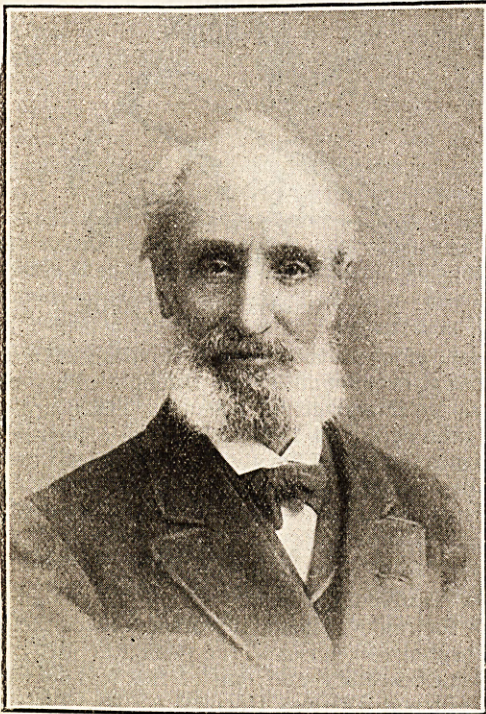


during a short visit as a journalist, he became interested in the establishment of the first hospital instituted on the "Cottage" system.

In two small houses in Bridge Street, the work of the Walsall Hospital was commenced under the superintendence of Sister Mary, of Middlesbrough. Two years later Sister Mary was succeeded by Sister Dora, whose work is familiar to many hospital workers, and during whose lifetime the hospital acquired a high reputation.

The claims of the hospital were ever the subject of Mr. Welsh's earnest pleading, and Walsall owes him a debt of gratitude for his share in establishing and administering an institution which has done so much for the town, and is carrying on increasingly useful work.

Up to the time of his retirement from journalism, some twenty years ago, Mr. Welsh had acted as honorary secretary of the hospital; he then accepted the position of secretary, and devoted his whole energies to the work. In 1907 he was presented by his many admirers with a handsome cheque, as a recognition of the long and useful



THE FOUNDER OF WALSHALL HOSPITAL

services he had rendered; since that date, though nominally continuing as secretary, he was, through ill-health, unable to take any active part in the work.

Mr. Welsh possessed an extremely wide knowledge of matters associated with hospital work; he was much interested in the provision of convalescent homes, and rendered some assistance in that direction. His latest desire, and one which he was not destined to see fulfilled, was the establishment of homes for rest for nurses, and he attempted, unsuccessfully, to get his idea carried into effect as a memorial to the late Miss Florence Nightingale. He was endowed with an attractive and interesting personality; he had read widely in many subjects, and possessed a retentive memory to the last. Almost up to the day of his death his energies were spent in humanitarian service.

## The Editor's Letter Box.

### A FOREIGNER'S VIEW ON ENGLISH COTTAGE HOSPITALS.

*To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.*

SIR,—Will you accept the best expressions of my sympathy for your critique contained in the last number of THE HOSPITAL against a recent book on "The Cottage Hospital."

I am a foreigner, reader of your newspaper, and I take the greatest interest to the hospital organisation in England. I paid visits to many hospitals in this country, both in towns and in small centers. Everywhere I had reason to feel quite amazed for the wonderful organisation of these charitable institutions, and my studying has strengthened my opinion, especially, I am glad to say, for the hospital of the small centers.

You will therefore understand how hurtled I felt when I had the misfortune of reading the book above referred to, and how grateful I am now to you for your severe judgement of it.

It is really a pity that this book has been written with so many precautions as to prevent any action for slander.

If you think that an uninterested opinion of a foreigner, admirer of all the forms of British charity will be of any use against the pernicious action of such a libel, I authorise you to publish these few lines on your paper.

Believe me, dear Sir, yours truly,

MARIO BALLARELLI, Rag.

Cardiff, January 29.

### THE HOSPITAL PAY OF SHORTHAND-TYPISTS.

*To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.*

SIR,—I asked my Board recently to advance the salary of our senior woman shorthand-typist. She started work in the office of a hospital (where the annual expenditure is nearly £40,000) six years ago, at a salary of £50 a year. The salary has advanced by £5 a year up to £80, and now it is to advance by two further sums of £5 a year to a *maximum* of £90 a year.

I shall be very grateful if some of your readers will inform me whether they consider £90 a year an adequate salary for an educated woman, who is an expert shorthand-typist? The hours are from 9.30 to 5 P.M. daily, except Saturday, when they are from nine to one, noon. I am, your obedient servant,

HOSPITAL SECRETARY.

### LITTLE HOMES FOR AILING CHILDREN.

*To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.*

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to an article appearing in your issue of January 6, 1912, on page 366, under the heading Byways of Medical Relief, "Little Homes for Ailing Children." I am desired to ask if you will be good enough to let me know the source whence you derived the information contained in the second paragraph of that article, as the statement is not quite in accordance with the facts. Thanking you in advance for a reply.—Yours faithfully,

M. STEPHANY,

Secretary Board of Guardians for

127 Middlesex Street, Relief of Jewish Poor.

Bishopsgate, London, E.,

January 15.

[We are informed that partly owing to the difficulties which present themselves in respect to food for Jewish children the home in question now admits children irrespective of creed, chiefly from the Southwark district, instead of confining its benefits, as was formerly the case, to children of Jewish parentage.—ED., THE HOSPITAL.]