The Asylum for Idiots: instituted October 27, 1847. Report, 1853.

Contributors

Asylum for Idiots (Park House, Highgate, London and Essex Hall, Colchester, England)

Publication/Creation

[London] : [publisher not identified], [1853]

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/txzhasd4

License and attribution

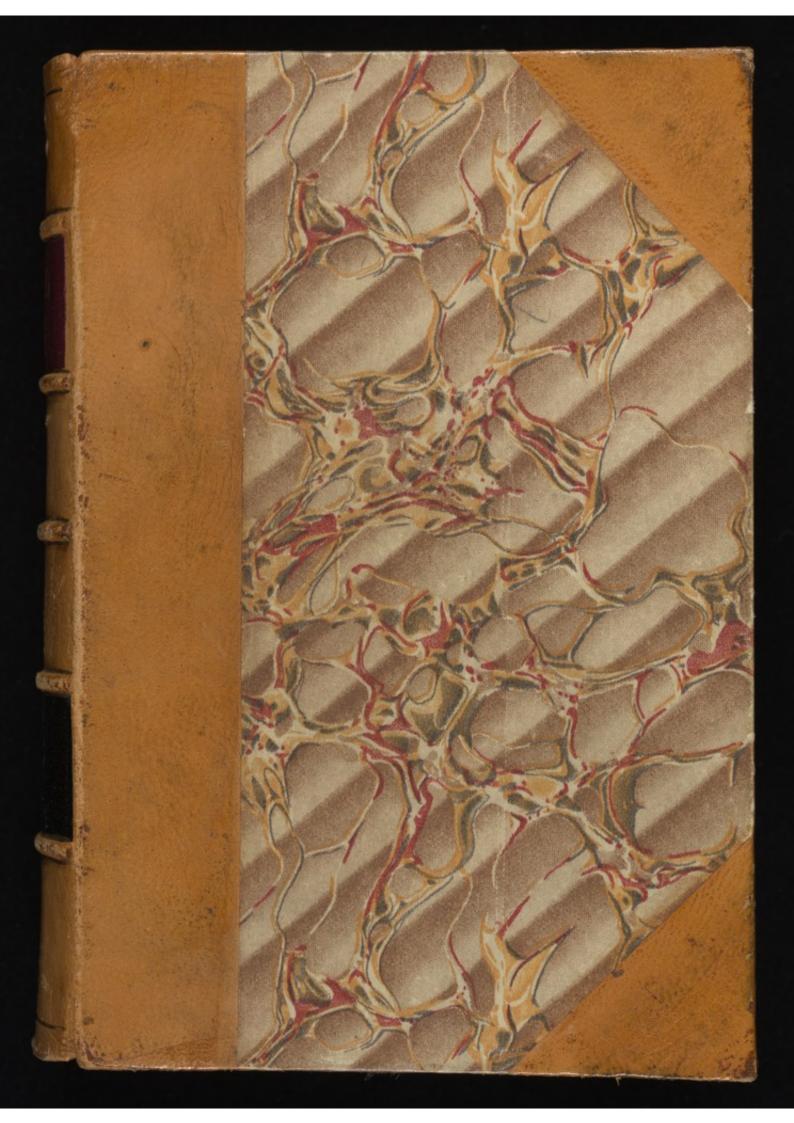
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection 183 Euston Road London NW1 2BE UK T +44 (0)20 7611 8722 E library@wellcomecollection.org https://wellcomecollection.org

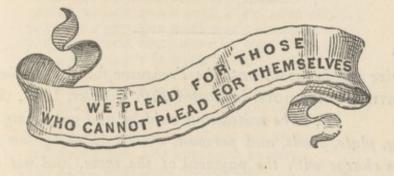


THE

9

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS:

Enstituted October 27, 1847.



REPORT-1853.

[Fourth Edition.]

ESTABLISHMENTS:

PARK HOUSE, HIGHGATE; ESSEX HALL, COLCHESTER. OFFICE: 29, POULTRY, LONDON.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer for the time being of the ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, instituted 27th October, 1847, the sum of , to be raised and paid by and out of my ready money, plate, goods, and personal effects, which by law I may or can charge with the payment of the same, and not out of any part of my lands, tenements, or hereditaments, to be applied towards accomplishing the charitable designs of the said Institution.

The ASYLUMS are situated at *Park House*, *Highgate*, and *Essex Hall*, *Colchester*. Visitors are admitted by Tickets on Mondays. Tickets may be had at the Office, 29, Poultry.

