 15.7 days/patient).

There is no record of any particular criteria which determined whether a patient be admitted to the Cottage Hospital or be transported to the larger hospitals at Plymouth or Exeter. The *Totnes Times* however records a number of serious accidents which resulted in hospitalization at Totnes.

In July 1887, a seventeen year old youth, William Drew, fell from a tree in the garden of his employer, Mr A. Hayman. The youth had been attempting to pick some blossoms on an elder tree when his foot slipped and he fell onto the garden gate. He was pierced in two places by the iron spikes and a copious amount of blood flowed from his wounds.

Dr Hains attended him and he was taken to the Cottage Hospital in a cab, where his description was later described as 'critical'. One of the spikes had entered the right lung and the other, the boy's liver. Mention of the youth was made in the *Totnes Times* the following week, his condition still being critical. He was not in the hospital on 12th August 1887, and as it was most unlikely that he would have recovered from such terrible injuries so soon, one can assume that William Drew did not survive. In August of the same year, Charles White, aged seventeen, was in his garden at Cott, Dartington when he loaded a small brass cannon with powder. Upon lighting it, the cannon swung round and the full charge exploded in his face. Dr Raby, attending, found the youth's face to be covered in powder and his right eye so seriously damaged that it was feared he would lose the sight in it.

In December 1888, a sixteen year old, George Luscombe from Rattery met with a fearful accident while working in a mill. He was intending to pulp some mangold with chaff and turned on the water on the wheel. The wheel set in motion but some belting on the

pulleys caught him by the legs. He was lifted up off the ground and with great force was catapulted against the ceiling beams. Fortunately, the belting broke and the youth was dropped to the ground. He was taken to the Cottage Hospital and there, attended by Drs. Raby and Curry, it was found that he had terrible injuries to his head and a broken thigh. Of George Luscombe we learn through the *Totnes Times* that, in January 1889, he was making good progress.

Many of the accidents which necessitated referral to the Cottage Hospital were less dramatic. In 1889, a young child was taken to the hospital from Stoke Gabriel where his thigh had been fractured as a result of another boy falling on him whilst they were playing. In the same year, William Cole, an elderly labourer of Ashprington fell from his wagon when his horse shied and had his leg broken between his ankle and knee. Dr. Currie attended him at the Cottage Hospital where he was described as well.

The illnesses and maladies for which patients were admitted to the hospital, from its inception until 1920 are far less well documented. The Annual report for 1890 lists the patients admitted that year and the reasons for their stays. Of the twenty-eight patients, six were admitted for treatment to injuries and the remainder for a variety of complaints. These complaints included cancer, ulcers, psoriasis and spinal caries. One patient was admitted for the amputation of his toes and another for the amputation of his fingers, though the reasons for these operations are not known. A list of the maladies suffered by the patients for this year is to be found in Appendix I.

The payment expected of patients stood at 2s 6d per week in 1900. Depending upon their circumstances however, patients could occasionally be treated for free. Out of the 46 admittances for 1899, two were

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charged nothing, and in 1902, out of 44 patients, 6 were treated for free. It was proposed at the Annual Meeting of 1900 that the weekly charge be increased to 6s but that this sum could be reduced or ignored for certain patients according to their circumstances. The proposer believed that 2s 6d was often being paid by the poor who could ill afford it, while those in a position to pay far more than this sum, were not doing so. The proposition met with failure however. It was argued that the hospital should not charge more than its counterparts, Ashburton, Dawlish and Brixham, where the weekly payments were, 2s 6d, 2s 6d to 7s, and 2s 6d to 10s respectively. It was also feared that any increase in the basic charge would alienate some of the subscribers which the hospital could ill afford to lose.

