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*We care ...*



*President:* M.W. Bro. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT  
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C.  
GRAND MASTER

OPENING OF THE PERCY STILL WING, 1st DECEMBER, 1976

"... This new Wing, which is going to improve still further the excellent nursing and surgical facilities of the Hospital, represents a successful realisation of more than six years of work. Nevertheless, the responsibility of running the Hospital becomes increasingly onerous year by year as costs of every description are forced up by inflation and it is my duty to remind the Craft that the Hospital's continued existence depends not just on a sustained level of giving, but on a constantly increasing one.

I cannot pass on to the final stage of the operation without expressing publicly my gratitude to all who work in and for the Royal Masonic Hospital and to those who perform will make use of it a safe and speedy return to their homes and families."



# ... about you.

## *And your dependants*

Many thousands of Brethren and their dependants have benefited from the facilities provided by the Royal Masonic Hospital – YOUR HOSPITAL.

But many thousands more have not so far needed, or perhaps been fully aware, of what is available to every Member of the Craft, his wife, widow and dependent children.

So we thought it would be helpful to prepare this short guide to the Hospital and the facilities it offers, and to let you know how you can help to maintain what we believe to be the finest independent hospital in the country.

Some of the information could prove to be timely should you or your family need hospital treatment either now or in the future, so keep this booklet where it is easy to find.

Having read it, we hope you will understand and help to meet our continuing need for contributions to the upkeep of your hospital, for it is upon you as a Mason and your personal generosity that its future and the care of our patients depends.



*Front cover: The coveted Masonic Silver Buckle of a qualified State Registered Nurse, trained at the Royal Masonic Hospital.*

# REDEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION

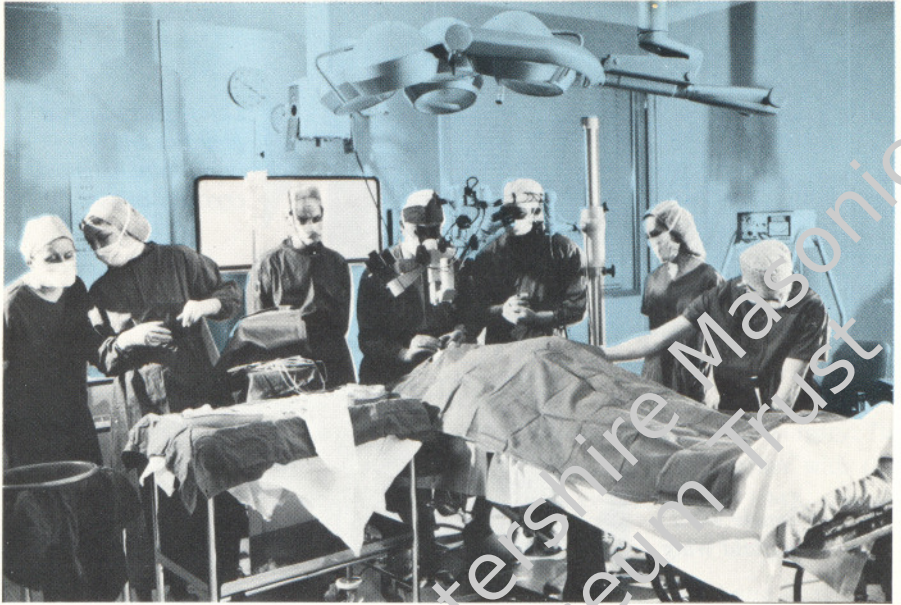
The Hospital was founded in 1911, but the present Hospital, situated at Ravenscourt Park, was opened on the 12th July, 1933, by H.M. King George V. Throughout the two wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45 it opened its doors for the treatment and care of personnel from the armed services.

With the introduction of the National Health Service Act in 1948, the Royal Masonic Hospital was exempted from its terms and so continues its work as the largest fully independent, privately maintained hospital in the country.

Subsequent to the establishment of the Hospital on its present site, various buildings and facilities have been added, the most notable being the Nurses' Home in 1938, and the Wakefield Wing extension, opened by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, in 1958. However, by 1968 general ageing of certain of the functional services in many of the older buildings had taken its toll and this combined with the rapid growth in medical technology necessitated a fundamental review of the Hospital's future needs. In consequence a modernisation and upgrading programme was undertaken, including the building of new Operating Theatres and Pathology Laboratories, an additional Surgical Ward, renewal of plumbing and electrical services, central heating and boilers, replacement of X-Ray machines, re-furbishing of old wards, etc. etc. The Board of Management is deeply grateful to all Brethren and their ladies, Lodges and Provinces who have given their time and generous support to help finance this most essential and worthwhile project.

