

Hospital Sisters become Friends, 1655

In *The History of St. Thomas's Hospital*, Vol. II, 1600-1800, by F. G. Parsons, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A. (Methuen), 1934, on p. 85, occurs reference to three hospital sisters discharged in 1655 because they became Friends. The following is the text of the two minutes of the Court of Governors, very kindly supplied by the Clerk to the Governors of the hospital.

MINUTES OF THE COURT OF GOVERNORS OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL HELD ON THE 2ND OF AUGUST 1655.

Also upon information that three of the Sisters of this Hospital—viz. King, Noah and Tobias—are not conformable to the orders of this House and are (as it is reported) turned Quakers, and upon hearing them nowe in Court they seeming to justify their doing therein. It is ordered that yf they alter not their opinions and conform themselves to the orders of the house in that particular before the First day of September next: Then they to stand discharged of their places and expelled the house, and others to be chosen and placed therein.

MINUTES OF THE COURT OF GOVERNORS OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL HELD ON THE 14TH OF DECEMBER 1655.

Also, according to a Report nowe read, it is ordered that Elizabeth Evins [Evans ?] late assistant to Sister Jonas be Sister of King Ward in the roome of widdow Betts lately displaced and that Ann Scot be assistant to Sister Jonas. That Mary Ward be Sister of Noah Ward in the room of Elizabeth Lambert¹ lately displaced. That Dorothy Dipper late assistant to Sister Lazarus be Sister of Tobias Ward in the roome of Elizabeth Dix¹ lately displaced and that Sara Pyke be assistant to Sister Lazarus. All to hold their several places soe long as they shall behave themselves to the good liking of the Governors of this House in the roome of the Sisters thereof (this day discharged) till further order.

IRENE L. EDWARDS

¹ Besse's *Sufferings*, i, 366, refers to an Elizabeth Dix, one of 346 imprisoned in Newgate in 1660. London and Middlesex Registers record the burial of an Elizabeth Lambert of Shadwell in 1685, aged 81, and of Elizabeth Dickes of Shadwell in 1680, aged 64.