

The Asylum for Idiots: instituted October 27, 1847. Report, 1855.

Contributors

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

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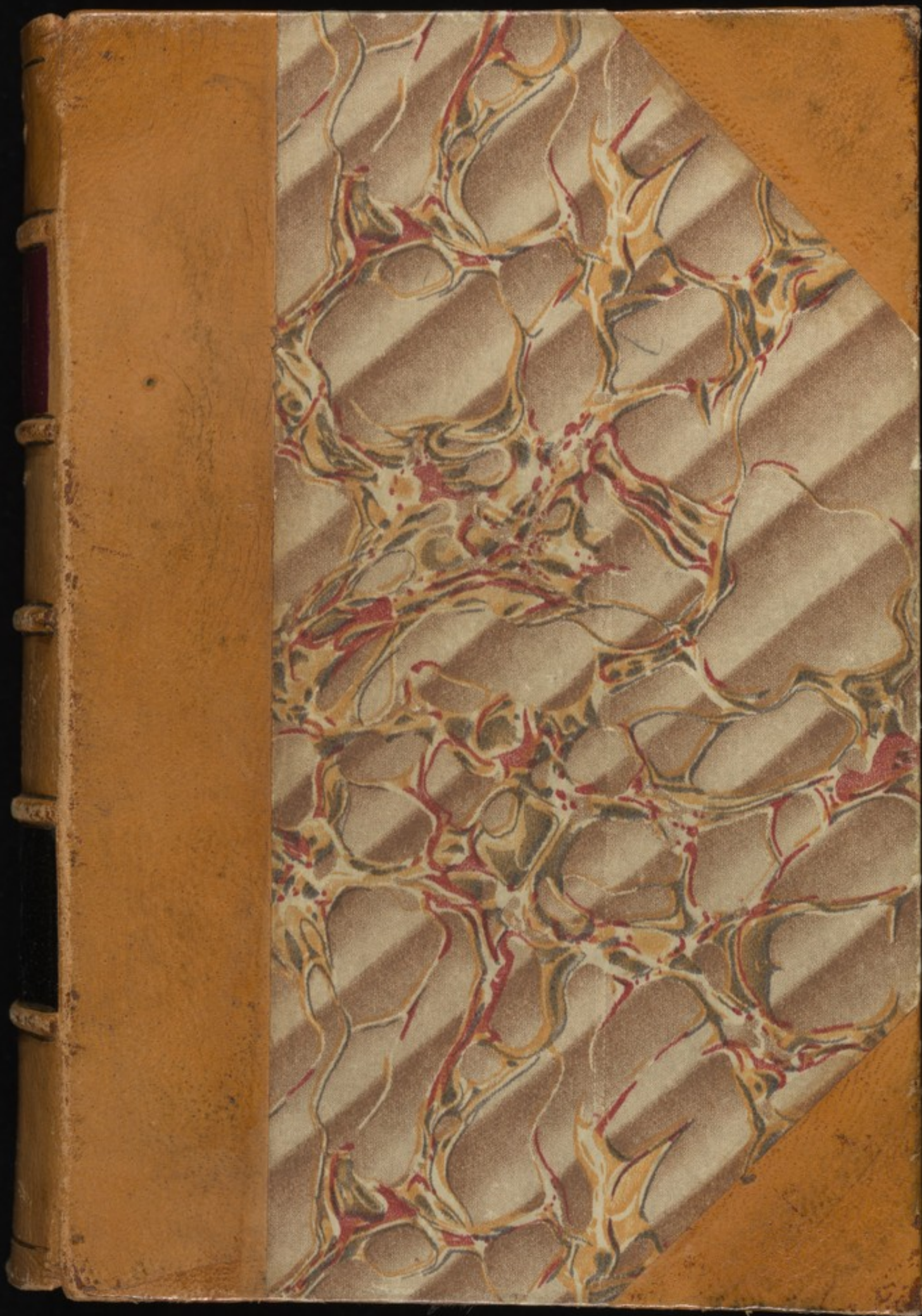
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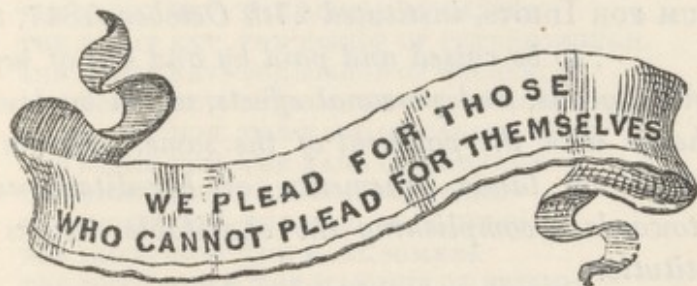
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11

