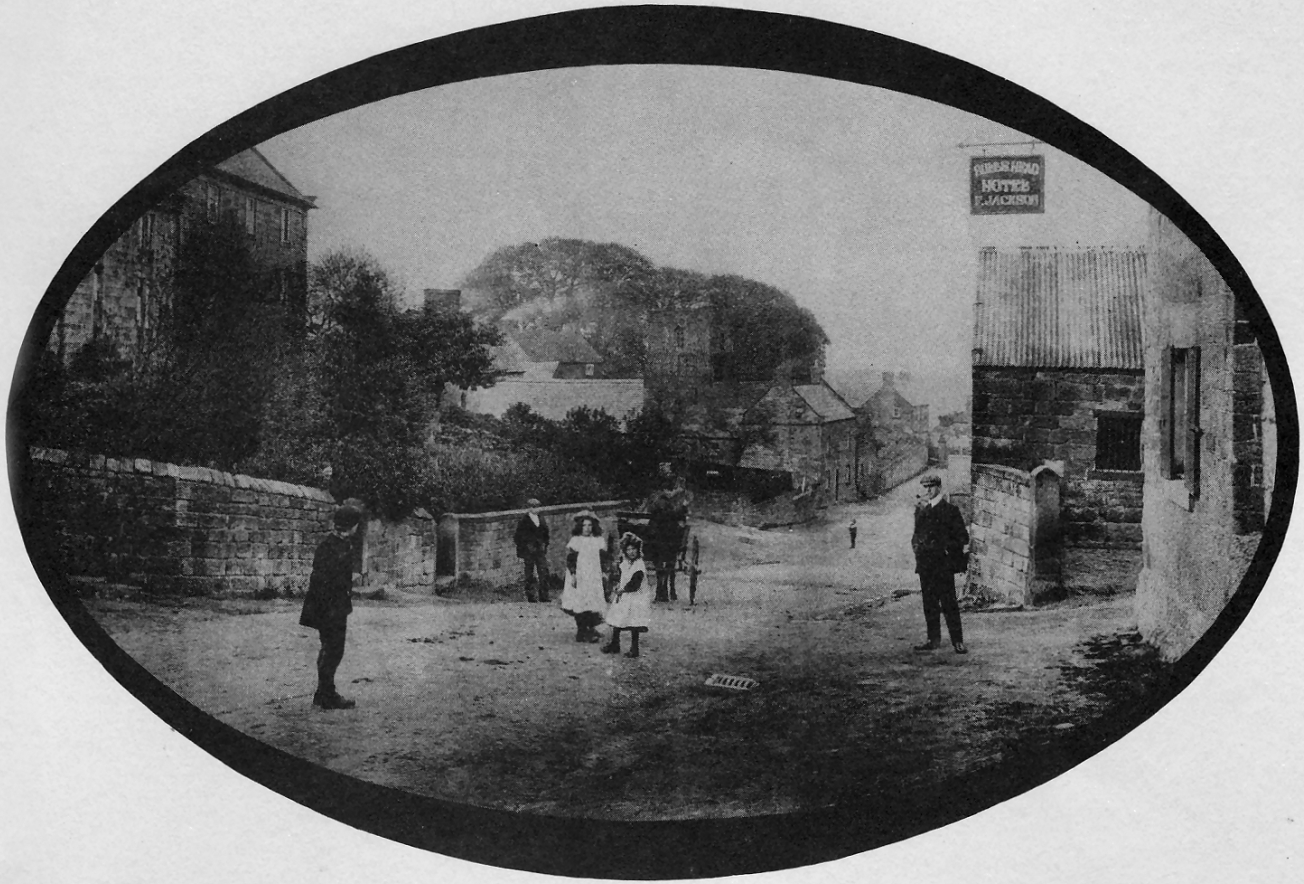


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KIRK IRETON near WIRKSWORTH

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DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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THE DERBY ELECTION OF 1722

(by Dr. Jeremy Black, Department of History, University of Durham)

Valuable light on the Derby election of 1722 is thrown by an hitherto unknown letter of William Stanhope, MP for the town from 1715 to 1722 and again from 1727 until 1730.

The account in the *History of Parliament* indicates no contest in 1722 and under Stanhope's biographical entry there is no reference to his position in 1722 bar the remark "Appointed envoy and then ambassador to Spain, he did not stand again till 1727"[1]. He was appointed envoy in 1717, ambassador in 1721.

The letter in question suggests, however, that Stanhope had stood. It was sent on 27 April (new style) 1722, ie 16 April in the British (old style) calendar, to Sir Luke Schaub, the British ambassador in Paris and it survives in volume 59 of the Hardwicke Collection in the New York Public Library. Stanhope noted that "the elections in England [were] going in general as could be wished" but he complained that he was not going to represent Derby "where I thought it was impossible for me to meet with any opposition. This usage though from little people and in a small affair, makes me reflect upon what may be expected from the greatest, and in greater matters, which is when out of sight to have all services forgotten, for certainly I did for that town the greatest they had to wish for, by making their river navigable".

In the election, held on 25 March (old style) 1722 Lord James Cavendish, the third son of William, 1st Duke of Devonshire, who had sat for the seat in 1701-2, 1705-10 and since 1715, and was to represent it until he accepted a sinecure in 1742, was re-elected, alongside Thomas Bayley, who owned property in the county. There was no contest.

Stanhope's letter suggests that he had put himself forward but had, as often happened, abandoned the attempt before the contest. Bayley did not stand in 1727 when Stanhope was elected. It is possible that Bayley, therefore, had been elected with the approval of the Stanhope interest, if not with that of William Stanhope. However, in 1748 Thomas Rivett, a townsman, was successfully elected in opposition to the candidate of the joint Cavendish-Stanhope interest, Thomas Stanhope.

Possibly, the events of 1722 were a precursor, an indication that the town was less controlled by the Cavendishes and Stanhopes than might appear and evidence that it was not prepared to have a diplomat MP unable to advance Derby's interests adequately.

1. R.R. Sedgwick (ed.), *The History of Parliament. The House of Commons 1715-1754* (2 vols, London, 1970) I, 224; II, 437

THOMAS POLE'S JOURNEY INTO DERBYSHIRE

(by Juanita Burnby)

Thomas Pole was a serious minded young Friend who left his native America on 1 May 1775 to visit his English relations and to examine the state of Quakerism in this country. He rode over 6,000 miles in the following two years before settling down to train as an apothecary and surgeon. Happily for us, in spite of his pre-occupation with Monthly and Quarterly Meetings he recorded in his diary the new sights he was seeing.

He entered Derbyshire for the first time on 30 October when travelling from Birmingham to Nottingham. They left by stage coach at 4 o'clock in the morning and after changes of horses at Burton-on-Trent and Lichfield came to Derby where he had dinner. He did not tarry long but hired a post chaise and was in Nottingham for 5 o'clock. His next visit was equally fleeting as he was en route from Nottingham to Sheffield via Chesterfield. After a long and difficult trip into some of the wildest parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire in the depths of winter, he crossed over the Pennines once more to come to Wakefield. From there he travelled in heavy slushy snow to arrive, wet through, once more in Sheffield. As before he stayed with John Hoyland.

