

Reports of a case of Cretinism; and a copy by another hand but with holograph additions, of another case 1899-1903, 1907

Publication/Creation

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Report on visit to Mr. Samuel
Savage, 183 Park Lane, Tottenham,
made with Mr. L. J. Reilly, on
Friday, Feb. 24. 1899.

This is a characteristic case of
Cretinism ('Sporadic') & though
there is a history of fall & injury
to the spine at two years of age,
the abnormal constitutional state
was no doubt existed from birth.
The height (stature) is now only
37 inches: the form & size of the
head (which measures 22 inches in
circ. 14 inches fr. root of nose to occipital
protuberance 13 transverse), the
diminished abdomen with umbilical
hernia ^{see type of} the ^{type of} a double
lateral curvature of spine there is
very considerable distension of left
thorax, with displacement of heart.
The heart sounds are muffled but
appeared normal; the pulse was

Small, but regular (84) - The
Temperature was taken in the mouth.
& found to be normal.

The Mental Condition, was that
Characteristic of Cretinism - very
Slow Mental action & Low Level of
Intelligence - I could not get the
patient to converse with me, though
otherwise friendly, but I am told
he expresses his likes & dislikes in
short ejaculatory sentences.

As regards Medical Treatment
I am of opinion that his age - 42 -
is not favourable for ^{very} the effective
Results from the administration of
Thyroid. Cases ^{of cretinism} approaching 40 years
have been treated with Thyroid
with ^{a comparatively} ~~little~~ small measure of success
& Dr. John Thomson of Edinburgh
writes of the "doubtful improvement"
of a female cretin aged 40 subjected
to the treatment. With Humid
curvature there is a tendency to

T Brit. med. J. Sept. 12. 96.

of the curvature
exaggeration, when thyroid produces
bony growth, & though in this case
much growth is not to be
anticipated - the case of 40 yrs. ago
previously alluded to had lateral
curvature & grew $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 12 mos.
The risk of further thoracic distortion
is to be borne in mind. All things
considered, no great physical
improvement - except as regards
facial expression & abdominal
protuberance - is to be expected.

As regards mental condition,
I think there would be a prospect
of some increase of brain activity,
& consequent diminution of abnormal
dyspepsia & irritability - indeed
to use Dr. Thomson's term of an increase
in the patient's capacity for happiness.

On the whole I am inclined to

recommended in the case the cautious
administration of Thyroid - at
first in small doses, $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. tablet
at bed-time only - the effect on
the circulation & temperature
being carefully watched, especially
in view of the occasional attacks
of lividity & irregular pulse-beat to
which Mr. Kelly tells me the patient
is occasionally subject. Of course
the dose would be increased when
the extent of reaction in this
particular case had been ascertained.

With regard to the question of
stimulant I was informed that
Mr. Savage has about a tumblerful
of whiskey before going to bed.
Should it be decided to give him
the thyroid tablets - which will
be best administered at bed-time,
(on acc^t of the advantage of recumbency ^{free})

I think that the substitution
of a ~~good~~ ^{small} glass of sound stout
at dinner would be preferable.

In my experience it has appeared
to me that this class of patient
with feeble circulation has
benefited by a carefully regulated
amount of alcoholic stimulant.

