

**Henry Hawkins, 'Aftercare' (typescript extract from D Hack Tuke (ed.),  
Dictionary of Psychological Medicine)**

**Publication/Creation**

1892

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London NW1 2BE UK  
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*Evidently only a draft.*

A F T E R C A R E

Extracted from

A D I C T I O N A R Y

of

P S Y C H O L O G I C A L M E D I C I N E

Edited by

D. HACK TUKE, M.D., LL.D.

Vol. I.

LONDON

J. & A. CHURCHILL

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In the April number of the Journal of Mental Science, 1871, there appeared a paper called a "Plea for Convalescent Homes in connection with Asylums for the Insane Poor", and in 1879 another paper of which the title was "After-Care." These papers were by the Rev. H. Hawkins, chaplain of the Middlesex Asylum, Colney Hatch.

1879. - The first meeting of the After-care Association was held on the 5th June 1879, at the house of Dr. Bucknill, Wimpole Street. Here was the cradle of the society. Amongst those present were Drs. Bucknill, Lockhart, Robertson, and Hack Tuke, who has been throughout a strong believer in, and staunch supporter of, the objects of the association. It was moved and seconded, "That this meeting do form itself into an association," and subsequently, "that that object of this association is to facilitate the readmission of female convalescents from lunatic asylums into social and domestic life." Dr. Bucknill was the first president, and Dr. Claye Shawe and Rev. H. Hawkins, honorary treasurer and secretary.

1880. - In the following year the late Earl of Shaftesbury kindly consented to become president of the society. Referring to the paper on after-care he had written, "Your letter entitled 'After-care' has deeply interested me. The subject has long been on my mind, but like many other subjects it has passed without any effectual movement on its behalf. Tell my friend Dr. Bucknill that I shall be happy to serve under his presidency in so good a cause."

1881. - Lord Shaftesbury presided, for the first time, at the anniversary meeting held at the house of Dr. now Sir Andrew Clark, in Cavendish Square. Dr. Clark enforced the importance of after-care as a frequent condition of complete restoration to health. Among ladies present were Ladies Lyttelton, Frederick Cavendish, and Brabazon, Mrs. Gladstone, etc. It may be mentioned

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that among other ladies who have shown an interest in the movement have been Miss Agnes Cotton, Miss Emma Cons, Miss Louisa Twining, etc.

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1883. - The next anniversary was held at Lord Cottesloe's, in Eaton Place. Lord Shaftesbury stated his belief that the After-care Society was required to supply a real want, and that it was in his own phrase a "seed-plot," from which, in time, good results would spring.

1884. - The annual meeting of 1884 was memorable as being the last occasion when Lord Shaftesbury (who had presided at the anniversaries since 1881) was in the chair. The tryst was Lord Brabazon's, who though absent from home, placed a room at the disposal of the association. The president remarked "that he considered a 'home' a necessity, and did not see how such a resort could be dispensed with." This remark followed upon a statement by the hon. secretary, that among more than 200 convalescent homes on the register of the Charity Organisation Society not one was specially designed and available for mental convalescents. (N.B. In 1890 the number of such homes was 263, but still not one appropriated to this class of invalids.) In the same year a meeting was held at the Mansion House and a bazaar organised at the Kensington Town Hall.

1885. - Two meetings in 1885 were held at Bethlem Royal Hospital, by the kind arrangement of Dr. Savage, a valuable friend of the association. On one of these occasions the chair was taken by Dr. Ogle, on the other by A. J. Copeland, Esq., the treasurer of the hospital.

1886. - The year 1886 is distinguished in the annals of the association, for it was that in which Lord Brabazon accepted the office of president. He remarked, at the yearly meeting held at his house in Lancaster Gate, that Lord Shaftesbury's interest in after-care had influenced him to undertake the work as a "legacy". On the same occasion a resolution was carried; "That the Committee be authorised to employ a paid secretary to carry on the work of the society," the result being that a unanimous appointment to this post was made of Mr. H. W. Roxby, who had been associated with the Society for the Care of Waifs and Strays. Up to this date, no one officially connected with the after-care project possessed sufficient leisure to be able to devote due time to its promotion. Hence, though the existence of the society was kept in evidence, and interest in its designs sustained, yet practical benefit, though by no means absent, was yet scanty; but on Mr. Roxby's appointment distinct progress was made. Reference to the particulars of this progress will be made in conclusion, but it should first be noted that the same year in which a new president took office, and a paid secretary was secured, the association had the honour to receive an intimation that H.R.H. the Princess Christian would be willing to accept the office of patroness. Thus the year 1886 is memorable as one of new departure. It remains to indicate some details of progress made.

Working Associates, who undertake some special work on behalf of the association have been appointed. There are about twenty on the list. These members of the society may render very useful service by finding suitable homes for convalescents, by visiting and reporting on their temporary inmates, thus causing both hosts and guests to feel that they are looked after, and kept under notice. Associates can also from time to time give valuable help to discharged patients by following them up either to the workhouses to which they may have been transferred, or to their

own homes.

Homes. - Suitable homes have been found in various localities where convalescents requiring change of scene and air have been boarded out. In all cases the care of convalescents while in these homes is entrusted to some lady in the neighbourhood, and the homes are inspected before any case is sent, and visited afterwards by a voluntary inspector. About thirteen such homes have been inspected and utilised.

Cases Helped. - Nearly 100 cases from about nineteen asylums have been helped, since 1886, by the association; several were previously assisted.

Since Lord Brabazon, now the Earl of Meath, became president, both the monthly meetings on the second Thursdays and the anniversary have by his kind permission been held at his house, 83 Lancaster Gate. At the former the current business of the society is transacted; applications for help are considered; and relief, in suitable cases, sanctioned. During the past official year (1888-1889) fifty cases were brought before the committee. Of these twenty-four were boarded out in the country, and others relieved by grants of money and clothing. In nearly every case assisted, suitable employment was afterwards found. Besides these, a large number of cases, not coming under the rules of the association, have been helped to obtain relief through other channels. Further information may be obtained through the secretary, Mr. H.T. Roxby, Arden Lea, The Drive, Walthamstow.

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