

Planning a Dispensary for Children – the 19th Century Approach

Professor D G Young

Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, G3

In 1885, the Board of the Hospital for Sick Children, having opened the Hospital in 1882, appreciated the need for a Dispensary/Outpatient facility. They reported that they had purchased ground in West Graham Street, and indicated that the following would be required for accommodation.

The following as a general indication of the nature and extent of the accommodation required. Competitors must not accept this as necessarily complete in detail or as debarring them from any additions they may think advantageous.

1. Entrance Hall or Receiving Room with adjacent WC and Lavatory and Isolation Room for cases of suspected infectious.
2. Waiting Room or Hall with sitting accommodation for 150 to 200 adults. As each will be accompanied by children the space must be calculated accordingly.
3. Physician's Consulting Room with two room adjacent en suite. The presence of students in Consulting Room to be provided for.
4. Surgeon's Consulting Room with two rooms adjacent en suite. The presence of students in Consulting Room to be provided for.
5. A Specialist Room, suited for examinations and operations of oculist, aurist and dentist.
6. A Private Room for staff for consultations.
7. A Students' Room
8. A Dispensary
9. Store for surgical and other applicances
10. House for Caretaker
11. Bedrooms for two nurses and Sitting Room
12. Washing House and Laundry, suited for the requirements of resident staff.

To be arranged so as to promote the orderly circulation of patients from entrance to exit.

24th March 1885