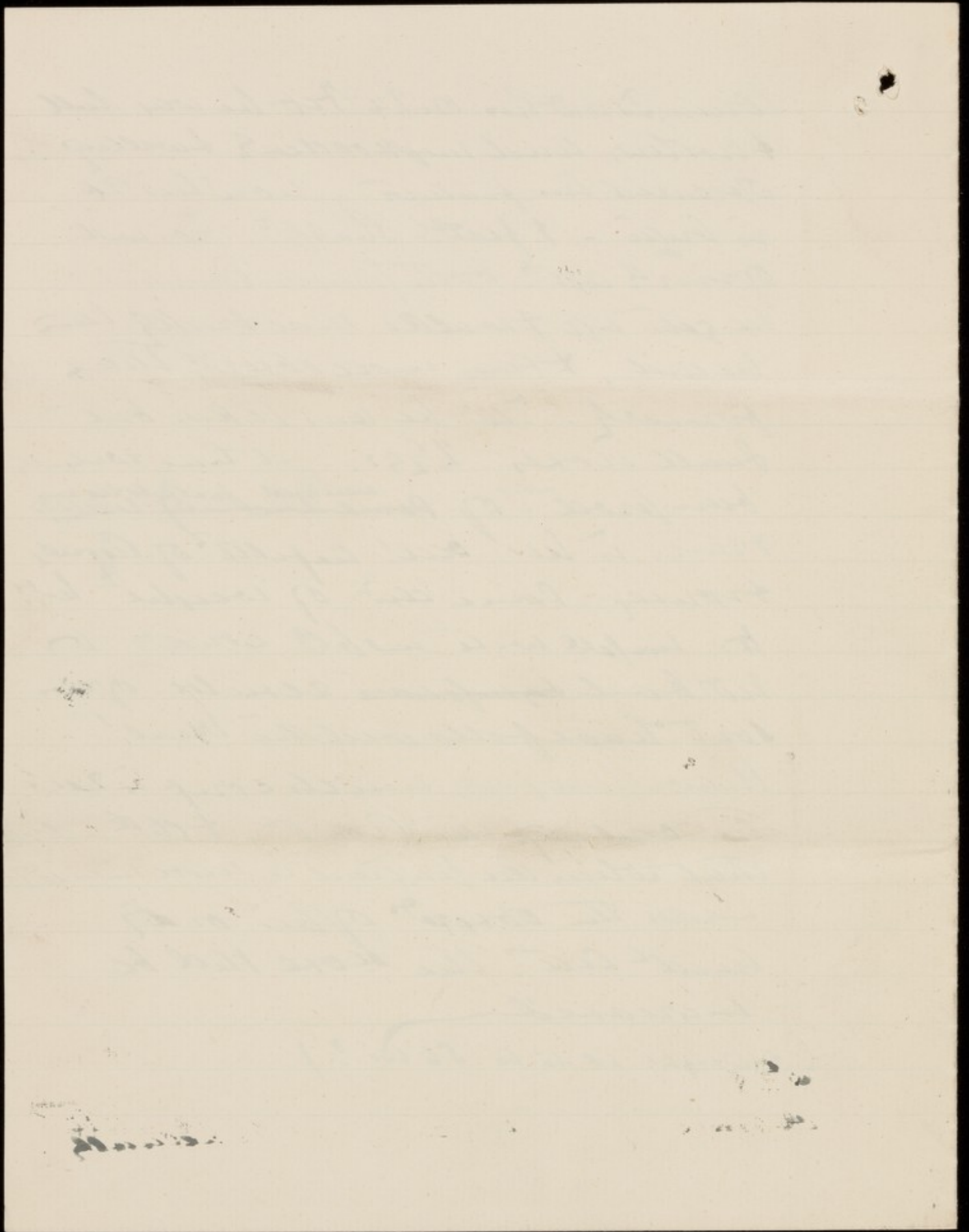
Feb. 25. 99.

W. Shuttleworth.

Report on Mr. S. Savage

June 12. 1899

I visited this day Mr. Samuel Savage who is staying (under the care of Mr. Hearnston) at The Eye Park Farm, Sidley, about 3 miles from Bexhill on Sea. Dr. Reilly with whom I had been previously in communication about a ~~bird~~ ^{consultation} was unable to accompany me. I found Mr. Savage seated in the garden, watching with apparent interest the movements of the chickens of a cooped hen. His aspect has decidedly changed for the better since my visit to him at the end of February: there is much more mobility of feature and ~~more~~ ^{improved} evidence of mental as well as physical activity. He has indeed lost much of the myxoedematous ~~stolidity~~ ^{stolidity} which formerly ^{characterized} his appearance.



Report on Visit to Mr Savage.

Oct. 6. 1899.

On this day I visited Mr Savage at Tottenham in consultation with Dr. Reilly. We found him amusing himself with his musical box (which he had been winding himself) and wearing a more animated expression than formerly. Later he got down from his chair without help & began to walk about the room. He is certainly improved in activity & cheerfulness.