In at least two instances, the expense of maintaining a patient at the hospital was met by several citizens of the town. A letter in the *Totnes Times*, 22nd July 1893, under the heading of 'A Case For Sympathy', was written by W.M. Tollit, secretary of the Cottage Hospital:

'Dear Sir,- For some time past kind and sympathising friends have subscribed small sums on behalf of 'Marsh' the shunter, whose arm was broken while on duty at the Railway Station. I think if it were generally known (sic) that Arthur Wellington, aged 22, a porter at the Station, has for some time occupied the adjoining bed at the Cottage Hospital with a broken leg, double fracture, he would receive some sympathy, the accident having occurred while on duty. He is married, and his wife is early expecting her confinement.

If you will kindly give this publicity in your paper I shall feel obliged. I shall be pleased to receive any donations on his behalf.

Yours Faithfully, W.M. Tollit.'"³

The response from people to this letter was recorded in the *Totnes Times*, 29th July 1893, when Mr A. Wellington expressed his thanks through the columns of the paper to those who had donated money towards his stay in hospital.

Mr A. Morris, he thanked for the gift of 10s, Miss Churchill, the Mayor and Mr Tucker, he thanked for gifts of 5s. A number of other beneficiaries, he thanked for the sums of 2s 6d.

Hospital visiting days were on Tuesdays and Saturdays and visiting hours from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Much visiting of the sick and infirm was carried out by members of the Ladies Committee. They were free to visit anytime but normally each lady visited the hospital during one week in each month of which notice was given to the matron. They concerned themselves with the comfort of the patients. The Ladies Committee comprised some of the town's more well-to-do women who were often the wives of members of the Management Committee. The ladies also concerned themselves with raising funds for the hospital.

Very little information is available concerning the medical and nursing staff at the Cottage Hospital between the years of 1885 and 1920. Over the years, the hospital was entrusted into the care of a number of matrons. Some only stayed for a year or two while others, such as Mrs Tucker with 13½ years service and Miss Ford with six years of service, stayed longer. These two, were presented with cheques for £24 and £83 in 1906 and 1916, respectively. The position of matron was a much sought after post in Totnes; over thirty applications were made upon the resignation of Mrs Tucker.

In 1885 and 1886, the Cottage Hospital relied upon the services of two doctors but in later years the

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standard number stood at four. The hospital also had one dental surgeon in attendance. The precise status of the doctors at the hospital is somewhat obscure. Drs Fraser and Hains resigned from the hospital as a result of a dispute over altering rule (3) at the Annual Meeting of 1892. The exact nature of the controversy is not known, but it was stated at that meeting that doctors had no power to make proposals concerning the hospital and Mr P.W. Bennitt, of Berry, wrote to the Committee, saying that "his advice was never to let any medical officer have anything to do with the management."⁴

CONCLUSION

The history of the Cottage Hospital is one of great determination and commitment to that first vision shared by the enthusiastic instigators of the 'project' in 1885. The Management Committee are to be applauded for their conscientiousness, singlemindedness and united efforts in securing the success of the hospital, which for the most part proved to be a continual struggle for them. Areas of finance caused the most concern and the Committees were relentless in the pursuit of their various responsibilities to provide funds to keep the hospital solvent.

To the poor, the hospital became a most important and beneficial addition to the town's facilities. As far as one can glean from the limited information available on health care, it would seem that the patients were afforded the very best of nursing care. They were also fed hot nourishing food, kept clean and warm and perhaps had the opportunity to enjoy small luxuries such as newspapers, magazines, jigsaws and various other things that many of them may not have had at home. The hospital, no doubt, saved a great many lives which would have been lost had the patients had to rely on nursing care from their families in homes of squalour and overcrowding.

We would perhaps today, find the paternalistic attitude of the middle and upper classes towards the poor and working class rather patronising, but it must be understood as being an integral part of the social system of the period and thus accepted by the working classes.

At the Annual Meetings of 1919 and 1920, the Management Committee discussed the Ministry of Health Act which had just been passed. This Act empowered the State to take control of cottage hospitals. Mr Windeatt

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expressed his view that under the control of the State, such hospitals would not be operated as economically or efficiently as at present. Dr Gibson feared that State control would mean far less efficiency and much higher taxation. It was with the prospect of the Management Committee losing their position of responsibility for the Cottage Hospital, that this survey closes.

