

The Asylum for Idiots: instituted October 27, 1847. Report, 1854.

Contributors

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

Publication/Creation

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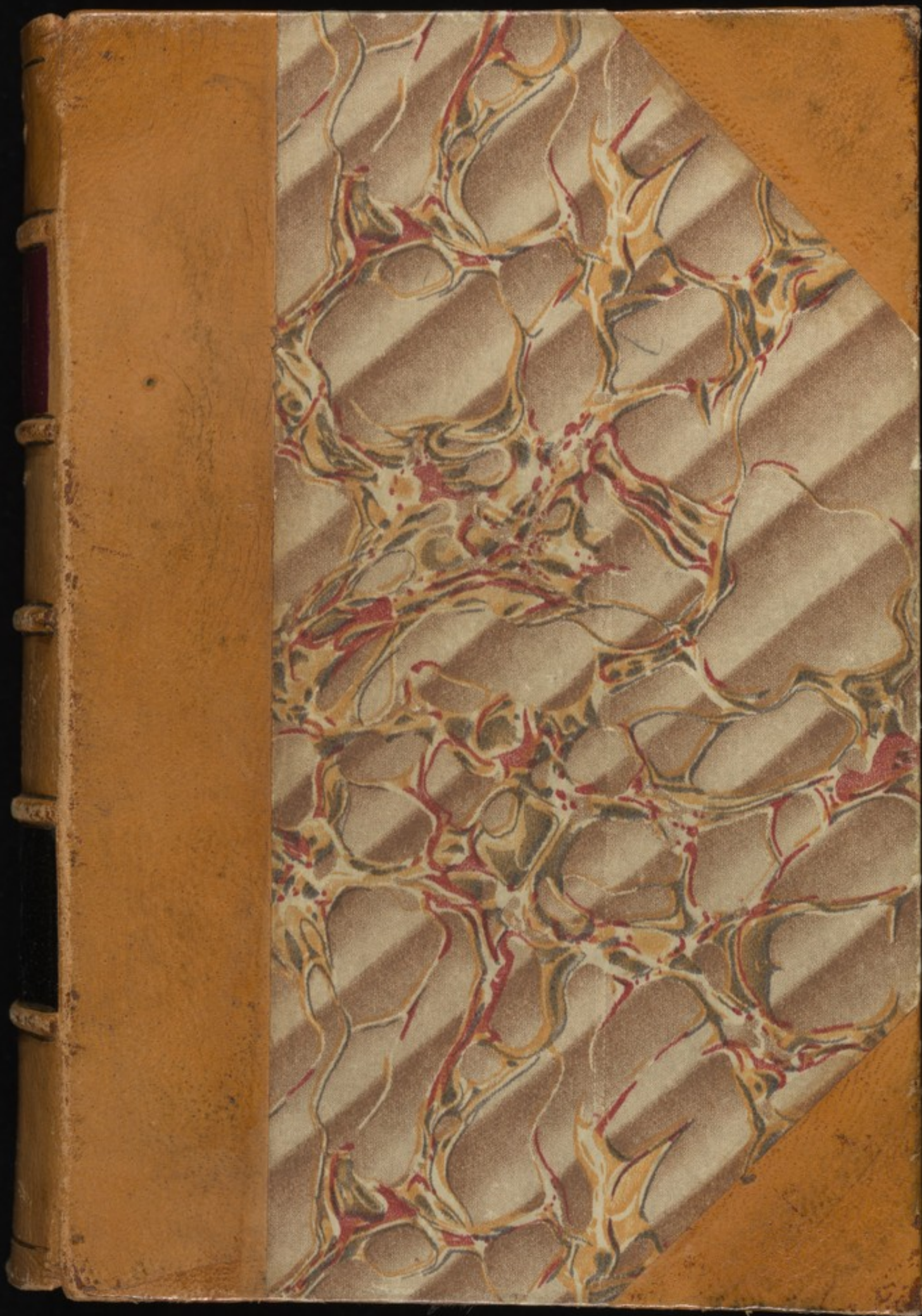
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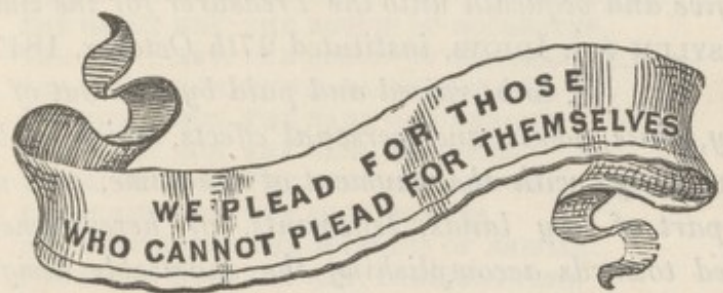


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THE
ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS:

Instituted October 27, 1847.