Physically he appears in satisfactory condition. Thinner than formerly - he should be periodically weighed - his pulse is steady & regular (96) - his appetite good & the digestive functions well performed. He still takes $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. Tabloid at night only, but I have suggested to Dr. Reilly that he should take another $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. Tabloid each day at dinner time, beginning the acc. dose gradually.

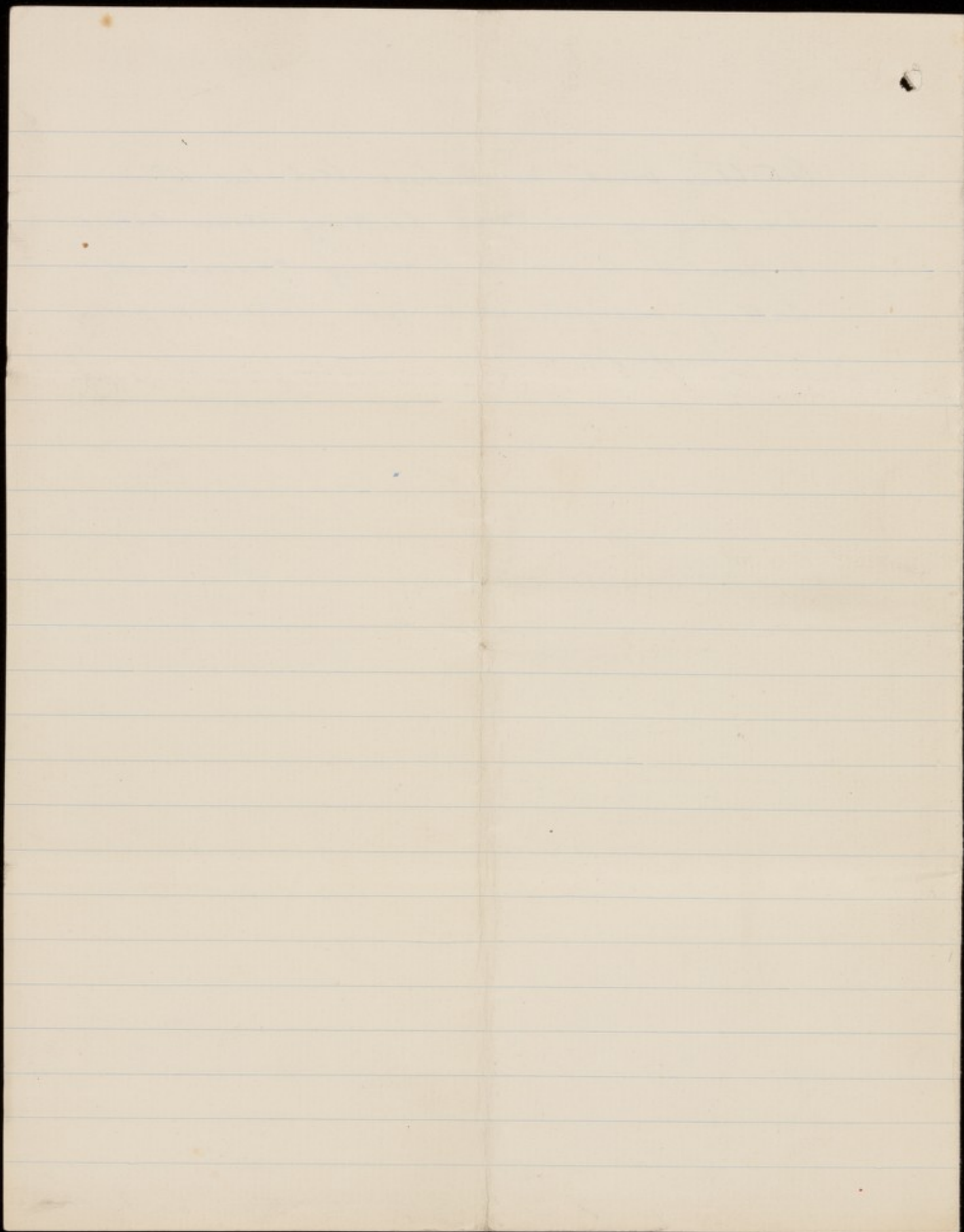
Report of Visit to
Mr. Samuel Savage
30 Somerford Grove
Tottenham.
for information of Lord Chancellors Visitors