With John Swannick he "went to see a Mill for the Manufactory of silk a little out of Town. I thought this one of the most curious pieces of machinery I ever saw; it consisted of 46,000 and some hundred Movements and the whole Works were turn'd by only one Water Wheel. There were about 250 persons employ'd in the Mill including Men, Women and Children. They were most of them singing which made so great a noise that we could scarce hear each other speak."

On 11 March the two men set out on a sight-seeing expedition. They reached Castleton at 1 o'clock, had dinner at an inn and then went to see "...the extraordinary Cavern call'd the Peak Hole. We entered a Rock 87 yards high by a spacious natural Arch being 14 yards wide and the same in Height. The Rock is perpendicular and of a flattish surface, partly cover'd with Moss and has a Romantick Look; at the Bottom runs a clear Brook from under the Rock. The Inside of the Cavern is considerably more spacious than the admirable Arch leading to it; there was a Dwelling House in it and 15 or 20 persons out of the House at Work in the Cavern. I observ'd a young woman standing at the Door of the House, who our Guide inform'd us was a Native of the Cavern and brought up in it. The People were chiefly employ'd in spinning Twine, Pack Thread, Ropes etc."

"The Floor of the Cavern is uneven, rising by Steps. At the farther end we came to a narrow and low passage where we were oblig'd to bend our Backs to a level, each carrying a Lighted Candle. The Distance from the First Entrance to a Brook which runs across this Passage is 115 yards, and the Brook is 14 yards over, arch'd with Rocks so near the surface of the Water that in crossing it in a little Boat somewhat resembling a Bathing Tub we are oblig'd to lay flat. On the other side is a larger Cavern, 40 yards high and 70 wide; But sometimes the Water is so high as not to admit passing at all."

"At the farther End of this Cavern is another Brook 10 yards wide, over which Travellers are carried upon the Man's Back who attends to show the Place, and then a third Cavern opens, the Top of which is too high to be seen from the Floor; in this Cavern is a continuous Dropping of Water, Winter and Summer, alluding to which it is call'd Roger Raine's House. Beyond this is another lofty Cavern call'd the Chancel where there is a kind of natural gallery 19 yards high; here many of the grand people who come to view this Place have a Number of Singers or a Band of Musick, the Sound being attended with an admirable Echo. In or near the Chancel is a Place vulgarly call'd the Devil's Cellar from whence is a Descent of 50 yards where there are three regular separate Arches six foot high. Beyond this is a very lofty Cavern where they say no top is to be found and so is named No Top. Opening into this is a smaller Cavern resembling a bell and is call'd Tom of Lincoln, alluding to the great bell of Lincoln said to be the largest in England. Beyond this Rock and Water close together. The whole length from the first Entrance is 750 yards. The depth from the Surface of the Ground above the Rocks (is) 207 yards."

Their appetite for caves not being sated they rode on to Buxton and arrived there at about dark and went immediately "...to see another famous Cavern call'd Pool's Hole from the name of the Person who first discover'd it. The Entrance was very different from that at Castleton being only about four feet high and twenty feet wide, but the Cavern is very spacious and abounds with Petrifications variously form'd from the continual trickling of water. They are various and beautiful but not easy to be described, though through the active Imagination of some they are thought to resemble divers things, the Flitch of Bacon, Pool's Shelf, Pool's Cellar, Pool's Saddle and Pool himself Petrified, the Haycock, the Lion, Queen of Scott's Monument etc."

"We went with some difficulty 4 to 500 yards into the Cavern, having Rocks to climb over which in some Places were very high. The whole length is about 5 to 600 yards and through out runs a Rivulet of clear Water, which roars among the Rocks and is attended with an amazing Echo. The Inside of this Cavern and that of Castleton was entirely dark after entering some Distance; the Custom is for each Person who goes to take a Candle and follow the People who attend to shew the Place. Here are six Families as we were inform'd who have their principal Maintenance by attending Persons to the Cave at Buxton but at Castleton I dont know of more than one. I have Reason to think the Families here are not very small from the Number of Children who petition our Charity."

They stayed in Buxton that night, and the next morning in spite of rain and cloud which discouraged them, they "... rode to Middleton over mountains and valleys, which exhibited a Variety of pleasing Prospects, particularly one narrow Valley call'd Middleton Dale which is about four to five miles long. The Mountains ascending steep on each side of the Road were beautifully cover'd with a particular fine kind of Grass or Verdant Moss, smooth as if roll'd; and the Tops of the Mountains were curiously adorn'd with projecting Rocks which had a romantic Aspect. The Tops of some and Sides of others were Cover'd with spreading Ivy which heightened the Beauty of this rural Scene. The Rocks were in various Forms, and some so square and regular as to appear like Fortifications, other rose pyramidically. In some there seem'd to be small Caverns. Many Lead Mines are found here which produce much ore and are

very rich. By the side of the Road was a Rivulet of Water which ran with a soft Murmuring through small Rocks and compleated the Prospect which was altogether the most pleasing I ever beheld. At the End of the Dale is the Town of Middleton where we din'd at an Inn."

They then parted company, Swannick to return to Sheffield, and Pole to continue on his way to Chesterfield where he stayed with Joseph Storr. The next day Thomas devoted to visiting Chesterfield's manufactories but does not give us any details. On 14 March he went to Week Day Meeting at which there were some fifteen to twenty people but it was not to his taste. "It was silent and to me very dull and heavy." He then mentions a name which is well known in Derbyshire. "I din'd at J. Storr's father's, where I had the company of my esteem'd Friend William Farebank of Sheffield."

In the afternoon Pole and Fairbank crossed the county boundary to arrive at Mansfield at 5 o'clock. Thenceforward his route lay southwards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to the Friends Library, Euston Road, London, for permission to quote from the diaries of Thomas Pole.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Back copies of 'Derbyshire Miscellany', price £1.75 each, can be obtained from Tom Larimore (address p37). The contents of some recent issues include:

- Volume II: part 3: *Will the real William Peverells.*
Post-Reformation Catholicism in Derbyshire.
The Cursing Woman.
An item of postal history - the Derby Earthquake of 1795.
The Diary of Robert Louis Wild.
The Crich Dumb-bells.
Domesday Waste and Derbyshire.
- Volume II: part 4: *Early enclosure at Melbourne.*
Notes on the History of Winster.
Thomas Nightingale of Lea, Lead Merchant.
Water at Over Haddon.
George Sitwell of Edington who died in 1607.
- Volume 11: part 5: *Castles of South Derbyshire.*
Parsonage Houses in the Derby Deanery during the Sixteenth Century.
Some Notes on the Chaddesden and District Association for the Prevention of Crime.
The Childhood Memories of William Hayes, Coal Miner and Methodist Minister.
- Volume 11: part 6: *Medieval holdings of Burton Abbey in Derby. Part 1: The Identification of the holdings of Burton Abbey.*
Captain Swing's activities in Derbyshire and the neighbouring counties: the agricultural riots of 1830-31.
Charles Osmaston.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THOMAS BENT, M.D.

(by Wendy Bateman

In eighteenth and early nineteenth century England there were three quite separate branches of medicine which were exemplified by the University educated physician, who practised physic as a liberal science; the surgeon, who trained by apprenticeship and practised a manual craft; and the apothecary who kept a shop[1]. Thomas Bent was a University educated physician who practised medicine in Derby from 1810, eight years after the death of the famed Dr Erasmus Darwin[2], until 1854, four years before he died at the age of 76.