REPORT—1854.

ESTABLISHMENTS:

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

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS

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.

N.B.—Articles of matting, &c., the work of the patients, are now on sale.

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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—1854.

ANOTHER year in the history of this Charity supplies us with the occasion to report on its proceedings. Although its progress, from the beginning, is beyond example, no one year has witnessed such a degree of advancement as the one under our attention.

We have now no less than TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-TWO pupils under our care; the entire family consists of THREE HUNDRED AND THREE persons, which number, by the Election of this day, will amount to THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN.

In consequence of this large addition to our numbers, the Board have engaged an eligible Farm House within a walk of Essex Hall. From its retired and healthy position, they have

made it the Infirmary, and have drawn off the Invalids to it for separate accommodation—an arrangement very much to their comfort and to the rest of the family.

With the exception of the Infirmary cases, amounting to from thirty to forty, the rest of the family may be understood to be variously engaged, as particularly stated in the last Report.

The schools for instruction and physical exercise are improved in method and attainment. Essex Hall has been enlarged; and especially a set of good workshops has been erected, which has given more space and vigour to the Classes. There are now in the male department the following classes:—Gardeners, Mat-makers, Tailors, Shoemakers, Netters, Plaiters, Carpenters, and Basketmakers. Two of the classes are fresh; and all of them are much improved. As an example, it may be stated that the Tailors have made eighty-seven pair of Trowsers; that the Basketmakers have made for the family fifty-five baskets; that the Shoemakers have made twenty-two pair of slippers; and that the Mat-makers have executed work

to the value of £30 2s. 9d. In the dumb classes, composed of about sixty children, nearly thirty are now beginning to speak. A parent was overcome with delight on finding his dumb boy salute him for the first time as "Father."

In the female department, there is similar improvement. Besides the ordinary business of the school, there are drilling classes, singing classes, knitting classes, and bonnet classes. They are now making the bonnets of the family, and taking charge of much of the needlework. Some of them are gardeners, and many of them are training as housemaids. The needle class at Highgate have done work valued at £5. 5s. 1d. Nearly all the children now attend Domestic Worship, and have evident pleasure in doing so; and a large proportion attend on Public Worship, with the approbation of those who observe them.

The time has now arrived when some of the patients have completed their term of education. The larger proportion of these has been qualified for useful occupation; and, as the best proof of this, the Board have the pleasure to state, that *five of them have been regularly engaged*

as servants in the family. Of course the Board would not do this, except as they were satisfied that they would be as useful, and perhaps more faithfully attached, than other persons.

In reference to another class of cases also, the Board have provided, that where a pupil is hopeful, and likely to make further improvement by an additional term, *they allow the case, on the application of the friends, to stand a second election for another five years.*

The eagerness with which this provision has been embraced, is the best proof of its value.

The great event of the year, however, has been the preparation for the Asylum. Having given great attention to the subject, and finally accepted plans, they entered into a contract for the Erection, and resolved to lay the First Stone in the spring of the year. They were so happy as to secure the presence of His Royal Highness PRINCE ALBERT for the occasion. The day (the 16th of June) was remarkably fine; the company was very large; the contributions were still larger; and the First Stone was laid by the hand of Royalty, amidst the cheers and rejoicings of gratified multitudes. The Board have a strong

and ardent hope, that it will be opened for the family in the summer of next year.

During the same period, steady effort has been made over the four Eastern Counties in behalf of the Idiot.

The Board cherish a hope, that their occupation of the Asylum at Red Hill may be contemporaneous with the elevation of Essex Hall into an Independent Asylum for the four Counties.

An effort has also been made in favour of the Idiot, over the northern portions of the land. Some good has come to the Asylum by this attempt, but chiefly it has been sought to awaken a sympathy over these districts for the general object.

There is reason to hope that in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Edinburgh, and Dublin, an interest has been created which will issue in separate local action.

In these efforts over the east and the northern portions of the country, the Board are greatly obliged by the assistance of the Rev. Edwin Sidney, who, with so much zeal, talent, and benevolence, has laboured in this service.

The following persons have, during the year, benefited the Charity by legacies :—

JOHN DURRANT, Esq.	£2000
HUGH GREEN, Esq.	£100
Miss MARY PAGET	£100
Miss MARY JOBSON	£10

It is proposed that the following names should be added to the patronage :—

THE RIGHT HON. EARL MANVERS.
 THE RIGHT HON. LORD STANLEY.
 EDWARD WARNER, Esq., M.P.
 THOMAS GRISSELL, Esq., M.P.

