



Former parish workhouse at Highworth

## *Dismissal of a Surgeon 1861*

The Poor Law Board have addressed a letter to Mr Charles Smith, surgeon, of Highworth, one of the medical officers of the Highworth and Swindon Union, requesting him to place his resignation in the hands of the Guardians. The charge preferred against Mr Smith, and which the Poor Law Board would now seem to consider proved, was neglect of duty and inattention to the poor.

One of the cases alleged against him was that of having neglected to attend William King, a pauper, living at Castle Eaton, who had not been visited from the 1st of March up to the 22nd May, he having been the whole of the time ill in bed. Another case was that of having neglected to attend Mary Ann Higgs, aged three years, the child of Jonathan Higgs, a labourer, living at Eastrop, Highworth, who was so ill that (as stated by Mr Kennard, surgeon, who was called in) she would not have lived twenty-four hours had she not received medical treatment.

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