An epilogue composed by Major Trist (the president of the Cottage Hospital in 1888) on the occasion of Dramatic Entertainments at the Prince of Wales Theatre, reminds us for the last time of the unceasing quest by the Committee for financial support for the Totnes and District Cottage Hospital.

As President my duty is
To thank you- "One and All"
For that you have so kindly come
In answer to our call-
Come- with your money in your hands
To aid a "Noble Cause!"
Come- the kind "Actors"- hearts to cheer
With smiles and loud applause!
To them- "The Actors"- I am sure
Our warmest thanks are due!
Without their aid, we'd not have got
This money out of you!
They've acted well- May, splendidly!
And have I hope conferr'd
On your delight- hope you've been pleas'd
With all, you've seen and heard!
To others- who their services
Have giv'n with right good will
We offer thanks- our very best-
They've helped our purse to fill!
Their kindness is gratuitous
So- without any doubt-

If they've put nothing in the purse-
They've taken nothing out!
I thank all greatly, in the names
Of those who do the work
Connected with the Hospital
(The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committees
and the Officers of the Institution)
They never duty shirk!
And therefore earnestly I pray
You'll further aid "The Cause"
By raising our subscription list-
(And in confidence, I'll tell you a very simple
and easy way of doing it)
Don't for a moment pause,
(After tonight)
But go to our Treasurer
As if you were one man-
(that is, in a body, you know!)
Tell him you've come to help us on,
And give him all you can!
However small the sum may be,
Let it be paid each year!
"Twill show good will- enable us
The poor man's heart to cheer!
This surely will a blessing bring
On all who gladly strive
To help us with the Funds we want
To keep "The Cause" alive!
And much I hope my humble pray'r
Will have a good effect!
It will- if in your gen'rous hearts
You kindly will reflect
On the great good "The Hospitals"
Accomplish'd in the past!
Reflecting thus- You'll all subscribe
So- that the good may last!
Once more we thank you! Let me say
It gives me joy to view
This Grand Assemblage! and with this
I'll bid you- Adieu!-¹⁵

REFERENCES

- 1 Totnes Times, 23rd July 1887
- 2 Totnes Times, 7th March 1885
- 3 Totnes Times, 6th August 1898
- 4 Totnes Times, 17th October 1885
- 5 ibid
- 6 Totnes Times, 25th March 1899
- 7 Totnes Times, 15th July 1889
- 8 Totnes Times, 5th May 1900
- 9 ibid
- 10 Totnes Times, 18th May 1901
- 11 Totnes Times, 30th July 1887
- 12 Totnes Times, 4th August 1888
- 13 Totnes Times, 2nd July 1893
- 14 Totnes Times, 30th June 1892
- 15 Totnes Times, 8th September 1888

APPENDIX

* COMMITTEE *

REV. B. MILLS,
" W. R. BOWMAN,
Mr. J. W. Chenhall R. CHAMPERNOWNE,
" A. J. EVERETT,
" J. JOHNS,
MR. T. BOND,
" T. H. EDMONDS,
" J. E. L. LLOYD,
" A. PIKE,
Mr. P. W. Bennett F. T. HARE.

* LADIES COMMITTEE *

MRS. CHAMPERNOWNE,
" EDMONDS,
" EVERETT,
" FRASER,
" JOHNS,
" T. MAYE,
" MILLS,
" PIKE,
" PERKINS,
" WISE,
" TOLLIT,
" TRACY,
MISS CHAMPERNOWNE,
" KELLOCK,
" A. MAY.