The final result will be an independent hospital with a complement of 300 beds, embracing medical and surgical skills and technology second to none in the country and able to provide the best in care, attention and surroundings, which has always been and must continue to be our objective.





*Surgery in progress*



*Post-operative recovery area – Percy Still Wing*



*Latest pathological facilities enable immediate diagnosis cryostat in use*

*A female ward – Wakefield Wing*



*Providing complete laundry services for the Hospital and its patients*

*A wide choice of food – prepared under the most hygienic conditions*





## FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION

The hospital is classified as being for acute general medicine and surgery. Its Consultant Staff are at the top of their profession and this, together with the reputation of our own Nurse Training School which commenced in 1948, ensures that the care of the patient is of the highest calibre.

Modern theatres, coupled with up-to-date para-medical services and equipment in the fields of radiography, pathology, cardiography, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, etc. together with adequate space for the nursing of the patient, all support the comprehensive medical services this hospital provides.

The accommodation consists mainly of 4-bedded wards and single rooms, the latter being available for patients whose medical or surgical condition necessitates seclusion or demands isolation. A limited number of units with fully private facilities are also available for patients who so desire, in respect of which the total cost of maintaining the bed must be borne.

One of the most important features of treatment in the Royal Masonic Hospital is the happy and encouraging atmosphere which exists between staff and patients. It is particularly reassuring for patients to know that they are under the personal supervision of their Consultant, with whom they are free to discuss their case in a calm, relaxed environment.

Visiting hours are 14.30 – 19.30 daily for adult patients, and parents of children are usually able to visit at other times by arrangement with the Ward Sister.

# ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

Subscribing Freemasons, their wives, widows and dependent children, the latter ordinarily being understood to be those under the age of 21, still undergoing full-time education and wholly dependent on their parents, are eligible for admission to the Royal Masonic Hospital.

Of recent times, in order to comply with certain aspects of the Bagnall Report and to assist with the running costs of the Hospital, the Craft authorised the admission of a limited number of full fee-paying non-masonic private patients. Such patients are only admitted to beds not required by Brethren and under no circumstances does a non-masonic patient take priority over a member of the Craft.

## COST OF TREATMENT

Contributions towards treatment, accommodation and Consultants' services are assessed on a sliding scale basis in accordance with a Brother's circumstances in life. The assessment is related to household income but sympathetic consideration is given in the event of special obligations obtaining. Accordingly a fixed scale of contributions is not published here, but a Brother wishing to enquire about his particular case should contact the Almoner of the Hospital.

However, it is emphasised that no masonic patient is ever prevented from receiving treatment at the Hospital on financial grounds and in all cases monetary arrangements are confidential as between the patient and the Hospital authorities.

For those patients on a minimum income level, the cost of treatment or a proportion thereof, may be met from the Hospital's Samaritan Fund.

Many Brethren already subscribe to one of the major Hospital Insurance Schemes. This can be of real help and is to be encouraged.





*The Wakefield Wing, providing patient accommodation, and housing the School of Nursing, Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy Departments – opened on 10th December 1958*



*The Percy Still Wing incorporating four new theatres and pathology laboratories – opened 1st December 1976*

# ADMISSION PROCEDURE

This falls into three categories:—

## EMERGENCY ADMISSION

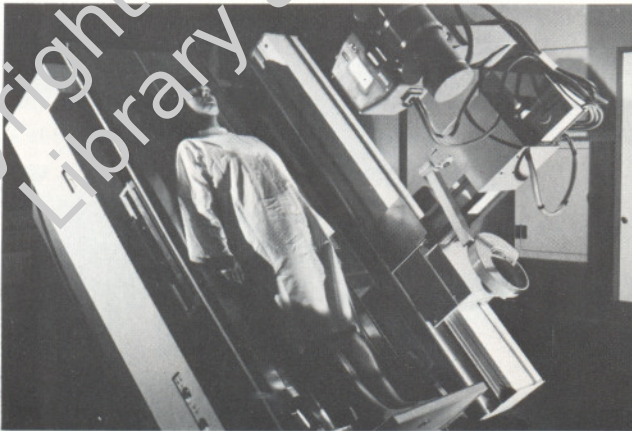
The Hospital has a full 24 hour emergency service, and in such circumstances all that is necessary is for the doctor attending the patient to telephone the Hospital (01-748-4611), giving appropriate medical information. In every case immediate admission is arranged provided the Hospital has the full facilities necessary for treatment of the particular condition, and that the patient is considered fit to travel the distance.