THE
ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS:

Instituted October 27, 1847.



REPORT—1855.

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.

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

Under the Patronage of
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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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—1855.

THE Board of Management, in bringing their official duties to a close, have to present a brief statement of their proceedings during the year. They are thankful that they can do this with pleasure and confidence.

We have now the large number of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY - NINE patients on the foundation ; the family of THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO persons ; and this number, by the Election of to-day, will amount to THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN.

The Board have been obliged to engage an additional house, making the FOURTH, for the use of so large a family. They have been will-

ing to undertake this extra responsibility, rather than suspend the Elections, to which the public look so eagerly, even for one occasion.

They have but little to state in addition to what they have previously reported of a domestic nature, except it may be, that it has been a year of *work*—of *decidedly hard work*. Everything has advanced on our former positions. The plans adopted have been *realized*; the fruits of patient and earnest labour have been more abundant; the teachers and servants have found more encouragement and pleasure in their work; and the general result has been to infuse into the methods used for the benefit of the afflicted family, more of activity, of hope, of confidence and satisfaction. The effect, indeed, often rises above *satisfaction*. For such a family to have attained to such order, such intelligence, such harmony, such usefulness, has indeed become, even to those who were most sanguine, a subject of astonishment and of thankfulness. Those who could not walk, now run; those who could not speak, now converse; those who could not think, are beginning to look and act with awakened intelligence; and frequently the

teacher is surprised by the happy issue of labour, which at first was anything but hopeful. If this cannot be said of ALL, it may be asserted of a far larger proportion than was contemplated. Indeed, the real exceptions to the contrary would be mostly confined to cases of the Infirmary, in which positive disease and defect forbid hope, if not endeavour.

For *particulars* in illustration of this part of their Report, the Board must refer to the Appendix.

On the last occasion it was stated, that Five of the patients had been so improved, that they had been engaged as servants; they can now report, that THREE OTHERS have been placed in like positions; and, as this is never done as a matter of charity, but of business merely, it is among the best proofs that can be given of the efficiency of their exertions.

The Rule recently adopted, to allow a *second period* to cases that have become hopeful during the first, is eagerly embraced by many of the friends of such cases, and is found to work well. In addition to this, there is the provision for *reduced payment*, which is without *limit as to*

time; so that the whole arrangement may now seem to offer permanent relief to all cases above the condition of the pauper.

The Charity has been benefited during the year by the following bequests:—

JOHN HINCHCLIFF, Esq.	£1000
Mrs. EMMA CORDING	£100
JOHN GREENWOOD, Esq.	£100
REV. JAMES WARE	£200
MISS FREMAN	£400
Gift by the REV. EDWARD PENNY, from a Fund at his disposal	£100

But the great event to which we are all now looking, is the opening of the New Asylum. This has been a matter of much anxiety and difficulty, from the change of circumstances which has come over us since the happy day in 1853, when the First Stone was laid so auspiciously. Yet the Board have now the high gratification to announce, that *it will be opened this summer, and that His Royal Highness Prince Albert has intimated his readiness to preside* on that occasion. The day is not yet fixed;

but the likelihood is, that it will occur in the *first week of July*.

