

Ezekiel Nesbitt

Born: 1712
President: 1753-1754, 1763-1764
Died: 1798

The son of a clergyman, George Nesbitt from Mount Charles, County Donegal, Ezekiel Nesbitt was educated privately at Raphoe. He entered Trinity College Dublin when sixteen years old and was awarded Bachelor of Arts in 1732, Doctor of Medicine from Leiden in 1734 and the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Trinity in 1740.

In 1741, he was admitted as a Candidate to the College of Physicians and proceeded to Fellowship in 1746. He was elected President on two occasions, in 1753 and 1763. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of College in 1765.

It would seem that he was primarily a physician in private medical practice working in Bath, Somerset. In 1747, his marriage to the Lady Crofton, who had a fortune of £1,000 per annum, was listed in *The Occurrences of Bath*. He had quite eclectic interests with subscriptions to journals devoted to celestial cartography, the flora of London, gardening, bathing, Irish history and shells.

There is, however, limited information regarding his practice of medicine in Ireland. Most is known about his association with the Dublin Lying-In Hospital. In 1759, he was appointed Physician to the Rotunda Hospital on the recommendation of Bartholomew Mosse who founded the hospital and was the first Master. At this time, Mosse was gravely ill and endeavours by many physicians had been ineffectual. Unfortunately, Nesbitt's ministrations to Mosse were also unhelpful, and Mosse died some weeks after Nesbitt's appointment as physician.

In 1774, the Secretary of the Board of Governors wrote to Nesbitt, who had been residing in Bath for ten years, to ask if he intended to come again to Ireland. His letter of resignation as physician to the hospital was received some weeks later, and his resignation accepted.

He died in the city of Bath in 1798.

MBH



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