Thomas Bent was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire on 20 June 1783, the fourth son of James Justyn Bent, M.D. and his wife Elizabeth[3] and was christened on 9 July 1783[4]. His father, who would appear to have been an extremely competent surgeon, had among his patients members of the Wedgwood family of Etruria, Staffordshire[5]. In the 1774 *Transactions of the Royal Society* James Justyn Bent had published a paper which dealt with the case of a farmer's daughter who had an abcess of the right shoulder[6]. Most contemporary surgeons would have amputated the arm but James Bent avoided this drastic treatment and successfully treated the girl. In a more noted case however he was unable to avoid the amputation of Josiah Wedgwood's right leg[7], but Wedgwood recovered sufficiently well to be able to conduct his business affairs only three weeks after the amputation[8]. James Bent served Wedgwood and his family for thirty years[9] and for some of that time, assisted by his younger brother William Bent, organised a private health scheme for Wedgwood's workforce at Etruria[10]. Nothing is known of the source of James Bent's M.D. nor of his other academic qualifications, but his son, Thomas, graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1807, the culmination of three years study at Edinburgh University[11]. Edinburgh was the first University in the United Kingdom to organise a faculty of clinical medicine - in 1726[12] - four of the first appointed professors having trained in the University of Leyden in the Netherlands[13].

What happened to Thomas Bent between 1807 and 1810 is not clear but on 3 May 1810 at a General Meeting of the Governors of the Derby General Infirmary, he was elected as one of the three physicians who were attached to the newly built hospital[14]. The following year on 7 October 1811 a further meeting of the Board resolved that "Two physicians being the number that now attend the Infirmary and the Board being of opinion that two are sufficient for the duties of the House - viz. Dr Forester and Dr Bent - the previous resolution of 5 April 1810 appointing three physicians was today rescinded to two, as named above"[15]. Thomas Bent was to remain on the staff of the Derby General Infirmary until 1854 during which time he also established a private practice in and around Derby.

Almost nine years later on 21 January 1819 the *Derby Mercury* carried the announcement: "On Tuesday the 12th instant at Childwall, Lancashire by the Rev. Richard Anderson, Thomas Bent Esq., of Derby to Mary Helen, only daughter of the late Thomas Rawson Esq., of Rose Hill"[16]. The wedding was followed

just over a year later, on Friday 31 March 1820, by the birth of Thomas and Mary's first child, Emma[17], who was christened at St Werburgh's Church, Derby on 27 April 1820[18]. Sixteen months later in the same church, on 6 August 1821, their son Thomas Henry was christened[19], but he was to survive only two years. Sad though this was, it was not as shattering as the death of Thomas Bent's wife, after a lingering illness "which she sustained with exemplary patience, fortitude and resignation[20]. Mary Bent, who was thirty-one years of age, was buried along with her son in St Werburgh's Church on 5 August 1823[21], a tablet to their memory being erected later on a pillar in the north aisle of St Werburgh's[22].

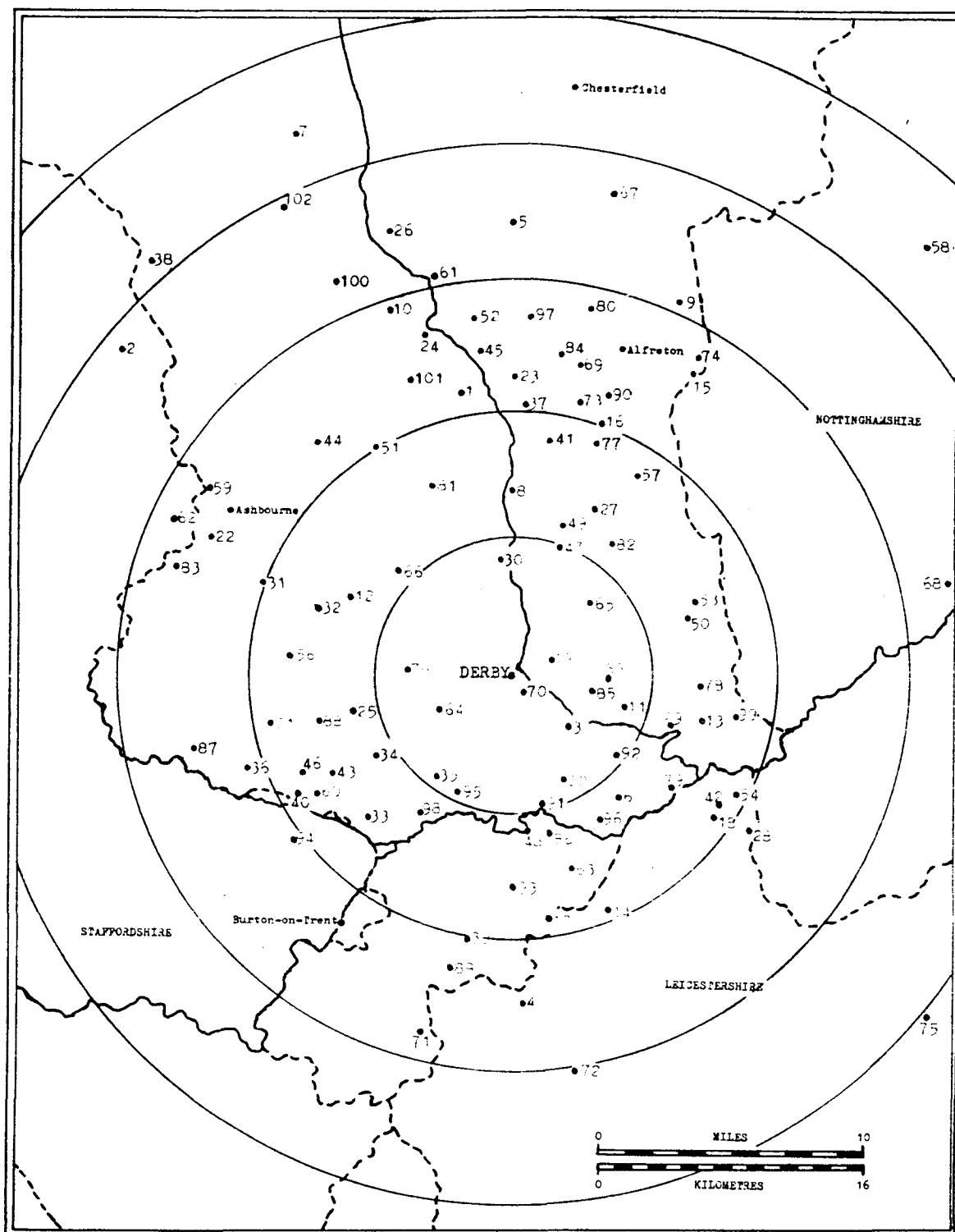
At the time of his wife's death Thomas Bent was living at 68 Friargate, Derby[23], from where he moved to 77 Friargate (the date is uncertain as most sources state only 'Friargate'), where he was to reside until his death in 1859. This handsome mansion, which later formed the Nurses' Home of the Derbyshire Women's Hospital[24], stood in 3 roods 34 perches of land and was liable to a tithe rent of eight shillings, which was payable to the vicar of St Werburgh's Church[25]. By 1829 Dr Bent was recorded as renting two extra parcels of land (626 sq yards) adjacent to this property, from the nearby Larges Hospital Charity, at an annual rent of £6 4s 0d[26]. Number 77 Friargate was a commodious house having a dining-room, library, drawing-room with ante-room, ten bed and dressing-rooms and servant quarters, a coach house, stabling for four horses, a saddle-room, a greenhouse, and private carriage entrance off Larges Street[27].