This announcement is one of joy; but it can only become so to the Board, who will bear the responsibility, by the resolved and strenuous aid of all the friends to the benevolent object. Seldom, if ever, have such responsibilities been so taken up. A freehold estate has been purchased, a dwelling which will last for ages is nearly finished, for a family of five hundred persons. £10,000 are yet required, if we would call this dwelling our own. The mere fittings of such a dwelling amount to a large sum; and the needful furniture, to a sum certainly not less. Meantime, every thing external to our object has seemed to work against us. The change in the price of provisions has increased our charge in the keep of the family by £1000 per annum. The prices of *material* and *labour* have so advanced, as to increase the expenses of the erection 25 per cent.; the stream of public beneficence has, for the time, been greatly diverted into other channels; and the public sentiment and sympathy has been engaged, almost to the temporary exclusion of standing claims.

These references are made not for complaint or discouragement. They are due to the friends of the Idiot, that they may be truly informed of our position. They will see that the Charity is arrived at a *crisis*, when it cannot with safety be neglected. While they regard other claims, they will not forget the poor Idiot, who cannot plead for himself, and who has been so long, so sadly neglected; who is just now awaking to a better life; who will know his benefactors, and not fail to love and cherish them, in his simple but warm and innocent affections.

The day of opening, of course, will supply to all a fine opportunity for beneficent effort. Ladies who take purses will join in the ceremony, and have the opportunity of presenting them. Gentlemen, by acting as Stewards for the day, and presenting on behalf of themselves and friends, will greatly serve the object. And all who employ the occasion to awaken attention to the object, will render good service.

The Board leave the subject in the hands of their constituents with confidence. They will not suffer a work begun under their auspices to fail. They will secure a home of safety and of

comfort to the poor Innocent, who cannot help himself. They will feel it at once a duty and a privilege, when Royalty is graciously inclined to favour our engagement, to honour it by every expression of respect, loyalty, and gratitude.

APPENDIX.

CASES, &c., ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE REPORT.

THE Girls at Park House have been industrious ; some of them have especially improved in sewing, bead-work, and other handicraft matters ; and have been busily engaged in getting up a collection of articles to exhibit at the opening of the New Asylum. As many of the girls as possible are made useful in household duties. The Boys have in most cases improved, and make great advances in writing and drawing. The employment of the SEVENTY Pupils is as follows:—FORTY-FIVE are engaged in music and singing ; THIRTY-SIX in gymnastics ; THIRTY-SIX in reading ; THIRTY-FIVE in writing ; THIRTY-FOUR in speaking and object lessons ; TWENTY-FIVE in gardening and domestic work ; FOURTEEN in sewing ; EIGHT in plaiting ; SEVEN in bead-work ; SIX in knitting ; TWELVE in drawing ; EIGHT write from dictation ; THIRTEEN are questioned on the map of England ; SIX are taught simple arithmetic ; TWENTY-FOUR attend

public worship ; and THIRTY-EIGHT family worship. Several children who appeared to be without voice, or ear for music, can now sing. The Girls in the sewing department have made NINETY-SIX fancy-work articles, and FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX shirts, towels, collars and handkerchiefs.

The average number receiving daily instruction at Essex Hall has been ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE — NINETY-SEVEN of whom are Boys. Of these, FORTY-SIX write in copy-books and THIRTY on slates ; SEVENTY-THREE are taught reading ; SEVENTEEN, drawing ; FIFTY-SIX receive speaking lessons ; EIGHT write from dictation ; TWENTY-FIVE have advanced in arithmetic. All the number have object lessons and are daily drilled. We have SEVEN mat-makers, TEN shoemakers, SIX basket-makers, ELEVEN tailors, NINE gardeners, FIVE plaiters, TWO rope-makers, FIVE house-lads, ONE carpenter, and ONE fancy-mat-maker. The tailors have made EIGHTY-TWO pairs of trousers. The baskets made are valued at £6 ; mats, £70 ; shoes, £7 12s. 6d. Of all the Boys there were only six that had any idea how to handle a bat ; at the present time, FORTY know something of cricket, and we can manage two sides that will play a game without interference or direction.