It is proposed to add the following names to the honorary medical staff :—

JOSEPH TOYNBEE, Esq., as CONSULTING AURIST.
 JAMES DIXON, Esq., as CONSULTING OCUList.

It would be very gratifying to the Board, and without doubt very acceptable to their constituents, to illustrate and confirm their statements by enumerated cases ; but it is manifest that this is not the time for such lengthened exposition. The Appendix to the Report may in some degree supply this deficiency.

In conclusion, it must be apparent to their friends that the Board are committed to *unusual responsibilities*. This would have been the case if things had remained in the position of 1852 ; but the political and social changes which have

occurred in the interval, and over which they have no control, have made a difference of not less than 25 per cent. on the works before them, and have indisposed, at the same time, many persons from contributing as they otherwise would have done.

They say this, not in despondency, nor with any desire to shrink from their responsibilities; but with a strong hope, that the friends of the Charity and the Idiot will rally round the Board, and determine with them, that a work of mercy, *which should long since have been done, shall no longer be delayed.*

The Board require to be sustained in providing for an *increasing* and a *singularly expensive* family; and they require, at the same time, £10,000 in addition to what they have already, to complete the Asylum. The demand is great; but the work is great; the object is great; and the benefit will be great and enduring.

The Board are resolved on its accomplishment, and they ask of their benevolent friends, by gift and by legacy, by kind words and by earnest intercessions, to support them in their determination.

The work is for ages, and it has been delayed for ages. When it shall have been done, the poor Idiot will have found an inheritance in the land; the provinces will have been taught to emulate our example; other nations, already awake, will follow in our career; and *human* charity will have imitated that which is *divine*, by directing its sympathy, and extending its aid to those, who are the **LOWEST**, the **MOST UNHAPPY**, and the **MOST NECESSITOUS** of our race.

APPENDIX.

CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE REPORT.

CASE 1.—V. F., a boy, aged nine years. Admitted, *February*, 1850. Is an example of a child whose intellect had been affected by epileptic fits. It was felt, that if his fits, which sometimes continued for twelve hours at a time, could be subdued, there was great hope of improvement. He was very wild, disobedient, and spiteful, and could not speak. *April*, 1854. He has greatly improved; as his fits subsided, his intellect expanded; he does not now have so many fits in three months as he formerly had in a week; he can speak several words, is very proud of this new power, and often follows some of the officers about the grounds, constantly repeating any fresh word he may have acquired. He is beginning to write on a slate, threads beads, forms figures with the cubes, is more tractable, and generally much more intelligent.

CASE 2.—M. F., a boy, aged sixteen years. Admitted, *November*, 1848. This boy originally was intelligent, but, as in the preceding case, became liable to fits; these lasted from three to ten years of age, when they ceased; when admitted, he was ignorant of all educational matters, was disobedient and spiteful, but could speak and dress himself. *April*, 1854. He drills well, and has become upright; is one of the best and most trustworthy of the gardeners; he can read, write, draw; knows the map of England perfectly; can play the harmonicon, and sings several pieces.

CASE 3.—B. A., a young man, aged thirty-one years. Admitted, *March*, 1850. Was very morose, solitary, and incorrect in his habits; one of the most trying cases in the House. *April*, 1854. He is perfectly correct in his habits; often speaks; is very amiable, and is very fond of his companions, some of the younger of whom he takes pleasure in leading about.

CASE 4.—G. F., a girl, aged eight years. Admitted, *March*, 1850. She was very weak on her legs, and could not do anything. *April*, 1854. She knows all her letters; can read simple sentences, and, what is very remarkable, she can spell almost better than any of the other girls; she sings, and is learning to sew and to write. This is a very interesting case.

CASE 5.—E. F., a boy, fifteen years of age. Admitted, *June*, 1853. Did not know a letter, though he had attended school for years; was considered incapable of learning, as his attention could not be fixed on any object for more than a few minutes, and was unable to utter two words consecutively. *April*, 1854. By studying the bias of his mind, and associating the alphabet with his play, he has thoroughly mastered it, and can read nicely; can write and draw well; is one of the best in the drilling-class; is exceedingly useful in domestic arrangements, and can speak with tolerable fluency.

