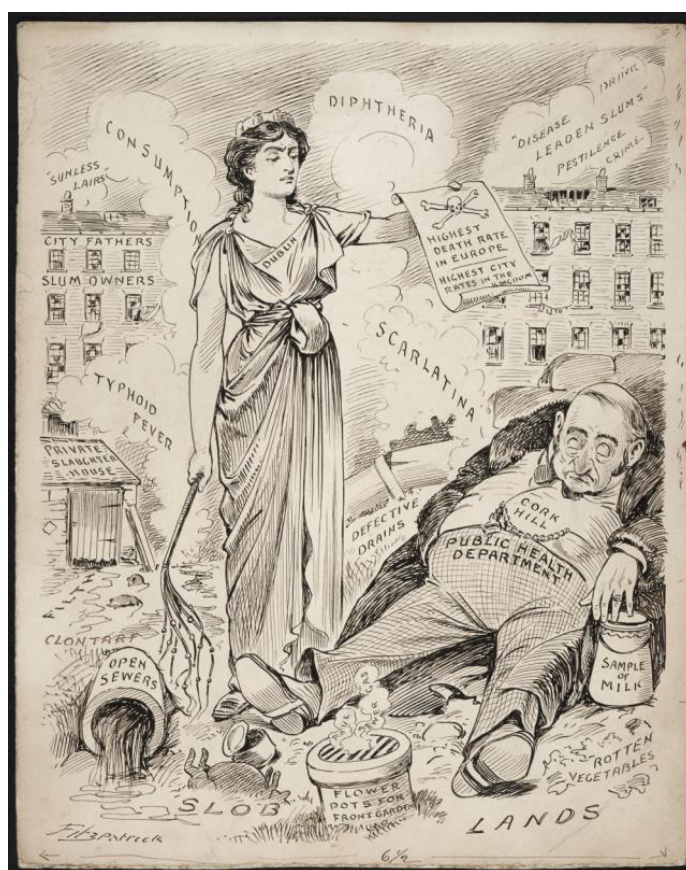




ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS
OF IRELAND

Thomas Fitzpatrick Cartoons

ACC/2013/6



Cartoons, by Thomas Fitzpatrick, relating to public health concerns in Dublin and/or Sir Charles Cameron.

Catalogued by Fergus Brady
April 2015

TF
Thomas Fitzpatrick public health cartoons

**1908-1911
Collection**

Extent:

7 items

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

The cartoons in this collection relate to public health concerns in Dublin and/or Sir Charles Cameron.

Sir Charles Cameron (1830-1921) was born in Dublin, the son of a Scottish army officer and Irish mother. Cameron first worked in the laboratories of the apothecaries Bewley & Evans, before studying medicine in Dublin and Germany. He had a number of hospital and teaching appointments including Professor of Hygiene and Political Medicine (1867-1920) and Chemistry (1875-1920) both in Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, of which institution he was also President.

Best known for his contributions to hygiene and public health, Cameron was the first public analyst for Dublin (1862-1921). He used the powers granted under the Adulteration of Foods Act (1860) to close unhygienic slaughter houses and condemn diseases/unsound food. He was also Dublin's Medical Officer of Health (1874), medical superintendent officer of health (1879), and chief sanitary officer (1881). He was responsible for numerous reforms in public health administration, especially in the provision of public housing. He understood the importance of adequate sanitation and undertook measures to improve the water supply and drainage, introduced widespread sanitary inspections, provided free disinfectant, and trained female sanitary officers to educate the poor in domestic hygiene. During this time the death rate from infectious diseases in the capital declined from 9 per 1,000 in 1879 to 1.3 per 1,000 in 1919.

Arrangement:

Items are arranged in ascending numerical order, according to the original drawing number.