A Brass Band has been formed by the assistants and attendants, in which particular interest is taken by all the pupils ; and which is used twice a week, in teaching the elder boys to march.

The Girls have made a visible improvement in reading, writing, spelling, plain needlework, fancy knitting, crochet, and straw-bonnet making; FIFTY-SEVEN straw bonnets have been made by them for their own use, and FORTY-EIGHT dozen of articles of clothing and house linen. All the elder girls make their own beds, and sweep and clean the rooms in rotation.

CASE 1.—C. E., aged 18 years. Admitted, *February*, 1850. She could not read, write, or do any kind of needlework; her speech was very imperfect, her habits incorrect, and not much hope of her improvement was entertained.—*April*, 1855. She speaks well, and is more intelligent. She can read and write very nicely, and will correctly write down short sentences from dictation. She has become very expert with her needle; can make a shirt, with a little assistance. She knits mittens, comforters, and other useful articles; assists the other girls in dressing, and can make beds.

CASE 2.—P. S., aged 14 years. Admitted, *April*, 1851. He was shy, timid, and could not speak a word intelligibly; required assistance in dressing, and had never been instructed: was rather passionate, and averse to the school. *April*, 1855.—He has considerably improved; can speak a great number of words, and several short sentences; has learned the alphabet, and can write that and short

words on a slate. Is a proficient at the drill ; is learning to play the harmonium ; dresses himself, and behaves with great propriety.

CASE 3.—K. S., aged 20 years. She could read and sew, and make marks on a slate. Her previous teacher said, that “it was useless to try to teach her writing, as she never would learn.”—*April*, 1855. She can write a neat small hand in a copy-book ; she writes short sentences from dictation, and spells the words correctly. Has learnt to knit, plait, sing, and do various kinds of fancy work ; is more amiable and tractable, is in better health, and makes herself useful in the house.

CASE 4.—B. J., aged 11 years. Admitted, *March*, 1853. Was in very indifferent health, fretful, disobedient ; had never been taught anything beyond feeding, and partly dressing himself ; he could speak, and had good use of his limbs.—*April*, 1855. He has improved in every way ; is healthier, more active, obedient, and better tempered ; can dress himself. Knows the alphabet ; can write single letters on a slate, and drills well ; is fond of the school, and promises to make great progress.

CASE 5.—N. H., aged 10 years. Admitted, *May*, 1854. She could not sew at all ; her speech was indistinct, and she had derived no apparent benefit from past instruction.—*April*, 1855. She

can hem very neatly; has learned the alphabet, and writes on a slate. She is more orderly and tractable. She has improved in health, and were she not deaf, her speech would be more perfect.

CASE 6.—G. J., aged 17 years. Admitted, *November*, 1853. She was intelligent, but shy and fretful; knew a few letters, and could write a little.—*April*, 1855. She is now able to read simple lessons, writes very nicely on paper; is beginning to draw and imitate diagrams, drills remarkably well; has made considerable progress in singing, and in playing the harmonium.

CASE 7.—S. H., aged 18 years. Admitted, *December*, 1853. She was timid, nervous, and very inactive; looked amiable, but dull and depressed; had been deprived of a mother's care, and no attempts had been made to instruct her.—*April*, 1855. She is now very active; has lost her timidity, and become very useful in the house; makes beds, lays the table for dinner, and dresses the other children. She has learned to sew neatly, has learned the alphabet, can read a few words, and write a little on a slate. She will become a very useful domestic.

CASE 8.—Q. A., aged 16 years. Admitted, *November*, 1853. Was physically weak, from want of due exercise. Knew the alphabet, and could write on a slate; required assistance in dressing;

was talkative and childish.—*April, 1855.* By means of the drill and regular gymnastic exercise he has become strong and healthy; can read and write well; can wash and dress himself; is learning a trade, and is altogether become more intelligent.