TOTNES COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending June 30th, 1890.

| EXPENDITURE. | | RECEIPTS. | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------|
| | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. |
| Drugs, etc. | 10 19 4 | Balance in hand, July 1st, 1889 | 97 5 1 |
| Wages | 46 14 2 | Donations | 9 2 0 |
| Rent, Rates and Taxes | 32 1 0½ | Subscriptions | 81 7 6 |
| Printing and Postages... | 5 16 2½ | | |
| House and other expenses | 90 16 10½ | Less Commission paid } for collecting } | 90 9 6 0 6 1 |
| Furniture and sundries | 1 2 5 | | |
| | 187 10 0½ | Receipts from Patients | 16 14 6 |
| Balance at Bank | 62 12 5 | Offeritories | 33 12 6 |
| Since paid | 1 8 1 | ENTERTAINMENTS :- | |
| | 64 0 6 | Diptford Parish Dance | 2 2 0 |
| Less amount to Hon. Sec | 1 14 10½ | R. Evans' Entertainment | 2 8 0 |
| Deposit Account at Bank | 180 0 0 | Boxes and Cards | 6 9 2 |
| Accumulated Interest thereon | 14 13 1 | Interest on Current Account at Bank | 1 1 0 |
| | £249 15 8 | | £249 15 8 |

Audited and found correct,

ANTHONY PIKE.

LIST OF PATIENTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1890.

| No. | Name. | Abode. | Occupation. | Disease. | Admitted. | Discharged. | Attended by | Remarks. |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | James Halky | Conwerthy | Labourer | Tumour of lower jaw | July 2, 89 | Aug. 27, " | Dr. | Optim. relieved |
| 2 | Harriet Andrews | Harberton | Domestic | Tumour of breast | July 2, " | Aug. 6, " | Hains | Optim. cured |
| 3 | Walter Short | Dundridge | None | Hydrocele | Aug. 8, " | Aug. 17, " | Currie | Cured |
| 4 | Emily Short (mother of child) | Totnes | Wife of a mason | Cancer Outeri | Aug. 22, " | Sep. 21, " | Currie | in status quo |
| 5 | Mary Pinney | Brooking | Domestic | Amenorrhoea Chlorosis | Sep. 5, " | Oct. 3, " | Fraser | Cured |
| 6 | Helena Norris | Totnes | Domestic | Cough and general debility | Sep. 5, " | Dec. 14, " | Thompson | Benefited |
| 7 | John Fife | Berry | Gardener | Injuries to leg | Sep. 23, " | Dec. 16, " | Currie | Cured |
| 8 | John Bryant | Pomeroy | Blacksmith | Contusion | Sep. 28, " | Nov. 16, " | Hains | Cured |
| 9 | Annie Smith | Harberton | None | Chorea | Oct. 24, " | Oct. 28, " | Perkins | Improved |
| 10 | Henry Calard | Dartington | Labourer | Spinal Caries | Oct. 26, " | Dec. 6, " | Perkins | Recovered |
| 11 | William Fegwill | Berry | Printer | Abscess | Oct. 26, " | Nov. 11, " | Thompson | Cured |
| 12 | Robert Williams | Totnes | Railway porter | Injury to hand | Oct. 31, " | Jan. 9, 90 | Hains | Recovered |
| 13 | Beatrice Honywill | Totnes | Domestic | Ulceration of leg | Nov. 21, " | Jan. 30, " | Hains | Cured |
| 14 | Ellen Wyatt | Harberton | Domestic | Chlorosis | Jan. 2, " | Feb. 13, " | Perkins | Cured |
| 15 | Mary Dugdale | Stoke | None | Spinal Curvature | Mar. 4, " | Apr. 29, " | Perkins | Cured |
| 16 | Eleanor Boon | Staverton | Widow | Burn | Mar. 5, " | Mar. 26, " | Hains | Cured |
| 17 | Alfred Almond | Halwell | Farm servant | Accident, amputation of toes | Mar. 28, " | Apr. 8, " | Perkins | Cured |
| 18 | William Prettydown | Berry | Labourer | Contused leg | Apr. 3, " | Apr. 18, " | Fraser | Cured |
| 19 | Harriet Eggbeer | Bridgetown | Domestic | Anosmia | Apr. 8, " | Apr. 22, " | Fraser | Cured |
| 20 | Alfred Goodchild, | Stoke | None | Amputn. of fingers | Apr. 19, " | May 17, " | Fraser | Cured |
| 21 | Bertha Jarvis | Stoke | Domestic | Removal of toe nail | Apr. 22, " | May 6, " | Hains | Cured |
| 22 | Walter Irish | Widdloombe | Farmer | Accident fractured skull and contused wound | May 1, " | May 22, " | Perkins | Cured |
| 23 | William Crossing | Totnes | Hawker | Peoriasis | May 2, " | June 28, " | Perkins | Cured |
| 24 | Henry Field | Broadhenpath | Labourer | Communicated fracture tibia | May 13, " | | Hains | Cured |
| 25 | Eliza Howe | Totnes | None | Contracted knee joint | June 19, " | | Hains | Cured |
| 26 | Ellen Hannaford | Totnes | None | Scleritis of breast | June 19, " | | Hains | Optim. cured |
| 27 | William Tippet | Totnes | Labourer | Epithelioma of lip | June 20, " | | Hains | Optim. cured |
| 28 | Frederick Johnson | Totnes | Labourer | Compound fracture fibula, & dislocan. | | | Perkins | |