Administrative History:

Thomas Fitzpatrick (1860-1912), was a cartoonist, illuminator and magazine publisher. Fitzpatrick trained at the Cork colour printing and publishing firm Messrs. Guy. On completing his apprenticeship he moved to Dublin, where he worked as a lithographer. He also began

contributing cartoons to the press under the tutelage of John Fergus O'Hea (Spex) and worked as a book and magazine illustrator. Fitzpatrick went on to be one of the most prominent cartoonists for nationalist papers. He contributed to the satirical magazine 'Pat', the 'Weekly Freeman', the 'Irish Fogaro', the 'Irish Emerald', 'the Nation', 'Punch', the 'New York Gaelic America', and was chief cartoonist in the 'National Press'. In 1905 he launched his own satirical magazine, 'The Lepracaun', which he edited and drew most of the cartoons and illustrations for. According to Walter Strickland in his Dictionary of Irish Artists (1913), it was in 'The Leprecaun' *'in which his best and most humorous work is to be found'* He showed much fertility of invention and happy humour and had a keen eye for social abuses and hypocrisy in public life, which he never hesitated to expose with keen satire; but though he dealt unsparingly with public men, there was a humour and kindly spirit underlying his work which never left a sting behind it.

Acquisition:

Donated by Matthew Russell and Fr John Russell, in memory of their parents, Dr Matthew J Russell and Dr Angela G Russell. The cartoons originally belonged to Dr Matthew J Russell, who was assistant to Charles Cameron as Dublin City Medical Officer of Health for many years, and succeeded him in the post on Cameron's retirement in 1921.

Matthew and Fr John Russell have also donated a number of other public health related material to the collections (ACC/2012/1, ACC/2014/2, ACC/2017/3).

References

Helen Andrews, 'Sir Charles Cameron', *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010)

James Curry and Ciarán Wallace, *Thomas Fitzpatrick and The Lepracaun cartoon monthly* (Dublin, Dublin City Council, 2015)

Related Material

Russell Ephemera Collection (RE) - Ephemeral items, collected by Drs Matthew and Angela Russell, mainly relating to public health in Dublin, 1890s-1950s

RCPI's archive hold a number of other items relating to Sir Charles Cameron, most notably a partial fee book (TPCK/6/2/3) and a charcoal sketch by Frank Leah (RCPIP/44).

Access:

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines.

Reproductions:

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines.

TF/1

Cartoon 210 - Cream of the Valley, Registered Dairy

Undated

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration of an incident at a dairy, depicting an overweight farmer being led away by a stern magistrate.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the adulteration of milk with water was a common problem in Britain and Ireland. Demand was high in the cities for milk, and rich farmers were seen as adulterating their milk with water to make higher profits at the expense of the working classes. In 1860 a bill was passed in parliament to try to curb the practice of adulteration of foodstuffs. Sir Charles Cameron was one of the few public analysts in Britain and Ireland, and in this role he was particularly active in sampling milk for adulterations. In the 1860s he tested five times the number of milk samples as the rest of the UK put together.

TF/2

Cartoon 219 - In loving memory of Bull Alley

June 1908

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration of a scene at a slaughter house in Bull Alley, Dublin.

Unhygienic dairy yards and slaughter houses were common in the Dublin slums, and added much to the public health problems in the areas. The owners of these formed a powerful lobby in resisting attempts to reform the areas, some even being members of Dublin Corporation and so having a vested interest in stopping sanitary reforms. The slaughter house man in the cartoon is telling the Corporation sanitary inspector that his boss might well be a member of Dublin Corporation soon, and that he could use that position to remove the inspector from his position. Bull Alley was one of the worst slum areas of the Dublin Liberties at the end of the 19th century, and between 1891 and 1915 the Iveagh Trust cleared much of the worst accommodation and replaced it with new affordable housing.

TF/3

Cartoon 222 - Registered Dairy

**February
1908**

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustrations of a scene at an unhygienic dairy yard.

The problem of unhygienic dairies and contaminated milk was acute in this period. In 1878, 67 cases of typhoid fever occurred in Fitzwilliam Square and surrounding areas.