The 1841 Census of the Parish of St Werburgh shows Thomas Bent living on Friargate together with his daughter Emma and his two younger spinster sisters Eliza and Maria. Also living in the house was Eliza Rawson aged twenty-five, a relative. The Bent household was looked after by a butler and a groom, a cook, a ladies' maid, a housemaid and a kitchen maid[28].

Thomas Bent's daughter Emma died on 12 July 1854[29], at the age of thirty-four. She had been ill for some ten days and was certified as having died from rheumatic inflammation of the heart[30]. Two weeks after Emma's death her father resigned his office as senior physician to the Derbyshire General Infirmary, having held this position since the opening of the institution "now upwards of forty four years". The newspaper report continued "the loss of his eminent and valuable services will be greatly felt amongst all classes of society"[31].

Four of Dr Bent's medical casebooks provide details of some three hundred and thirty patients who were seen by him over a period of twenty-eight years[32]. An analysis of these casebooks suggests that Dr Bent assumed the majority of bodily disorders stemmed from an incorrect diet as, before making a diagnosis, he often required the patient to take an emetic and a purgative so that the contents of the stomach could be examined. Although he prescribed powders, pills and draughts he stressed repeatedly that a change in the patient's eating and drinking habits was essential. Mr Redshaw of Dalbury aged 63, consulted on 26 June 1820 with a two or three month history of abdominal pain, nausea and weight loss. In addition to drug treatment he was advised to eat boiled sweetbread with mustard and pepper, and beef tea with the addition of spice. Despite this treatment, Mr Redshaw died on 15 July 1820[33], the event being recorded in the *Derby Mercury*: "a man universally

FIG.1

A DISTRIBUTION MAP OF THE
PATIENTS OF DR BENT

1 Alderwasley	27 Denby	52 Lea	77 Ripley
2 Alstonfield	28 Diseworth	53 Little Hallam	78 Risley
3 Alvaston	29 Draycott	54 Lockington	79 Shardlow
4 Ashby	30 Duffield	55 Looke	80 Shirland
5 Ashover	31 Edlaston	56 Longford	81 Shottle
6 Aston-on-Trent	32 Ednaston	57 Loscoe	82 Snailley
7 Bakewell	33 Eggington	58 Mansfield	83 Snelston
8 Belper	34 Etwell	59 Mappleton	84 South Wingfield
9 Blackwell	35 Fildern	60 Marston on Dove	85 Spondon
10 Bonsall	36 Foston	61 Matlock	86 Stanton-by-Bridge
11 Borrowash	37 Fritchley	62 Mayfield	87 Sudbury
12 Brailsford	38 Hartington	63 Melbourne	88 Sutton-on-the-Hill
13 Bresson	39 Hartshorne	64 Mickleover	89 Swadlincote
14 Breedon	40 Hatton	65 Morley	90 Swanwick
15 Brookhill	41 Heage	66 Muggington	91 Swarkeston
16 Butterley	42 Hemington	67 North Wingfield	92 Thulston
17 Caille	43 Hilton	68 Nottingham	93 Ticknall
18 Castle Donington	44 Hognaston	69 Oakerthorpe	94 Tutbury
19 Chaddesden	45 Holloway	70 Okeaston	95 Twyford
20 Chellaston	46 Hoon	71 Overseal	96 Weston-on-Trent
21 Church Broughton	47 Horeley	72 Packington	97 Wheatcroft
22 Clifton	48 Ingleby	73 Pentrich	98 Willington
23 Crich	49 Kilburn	74 Pinxton	99 Wilesthorpe
24 Cromford	50 Kirk Hallam	75 Quorn	100 Winster
25 Dalbury	51 Kirk Ireton	76 Radbourne	101 Winkworth
26 Darley Dale			102 Youlgreave

Concentric circles at
5 mile (8 kilometre)
intervals

respected by all classes of society whose loss will be most deeply lamented by his family and friends"[34]. Mr Jephson of Nottingham suffered from "pulmonic disease" for many months before consulting Dr Bent on 9 May 1823. He was advised to take a good deal of passive exercise in the open air and to have nothing stimulating but a little meat at breakfast, the rest of his meals to be light and nourishing[35]. Mrs J. Dainty of Aston, for some eighteen months, suffered from lower back pain and Dr Bent advised her to change her diet. He suggested that her meals should consist of rice, gruel, biscuits and fish[36]. Mrs Orgill of Swadlincote, who had been in the practice of using fermented liquors and fortified wines, was to be allowed only a little rum and milk in the morning, two glasses of wine at dinner and little gruel with a tablespoonful of brandy in it at night[37]. Sometimes more strictly controlled diets were ordered as for Mrs William Eaton of Sutton. This lady had suffered a "slight attack of paralysis" one month before consulting Dr Bent on 24 June 1829, and another ten days prior to the consultation. She was said to be impaired in movement and speech. The application of leeches occasioned some relief but Thomas Bent went into great detail with regard to her diet:

The breakfast may consist of tea and dry toast, and occasionally cocoa oatcake baked thin...The bread should be two days old. Dinner (two days in the week) fish and pudding, another two days light (broth or vegetable soup with pudding). Twice a week only, beef or mutton with pudding and once poultry or game. Puddings to be made with sago, vermicelli or tapioca... Yorkshire or hasty pudding are also good. Tea may be taken in an evening with dry toast or oatcake that has been baked a day or two...for supper groat gruel is an excellent thing...a boiled or poached egg may be now and then permitted. For drinks, anything fermented should be left alone - balm teas with a little sugar and lemon peel and juice is a pleasant beverage...Raspberry vinegar and water or soda water if liked. Meals should be taken at regular hours and nothing eaten between."

Unfortunately we are not told if this diet was beneficial to the patient's paralysis[38]. A slightly less controlled diet was ordered for Mrs Palmer Morewood of Alfreton Hall[39]. This lady had suffered from indigestion and flatulence for some time before consulting Dr Bent on 17 January 1830 and also complained of "feeling the effects of being in company". She had sometimes had pains in her stomach for which she had taken opium and Dr Bent wondered whether she was in fact habituated to the opium. She was advised to regulate her diet by taking a little meat with cocoa at breakfast and oatcake; plain meat and game at dinner with a glass of sherry by itself afterwards. In November 1830 her symptoms were much the same and Dr Bent suggested she try a cup of cocoa before rising, with nothing more until eleven o'clock and then a mutton chop and a glass of sherry, with a meat dinner and little brandy and porter at night[40].

The first patient mentioned in the casebooks was the Reverend Mr Middleton of Melbourne, who was seen on 16 April 1811[41]. No symptoms, history or diagnosis were recorded for this rather eccentric gentleman[42] but some pills and lotion were prescribed which were obviously effective as the Reverend gentleman survived until 5 January 1831 when he died in his seventy-second

year[43]. In contrast, great detail was recorded regarding the history and symptoms of thirteen year old Samuel Smith who lived at Kilburn. He had suffered from abdominal pain and loss of appetite for some nine months and prior to consulting Dr Bent had been under the care of Dr Alexander of Leicester, Dr Fox of Derby[44] and "some of the faculty of Nottingham", without obtaining relief. One month after first consulting Dr Bent however, there was said to be "very considerable amendment"[45].