THERE IS NO NEED TO ROUTE THE ENQUIRY THROUGH A LODGE OFFICER — SUCH PROCEDURE CAN ONLY CREATE DELAY AND SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

A letter from the doctor must accompany the patient.

## URGENT ADMISSION

The doctor attending the patient should preferably telephone the Hospital with relevant details and this should be supported by medical particulars in writing for the information of the Consultant to be involved. Direct admission or an appointment would, under these circumstances, normally be arranged within 24 to 72 hours.



*Advanced X-ray equipment providing image intensification*



## NON - URGENT CASES

In these circumstances either the patient or a representative of the Lodge may write or telephone the Hospital in the first instance. A list of the Consultant Staff will then be forwarded direct to the patient, together with a printed medical report form for the doctor to complete and return in the envelope provided. Upon receipt of this medical form, it is usual for an appointment to be arranged for the patient to see a member of our Consultant Staff. Alternatively the doctor may write direct on his own notepaper and all letters from doctors should be placed in a sealed envelope addressed either to the appropriate Consultant or to the Director of Medical Services at the Hospital.

The Royal Masonic Hospital is not a casualty hospital and cannot directly accept patients requiring admission resulting from accidents or collapse occurring in the street. Such incidents must initially be admitted to the nearest Casualty Hospital. However, if in due course transfer to the Royal Masonic Hospital would be beneficial or preferable, such requests are always willingly considered upon receipt of a full medical report and the approval of the medical authorities in charge of the patient.

## OUT - PATIENT FACILITIES

These are available for purposes of X-Rays, Pathology, Physiotherapy, etc. and a Private Consulting Room Suite at the Hospital is used by many of the Consultants for initial examination purposes. Others will see patients at their private consulting rooms in London.



*Cardiac intensive care requires constant technical and visual patient supervision*



*Staff accommodation, Frank Douglas Court*



*Nurses' home and private garden, opened on 25th May 1938*



## SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Royal Masonic Hospital established, in 1948, its own School of Nursing which has since developed the highest standards of training, and which has made an outstanding contribution to the reputation and goodwill we have enjoyed for so many years. The School is housed in the Wakefield Wing and has excellent facilities including a complete training-ward, ample lecture and demonstration rooms, a well-stocked library, quiet rooms for study, and light and airy class rooms. Residential accommodation is available for all grades of nursing staff.

Of recent times arrangements have been completed in the interests of our Hospital for the formation of the Royal Masonic Hospital and Roehampton Joint School of Nurse Training to commence early in 1979.

Training programmes offered from 1979 will be for State Registration and State Enrolment.

## STATE REGISTRATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (S.R.N.)

The course takes three years (156 weeks) and covers the syllabus for the State Registered Nurse examinations for the General Register. During the three year training programme, periods of nurse training will be spent in each hospital to gain experience in all aspects of General and Specialist nursing care. The minimum education requirement is that the candidate should hold:

(a) The General Certificate of Education at Ordinary Level – Grade A B or C

or (b) The Certificate of Secondary Education Grade 1 Level.

A minimum of five subjects is essential, one of which must be English Language, English Literature or History. Preference will be given to those applicants holding good academic or science 'O' Level passes.

The earliest age of entry to the School of Nursing under General Nursing Council Rules is 18 years within 30 days after commencement of training.



*Reporting and briefing on patients takes place three times daily*





*Tutorial lecture Nurses' Training School*

### STATE ENROLMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME (S.E.N.)

A training programme for State Enrolment will commence in 1979. This is a two year (104 weeks) training period designed specifically for the practical rather than academic learner nurse.

