

The Asylum for Idiots: instituted October 27, 1847. Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1862. Establishment: Earlswood, Red Hill, Surrey. Office: 29, Poultry, London, E.C.

Contributors

Earlswood Asylum.

Publication/Creation

[London] : [publisher not identified], 1863.

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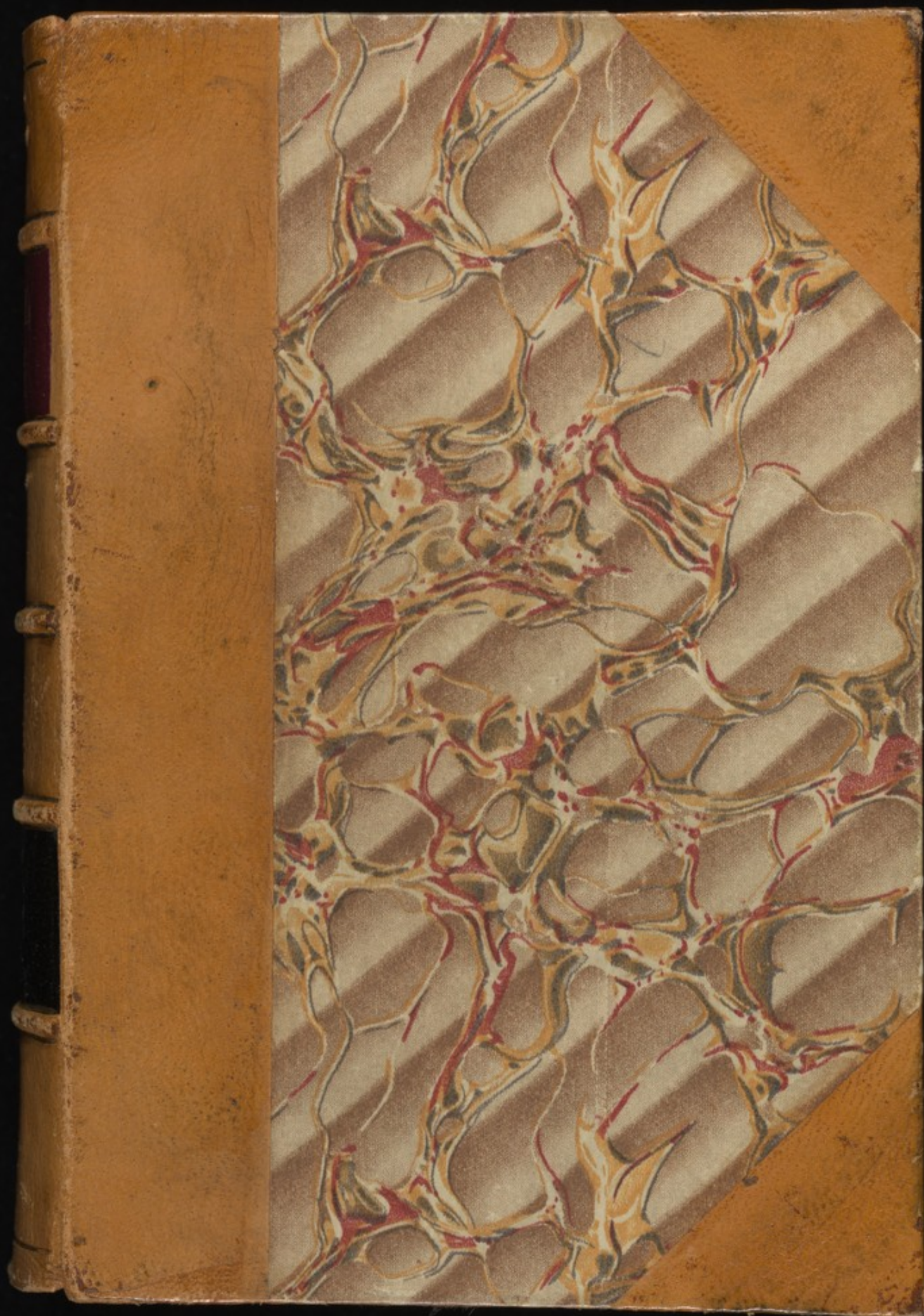
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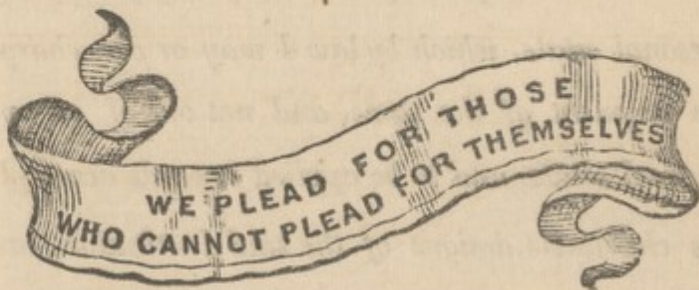
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THE
ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

INSTITUTED OCTOBER 27, 1847.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1862.