CASE 9.—P. W., aged 16 years. Admitted, *November, 1853.* Was subject to frequent fits, when he lost the use of his side, and could not use his legs or arms for some hours afterwards. His eyesight was weak; he was able to read but not to write; his habits were incorrect, and he was lazy, sullen, and passionate.—*April, 1855.* His fits are fewer and slighter, his habits are correct, he can read and write well, has become very industrious, and prefers being in the mat shop at work, to play. We have reason to believe that, at the expiration of his time, he will be able to earn his own livelihood.

CASE 10.—B. J., aged 18 years. Admitted, *November, 1853.* A weak boy, whose blood was so sluggish in circulation, that he always seemed to be suffering from cold. His speech was imperfect; he could neither read nor write, and had evidently been neglected.—*April, 1855.* By constant exercise he has become vigorous and spirited; excels at cricket. Has made marked improvement in the school; and can, without assistance, begin and finish a mat. His father, on

a recent visit, expressed his surprise and thankfulness.

CASE 11.—S. J., aged 17 years. Admitted, *December, 1852*. A congenital idiot; his speech was unintelligible. He was unmanageable at home, and had suffered from neglect. Could neither read nor write, and seemed incapable of thinking.—*April, 1855*. He can now read, write, and spell very well; is obedient and attentive; and his countenance has become more cheerful; is active in the play-ground, and works in the tailors' shop.

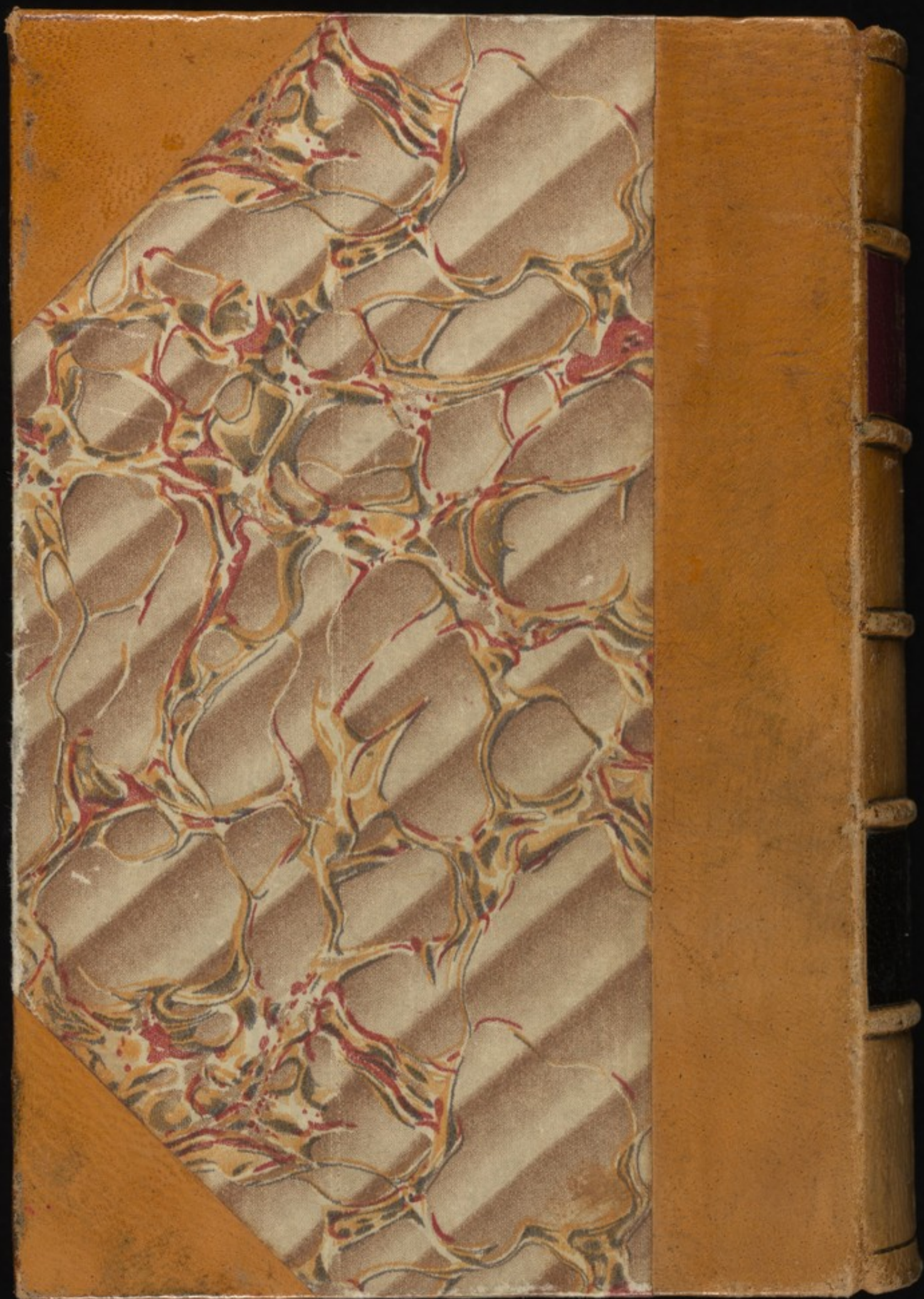
CASE 12.—J. H., aged 13 years. Admitted, *November, 1853*. An imbecile from birth, could neither read nor write, and was very pugnacious.—*April, 1855*. He can read and write well. The discipline to which he has been subjected has made him a quiet and useful lad. He assists in putting some of the little boys to bed. He is one of our best singers, and is learning the tailoring business.