Miss Cheslyn of Langley Priory, a property mid-way between the villages of Diseworth and Tonge, in Leicestershire, was first seen on 5 November 1821 when she complained of "uneasy sensations, languor and listlessness". She was said to have suffered an "hepatic affection" two years previously for which the waters of Cheltenham were beneficial, but by 1821 was said to shed tears after being in any way agitated. Dr Bent recommended that Miss Chesslyn used flannel next to her skin, took a warm salt bath every second day and had a mild diet, "not altogether avoiding animal food"[46]. By 15 January 1822 when he visited again, Miss Chesslyn was said to have improved by following the recommended treatment but "want of caution" had then occasioned a recurrence of the former symptoms. Miss Cheslyn was seen again in March and twice in December 1822 by which time she was said to be in good health apart from some nervous excitability[47].

Mr Luke Alsop of Lea Hall, Holloway, near Crich had obviously been a patient of Dr Bent's for some time. He had suffered from "spasmodic asthma" for many years before a consultation on 9 November 1821 following two severe asthmatic attacks in a fortnight, but two weeks later he was reported much better[48]. Mr Alsop's daughter Catherine, aged thirteen, was seen on 15 July 1836 with a loss of power in her lower limbs. Dr Bent recommended a diet containing "animal food and a little wine", but recorded that she died about three weeks later[49].

Mrs Strutt[50] of Bridge Hill, Belper, seen on 22 November 1821, was said to be labouring under some depression of spirits "in consequence of family affliction": symptoms of a sense of weight and oppression on the chest were felt particularly in the mornings and were relieved by eating and taking wine at luncheon. There was very little improvement by 13 January 1822 when blood letting was performed which relieved considerably the uneasy sensations. At the same time Dr Bent prescribed a purgative medicine to relieve her "heaviness"[51].

Mrs Richards of Cosby Vicarage, approximately eight miles south-west of Leicester, was seen on 19 June 1823. She reported a slight infectious complaint the previous March which had left her with diminished strength and a lack of appetite, and by June she was feeble and feverish with uneasy sensations in the abdomen. It was suggested that she should have meat at breakfast and a little porter at noon and that she should go to the sea. Sea bathing was becoming an increasingly popular mode of treatment[52], but transport was difficult so Dr Bent advised the use of a warm salt bath, gradually lowered in temperature, and the use of a shower bath when her strength returned. On 2 August 1823, Dr Bent was informed by letter that Mrs Richards' excursion to the sea had been "attended by no benefit, that her weakness had in fact increased and that she had developed a cough with troublesome expectoration". A decoction was prescribed, and sponging with tepid vinegar and water was

recommended. The next entry, undated, stated that Mrs Richards died a few days after the previous letter had been received and the post-mortem examination, carried out by Dr Bent, showed tuberculous infiltration of the abdominal cavity[53].

Sir George Crewe was seen at Calke Abbey on 5 April 1827 with a recurrence of his gout and "imperfect respiration". Ten days later his symptoms were unalleviated and a purge of rhubarb was recommended. By 19 April Sir George was said to be improved in all respects and a diet of mutton, in chops or roasted, three times a day was recommended[54]. When next seen on 24 October 1835 Sir George was suffering from his customary pains which were more than usually bad, and was also said to be feeble and nervous[55]. Thomas Bent was his advisor throughout his later years[56], was present at his death on Monday 1 January 1844[57] and was also listed among the mourners at Sir George's funeral[58]. Not only were Sir George and Lady Crewe[59] patients of Dr Bent but also many visitors to Calke Abbey required his professional attentions including the Reverend Whitaker from Haslestone[60] and a Mrs Badcock and her child[60].

From an early stage in his career Dr Bent showed an interest in the mentally ill, and this continued throughout his career involving him in the establishment of the Derbyshire County Lunatic Asylum opened in 1851[62]. Mr Hodgkinson of Wirksworth was seen twice in December 1821 with a cold which was relieved by blood letting. However, shortly afterwards he became violent, incoherent and unmanageable and was said to be in a state of idiopathic insanity; the application of cold compresses applied to the head and mustard plasters to the feet resulted in some improvement in his condition[63]. On 18 March 1828 Dr Bent was called to see Mr Emery of Friargate, Derby whose mind was disturbed and memory impaired after a paralytic attack. His physical condition improved but not his mental state and by 28 July Dr. Bent was certain that Mr Emery was not in a fit state to give instructions for a will[64].

Mr Wilkinson of Hilcote Hall near Alfreton was initially seen on 25 October 1829 when his general health was described as satisfactory but he was nervous, restless and apprehensive[65]. He was particularly concerned about his dietary requirements and sometimes would not eat at all without specific directions from his surgeon and apothecary, Mr Griffin Spencer of Alfreton[66], and he preferred to stay in his room avoiding all visitors, in particular his son with whom he was not on good terms. When seen three weeks later on 16 November he was markedly deluded, being unable to maintain conversation. He was worried that he had insufficient money for his funeral expenses and even when given two hundred pounds by a friend who had fetched it from his bankers in Nottingham, Mr Wilkinson was still not satisfied and said it should have been more. By 13 December Mr Wilkinson was hardly any better, saying that he could do nothing for himself and that he had nobody to do anything for him. When seen on 22 February 1830 Mr Wilkinson had been staying at Kedleston[67] for a week but his general state was very much the same, and obviously remained so as on 28 January 1831 Dr Bent and Mr Spencer signed a certificate stating that Mr John Slater Wilkinson had laboured under severe depression for fourteen months, showed no improvement and was therefore considered to be "incapable of governing himself or managing his Estate"[68]. No further entries were made regarding this gentleman.

Just over four years later on 2 August 1835 Dr Bent received a letter from Mr D'Ewes Coke of Brookhill, near Pinxton, regarding his son Francis Lillyman D'Ewes Coke who was thirty-one years old. Francis D'Ewes Coke was sent back from the Isle of Man under the care of the captain of his father's yacht, as he was showing signs of "aberration of mind". For some weeks he had talked much of Princess Victoria to whom he had addressed letters and to whom he believed himself engaged to be married. He was in the habit of accosting strange females and entering strange houses asking for the princess, and had also written letters to Lord Melbourne, Prince Tallyrand and King Louis Philippe of France, relating to his supposed marriage. He also said that he heard voices and saw strange visions in the sky. Dr Bent organised the services of a Mr Brown to superintend young Mr D'Ewes Coke and obtained lodgings for him at "Quorn"[69]. On 22 August a Mr Walker, an attorney from Chesterfield, contacted Dr Bent hoping to obtain the patient's signature on a legal document but Dr Bent was adamant that he was not mentally capable of understanding what was required. The last entry regarding this patient was on 11 September 1835 at which time, although quieter in his manner, Mr Coke was obviously still under the influence of his delusions[70].

