

Wilton Lying-in Charity

The following paragraph is inserted from a hope that similar charities might become general throughout the country, especially when it is considered how much comfort is afforded at a comparatively small sum.

The Wilton Lying-in Charity owes its origin to the one established in the city of Salisbury: it commenced Jan. 1808, since which time 546 women have been relieved at an expense of £144 8s. 11d.

A basket is lent for a month, containing necessary articles; on the return of which the mother receives a frock, petticoat, and a yard of flannel for the child, if living.

Within the last few years, one hundred of coals [sic] and a pound of soap have been added.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 5 January 1824

OPC Note:-

The Lying-In Charity Programme was established in London in 1757 to assist poor married women to give birth at home with less risk to the health of the mother and new born. Essential items were loaned for one month and on their return other essential articles were handed to the mother to continue their well-being.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2016/Maureen Withey