SHEA
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology

Volume 41, No 1

ICHE

SIR JOHN PRINGLE

JANUARY 2020

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2019.356 Published online by Cambridge University Press

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INFECTION CONTROL & HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

cambridge.org/ICHE

An Official Publication of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology **(ISSN 0899-823X)** is published monthly by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA.

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Communications should be addressed to the Editor, *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 (email: iche.managingeditor@cambridge.org. Contributors should consult the Instructions for Contributors, which is available at the journal's Web site.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 USA.

About the cover:

Since 2015, the cover format of each volume of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* has been changed to honor one of the many professionals throughout history who recognized not only how disease might be spread but also how those principles could be applied to reduce healthcare-associated infections.

Sir John Pringle (1707–1782) was born into a prominent Scottish family. He initially studied the classics and philosophy followed by 1 year of medical study at the University of Edinburgh. He planned to leave medicine for a mercantile career. While in the Netherlands, Pringle met Boerhaave, and his interest in medicine was re-energized. He received his medical degree in 1730 from the University of Leyden. In 1734, he assumed a chair in the Faculty of Arts in "Pneumatical and Ethical Philosophy" and practiced medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

At the age of 35, Pringle was appointed surgeon to the British Forces, which had formed an alliance with the Habsburg Dynasty against France. In 1745, as Physician General of the Army, Pringle played a role in assuring the humane treatment of prisoners of war and neutrality for military hospitals hundreds of years before the Geneva Convention and the formation of the Red Cross.

In 1748, Pringle returned to London and published his experiences in military hospitals. He recognized that hospital fever and jail fever were spread from person to person and that both syndromes were due to typhus. He mandated that prisoners be washed, that their clothing burnt, and that clean clothes be provided at public expense. He understood that hospitals were a major cause of patient sickness: crowding, filth, and lack of hygiene facilitated the spread of disease. Decades before Florence Nightingale, Pringle advocated for fresh air, cleanliness, and hygiene. He observed that fomites contaminated with body fluids, like bedding, spread sepsis. He adopted microscopy and understood that the mites he saw caused scabies. Many years before Lister and Semmelweis, Pringle used acids and distilled spirits to reduce the spread of sepsis, and the first use of the term "antisepsis" was attributed to him.

During his lifetime, Pringle was recognized for his work as President of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), Member of the Academy of Sciences, and receipt of the prestigious Copley Gold Medal. He was made a Baronet in 1766 and physician to the King in 1774. By 1780, he retired from medicine and returned to Scotland, but the cold climate did not agree with him. Pringle returned to London, but not before he gifted 10 volumes of his Medical and Physical Observations to the RCP (Edinburgh) with the understanding that they would never be published or lent out. He died 4 months later.

The major advances in infection control that Pringle made to the field have too often been attributed to others, and few reminders of him survive to this day. His birthplace was demolished and his grave destroyed during World War II; 2 paintings remain. A memorial to Sir John Pringle can be found in Westminster Abbey albeit in Poets' Corner; this location is ironic, as one friend noted that an inadequate appreciation of English poetry was one of Pringle's few failings.

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