

C O P Y  
OF THE  
C H A R T E R  
OF THE  
ROYAL INFIRMARY.

**G**EORGE the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. greeting: WHEREAS an humble petition hath been presented to us, in behalf of the Managers of the charitable fund for maintenance and cure of sick poor in North Britain, setting forth, That several well disposed persons, well affected to our person and government, from a due sense of the misery that many poor persons in Scotland were reduced to by poverty and sickness, who, though not incurable, were in no condition to maintain themselves while under cure, even when physicians and chirurgeons, charitably disposed, were inclined to assist them with their skill and medicines gratis, did, some years ago, set forward a subscription, which, with some few donations, has now produced a fund of about three thousand pounds Sterling, the interest whereof, by agreement of the subscribers

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subscribers and donors, is to be applied for erecting a house in Edinburgh, wherein poor sick, properly recommended, from any part of the country, who are not absolutely incurable, are to be entertained and taken care of by the royal college of physicians of Edinburgh, and some of the most skilful chirurgeons: That, under the direction of the Managers chosen by the contributors, a house has been hired, and, so far as the interest of the fund could go, poor persons have been received into it, and have been so well taken care of, that many, under the blessing of God, have thereby been restored to their health: That this charity is so apparently of universal benefit, that it is hoped the fund may considerably increase by donations of charitable persons, if authorized by our royal permission, and if the undertaking shall be brought and kept under good management and regulations; and therefore most humbly praying, That we would be graciously pleased to grant our royal charter, erecting the said contributors and donors, who have already subscribed, and such others as shall hereafter contribute to the said charitable design and fund, into a CORPORATION, with perpetual succession, and with powers to take donations, to purchase lands, and securities for sums of money lent, to erect houses, to sue, and be sued, and all other things to do and execute, consistent with the laws of our realm, that may tend to promote the said charitable design: Now, know ye, That we having taken into our consideration the charitable intention of the petitioners, and being desirous to promote to good and laudable a charity, by virtue of our prerogative royal, and out of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have Erected, Created, and Incorporated, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do

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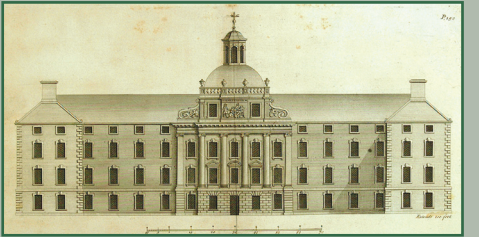
Erect, Create, and Incorporate, all and every the said contributors, who have already contributed to the said charitable design, and all such persons as shall hereafter contribute thereto, into one body corporate and politic, by the name of the ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH; under which name they shall have perpetual succession, and a common seal; and they, and their successors under the same name, shall be legally intitled, and capable to purchase and enjoy lands, tenements, and any other heritage in Scotland, not exceeding the yearly value of one thousand pounds Sterling, and to lend such sum or sums of money to any person or persons, and upon such security as they shall think fit, and to sue and be sued, and to make such by-laws, rules, and orders, consistent with the laws of our realm, as may best conduce to the charitable end and purpose above mentioned; and generally, all other matters and things tending to the pious design aforesaid, to do and execute as fully and amply, in every respect, as any body corporate lawfully may do, and as if the said matters and things were herein particularly set down: And for better accomplishing the ends aforesaid, and for making and establishing a continual succession of fit persons for managing the affairs of the said corporation, we do, by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, Will, Ordain, and Appoint, that the affairs of the said corporation shall be, from time to time, and for ever hereafter, governed and directed by twenty Managers, whereof the Lord Provost of our city of Edinburgh for the time being, and, in case of his absence, the Dean of Guild, shall be always one, and the President of our Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and in case of his absence, the Vice President, shall be always one other, and the Deacon

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Convenor of the Crafts of our said city for the time being shall be always one other; and the remaining seventeen shall be annually elected at the times, and in the manner herein after directed, out of the classes following, viz. four out of our said Royal College of Physicians, whereof two shall be of the Professors of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, if there are any such at the time, the Professor of Anatomy of the said University, if there be any such at that time, and two out of the Incorporation of Chirurgeons of our said city, or three out of the said Incorporation of Chirurgeons, if there is no Professor of Anatomy at the time, one out of the Senators of our College of Justice, one out of the Faculty of Advocates, one out of the society of the Clerks to our Signet, one out of the Ministers of the Gospel in Edinburgh, and six more to be elected out of the number of the contributors to the said charity, residing in or near the said city, if such can be found ready to undertake the office: And we do further Will, Direct, and Ordain, that Alexander Wilson, Esq; present Lord Provost of our city of Edinburgh, James Home present Deacon Convenor of the Crafts of the said city, David Erskine of Dun, and Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, Baronet, Senators of our College of Justice, Duncan Forbes, Esq; our Advocate, Charles Erskine of Barjarg, Esq; our Solicitor, Robert Dundas of Arncliffe, Esq; Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Mr William Bowlie deputy Remembrancer in Exchequer, Doctor Robert Lewis President of the Royal College of Physicians, Doctor Robert Clark and Doctor John Learmont, members of the said Royal College, Mr Alexander Monro, professor of anatomy, Mr Andrew Sinclair, and Doctor Andrew Plummer, professors of medicine, Mr Robert Hope, and Mr Francis Congalton, chirurgeons in Edinburgh,