On Friday November 15, 1901, I visited, at the request of Mr. Herringford and Dr. H. A. Davis, the patient above named, who has been under treatment by Thyroid Gland Tablets since February 1899. I found him in good general health and very cheerful, his physiognomy more mobile than formerly, and his muscular activity greater. My suggestion at a previous visit that the dose of Thyroid given him might advantageously be increased has been carried out, & he is now taking 5 grains Tablets each night (with occasional intermissions) apparently with benefit.

G. E. Shuttleworth M.D. F.R.C.S.

10 Nov. 1901.

At this time Mr. Savage led me to
windows of his room looking down street
& pointed to people passing occasionally
calling one who did not take his fancy
as "hasty beast"



Report on visit to Mr. Samuel
Savage, 40 Somerford Grove,
Tottenham, made on Friday
Feb. 28. 1902.

I visited Mr. Samuel Savage
on Feb. 28. 1902. Unfortunately
Dr. Hugh Davis, his medical
attendant, was not able to meet
me, being himself confined to bed
by illness. I noticed a marked
improvement in Mr. Savage's ap-
-pearance since my visit in
November, partly due to his now
being clothed in jacket & trousers
instead of the infantile costume
formerly worn. On my entrance
he came forward to greet me and
otherwise displayed evidence of
increased bodily and mental
activity, apparently listening
to the conversation that passed
between Mr. Huxington & myself,
& occasionally interjecting a brief

remember himself when appealed to.

He is still taking Thyroid in the form of Squam Tablets each night, with occasional interruptions. As it is now just three years since this treatment was commenced it may be opportune to state that my anticipations of the benefit to be expected in this case have been more than realized. The Savage has been transformed from an inert mass of unintelligent matter to an individual taking some interest in his surroundings and able to move about & investigate them for himself. His general health has improved, & his capacity for happiness & enjoyment of life have notably increased.

At the age to which he has attained (43) ^{with fairly "progress"} it is not to be expected that much further improvement will result, but in order to maintain the present improvement gained the continued administration of Thyroid will be necessary, though perhaps in diminished doses.

November 1902

995

Visit - May 16. 1902.

Met Dr Davis.

Looking well

Clothing - wadded

Thyroid treat. 5 gr contd.

Monthly weighing - weighing machine

? Adonability of re-vacc in kind of smallpox
of this number of household.

7 Aug 1902

Visited. All satisfactory (Thyroid not given)

20 Nov. 1902. Satisfactory. Contd 5 gr Thyd. per diem
Cherful. Conversed with me in monosyllables. Teeth
require attention.

Feb 13. 1903. (Saw Dr Davis after)

Well.

Wets clothing!

Weighing machine to be obsd

Continues Thyroid (occasionally interrupted)
5 gr p.o.

May 16. 1903. Last seen. Weighing machine &
new gramophone obsd. S. is very much interested in latter
Weight 54 lbs. Height $37\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Died 9/25/03 Phenomenon
see p. 200.

Copy.

54400

Case Book No 7 Register No 1043.

Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Date of Admission
John Berry	male	Oct 12 1873.	Nov. 25 1885

Mental Deficiency to what attributed?

Injury, ~~Traying~~ ^{Traying} at Birth ("crossbirth") Labour prolonged
 Subject to Epileptic Fits? (? Forceps) Child born asphyxiated
 Has only once had a fit, in teething when a baby.

Physical. Well-nourished

General Aspect Muscles of face & neck in constant movement.

Complexion Fair hair & freckles

Height	4 ft. 4½ in	} Nov. 25. 1885.
Weight	4 st. 10½ lb	

Head Shape of - 1.- Circumference 20¾. 2.- Transverse
 Brachycephalic. w 13¼ & 5¼ - 4¾ between external meatuses.
 3.- Longitudinal w 12 & 7. Width of
 Forehead 4¼

Any sign of Bone Disease? No.

