

## Charles Phillips Croker

**Born:** 1793  
**President:** 1836-1838  
**Died:** 1870

Charles Phillips Croker was born in 1793. He was from a prominent family in County Cork. His father was Edward, the elder son of Walter Croker of Curryglass; Charles's mother was Thomasina, daughter of the Reverend Charles Phillips, rector of Magoorney near Nadrid. Charles was educated at Harrow.

He attended Trinity College Dublin and obtained a BA in spring 1819, MB in 1822 and MD in 1840, all from Trinity College. He became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians in July 1826, Fellow in October 1828 and Censor in 1835. He was elected President in 1836.

On Saint Luke's day 1836, the day Croker was elected President, the College censors selected the following subjects for examination for every candidate for a License to Practice Physic: botany, acute diseases, anatomy and physiology, the 'non-naturals', materia medica, chronic diseases, chemistry and pharmacy; surgical diseases and midwifery were added to the list of subjects the following year. Later in Croker's presidency it was agreed that the Censors be requested to hold the examination for the Licentiate in the Latin language. His presidency also saw the restoration of the by-law of 11 July 1694, which fined Fellows of the College for non-attendance at the meetings of the College.

In June 1837, the College discussed the several provisions of a proposed Bill for better regulation of hospitals, dispensaries and other charities in Ireland, which was then in progress through Parliament. It was agreed that the College take the 'most efficient means to procure the insertion of a clause rendering it imperative that the governors of each county infirmary should elect two medical attendants, the one a physician, the other a surgeon'. Evory Kennedy (qv) was appointed to go to London to watch the progress of the Bill and use every influence to induce Lord Monteith to give efficiency to the resolution which had just been passed. The College also believed that if medical inspectors were appointed, then at least one of the inspectors be selected from each of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland. Those Colleges would not otherwise possess the influence they should enjoy in the guidance and management of the medical officers of the country. The question of the College's influence on medical institutions was a constant issue of Croker's presidency. The College noted its gratification that Edward Litton Esq MP had adopted its views on the propriety of attaching physicians to the larger hospitals and infirmaries of Ireland.



Croker was elected governor of Dr Steevens' Hospital on 4 July 1840 and on the same day appointed Assistant Physician to Sir Henry Marsh (qv). He continued to act as Assistant Physician till 1856, when he succeeded Marsh as Visiting Physician, a post which he retained till he died in 1870. In the Dublin Hospital Gazette 15 February 1861, his appointment as Consulting Physician to the Rotunda Hospital was announced. He was also Physician to Swift's Hospital and the Hospital for Incurables.

Croker, during the time he was a Consulting Physician in Dr Steevens' Hospital, retained a certain number of the medical beds under his care, while the position of the Consultant Surgeon was purely honorary. For as long as Croker had the charge of any patients in the hospital he was entitled to a share of the fees paid for clinical instruction; and these fees he returned each year to the Medical School committee as a contribution to their prize fund. During the early days of the school it was customary to distribute the prizes to the students at a special function at the opening of the winter session when some distinguished citizen or governor of the hospital was asked to preside. In 1868 the Lord Mayor of Dublin occupied the chair and on several occasions the Lord Chancellor presided.

Croker married Elizabeth Pyne in November 1830; but she died in January 1832. He resided at 7 Merrion Square West in Dublin where he died on 11 January 1870.

TC

