

BROUGHTON DOCTORS.

1384

Notes written by Mrs. Barbara Aitken. 30/10/57.

Mrs. Frank Lansley says that the younger Dr. Fox attended at her birth and died the same year. Her mother Mrs. Knight told her that the doctor who preceeded Dr. Fox senior was Dr. Gutch. Her elder sister, Miss Ellen Knight remembers a Dr. Figgins, probably an assistant.

Gutch -- Fox, father and son -- Clapperton -- Cusse -- Wortabet -- Fitzpatrick -- Hobbs -- Parr. Also Cusse--Hobbs-Parr.

Dr. Clapperton lived in the house at the top of Paines Lane (Norman Court property then, much later bought by Mr. Morgan Hinwood, a tenant of it). Before that, Dr. Clapperton lived for a short time in the house beyond Miss Leigh's where Davis the ex-coal-merchant lives. (Could it be that the corner house was being renovated then for his occupation and the roof slated ?)

Mrs. Lansley cannot say certainly that any doctor lived there before Dr. Clapperton - the Fox's lived at St. Mary's House and afterwards at St. Mary's Cottage - but there was a general idea that it was "the doctor's house" and a joking derivation of the name Paine's Lane from that circumstance. (The lane was in fact named from a woman called Paine who kept a little sweetshop in her cottage there).

Dr. Cusse who succeeded Dr. Clapperton also lived there until the scandal, whereupon the owners gave him notice to quit. He sold his practice to Dr. Hobbs, and he and Mrs. Cusse lodged with Mr. Charlie Hinwood at the house in Paine's Lane where Mr. Collier now is, until the Baptists let the old Baptist Manse to him. There he (very irregularly) resumed the practice which he had sold to Dr. Hobbs, who in consequence used to be spoken of as " the gentry doctor" only or mainly.

Dr. Cusse, in spite of his eccentricities, kept and extended his great reputation as physician and as surgeon, as became him as a favourite pupil of Lister. Until shortly before 1928 he used to ride on his rounds. In his earlier time there was little sending of cases to hospital, he used to operate in his tiny surgery and in patients' houses. His funeral was an impressive sight - the crowded church - grateful patients assembled from miles around. He sold to Dr. Wortabet, and Wortabet to Fitzpatrick who sold to Dr. Hobbs, the practice being thus reunited.