Ander the Patronage of

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES. H. R. H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE. H. R. H. THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF NORWICH. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF OXFORD. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF CARLISLE, P.C. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DARNLEY. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL MANVERS. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF RADNOR. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL SOMERS. THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF BRISTOL. THE RIGHT HON. AND REV. LORD BAYNING. THE RIGHT HON. LORD CALTHORPE. THE RIGHT HON. LORD MONTEAGLE. THE RIGHT HON. LORD STANLEY, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. THE SPEAKER. THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT EBRINGTON, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. LORD PALMERSTON, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. JAMES STUART WORTLEY, M.P.

Dice-Presidents.

THE BARON LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD, M.P. THE HON. JUSTICE TALFOURD. SIR JOHN P. BOILEAU, BART. SIR EDWARD NORTH BUXTON, BART. SIR JAMES CLARK, BART. SIR WILLIAM CLAY, BART, M.P. REV. SIR THOMAS G. CULLUM, BART. SIR GEORGE CARROLL, ALDERMAN. LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ROBERT HARVEY BART SIR PETER LAURIE, ALDERMAN. SIR WILLIAM FOWKE F. MIDDLETON, BART.

VICE-PRESIDENTS—continued.

SIR JOHN WALSHAM, BART. THE RIGHT HON. SIR STEPHEN LUSHINGTON, D.C.L. SIR JOHN FORBES, M.D., F.R.S. GENERAL MARTIN WHITE. JOHN BAGSHAW, Esq., M.P. T. W. BRAMSTON, Esq., M.P. THE VEN. ARCHDEACON BOUVERIE. THE VEN. ARCHDEACON BROWNE. THE VEN. ARCHDEACON BURNEY. REV. T. H. CAUSTON, M.A. REV. EDWIN SIDNEY, M.A., F.R.S. C. CÆSAR CORSELLIS, Esq., M.D., F.L.S. JOHN DISNEY, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A. ROBERT FOX, Esq. THOMAS GRISSELL, Esq. SAMUEL GURNEY, Esq. JOHN HEATHCOAT, Esq., M.P. JOHN LABOUCHERE, Esq. CHARLES LUSHINGTON, Esq. SAMUEL MORTON PETO, Esq., M.P. EDWARD WARNER, Esq., M.P. THOMAS SIDNEY, Esq., ALDERMAN, M.P. RICHARD TWINING, Esq., F.R.S.

Treasurer.

MARTIN TUCKER SMITH, Esq., M.P.

Secretaries.

JOHN CONOLLY, M.D., D.C.L.

Board.

JAMES ABBISS, Esq. J. BAWTREE, JUN., Esq. JAMES BENNETT, Esq. REV. WILLIAM BROCK. JAMES CARTER, Esq. REV. W. W. CHAMPNEYS, M.A. JOHN CLARKE, Esq. WILLIAM COLLINS, Esq. PHILIP S. COXE, Esq. CHARLES CURLING, Esq. THOMAS DAKIN, Esq. THOMAS DANIELL, Esq. G. W DAVIES, Esq. WILLIAM DOBINSON, Esq. THOMAS FARMER, Esq. ALBERT FINCHAM, Esq. CHARLES GATLIFF, Esq. JOHN GAY, Esq. RICHARD GIBBS, Esq. CHARLES GILPIN, Esq. SAMUEL GURNEY, JUN., Esq. REV. JAS. HAMILTON, D.D.

CHARLES HILL, Esq. THOMAS HUBBUCK, Esq. THOMAS HUTTON, Esq. REV. A. E. JULIUS, M.A. THOMAS B. KING, Esq. WILLIAM LEAVERS, Esq. JAMES MANN, Esq. WILLIAM MONK, Esq. JAMES NISBET, Esq. JOHN NORBURY, Esq. JACOB POST, Esq. REV. JAMES ROUND. CHARLES GRAY ROUND, Esq. BENJAMIN STANDRING, JUN., E89. JOSEPH SHEWELL, Esq. JOHN TAYLOR, JUN., Esq. JOHN WM. TOTTIE, Esq. JOHN V. S. TOWNSHEND, Esq. GEORGE TYLER, Esq. JOHN WILKS, Esq. DAVID WILLIAMS WIRE, Esq., ALDERMAN.

ANDREW REED, D.D.

Medical Officers.

Physician.

Surgeon. WILLIAM J. LITTLE, M.D. | THOMAS CALLAWAY, F.R.C.S.

> Surgeon-Dentist. EDWIN SAUNDERS, Esq.

Resident Physician and Superintendent.

W. B. C. MAXWELL, M.D.

Bankers.

MESSRS. SMITH, PAYNE, & SMITHS, Lombard Street.