On 10 August 1836 at about eleven o'clock at night Dr Bent was called out by Douglas Fox a surgeon of 7 The Wardwick, Derby[71], to see his brother Francis Fox, M.D. and on arrival found him much excited, talking very wildly and acting so violently that he kicked Dr Bent in the stomach and knocked him backwards. When Dr Bent called again the next day Dr Fox refused to see him and called him a scoundrel for trying to suggest that he (Dr Fox) was insane. Dr Bent's opinion was that he was more fit to be confined than anything else but no note was made of the outcome[72]. However the *Derby Mercury* takes the story further. Francis Fox, a physician at the Derby General Infirmary, had written a letter to the Editor complaining about the treatment of some patients at the Infirmary, thereby criticising his colleagues[73]. This in addition to his illness led the Governors of the Infirmary to suggest that he should be replaced although Douglas Fox, a surgeon at the Infirmary, spoke on his brother's behalf[74]. However on 5 October 1836 the *Derby Mercury* carried a report of a meeting of the Infirmary Governors at which Dr Heygate was elected to replace Dr Fox[75]. Greater detail was given of patients with mental derangement than of any others in the casebooks and this reinforces Dr Bent's early and continuing interest in the mentally ill.

Although details of over three hundred patients were recorded there was no mention at all of charges to these patients for consultation or treatment. In his 'Dr Thorne' Anthony Trollope indicates that a physician should "regard his own pursuits in a purely philosophical spirit" although we are told that Dr Thorne charged seven shillings and sixpence a visit within a circuit of five miles[76] while it was customary for a London doctor to charge a guinea a mile for all out of town visits[77]. It is recorded that Dr Bent's father, James, "invariably charged five shillings for a domicilliary visit"[78] while a contemporary of Thomas Bent, Mr H.N. Thornbury, a surgeon at Denby, charged between two shillings and three shillings and sixpence for local journeys at the end of 1832[79].

Some patients appear to have been referred to Dr Bent by letter[80] but he travelled considerable distances to visit others such as Miss Broadhurst at Mansfield[81], Mrs Maynard Lucas at Chesterfield[82], Mr Mason a surgeon at

Burton-on-Trent[83], Mrs Pratt at Packington[84], Mrs Desne at Alstonfield in Staffordshire[85] and, as previously mentioned, Mrs Richards at Cosby, Leicestershire[86]. The map (Fig 1) shows the extent of the places of residence of some of the patients of Dr Bent throughout Derbyshire and in the adjoining counties. These journeys cannot have been easy, particularly during inclement weather.

The section of road from Shardlow to Brassington was the first in the county to be turnpiked, in 1738[87] and during the second half of the eighteenth century other major roads through Derbyshire were also turnpiked but as John Farey wrote in his *General View of the Agriculture of Derbyshire* in 1817 many roads still remained unsatisfactory to the traveller. Some were said to be "very crooked, hilly and uneven ... and rendered very narrow in numerous instances, by the progress of inclosures on their sides"[88]; others had "tremendously sudden or steep hills in the public Roads which have long been the terror of Travellers, and too many of which yet remain"[89]; although Farey did describe some roads in the county as "pretty good"[90].

Thomas Bent, during the twenty-eight years covered in his casebooks, built up a private practice over a large part of Derbyshire and reaching into the adjoining counties. He presumably travelled either on horseback or by pony and trap at all seasons of the year, possibly using the services of his groom[91] for the longer journeys. During this same period he was working as a physician at the Derby General Infirmary as well as being involved in the Corporate, intellectual and social life of the town.

Until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Acts of 1835, Derby was administered under the terms of the Charter of 1662-83 (34 Charles II). By this Charter the governing body of the town consisted of one Mayor, nine Alderman, fourteen Brothers and fourteen Burgesses, these thirty-eight persons forming the Common Council[92]. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 stipulated that Derby was to have a Mayor chosen by the whole Council yearly, twelve Alderman, chosen by the Councillors, each serving for six years[93] and not less than thirty-six and not more than forty-two elected councillors[94]. The first public Council elections in Derby took place on Saturday 26 December 1835 when six booths were erected in the Market Place, assigned for the voters of the six Wards of the Borough and polling took place between nine o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon[95]. Thomas Bent, who had previously been a member of the Common Council[96], gained one hundred and ninety-four votes and was elected as one of the six members of the Council for Friargate Ward[97]. At the first meeting of the new Town Council on 31 December 1835 Thomas Bent was elected an Alderman, initially for six years[98], and was also appointed to the Salaries, Fees and Compensations Committee and the Gaol Committee whose function it was to oversee the conditions of the borough prisoners in the County Gaol[99]. Dr Bent remained a member of the Town Council until his death in 1859 and although never elected Mayor of the town he did occasionally chair Council meetings in the Mayor's absence[100]. Apart from membership of the Council Committees responsible for the Brook Course Nuisance[101]; Estates[102]; Fees and Compensation[103]; the Local Board of Health, Sewerage and Construction Section[104]; Derby Burial Board[105]; the Derby Museum[106]; Baths and Wash-houses[107]; and the Derby Arboretum[108]. Thomas Bent was also appointed to serve on Special Committees looking into the possibility of forming and main-

taining a Town Fire Brigade[109]; the establishment of a new Gas Company in Derby[110]; establishing a Town Water Works[111] and the setting up of a Reformatory for boys[112]. Clearly he was involved in many of the innovative schemes proposed by the new Corporation.

On 3 August 1843 a Special Council meeting was held to record the events of 16 September 1840, the day on which the Derby Arboretum was opened[113]. This special meeting was necessary as the Council records had been destroyed in the fire at the Town Hall on 21 October 1841[114]. Eleven acres of land in Litchurch township had been donated by Joseph Strutt for what he intended to be the free use of the townsfolk and on this land John Claudius Loudon created England's first specially laid out public park[115]. Twenty-one trustees, among them Thomas Bent, were appointed to oversee the construction of the Arboretum and to ensure its preservation for "those who will enjoy and profit by it, and who will take an interest in its permanence"[116]. Celebrations at the opening continued in the town for two and a half days and were repeated annually for the next thirty years or so[117].

Thomas Bent was a member of the Derby Philosophical Society, of which his father had been a non-resident member (along with members of the Wedgwood family) in 1787[118]. The Society met in rooms in St Helen's Street, Derby and had as its object the promotion of scientific knowledge, by occasional (usually monthly) meetings, conversation and lectures as well as by the circulation of books. By 1846, when Thomas Bent was President of the Society, it had about forty members and possessed an extensive and valuable library of approximately four thousand volumes as well as mathematical and philosophical apparatus and specimens of fossils. Eleven years later in 1857 when Thomas Bent was again President, membership of the Philosophical Society had fallen to nineteen[119] with the consequence that in the following year the Society amalgamated with the Derby Town and County Museum[120]. As Vice-President of the latter he was clearly an instigator for the amalgamation of the two bodies.

The Town and County Library and Newsroom was first established in 1835, taking over from the Derby Permanent Library established in 1811 on the premises of Messrs. Wilkins and Son, Queen Street[121], which by 1820 had 5000 volumes[122], in premises at 11 Full Street[123]. Thomas Bent was a member of the founding Committee of the Library and Newsroom, and in 1836 in the same premises was established the Derby Town and County Museum[124]. By November 1836 the *Derby Mercury* reported the Museum as "beginning to assume a very encouraging appearance; and bidding fair to surpass in a few years the most sanguine hopes of its early friends". The report went on to say that the rooms at Full Street were already "small and too dark"[125]. In 1840 the Museum moved to the newly erected Athenaeum building which offered a more central position and larger rooms[126] and where bi-monthly conversaziones were held, where papers were presented and tea and coffee served[127]. In January 1858 Thomas Bent was made Vice-President of the Town and County Museum and appointed to the Committee set up to discuss the amalgamation of the Museum, Library and Philosophical Society[128] and in the autumn of that year the Museum and Library were moved to the spacious mansion in the Wardwick, formerly occupied by Mr Lockett. The amalgamation of the Societies was celebrated by a soiree, held in the Lecture Hall, on 20 January 1859[129].

