

Cart. 16 – (1929-1930) Cat 9 Cl.2 Fas.2

[I am assuming that this is a speech written for the Mayor (*podestà*) of the Comune of Lerici at the handover of the *asilo* from the Cochranes to the Comune. Depending on the (as yet unknown) date, the Mayor was either Count Saverio Rocca or Dr. Stefano Scozzarella.

From the context, I am guessing that HLC was present but that WPC was not. Square brackets in the text are my interpolations.]

It is not an easy thing to record how much [was done], from 1900, the time in which Cav. William Percy Cochrane settled in Pugliola, until today; one can say that his life was an assiduous work of beneficence.

I remind *S. V. Illustrissima* [presumably HLC, present] of the continuous works done in the village and more specifically the interest taken in helping the Comune.

- 1 The bringing of drinking water from Bonezzola to the hamlet of Bagnola was the work of Cav. Cochrane.
- 2 The construction of the drivable road in Pugliola from *Foce* to Piazza della Chiesa was also his work, as well as the construction of the fountain in the Piazzetta of Pugliola.
- 3 All of the pathways of the village were made by Cav. Cochrane with well-made concrete steps and bricks in the pathway centre and pebblework on the sides.
- 4 The covered laundry at Bonezzola was also his work.
- 5 The *Societa di Pubblica Assistenza* received a stretcher cart [motor ambulance?] from Cav. Cochrane.
- 6 Cav. Cochrane provided his farmworkers with comfortable communal housing and also built comfortable modern stables and composting systems. In the vineyards. He planted new American grafted varieties resistant to Philoxera.
- 7 In the centre of the village, or rather in the Piazza della Chiesa, he built a grandiose construction for use as an *Asilo Infantile*, the Asilo that he is giving to the Comune today. (\* see note below)  
All of the running costs for this *asilo* from 1902 right up to July 1929 have been met by Cav. Cochrane and by La Signora Cochrane.
- 8 For the Hospital at Sarzana he built an Infectious Diseases Ward and, going with it, he gave the construction of a modern steam laundry. Also the construction of a Hostel for the Poor.
- 9 He gave his valuable help to the *Societa Edilizia Ligure* [Ligurian Building Society] for the building of first homes at Fondiga (SP).
- 10 At the outbreak of WW1, Cav. Cochrane went to France and, with other gentlemen, leased the Imperial Hotel and transformed it into a magnificent War Hospital, the *Hôpital Auxiliaire de l'Entente Cordiale No 222 Menton*.
- 11 When Italy declared war, Cav. Cochrane returned to Italy and leased the great Villa Massà in Sarzana (S. Caterina) and with the assistance of Signora Cochrane transformed this vast building into a modern Military Hospital. Signora Cochrane provided English nurses and everything needed for its operation. The hospital was also provided with automobile capacity. This was truly the very best hospital because it was equipped with every comfort, clean water, heating by radiators and by warm air, also provided by Signora Cochrane. Three large wards, operating theatre, isolation ward, dining room, kitchens, garage – certainly one of the best military hospitals in the country.

[Note to dignitary who gave the speech]

*Illustrissimo Signor Podestà*

I have hinted at the principal works done by Cav. Cochrane, aided and abetted in everything by La Signora Cochrane, but I am not able to forget the innumerable operations (all for the care of the poor) at his expense for the needs of the *frazione* of Pugliola.

\* The *Asilo Infantile* of Pugliola consists of

[below], three gigantic water cisterns of about 50 000L each, partly underground, that more than meet the needs of the *asilo* and, at certain times, the needs of the neighbouring families.

The ground floor has a gigantic hall of 11m x 7½m, along with other rooms, staircase and a ceiling height of 5m.

The other floor consists of a large classroom, a dining room, two dormitories for the nuns, their bathroom, a kitchen with pantry, and a [?] kindly chapel.

The toilets for the children are of the English sand system in a separate building from the *asilo* and can be reached under the protection of a glass roof. The structure of the *asilo*, on the ocean side, has a vast terrace for the children with shaded shelter underneath.