Donations and Subscriptions will be received by

MESSRS. DRUMMOND, 49, Charing Cross. SIR SAMUEL SCOTT, BART., & Co., 1, Cavendish Square. MESSRS. HOARE, 37, Fleet Street. MESSRS. STRAHAN, PAUL, & Co., 217, Strand. MESSRS. RICHARD TWINING & Co., 215, Strand. COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON, Lothbury. MESSRS. MILLS, BAWTREE, ERRINGTON, & Co., Colchester. THE BRIGHTON UNION BANK. JAMES NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street, Oxford Street. MESSRS. HATCHARD & SON, Piccadilly.

Sub-Secretary-MR. WILLIAM NICHOLAS.

Collector-MR. JAMES DOWNING.

Office: 29, Poultry;

Where Forms of Application may be had, and all Communications are to be made. Subscriptions thankfully received by the Sub-Secretary, Mr. W. NICHOLAS, to whom all Orders should be made payable. Attendance daily, from 10 till 4 o'clock.

REPORT—1853.

AT the present period it is expected that the Board should submit a brief statement, both general and financial, on the condition of the Charity. They have real pleasure in doing this, as they are persuaded it must afford gratification to those numerous friends who are earnestly watching the progress of the Institution. The numbers reported last April, were 141 pupils and patients. There are now 198 in family: there are 48 attendants and servants; and these, with the number to be elected this day, will make a total of 256 persons.

The following table on the occupations of the family, may itself supply most encouraging assurance of the general improvement.

NINETY-EIGHT are daily engaged in reading and spelling. EIGHTY-SIX in writing. TWENTY-FIVE in drawing. TWENTY in gardening. TWENTY-EIGHT in sewing, knitting, &c. SIXTEEN boys in willow-plaiting. FIVE boys in each class are respectively basket-makers, shoemakers, and tailors. SIX are daily occupied as carpenters. SIXTEEN are engaged in domestic work. TWENTY take lessons in dancing. SEVENTY have object-lessons. EIGHTEEN write from dictation, and learn geography and arithmetic. A HUNDRED AND ONE are drilled, and take gymnastic exercises. THIRTY-NINE have speaking lessons. A HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE attend domestic worship. A HUNDRED AND FOUR attend public worship.

7

The greater part of the family are practised in singing, and some are taught on the harmonicon.

While these figures show a much larger num-

ber brought into useful exercises, they may also be taken to intimate proportional improvement in the family. That improvement is not only decided, but such as, in many instances, to be remarkable. Some there are-perhaps a fourth of the family-for whom little can be done beyond protection and comfort; physical infirmity and disease may prevent this. But it is now delightfully patent to every observer, that for the remaining three-fourths much, very much, may be done. The Board are satisfied on this point, and the children's friends are equally so. Indeed, the grateful and spontaneous acknowledgments which the friends and relatives of the patients feel disposed to offer, are amongst the sweetest encouragements in pursuing their selfdenying and difficult labours.

The two houses now held by the Trustees for the Charity are both filled, but enlargements are nearly completed at Colchester, which will accommodate fifty or sixty more pupils. It is not at all the intention of the Board to let the difficulty of accommodation come between them and their duty to the public. While they have upwards of two hundred supplicants knocking at their doors

for admission, and while they are sustained by a sympathy and generosity which has certainly never been surpassed, they will not shrink from the great work which Providence has assigned to them.

It is proposed that the following names shall be added to the patronage.

THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF NORWICH. THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DARNLEY. THE HON. AND REV. LORD BAYNING. SIR JOHN WALSHAM, BART. SIR WILLIAM F. F. MIDDLETON. ROBERT FOX, Esq.

The following legacies have been bequeathed to the Charity during the year :---

LESTER BRAND, Esq.	 	 	 £500
MISS FANNY SMITH	 	 	 £200
MRS. VAUGHAN	 	 	 £100

As might be expected, the Board have given much of their attention to the erection of the proposed Asylum for the suitable and permanent reception of the Idiot and Imbecile. They have

the gratification to report that they have completed the purchase of the estate at Earlswood, near Redhill; that they have determined to build for not less than 400 beds; that they have received plans by public advertisement; that they have availed themselves of the drawings which were most approved; that they have visited such institutions as seemed most worthy of their attention; and that they have succeeded, as they hope, in adopting those practical arrangements, which, if desirable in other cases, are, in fact, indispensable for the safety, welfare, and improvement of a family of such varied necessities and such prevailing helplessness. They are now looking anxiously and busily to the commencement of the work; and it must bring to their friends the highest satisfaction to learn, that His Royal Highness PRINCE ALBERT has condescended to appoint Thursday, the 16th of June, for the purpose of laying the First Stone.