ESTABLISHMENT:
EARLSWOOD, RED HILL, SURREY.
OFFICE—29, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C.
1863.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH *unto* THE ASYLUM
 FOR IDIOTS, *situate at Earlswood, near Reigate, in the*
County of Surrey, and instituted on the Twenty-seventh
day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and
Forty-seven, the sum of
to be raised and paid by and out of any part of my pure
personal estate, which by law I may or can charge with
the payment of the same, and not out of any part of
my real estate, and to be applied towards accomplishing
the charitable designs of the said Institution; and so,
that if necessary for giving full effect to this bequest, my
estate and effects shall be marshalled in its favour.

			£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions	0	10	6	or	1	1	0
Life ditto	5	5	0	,,	10	10	0

Under the Patronage of
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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Where FORMS of Application may be had, and all Communications are to be made. Subscriptions thankfully received by the Secretary, Mr. WILLIAM NICHOLAS, to whom all Orders should be made payable. Attendance daily, from 10 till 4 o'clock. Saturday, 10 till 2 o'clock.

REPORT—1863.

THE Board of Management have the satisfaction of being able to report to the Benefactors and Subscribers the progressive benefits resulting from the continued and increasing support afforded to this important Institution. Established, sixteen years ago, by the efforts of a small number of philanthropic individuals, without the advantage of any previously existing model, and making its appeal for regard and encouragement in a novel form to a public always generous, but at the same time requiring proof of benefit to be derived from liberality, the Asylum for Idiots has, in every successive year, received more extended patronage; and, under God's providence, has been the means of alleviating afflictions admitting of no adequate description, and of imparting consolation to

numerous families in various parts of the kingdom, under the visitation of a heavy and peculiar domestic affliction.

On the present occasion the Board have the gratification to announce the gracious accordance of the especial patronage of the Institution by HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Since the last Anniversary Meeting the grant of a Charter has been obtained, securing some important advantages to the Charity.

Although the unusual distress prevailing in the manufacturing districts during the past year has demanded unexpected and almost unexampled exertions for the relief of a large portion of the industrious population, it is a satisfaction to the Board to be able to state that this particular Charity has experienced no diminution of kind support; and they have endeavoured to avail themselves of this support by continued efforts to extend the benefits of it within the limits consistent with prudence.

The number of the idiotic and imbecile inmates of Earlswood is at this time **337**. It is to-day proposed to elect **25** to the advantages of residence, instruction, and care for five years; and to elect **5** for **Life** out of those who have already had such benefit, but whose infirmity of mind or body still disqualifies them for sup-

porting themselves in a world where they would be helpless and hopeless.

As among the benefits of the Asylum the improvement of the health of the afflicted children in their early stages of growth, and the gradual development of their limited faculties of mind and of their moral capacities, are of the highest importance, the Board have been much impressed with the necessity of encouraging applications for admission in the *early* years of the children for whom the benefit of the Institution is desired. Persons in very poor circumstances, and especially in the labouring classes, who are unfortunate enough to have an imbecile or idiotic child, are content to bear the burden of maintaining it until it attains the age of fourteen or fifteen years—partly, no doubt, with a hope of its becoming able to assist in gaining a living—and they postpone all attempts to get it better taken care of; so that it is only when the neglected boy or girl is found to be growing up mischievous or dangerous that they become anxious to be relieved from the trouble and expense it occasions. This delay has a tendency gradually to fill the Asylum with troublesome young men and women, brought up with no kind of wholesome restraint, whose improvement is very difficult, and whose habits and example

are productive of great inconvenience, and are unavoidably disadvantageous to the younger and still improvable children. Whenever practicable, the training and education of feeble and imperfect intellect should be commenced at a very early age, and not deferred to the age of seven or even of five years. When such young children have been received at Earlswood their progress has generally been satisfactory. Considering these circumstances, and yet anxious not to adopt too rigid a rule, the Board have endeavoured to encourage early admissions by limiting the age for the first application to twelve years. They believe that the desirableness of limiting the date of the first application still further will hereafter become evident.

The general appearance of the numerous family now at Earlswood, the activity and cheerfulness of the children, their improved sensibilities as to all surrounding objects, the evident development of their best human sympathies, are among the unquestionable evidences of the great attention they receive, and of the kind care taken of them under the unremitting direction of the resident Physician, and of the cheerful conformity to his system by the Matron and all the officers and attendants.

