

William Brooke

Born: 1769
President: 20 Feb 1826 -1827
Died: 1829

William Brooke was born in 1769 in Granard, County Longford. His father, another William Brooke, was the rector. He was educated by his father and mother, Elizabeth Young, before studying for an arts degree in Trinity College Dublin. He then travelled to Edinburgh where he graduated in medicine.

Brooke returned to Dublin in 1793 when he was conferred with a Licentiate of the College, which was subsequently followed by Fellowship in 1824. In the same year he was awarded MD *honoris causa* by Trinity College. Two years later, in 1826, he became President of the College.

Brooke was well regarded by both the public and his fellow doctors because of his kindness, professionalism and personality. He lectured in Jervis Street Hospital and published case reports on hydrocephalus, melaena and liver failure.

His contribution to the College included the formation of the Association of Licentiates and Fellows of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland in 1816. The aim of the Association was 'for the purpose of more intimately uniting the members of the College, and for the advancement of Medical Science'. Brooke kept the minutes of the Association, organised the monthly meetings, supervised the publication of their transactions and contributed to the establishment of a significant library. An associated dining club met at 6.00 pm and there was a fine for those who arrived late. On reflection of his career and character, it is understandable that he was well regarded and became College President, given his contribution to medical care during his time as well as his commitment to ensuring that doctors met and discussed issues of relevance to the day.

Brooke married Angel Perry, who was from Monaghan, and they lived for many years in Cumberland Street, not far from the Rotunda Hospital. He died in 1829 and is buried in St. Thomas's Church. On his death the Association erected a memorial to him in St. Thomas's Church, and presented his portrait to the College. The library of the Association, including many books donated by Brooke, was transferred to the College Library in 1850 at the winding up of the Association.

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