The Board cannot refer to a circumstance so auspicious as this, without expressing a hope that the friends of the Charity generally will regard it as their sacred duty to do honour to his Royal Highness on the important occasion by their presence, and by their benevolent efforts. Apart from other contributions, it is proposed that thirty gentlemen shall lay one hundred guineas each on the First Stone, and that two hundred ladies should lay purses of five guineas and upwards on the Stone, as part of the ceremony.

Besides, the Board are very desirous that the Subscribers should regard the present period as critical in the history of the Charity. With a fixed intention to go forward in this work of mercy, they cannot disguise from themselves that they are coming under a GREAT AND UNUSUAL RESPONSIBILITY. If, on the day of laying the Stone, they shall be successful to their highest expectation, they will still require from £10,000 to £15,000 to complete their great object; and they require, therefore, the most RESOLVED AND EARNEST SUPPORT of the benevolent public, to look to it with pleasure and confidence.

Apart, therefore, from the effort of the day of the First Stone, they earnestly, yea, devoutly, ask for the strenuous and persevering aid of the friends of the poor Idiot. Much may be done by CIRCULATING THE APPEALS of the Charity; much by seeking NEW SUBSCRIBERS; much by dis-

posing those who do subscribe to DOUBLE their Subscriptions for FIVE YEARS, or to give a SPE-CIAL DONATION on account of the new erection.

If MOTIVE be yet required in this good work, let it be remembered, that we are helping the MOST HELPLESS of our race; that they suffer being INNOCENT; that they have suffered much by our NEGLECT and ILL-USAGE in past time; that they are mostly CAPABLE of IMPROVEMENT and of GRATITUDE; that we are providing them with a PERMANENT HOME in the midst of our people; that we are supplying a MODEL INSTITUTION for the nation and for Europe; and that, INASMUCH AS WE DO IT TO THE LEAST OF THESE, WE DO IT TO HIM, OUR BLESSED LORD AND SAVIOUR, WHO HATH BOTH LIVED AND DIED FOR US.

APPENDIX.

CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE REPORT.

CASE 1.—E. B., a girl, aged twenty years. Admitted, October, 1849. A few months since she commenced assisting one of the nurses, but proved at first rather a hinderance; she could not be left alone for a moment, could not sweep, dust, or scrub. April, 1853. The nurse now states that she is a great help; everything is now properly arranged; she can sweep, dust, and scrub nicely. Her countenance is more cheerful and intelligent, and the silliness of manner she had for a long time after her admission is passing away.

CASE 2.—H. P., a girl, aged eighteen years. Admitted, *June*, 1851. She was inactive; fond of sitting all day doing crochet work; at home she had been very spiteful to the younger members of her family; she was shy, and evidently had little confidence in the superintendents. *April*, 1853. She is now full of glee; will run round the grounds; will readily go on any errand to the top of the house; makes beds in the morning very handily; is most affectionate to the younger children, but is offended if called "Grandma" by her school-fellows.

CASE 3.—J. R., a boy, aged twenty-two years. Admitted, November, 1850. Could neither read nor write, not knowing a letter; he was considered by his friends incapable of being taught anything; was constantly talking in a foolish manner; was obstinate, passionate, and self-willed. *April*, 1853. He can read and write, speaks with propriety, is polite, obedient, and tractable; is very useful in the arrangements of the house, and is learning shoemaking.

CASE 4.—J. M., a boy, aged twelve years. Admitted, November, 1850. Used very bad language, was very turbulent, his memory weak, seemed quite unable to learn; spoke very indistinctly, and was of uncleanly habits. April, 1853. Scrupulously exact in his language, his memory is greatly strengthened; he can read and write, speaks with considerable clearness, his habits are much improved, and he is being taught tailoring.

CASE 5.—H. J., a girl, aged fourteen years. Admitted, November, 1851. She was of an unwieldy size, being immoderately stout, had never been under control, was self-willed, used improper language, and screamed so loudly as to be heard at a considerable distance; great trouble was experienced in making her understand propriety of behaviour, especially at family worship, when she would laugh and jump up and sit down. April, 1853. She has greatly improved in figure by regular exercise, she walks much better and can run, assists in the nursery, is most affectionate, polite, and tractable, seldom cries loudly, is very decorous at prayers and at the Sunday Evening Lecture.

CASE 6.—M. H., a girl, aged nine years. Admitted, November, 1851. She could not speak. *April*, 1853. One of the elder girls has taken great pains with her in the nursery, and the child can now recite several pieces of poetry, and express her ideas correctly; her articulation is perfect.