Thomas Bent was also a Vice-President of the British Archaeological Association, which held its eighth annual meeting in Derby in August 1851[130]. During the six days of the Congress, besides meetings, presentation of papers, dinners and a public breakfast, excursions were made on four days into all parts of Derbyshire by train, omnibus, carriage and other conveyances[131]. Ninety-four members travelled by special train on Tuesday 19 August to South Wingfield Manor, Hardwick, Bolsover Castle and Chesterfield, leaving Derby Station at eight in the morning and returning at nine o'clock that evening[132]. Bent was also listed as a Vice-Patron and Honorary member of the Derby and Derbyshire Horticultural and Floral Society prior to the Spring Show in April 1835[133].

As might be expected Thomas Bent was already a member of the Derbyshire Medical and Surgical Society by 1830[134], from which date he was a Medical referee for the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Company operating from their premises at 12 North Parade, Derby[135]. On Thursday 6 November 1851 a meeting of medical practitioners was held at the Town Hall, Derby to establish a Midland District Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association when it was decided that the Midland Branch should cover the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. Following the inaugural meeting at which Thomas Bent was elected the first President of the Midland Branch, the greater part of those present adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where an excellent "ordinary" (a meal provided at a fixed charge) had been prepared for them[136].

At the eighth annual meeting of the Derbyshire County Lunatic Asylum in 1859 the Superintendent Physician of the Institution, Dr John Hitchman, recorded his deep sense of loss at the death of Dr Bent. He went on to describe the involvement of Thomas Bent in the establishment of what is now the Pastures Hospital saying that he had been an indefatigable member of the Committee, was desirous that the Asylum's farm and garden should be made subsidiary to the cure, rather than the cheaper maintenance of the patients, and wished that all departments should reflect the same energy and skill. To secure these objectives Bent studied the works of the best writers, corresponded with the Medical Superintendents of Asylums and personally visited and investigated the workings of some of the chief Lunatic Asylums in England, to make himself acquainted with their excellencies and defects. Dr Hitchman concluded by saying that the views of Dr Bent on lunacy matters were both benevolent and comprehensive[137]. The site for the hospital at Mickleover was purchased in 1844 and the first patient was admitted on 21 August 1851[138]. Thomas Bent was on the Committee of Visitors of the Asylum, which catered for up to three hundred patients, from its opening until 1858[139].

Throughout his working life Thomas Bent financially assisted a number of causes within the town. In 1851 he contributed £15 towards £1,000 needed to build a new Lodge, and to erect a commemorative statue as a Testimonial to Joseph Strutt in the Derby Arboretum[140], while in 1857 he donated £25 towards a new glass and iron building (a "miniature Crystal Palace") also to be built in the Arboretum[141]. He bequeathed a further £200 towards the "enlargement or improvement" of the Arboretum in his will[142]. In March 1856 at the end of the Crimean War, the subscription list for Public Rejoicings shows that Thomas Bent contributed £5[143]. At a meeting which discussed the celebrations he suggested a fireworks display and treats for the children and

old women in the town[144]. In July 1857 he donated one guinea to the Derby Ragged School[145]. This school, opened in 1849 to give "Scriptural and useful education to poor children too destitute and naked for admission to Parochial schools", was entirely supported by voluntary contributions, and by 1857 needed a new and larger building for which subscriptions were invited[146]. In January 1858 Bent contributed £5 to the Derby Soup Fund[147]. Two months earlier, in November 1857, the Mayor of Derby, John Gilbert Crompton[148], had invited subscriptions to this fund which was set up "in consequence of the prevalence of distress amongst the operatives of the town, arising from the partial suspension of employment in the different branches of trade[149]. The Fund was used to set up two Soup Kitchens in Derby, one in Ford Street and the other behind the Town Hall. At the first distribution of soup on 1 December 1857 two or three hundred gallons of soup were served to the poor at one penny a quart[150]. a total of 43,187 quarts of soup being distributed during the first season[151]. In 1858 Dr Bent's name figures along with those of his sisters in a list of principal subscribers to a new vicarage for St Werburgh's Church[152]. One of Dr Bent's last acts was the presentation of a "munificent" donation of £50 to the Derby Museum[153].

Thomas Bent's involvement in the Borough's affairs and his concern for the public extended over most of his life in his Town. In August 1823 he, along with some eighty other inhabitants of the borough, signed a petition to the Mayor asking for additional accommodation for markets in "this rapidly increasing town"[154]. In October 1830 another petition was organised, again signed by Thomas Bent, asking the Mayor to address the Sovereign on the subject of the abolition of slavery[155], while in March 1831 he signed another petition and spoke at a meeting supporting Parliamentary Reform[156]. This system of public participation in politics was again used in November 1850 when a petition and meeting were organised by the Protestants of the town to protest at the recent appointment by the Pope of Catholic prelates within England[157], and again in March 1856 when Dr Bent spoke at a public meeting against the heavy Borough Rates and caused some dissension among those present[158]. Also in 1856 a public meeting was held to find ways of preventing the use of climbing boys in sweeping chimneys. An Act prohibiting their use had been passed in 1842 but this was largely ignored and boys of as young as five were still being used in 1856, and a nine year old boy was sold for this purpose in Derby by his mother for twenty shillings a year. Dr Bent spoke at this meeting and a motion was agreed that henceforth only machines should be used in sweeping Derby's chimneys. A demonstration of the use of these machines was also given at this meeting[159]. One month later in January 1857 Thomas Bent signed another petition, this time requesting Parliament to reduce Income and Property Tax or to totally abolish Income Tax "which presses so heavily and unfairly upon persons in receipt of precarious incomes"[160]. However he is not listed among those present at a public meeting on this subject held one week later.

The death of seventy-six year old Dr Bent occurred on Wednesday 27 April 1859 when he committed suicide[161]. At an inquest held on 27 April 1859 by the Derby Coroner, Mr James Vallack[162], Charles Holdcroft, Dr Bent's butler, gave evidence stating that he had been employed in that position for about ten years. He said that Dr Bent had been ill for four or five weeks prior to his death and that during those five weeks his master had been at times delirious and his condition had deteriorated up to his decease. The butler was in the