CASE 6.—D. D., a boy, aged 17 years. Admitted, *May*, 1853. Was altogether beyond the control of his mother, and in two instances attempted to take her life; was exceedingly mischievous, breaking whatever he could lay hands on, when excited; no reliance could ever be placed on what he said; was able to read and write a little, but would never work. *April*, 1854. Though his vicious propensities are not quite subdued, he is obedient and playful; can read and write well; understands the elementary rules of arithmetic, and is very ready in mental calculations; he will make a good drawer, and is a superior mat-maker, applying himself with persevering industry. His mother,

who visited him, *March*, 1854, was startled at the change which had taken place in so short a time.

CASE 7.—N. J., a boy, aged nineteen years. Admitted, *January*, 1850. Had never articulated; his fingers were so bent that he could not use them; and he had no sense of morality. *April*, 1854. By galvanism and friction his fingers are nearly straight; he can read and write; knows the names of his companions; can repeat short sentences; and is learning mat-making.

CASE 8.—B. T., a boy, aged fifteen years. Admitted, *October*, 1852. Was the sport of all the boys of the village; was afraid of a stranger; would not speak to any one, even to his friends; he appeared quite hopeless. *April*, 1854. He did not speak for four months after admission; was constantly moping; he has now found that he is with friends, and is gaining courage; can speak well; will repeat the creed, commandments, and church-prayers accurately; is very attentive to the religious services at home, and is anxious to go to church every Sunday; can read and write well; and is a basket-maker. A short time since he sent a specimen of his work to his parents, which much surprised them.

CASE 9.—D. A., a boy, aged thirteen years. Admitted, *May*, 1851. Could only utter single

words imperfectly; had never been subjected to control; was of dirty habits; used very bad language; and was almost inert. *April*, 1854. Speaks very well; habits are correct; can wash and dress himself; has not been known to utter an improper word for twelve months; he is one of the most forward in the play-ground; and is a straw-plaiter.

CASE 10.—F. E., a girl, aged twenty years. Admitted, *June*, 1852. Was very deficient, and had never received any kind of instruction. *April*, 1854. For a long time little progress was made; now she knows all her letters; can join them into little words; can hem towels, do bead-work, and is learning to write on a slate; and is very active in her movements.

CASE 11.—H. T., a boy, aged fourteen years. Admitted, *May*, 1850. Could not read or write; speech very imperfect; was particularly childish; and had been allowed to have his own way in everything at home. *April*, 1854. Can read, write, draw, sing, and drill well; is manly in his deportment; speaks with fluency and ease; and is first in the basket-makers' class.

CASE 12.—O. J., a boy, aged eighteen years. Admitted, *November*, 1850. Was obstinate and self-willed; would not do anything unless allowed