Cameron was able to trace the outbreak to a dairy where two cases of the disease had occurred, and the spread to contaminated milk. The Lancet stated that this research would be a 'classic case'. As the cartoon shows a number of diseases could originate from unhygienic dairy yards including tuberculosis (the white plague), consumption, measles, smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever.

Cameron was active in campaigning for improved conditions in dairy yards, and was probably partly responsible for the decline in numbers of such yards from 1,100 in 1886 to 226 in 1914.

TF/4

Cartoon 264 - Highest death rates in Europe

**December
1908**

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration which shows that Dublin has the highest death rates in the Kingdom (UK) and in Europe. This is a version of 'Dear, Dirty Dublin. Wanted a Public Health Department', a cartoon published in 'The Lepracaun Cartoon Monthly' in December 1908.

Against a background of disease-ridden and decaying slums (some owned by 'City Fathers' - members of Dublin Corporation), an outraged Miss Dublin serves a notice upon the slumbering Public Health Department which states that Dublin has the 'Highest death rate in Europe'. She carries a cat-o-ninetails to whip him into action. The problems facing the Dublin slum dwellers are outlined: disease, defective drains, open sewers, crime, slaughter houses, and contaminated milk. The risk of contagious diseases such as consumption (T.B.), diphtheria, and typhoid fever spreading to the rest of the city made middle-class readers anxious for rapid reform.

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration which shows a scene in 'Sloblands Park', an place in which environmental damage is extensive: trees have been cut down, rubbish is 'shot', and typhoid is rampant. In the background there are gravestones bearing the names of 'Waterford', 'Belfast', 'The City of Limerick', 'Derry' and 'Cork'.

Three figures are depicted in the foreground. The figure on the left is Charles Cameron, who holds a placard stating 'Charley your (sic) my darling'. This corresponds closely to the name of a traditional Scottish song, 'Charlie is my darling'. This may have been a deliberate reference to the fact that Charles Cameron's father was Scottish.

The figure in the middle appears to be a Lord Mayor. He is holding a placard stating 'Sweet little buttercup'. This seems to reference the opera 'H.M.S. Pinafore' in which an unpleasant and quick-tempered character, Poll Pineapple, is given the ironic nickname 'Little Buttercup' by the rest of the ship's crew.

The figure on the right is a Comptroller of Rates, who holds a placard stating 'Oh woodman spare that tree'. This is a song by George Pope Morris in 1837 in which the lyrics protest against the destruction of the environment.

TF/6

Cartoon 288 - The Corporation Unemployed

**February
1910**

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration entitled 'The Corporation Unemployed', which was printed in 'The Leprecaun' in February 1910. The text under the title states that 'During the recent snow in the city the streets were neglected for days. We venture to offer the above suggestion.'

The foreground shows members of Dublin Corporation going to work in the freezing cold with a sweeping brush, spade and shovels. Their implements show their job titles - Lord Mayor, town clerk, medical officer of health, comptroller of rates, and (member of) cleansing committee - and their annual salaries. This depiction suggests that Corporation members should be clearing snow from the streets, as a useful return for the wages they are paid. Ordinary members of the public are shown in the background with a banner that states 'Give us work for our wages. We are starving'.

On the flipside there is an enlarged version of this image, which is minus its title and text.

TF/7

Cartoon 290 - Cameron freedom of the city

**[February
1911]**

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Thomas Fitzpatrick, 1860-1912

Description:

Illustration which depicts Charles Cameron, who has been bestowed with the freedom of the city, as a guardian angel of the schoolchildren of Dublin. Cameron is depicted with a quill pen in his right hand and a piece of parchment in his left which states 'Address to Chas A Cameron. Freedom of the Dublin'. Cameron is surrounded by celebrating schoolchildren.

This illustration may date from February 1911, when Cameron was bestowed with the Honorary Freedom of Dublin.