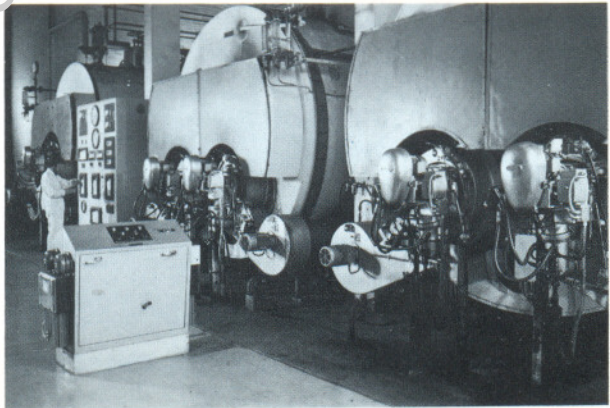
Prospective candidates for both S.R.N. and S.E.N. training should write or telephone to the Director of Nurse Education at the Royal Masonic Hospital who will be pleased to send full particulars.

*Hydrotherapy pool*



*Relaxed surroundings in the Department of Rehabilitation and Geriatric Medicine*

*Providing steam, hot water and heating is of prime importance*





# YOUR HELP AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

It will undoubtedly be appreciated from what you have read so far that the Hospital has upheld the highest traditions in fulfilling our three guiding principles:—

- (a) The well-being and care of our Brethren, their wives, widows and dependent children at the time of their medical or surgical need.
- (b) The availability of medical and surgical facilities second to none at a cost a Brother can afford.
- (c) Freedom of choice when treatment becomes necessary even for those in less fortunate circumstances.

If *you* also believe in these principles and in maintaining the Royal Masonic Hospital as fully independent for the benefit of the Craft, there should be no doubt of your continued support.

The Hospital has at present no Festival, but it is, nevertheless, hoped that all Provincial Grand Masters, Masters of Lodges, Brethren and their ladies, will make special efforts on our behalf in the years to come in order to help in meeting the ever increasing running costs.

Continuity of income for the General and Samaritan Funds is of the greatest importance and undoubtedly the most beneficial method of assuring the future of our Hospital is by Deed of Covenant.

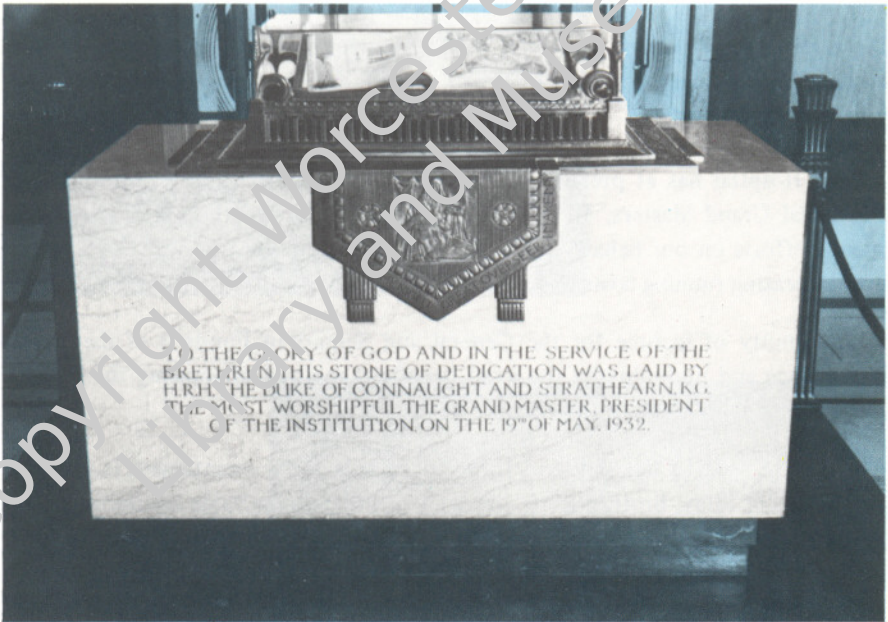
If our services to the sick and those in need is to be maintained, it should be necessary for every Brother to reconsider annually his charitable commitments and actively to do something to guarantee his generosity keeps abreast with inflation.

**The greatest gift with which we are blessed is that of  
good health, but regrettably most do not appreciate it  
until that gift has been lost.**

**R**ESPOND TO THE APPEAL

**M**AKE A GENEROUS DONATION

**H**ELP YOUR HOSPITAL - **Now**







*The Chapel*



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THE  
ROYAL MASONIC  
HOSPITAL