Good use of Limbs? Not good owing to want of control
over movements.

Nervous System Left hand stronger than right.

Any signs of Paralysis or Chorea? ^{both show irregular movements} Has infantile paralysis
 (Chorea?) of right side (M. R.)

Special senses: Hearing Good Speech Fairly good
 Hands Normal ^{expression - but indistinct} Sight Good

State of Tongue Normal ^{but shaky} Teeth Good

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but some of the molar decayed.

Circulation: Good H.S.N. Palate: broad
State of Pulse: 100. Bronchitic sounds on chest
State of Skin: Clean. Bruises or marks: None of any
Mental & Moral. ^{consequences} Servants generally well conducted
Habits, correct & cleanly? Yes.

Reading: Nil

Able to wash & dress without assistance? Yes, but
all movements performed with difficulty
owing to atetosis

Bodily Health and Condition:-

Good

Mental State:-

Imbecility. Dec 2nd 1885.

How disposed of

Senior boys. O. D. P. H.

Progress of Case

1885. Dec 12 This boy cried a good deal to go home the first
few days after admission; he has now however
settled down and is quite happy. - He is a
comparatively intelligent lad, belonging to the
asthetic form of imbecility, can answer simple
questions intelligently but talks with difficulty
owing to the want of muscular control (which is
chiefly on the right side) - He is clean in his habits.

1886. Feb 25 He has been quite well and happy since the
above note, and seems likely to do well under
training. Tries to write & draw but very unsteady.

1886. Oct 12 He was in the Infirmary from Sept 11th to the 20th.

(asthmatic)

- with a bronchitic cold now quite well and getting on well at school. He is very fat.
- 1887 Feb 25 He is improving generally, especially at his work in the joiners shop. where he is able to make knife boxes etc.
- " July 25 He continues to improve at school, and is able to read and write a little; he also has a fair idea of drawing. He still works in the joiners shop and improves slowly owing to ~~manual~~ ^{manual} ~~unsteadiness~~ ^{unsteadiness}
- 1888 July 15 not looking very well of late, too pale and coughs at night - with wheezing in chest, His chest is resonant in percussion, but the breath sounds are prolonged. Is doing very well at his work & is happy: ~~but~~ ^{by} perspiring.
- 1890 July In good general health. Improves at school. Is now a very good hand in the carpenters shop where he constructs small articles such as inkstands, form-boards &c. Has almost complete control over his hands now. Athetosis of head still continues. Suffers from almost chronic bronchial catarrh.
- 1891 Dec General health has been good and he grows taller and stronger. Is a good worker in the joiners shop.
- 1892 Nov. Is in good health and continues to get on very steadily.
- 1893 Sept. Going on very well. Health good.
- 1894 Sept. Continues to do well. In good health.

- 1895 Mch Making rapid progress in joiner's shop, is a most useful boy, Athetosis much the same, has gained prizes for his wood carving.
- 1896 Jan Is an excellent joiner. Had an attack of Congestion of the lungs last year from which he made a good recovery.
- 1897 Jan For last two months his chest has been weak and he has been in a feeble condition - He has gained ground lately & is much better, is still at R. Infy.
- 1898 Jan During autumn was in R. I. with slight attack of asthma: in good health at time of note: still in joiner's shop.
- 1899 Jan About spring time was in R. I. with asthma but has kept well since: a most excellent carver & joiner.
- 1900 Jan Much improved - Is now the Instructor of the Wood Carving class in school, In good health.
- 1901 Feby. Is not so strong as last note: soon gets tired & knocked up: Still wood carver.
- 1902 Mch During last month and early in this was in R. I. with catarrh (? Influenza) returned convalescent and in building at work.
- 1903 Jany. Report as usual, Kept in usual health: woodcarving class going on very satisfactorily.
- 1907 Nov. Seen by Dr. S. Has instruction of the beginners in wood-carving in joiner's shop, & is able to explain his methods. Is an artistic & accurate wood-carver himself & makes his own designs for panels.