CASE 7.—A.A., a girl, aged ten years. Admitted, May, 1850. Did not know her name; could say yes and no; could not write nor imitate; could thread a needle but was unable to use it, though she made efforts to do so. April, 1853. Her speech has improved; she can be understood by

those about her; knows the name of every one in the house, uses her needle well, is learning to make straw bonnets, and gives promise of being a good hand at it; she is also very useful in the house.

16

CASE 8.—S. P., a girl, aged thirteen years. Admitted, May, 1850. A congenital Idiot; had a peculiar drawl in her speech, which was almost inarticulate; had a vacant look and an awkward gait; was very feeble and could not write. April, 1853. Her speech is greatly improved, so that she can be distinctly understood; she is stronger in mind and body, reads and writes well, is very useful with her needle, and has the charge of one of the bed-rooms.

CASE 9.—J. P., a boy, aged seventeen years. Admitted, May, 1850. He could neither read nor write; had a slight idea of drawing; was very unsociable, passionate, and self-willed, and was nearly deaf and dumb. April, 1853. He can read a little, can write and draw well, is very playful and attentive to orders, has greatly improved in speaking and hearing, and is an excellent mechanic.

CASE 10.—M. L., a boy, aged thirteen years. Admitted, *July*, 1848. A congenital Idiot; was not able to say two words consecutively; used bad language, as far as his imperfect articulation would permit; was deceitful, and could neither write, draw, nor sing. *April*, 1853. He can repeat any sentence, has given up the use of improper language; he can read, write, sing, and draw well,

and has become very expert as a tailor.

CASE 11.—L. L., a girl, aged fifteen years. Admitted, November, 1851. She was very fond of dress; very excitable; was much pleased with music; lisped; could read pretty well, but wrote very badly. April, 1853. She is still fond of dress; is not so excitable; has improved her taste for music; reads, writes, and spells well; can do plain sewing very neatly; seems anxious to improve in everything, and is a straw bonnetmaker.

CASE 12.—F. W., a boy, aged fourteen years. Admitted, May, 1851. Could not read, write, draw, or do anything; he was said to be beyond improvement; was very spirited, and ran away from home several times. April, 1853. For eighteen months after his entrance all efforts appeared useless, and patience was almost exhausted, as he did not know a single letter. Now he knows most of the alphabet, writes in a copy-book, is obedient and tractable, and has made several pairs of shoes and slippers. CASE 13.—J. G., a boy, aged thirteen years. Admitted, *December*, 1850. Was very effeminate and inactive, his speech at times unintelligible; liked solitude, and would not play with the other boys; was dirty in his habits, and painfully listless in the school; had an inordinate appetite, and was addicted to falsehoods. *April*, 1853. He has more than answered our expectations, he has got over his apathy and diffidence, goes through the drill perfectly, and will sing before visitors; reads remarkably well, and writes almost correctly from dictation; his drawings astonish all; he is neat in his person, and has improved in his habits.

CASE 14.—E. C., aged six years. Admitted, January, 1850. He had never been under control, was very violent and required constant supervision; was very destructive, told untruths with great audacity, and was a great pilferer; he understood however most of what was said to him; he could not dress himself, and did not know his letters. April, 1853. He is now more like an ordinary child, is well behaved, can dress himself, can read simple sentences, can write and plait, drills well, and can play on the harmonicon. He asks and answers questions intelligently, and it is hoped in a few years he will be completely restored.

CASE 15.-R. B., a boy, aged twelve years. Admitted, September, 1851. Was in a very delicate state of health; pale, thin, and with a scrofulous hand; was dumb, very timid, and could not dress himself. *April*, 1853. The change of air, diet, and medical treatment have had a marked effect upon him; he now looks robust, has lost his timidity, can dress himself, goes through the drill exercise remarkably well, and can do all the hand movements with great precision; he is most cheerful, playful, and surprisingly courageous. Attempts are made to get him to speak, he knows the names of most things, and will place his hand upon them as they are mentioned. He can draw, is very imitative and constructive, and has surprised us all.

CASE 16.—E. C., aged thirteen years. Admitted, *February*, 1850. She had been a constant source of trouble and anxiety to her parents; her habits were very dirty, she was mischievous, sly, pilfered, and told falsehoods; knew some of her letters, and sewed in an awkward manner. *April*, 1853. She can now read, writes in a copy-book, can do all kinds of plain needlework, plaiting, bead work, and knitting, can count the stitches and use the different shades of worsted correctly; her speech has improved, her habits more cleanly, and she is more trustworthy.