Receipts and Expenditure from 31st December, 1853, to 31st December, 1854.

<p>1853. Dec. 31. To Balance at Bankers', 1853</p> <p>" Annual Subscriptions and Payments for Pupils</p> <p>" Life Subscriptions</p> <p>" Donations</p> <p>" Sir S. Morton Peto, on account of Rent</p> <p>" Rent of Land</p> <p>" Dividends</p> <p>" Dinner Tickets</p> <p>" Miscellaneous Receipts</p> <p>" Repayment from Building Fund</p> <p>" Loan from ditto</p>	<p>£508 15 8</p> <p>7183 17 3</p> <p>1795 16 0</p> <p>707 17 11</p> <p>200 0 0</p> <p>30 0 0</p> <p>37 1 4</p> <p>61 18 0</p> <p>50 9 1</p> <p>257 4 8</p> <p>882 18 9</p>	<p>1853. Dec. 31. By Housekeeping Expenses for Board, Clothing, Education, &c.</p> <p>" Furniture</p> <p>" Repairs and Alterations</p> <p>" Rent—Highgate, Colchester, and Office</p> <p>" Salaries of Officers, and Commission</p> <p>" Wages—Highgate and Colchester</p> <p>" Washing</p> <p>" Taxes, Gas, &c.</p> <p>" Printing</p> <p>" Advertisements</p> <p>" Postages</p> <p>" Stationery</p> <p>" Travelling Expenses, Agent, &c.</p> <p>" Annual Dinner, and Election Expenses</p> <p>" Law Expenses</p> <p>" Miscellaneous Expenditure</p> <p>" Repaid Mr. Peto's Loan</p> <p>" Balance at Bankers'</p>	<p>£5211 11 6</p> <p>282 14 8</p> <p>443 19 11</p> <p>638 7 6</p> <p>1333 3 6</p> <p>874 13 8</p> <p>647 13 1</p> <p>139 19 8</p> <p>143 10 0</p> <p>118 0 5</p> <p>79 16 4</p> <p>68 4 7</p> <p>135 9 0</p> <p>107 15 0</p> <p>8 5 0</p> <p>32 18 2</p> <p>1,000 0 0</p> <p>492 16 8</p>
<p>£11,758 18 8</p>		<p>£11,758 18 8</p>	

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

JAMES MANN,
 JAMES ABBISS,
 ALBERT FINCHAM, } *Auditors.*



MEDICAL
TRACTS

543