habit of sleeping in Dr Bent's room during the latter's illness and on the night of 26 April 1859 went to bed as usual at about half past ten. Charles Hopcroft woke at about half past one, sat up at the foot of the bed and said "Your head's very low, sir" but received no answer. He got up and found Dr Bent in a sitting posture in the middle of the bed with his head leaning forward between his knees. There was a great deal of blood on the bedclothes. The butler then called Joshua Wright, his fellow servant, to his aid. Together they lifted the body and found a razor in one of the doctor's hands. Thomas Bent was quite dead. Wright then went to fetch Samuel Wright Fearn the surgeon from his house at 4 Full Street[163], who came immediately. In his evidence at the inquest Samuel Fearn stated that he had attended Dr Bent professionally during the whole of his illness, which had commenced early in December 1858. The patient suffered much from difficulty in breathing, occasioned principally by valvular diseases of the heart, and for many weeks had dropsical symptoms. Mr Fearn said that in the early part of his illness Dr Bent had suffered very much from want of sleep and for some weeks had hardly slept at all. Towards the end he slept only under the influence of opiates. For many weeks he had at times experienced delusions especially in the night, fancying persons in the room had broken into the house and had even got out of bed to attempt to turn them out of his bedroom, and at times his delirium was such that it was difficult to restrain him. The surgeon stated that he had seen his patient twice daily and had found him not so well the previous day as before. When called at two o'clock in the morning of 27 April 1859 he found Dr Bent dead in bed as described by the butler and on examining the neck of the deceased Mr Fearn found a gaping wound four or five inches long on the left side of the neck. This wound had divided the principal blood vessels so that the surgeon had no doubt that death was almost immediate and that Thomas Bent died by his own hand, destroying himself in a fit of temporary delirium. The jury returned a verdict that "the deceased cut his throat in a state of temporary delirium brought on by disease"[164]. Thomas Bent was buried at Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby on 2 May 1859[165].

On Wednesday 4 May 1859 the quarterly meeting of the Derby Town Council was held under the chairmanship of Mr Alderman Madeley. At this meeting reference was made to the lamented decease of Dr Bent and a tribute was paid to his memory, his "ability, judgement and earnest desire to promote the welfare of the town" being admired. Mr J.G. Crompton, appointed an Alderman in the place of Dr Bent, then feelingly alluded to the loss which the town had sustained by the death of Dr Bent, whose disinterested services in promoting the prosperity of Derby he (Mr Crompton) hoped "in some humble measure" to imitate[166].

On 13 May 1859 the Will of Thomas Bent was proved in the District Registry attached to Her Majesty's Court of Probate at Derby[167]. He left the whole of his household goods, furniture, plate, linen, china, glass, books, wine and spirits, horses, carriages and harness equally divided between his sisters Eliza and Maria. His dwellinghouse, outhouses, lands, his messuage and shop at the Market Head in Derby in the occupation of Mr Carter and all other lands and real estate, he left to Eliza and Maria Bent and Arthur Rawson. The property at the Market Head in the occupation of Mr J.L. Carter was a china shop opened in 1850[168].

Thomas Bent's two spinster sisters survived him, Maria dying on 8 January 1868 aged seventy-seven years[169] and Eliza on 27 August 1870 aged eighty-one

years[170]. Both these sisters are buried in the Bent grave at Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby. In her will Eliza Bent left all her real estate, personal estate and effects, apart from a few small bequests, between her nephew George Edward Rawson of Stuffynwood Hall, Shirebrook, in the county of Derby[171], Gentleman, and Helen Maria Rawson, spinster, her niece[172]. The property at 77 Friargate, with its contents, was sold at auction on Friday 7 October 1870[173] to William George Wheeldon, Esq.,[174] and in August 1924 was purchased by the Committee of Management of the Derbyshire Hospital for Women[175]. The house was retained but altered and converted into a Nurses' Home, the roof being raised in order to improve the rooms on the top floor with the wards being built onto the garden side of the house, furthest away from the traffic on busy Friargate[176]. The new hospital was opened on 12 October 1928[177].

From his arrival in Derby by 1810 until his death in 1859, Thomas Bent was increasingly involved in the many aspects of town life. He served as a physician to the Derby General Infirmary for forty-four years, and his retirement was said to be "greatly felt among all classes of society"[178], and concurrently established a busy private practice within Derbyshire and its environs[179]. Intellectually he became involved with a number of Societies, professional, academic and social and at some time was President or Vice-President of most of them. *The Collections Towards Biographical Notices of the Worthies of Derbyshire* by John Joseph Briggs includes a brief account of the life of Thomas Bent and states that many institutions "unostentatiously benefitted by him"[180], while as an ex-Officio Poor Law Guardian, as a representative of the Derby General Infirmary Board of Governors at the Derby Poor Law Union meetings[181] and as a Committee member and Hospital Visitor to the Derbyshire County Lunatic Asylum[182], he displayed great concern for his less fortunate fellow citizens within the Borough. This concern was also evident during his many years as an Alderman, Burgess and Magistrate within the town.

From the study of the three hundred and thirty patients recorded in his case books it is evident that although only the early period in his career is covered, Thomas Bent was involved in the medical care of some of the more prominent members of county society. However, aristocratic families such as the Mundys of Markeaton, the Manners of Haddon and the Cavendishes of Chatsworth do not appear and one wonders whom these families employed as medical attendant. Could it perhaps have been Richard Forester Forester M.D. (1771-1843) whose mother was in fact related to the Mundy family[183]. Dr Forester was a contemporary of Dr Bent at the Derby General Infirmary, they being two of the first physicians appointed to that institution[184], while Dr Forester, a bachelor, was also deeply involved in the corporate, intellectual and social life of the town[185] and may have been a mentor to the young Thomas Bent following the latter's arrival in Derby.

Thus it may be seen that although Thomas Bent was not a native of Derby, being born in Staffordshire and acquiring his medical training in Edinburgh, once settled in the town he became thoroughly involved in all aspects of life within Derby, and continued to contribute in some measure up to his death in 1859 at the age of seventy-six.

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- 38 DLSL MS 3370 p87.
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- 48 Ibid, p18. However the *Derby Mercury* of 23 June 1831, p3, c1, contained notice of his death.
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LOCAL HISTORY SECTION LECTURES - WINTER 1989-90

- 27 Nov *Dissent in Derbyshire* by Margery Tranter
 19 Jan *Ockbrook and the Moravians* by Ann Hope
 9 Feb *Chellaston Alabaster and its Monuments* by Howard Usher. AGM

Ideas for lectures or outings are always welcomed by the Local History Section Secretary, John Heath. His address is 16 Paddock Close, Castle Donington, Derby, DE7 2TW (tel Derby 810878).

CLOTS, CLODS AND BOTTLEWANDERS - your replies

(by the Editor)

Keith Reedman's short article in the last edition of this periodical arguing that the term "clots" and "clods" can be equated with seeds has evoked several helpful reactions. This is very gratifying: it shows that at least some of our subscribers actually read this publication and also that it retains its occasional role as a forum for the exchange of ideas for people working on Derbyshire local history.

Margery Tranter and Peter Cholerton each made informative replies putting forward roughly the same alternative explanation for the terms. Both support the view that in most instances they refer either to roughly ploughed ground actually sown with a winter or spring crop or to ground in a "cloddy" state soon to be seeded. Mr Cholerton has produced a histogram in support of this theory to show that in his analysis of Chaddesden inventories 1684-1750 the term is most frequently used in March and December, fitting in with the incidence noted in Long Eaton. Keith Reedman now concurs with this explanation.

Mrs Tranter's view of the term "bottlewander" is based on the dialect and Scandinavian verb to "wand" meaning to wattle, interweave or plait. For medieval what's-my-liners therefore, a bottlewander was someone who clothed bottles in wickerwork, such "wanded" bottles being used for transporting various kinds of liquid.

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The '*Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal*', published annually, contains articles on all aspects of the county's archaeology, history and architecture. It is free to members of the Society.

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