



**ROYAL ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE IN IRELAND**

Setanta House, 2nd Floor
Setanta Place
Dublin 2
Telephone: +353 1 633 4820
Facsimile: +353 1 633 4918
Website: www.rami.ie

History of Medicine Section

**Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 6.15 pm
Geoffrey Burke Room, First Floor, Setanta House
Setanta Place, Dublin 2**

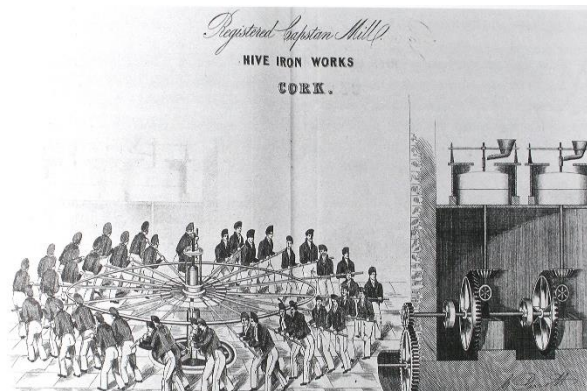
The Workhouse of the South Dublin Union

Davis Coakley

Emeritus Professor of Medical Gerontology at TCD and formerly Consultant Physician at SJH



The Night Nurse's Home



Capstan Mills were used to grind corn

The lecture will discuss the formation of the workhouse system in Ireland with particular reference to the formation of the workhouse of the South Dublin Union in 1840. It will describe conditions within the workhouse and its role during the Famine. After the Famine the workhouse developed into what was described as a 'vast hospital for the destitute and sick poor'. There were complaints about the standard of care, and the governors responded by inviting nuns from the Mercy order to reform the institution. During the Easter rebellion of 1916 the workhouse was occupied by the 4th Battalion of the Irish Volunteers and two battles were fought in the grounds during Easter week. In the early 1950s, the South Dublin Union was extensively refurbished and became St Kevin's Hospital. In 1971 St Kevin's Hospital became St James's Hospital.

All Welcome, particularly students