

## Mary Melicent Hine 1838-1928

### Nurse benefactor

Melicent was born in Nottingham, she was the eldest daughter of architect T C Hine. According to her obituary she was inspired to become a children's nurse when working with the poor in St John's parish Leen-Side and went on to train at St Ormond Street.

She joined the Anglican order of nuns at St Lucy in Gloucester and became a sister and later the nurse in charge. In 1869 there was the Great Sanitary Commission with medical staff coming to understand the connection between bad sanitary conditions and ill health. Children were generally looked after in adult wards and so Melicent bought and donated a house on Postern Street – no 3 – with gifts and donations from friends and supporters; to set up as the Free hospital for sick children.



It later moved to Forest House off Mansfield Road. There was concern about an Anglican order taking over nursing and in 1871 the Sisters of St Lucy withdrew their services to be taken over by another Anglican order – the Community of St John the Divine. In 1874 the Governors made less religiously affiliated nursing arrangements. Melicent's obituary headline recalls her founding of the Children's Hospital.