Financial year ending June 30th, 1800.

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|--|---------|--------|
| Donatn. | Annual | | Donatn. | Annual |
| | Subtn. | | | Subtn. |

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|--|---|----|----|
| Adam, S. P. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Hayman, B. W. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Andrews, Miss E. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Harris, Ed. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Bailey, Wm. | 2 | 2 | 0 | Harris, F. B. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Bowden, Fredk. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Hare, F. T. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Bowden, Cornish F. J. (88 & 89) | 2 | 2 | 0 | Heath, Miss L. N. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Bond, T. | 2 | 0 | 6 | Hamlyn, W. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Browne, P. | 0 | 2 | 6 | Harris, J. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Buoye, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 | Jackson, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Beats, W. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Kent, W. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Barrough, Miss (per J. Currie) 0 10 0 | | | | Kellook, T. C. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bowman, Rev. W. R. | 0 | 10 | 6 | Luscombe, Mrs. A. H. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Champernowne, | | | | Lloyd, J. E. L. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Do. Rev.-R. | 2 | 2 | 0 | Morgan, H. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Do. Miss E. | 0 | 10 | 6 | Morris, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Cole, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 | More, C. H. S. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Condy, Wm. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Martin, Rev. G. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Churchward, F. | 2 | 2 | 0 | Manley, Miss K. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Carew, Misses | 1 | 0 | 2 | May, Thos. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Couch, Vary | 1 | 1 | 0 | Mills, Rev. B. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Churchill, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 | May, Admral | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Cole, R. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Mildmay, F. B. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Domville, Col. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Mitchell, W. H. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| De Virte, Banness 0 10 0 | | | | Mortimer, Bro. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Distin, F. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Millett, J. D. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Earle, Mrs (the late) | 2 | 0 | 0 | Moysey, J. D. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Edmonds, T. H. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Oldrieve, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Elliot, Miss | 2 | 0 | 6 | Openshaw, T., per Miss Greenhow 5 0 0 | | | |
| Everet, Clerk | 1 | 1 | 0 | Pritchett, Miss | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Everett, Rev. A. J. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Punchard, W. H. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Farley, Eliza | 0 | 4 | 0 | Puckett, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Ford, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 | Rewald, G. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Friend, per Mr Pike | 0 | 5 | 0 | Ros, Miss E. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Friend, per G. | | | | Richardson, J. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Guardians the poor | 0 | 2 | 0 | Sanders, J. E. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Goodridge, W. H. | 0 | 2 | 6 | Sutherland, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Hewlett, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 6 | Staveley, Geo. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hains, L. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Skinner, W. J. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Smith, Hon. Lady | 1 | 0 | 0 | Somersct, Duke of. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Trist, Major J. F. | 2 | 2 | 0 | Tucker, E. M. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Trist, H. B. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Tozer, R. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Trist, Miss | 1 | 1 | 0 | Tollit, W. M. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Tucker, Edmund | 0 | 10 | 6 | Woodley, J. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Taylor, S. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Williams, G. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Thomas, Mr. | 0 | 10 | 6 | | | | |
| Tucker, F. T. | 0 | 10 | 6 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----|----------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Avonwick Church | £ | s. | d. | Cornworthy Harvest Thanks- | £ | s. | d. |
| Asphington Church | 1 | 1 | 0 | giving | 2 | 15 | 4 |
| Brookh Church | 2 | 0 | 3 | Stoke Gabriel Church | 4 | 11 | 0 |
| Brent (South) Church | 2 | 7 | 3 | Totnes Church | 11 | 3 | 2 |
| Berry Church | 1 | 13 | 0 | | | | |
| Bridgetown Church | 2 | 11 | 10 | | | | |
| Congregational Chapel (Com- | 3 | 3 | 11 | | | | |
| munion office) | 2 | 5 | 9 | | | | |
| | | | | | £33 | 12 | 6 |