Coat of Arms 1914



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burgh, Mr Robert Hepburn writer to the signet, Mr George Logan one of the ministers of the gospel in Edinburgh, George Drummond, Esq; one of the commissioners of our customs at Edinburgh, and Mr Peter Wedderburn, advocate; whereof seven to be a quorum, shall take upon them the direction, and be the managers of the said corporation from the date hereof, until the first Monday of January next: And the said managers shall, on the said first Monday of January, assemble between the hours of two and four in the afternoon, in the borough-room of our said city of Edinburgh; and they, or any seven of them, shall there and then, by a majority of voices, elect and nominate out of the several classes, and in the proportions before described, so many fit persons, as, with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the Deacon Convenor of the said city, and the Professor of Anatomy of the said University, when there is such professor there, will compose the full number of twenty managers for directing and governing the affairs of the said corporation for the year ensuing; which twenty managers so to be elected and nominated, or any seven or more of them, shall, on the first Monday of January in the year following, in like manner, by a majority of voices, elect and name their successors in the management and direction of the affairs of the said corporation; and so on yearly, and each year for ever, on every first Monday of January, the managers for the year preceding, or any seven or more of them, shall, by a majority of voices, elect and nominate out of the said classes, and in the proportions aforesaid, so many fit persons as, with the said Lord Provost, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild, the said President, Deacon

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Convenor, and Professor of Anatomy, when there is such professor in the university, will compose the full number of twenty managers for the year ensuing; and the twenty persons above appointed to be managers, and their successors in office, or any seven of them, who are declared to be a quorum, are hereby authorized and empowered, at their first meeting in January yearly, to name and appoint any twelve of their own number to be the ordinary managers of the affairs of the corporation for that year; of which ordinary managers five are to be a quorum; which ordinary managers shall have four meetings in every year, at some convenient place, to be appointed by the by-laws of the corporation, within Edinburgh, viz. on the first Monday of February, the first Monday of May, the first Monday of August, and the first Monday of November, yearly, and as many more meetings as they shall see needful; and that the said ordinary managers may, as often as they shall see occasion, call meetings of the extraordinary managers, for their advice and assistance in the affairs of the corporation; and that the said ordinary managers may and shall annually, after their election in January, nominate and choose a Treasurer to the corporation, and a Clerk thereto, and such other persons as they shall judge necessary to be employed in the service of the corporation, and to appoint them such salaries, fees, or rewards, as they, with the consent of the extraordinary managers, shall judge proper; and that the said ordinary managers may, at their pleasure, remove and discharge the said Treasurer, Clerk, and others so employed as aforesaid, and put other officers in their places, as they shall see cause; and the Treasurer, under the direction of the said ordinary managers, shall have the custody of the corporation's cash, and shall

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shall receive in, and pay out all the monies, as he shall be warranted to do by the said ordinary managers from time to time, for which he shall be obliged to account to the said ordinary managers, as often as he shall be by them thereto required. And we do hereby further Will, Direct, and Ordain, That it shall and may be lawful to, and for all and every the members of the said corporation, or body-politic, hereby established, who shall have contributed five pounds Sterling each, or more, towards the said Infirmary, to assemble and meet together on the first Monday of January next, in the borough-room, within our city of Edinburgh, and for ever thereafter yearly, on every first Monday of January, at such proper place within Edinburgh as shall be by themselves appointed; and that the said members of the corporation so assembled, shall be, and be called, a General Court; and they, or a majority of them so assembled, shall have full power and authority to make and constitute such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations for the management and government of the affairs of the said corporation, as to them, shall seem meet, so that such by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, be not contrary to the true intent and meaning hereof, nor repugnant to the laws of our realm. And we do further Will, Direct, and Ordain, That, at the second, and every succeeding general court, the managers for the preceding year shall lay before the general court, and the managers who shall succeed them, for the year ensuing, an account of their proceedings, in the execution of their office, and a distinct and full state of the capital stock of the corporation, in lands, money, or other effects, with a state of the poor sick persons taken in and entertained during the year of their management, containing the poor sick persons names, what parishes the

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they belong to, when they were taken in, what their several diseases were, and when recovered, cured, dismissed, or dead. Provided always, and it is hereby expressly provided and declared, That it shall not be lawful for the said managers, or their said quorum, on any occasion or pretext whatsoever, in the course of their management, to break in upon the capital stock of the said corporation, but only to apply the annual interest or revenue, as they shall judge fit and necessary, for the ends and uses above mentioned. And we do hereby Will, Direct, and Ordain, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for the time being, or, in his absence, the Dean of Guild of the said city, to administer the oath *de fidei administratione* to the said first managers; and the like oath, *de fidei*, shall be annually sworn by all the managers at their election in January, or in the first meeting where they assemble thereafter; and the said ordinary managers are hereby authorized and appointed to administer the oath *de fidei* to the treasurer and clerk, at their entry into their offices: And in case any of the managers, elected as aforesaid, shall refuse to accept of the office, and take the oath *de fidei*, or that any of them shall happen to die within a year after their election, the ordinary and extraordinary managers assembled, or any seven or more of them, may, and are hereby authorized to name another manager in the room of the person deceased: And the said managers are hereby further authorized to receive such further sums of money, lands, goods, or gear, as shall be given by any persons whatsoever to the use of the said corporation; and shall keep books for subscriptions, and such other books as they shall think needful for that purpose, and for all other purposes of the said corporation. Given at his Majesty's Court at Kensington the 25th day of August 1736, in the tenth year of his Majesty's reign.



Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh 1879-2003



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Original English text reproduced in 'The History and Statutes of The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh', 1778

# Charter of The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh