People News

Milford

Richard Fowler was born in London in 1765, but studied medicine in Edinburgh and graduated in September 1793 as a doctor.

In 1796 he moved to Milford, Salisbury where he spent the rest of his life.

He was elected as an Honorary Physician to the Salisbury Infirmary where he held the position till 1847. He practised medicine in Salisbury for 60 years where he was greatly thought of.

He was a friend of William Nightingale, father of Florence. She spoke to Richard about the possibility of her training as a nurse at Salisbury Infirmary. At that time nursing was considered only for menial working classes. Her mother though it was a bed of immorality between nurses and surgeons. So Florence Nightingale never came to Salisbury Hospital. But later on she did advise on the extensions of the Infirmary at the request of Sidney Herbert.

He was also elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1802 and often took part in the meetings of the British Association which called for attendance at meetings in Aberdeen which he was still doing in his 94th year. He died in 1863 at the grand age of 98.

In his lifetime he published a few books:
Observations on the Mental State of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb.
The Physiological Processes of Thinking, especially in Persons whose Organs of Sense are Defective.
On Literary and Scientific pursuits as conducive to Longevity.

In 1860 he founded the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum in St. Ann's Street, Salisbury (now in King's House in The Cathedral Close, Salisbury)