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------|---|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| Distin, E. & Son | 0 | 2 | 0 | Skinner, Miss. | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| G. W. R. | 0 | 1 | 10 | Trist, Miss. | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| Hospital Box | 1 | 6 | 10 | Thomas, F. | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| Morse, C. H. S. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Tope, Mrs. | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Maddick, Mrs. | 0 | 4 | 1 | Trist, Major | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| Pound E. | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Pike, Mr. | 0 | 11 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | £6 | 9 | 2 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | <i>£</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| Diptford Parish Dance | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Evan's, R. Entertainment | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | <i>£</i> 4 | 10 | 0 |

For the year ending 30th June, 1890.

- Miss Branford, Fruit, Flowers, and Home Comforts
Bridgetown Harvest Festival, Fruit
Miss Bartholomew, Buns
Mrs Bowman, Flannel Cape
Children's Flower Service, Ugborough, Flowers
Rev. Carwithen, Fruit and Vegetables, from Harvest Festival
Miss Cornish, Grapes and Home Comforts
Rev. Champernowne, Firewood
Miss Churchill, Old Linen
Mrs Edmonds, various Home Comforts
Mrs Everett, various Home Comforts
Friends of Patients, Eggs, &c.
Mrs Fraser, Home Comforts
A Friend, Large Chair for Ward
Miss Greenhow, Books and Puzzles
Mrs Godfrey, Books
Dr. Hains, Stretcher and Poles—Leg Cradle
Mrs R. Harris, Home Comforts
Mrs Hare, Eggs
Mrs Jenkins, Fruit
Miss Kellock, Screen—Rabbits
Mrs Luscombe, Fruit—Books
Mrs Maye, Home Comforts
Mr. F. B. Mildmay, Pheasants
Mrs A. Pike, various Home Comforts—Cushions
Dr. Perkins, Graphics
Mr Pearce, Books
Mr. W. H. Punchard, Books
Dr. Raby, Surgical Instruments
Mrs Rowland, various Home Comforts
Miss Rees, Books
Miss Skinner, Cakes
Mrs Tollit, Vegetables, Fruit &c.
Miss Trist, Cakes, Flowers, &c.
Totnes Harvest Festival, Grapes
Mrs F. Tucker, Books

OUR OTHER PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE:

Totnes in the Civil War
Deborah Goodwin

The Totnes and Bridgetown Races
Urban Earle

Domesday Totnes
Urban Earle

The Land of Goschen
Ann German

Scandal in the Workhouse
Laurie Manton

The Blackawton Mystery
Carole Thompson

Bad Smells and Noxious Vapours
Helen Strivens

Patriots All!
Victor Peach

High Days and Holidays
Elisabeth Stanbrook

Gas, Villas & Temperance
M.C. Lowe