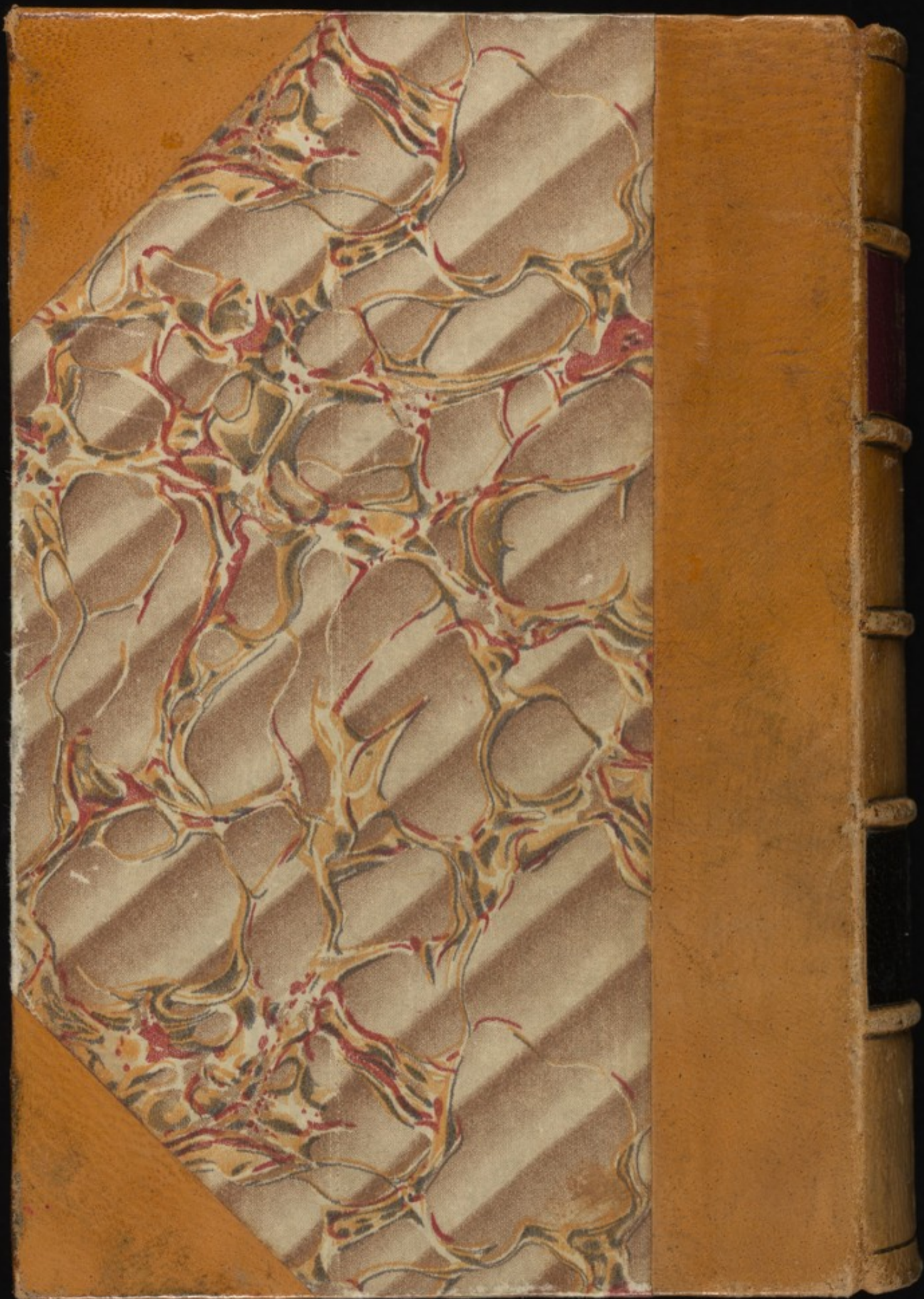
to do it as he pleased; all efforts at home had failed to teach him the alphabet; and he amused himself generally with a picture-book, which he carried about with him. *April, 1854.* He is quite an altered boy. Is affectionate and obliging to all; is ready to do anything he is bid, and deems it a punishment if not kept constantly at work. He can read, write, and draw; has an extensive acquaintance with the Scriptures; and will make an expert tailor.

Receipts and Expenditure from 31st December, 1852, to 31st December, 1853.

1853. Jan. 1.	£531 11 4	1853. Jan. 1.	£3782 3 0
To Balance at Bankers', 1852	£531 11 4	By Housekeeping Expenses for Board, Cloth-	£3782 3 0
" Annual Subscriptions and Payments for		ing, Education, &c.	213 7 6
Pupils	6212 2 8	" Furniture	612 7 9
" Life Subscriptions	1221 2 6	" Repairs and Enlargements	613 7 6
" Donations	739 11 9	" Rent—Highgate, Colchester, and Office...	1324 16 8
" From Mr. Peto, on account of Rent	200 0 0	" Salaries of Officers, and Commission	886 8 9
" " " Repairs	300 0 0	" Wages—Highgate and Colchester	583 14 9
" Dividends on Stock	56 2 7	" Washing	130 0 9
" Rent of Land	30 0 0	" Taxes, Gas, &c.	226 6 6
" Legacy	19 19 0	" Printing	81 3 2
" Balance from Building Fund	49 16 11	" Advertisements	73 4 10
" Miscellaneous Receipts, Dinner, and		" Postages	102 9 1
First Stone Tickets, &c.	117 18 7	" Stationery, Books, &c,	136 0 0
	<u>£9178 5 4</u>	" Travelling Expenses, Agent, &c.	143 19 5
		" Miscellaneous Expenditure, on Laying	568 15 8
		the First Stone, &c.	
		" Balance in hands of Treasurer	
			<u>£9178 5 4</u>

Examined and compared with the Books and Vouchers, and certified to be correct.

JAMES MANN,
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 ALBERT FINCHAM } *Auditors.*



MEDICAL
TRACTS

543

The Wellcome Library



...	250	2	0
...	271	15	11
...	4	2	0
...	1,505	0	0
...	1,650	0	0
...	1,082	17	4
...	625,087	10	2

MAN, }
WESSELL, } Auditors.

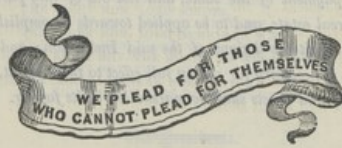
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THE
ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

INSTITUTED OCTOBER 27, 1847.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1862.



ESTABLISHMENT:
EARLSWOOD, RED HILL, SURREY.
OFFICE—29, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C.
1865.



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