In the course of the past year the general

health of the inmates at Earlswood has been uninterrupted, except by the occurrence of Measles. The epidemic appeared to be introduced accidentally, and prevailed in a severe form. Its extent and effects, and the precautionary arrangements by which its spreading seems to have been happily limited, will be found in the excellent Report of Dr. DOWN. A majority of the children being at all times liable to some of the various diseases of childhood, it is always of consequence that the resources against such invasions should be carefully provided. In the various alterations from time to time adopted by the Board, either in the building or in the grounds, the first consideration is always given to such as conduce to the preservation of the general health of a population containing a large proportion of persons of feeble constitution. Good and well-prepared food, suitable clothing, an abundant supply of water, airiness of the sitting-rooms and bed-rooms, and of the schools and workshops, and ample space for exercise in all seasons of the year, are among the objects of constant regard. The means of recreation and employment out of doors are, in the estimation of the Board of Management, of such great importance, both in respect to the health of the Establishment and to various auxiliary parts

of treatment, as to make the farm and gardens of inestimable value; and to suggest the great desirableness of securing both from limitation as to extent, and, if practicable, from encroachment, and from the close supervision by neighbouring buildings.

Encouraged by the kind offer of the Rev. Edwin Sidney, ever the zealous friend of the Charity, to attend meetings in some of the North of England towns of importance, and to plead the cause of the Idiot, three such meetings have been held during the past year, namely, at Sheffield, Bradford, and Huddersfield, and which were presided over by Lord Wharncliffe, William E. Forster, Esq., M.P., and J. E. Laycock, Esq. Each meeting was addressed with earnest effect by Mr. Sidney. The labour of organizing these meetings was cheerfully and ably undertaken by Mr. Nicholas, the Secretary, and the results to the funds of the Charity amounted to upwards of £300, including the addition of forty-two annual subscribers. The benevolent exertions of the Rev. Mr. Sidney have been the subject of grateful acknowledgment on previous occasions, and they have not been limited in the past year to the above meetings. In December he was so good as to deliver a valuable lecture on the subject of Earlswood

and its inmates, at the Literary and Scientific Institution of Croydon, in which the general character and peculiarities of idiocy, and the principles on which the instruction and care of the pupils are conducted, are explained with a clearness of detail and a fulness of touching illustration peculiarly deserving of attentive perusal by those who take a warm interest in the object of the Institution at Earlswood.

The Commissioners in Lunacy, in the course of their official duties, lately devoted nearly the whole of one day to a minute inspection of the Establishment, and had an opportunity of seeing the greater part of the numerous family at dinner in the dining-hall, as well as during the hours of instruction in the schools, and when engaged in various exercises in the grounds; and general and cordial satisfaction with what they witnessed was expressed by them. The high character of the Commissioners, their habits of careful observation, and their great experience in whatever relates to Institutions for all varieties of infirm mind, give great value to their approbation, as well as to their suggestions when anything appears to them to admit of improvement. The Board of Management are at all times most desirous to adopt beneficial amendments, but they do not forget that they are also the guar-

dians of the finances of the Charity, and that so large and peculiar an Establishment is necessarily expensive, and can only be safely maintained by a prudent administration of the funds so liberally accorded to it by the public.

During the sixth Annual Meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, in the month of June last, the Earlswood Asylum was one of the Institutions which attracted a large company of the members and their friends, who visited every part of the Establishment, apparently to their great gratification, as well as to that of the juvenile inmates.

Since the presentation of the last Annual Report of the Board, the following charitable legacies have been bequeathed to the Society.

THE REV. ANDREW REED, D.D.	£1000
MRS. ANN CUTTO	£1000
CHARLES ROGERS, Esq.	£250
AVERY ROBERTS, Esq.	£100
MISS ELIZABETH R. BANNISTER	£100
MRS. MARY OVEREND	£100
MISS LUCY EVANS	£100
MISS MARY DUNCAN	£100
MISS STRANGWAYS	£100
JOSEPH SANDERS, Esq. (Contingent)	£75
THE REV. WILLIAM BURGESS	£50
MRS ELIZABETH MARY WILSON	£50
MISS ANNE RUMSEY	£25

SOLOMON A. LEVY, Esq..... £10
 MISS ELIZABETH WELBY (Moiety of Property).
 MISS ANNA MARIA DOLLEY (ditto).

The late Annual Festival was attended by numerous friends and supporters of Earlswood, and the tables were graced by the presence of many ladies. In the unavoidable absence of Lord Calthorpe, in consequence of illness, the chair was kindly taken by Mr. Alderman Abbiss, who very warmly and successfully advocated the cause of the Charity. The contributions at the dinner amounted to £1,980. In connection with this festival the Board are desirous most gratefully to record the munificent gift of five hundred guineas by William Dobinson, Esq., in lieu of a proposed legacy. They feel assured that every subscriber to the Asylum for Idiots will participate in their sincere hope that the generous donor may live many years to see continued benefits derived from this additional proof of his interest in a benevolent Institution, to the success of which he has, from its foundation, been a zealous and constant contributor.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

THE number of Inmates, over whom the Institution at Earlswood now extends its fostering care, is larger than it has ever yet been; 337 patients, 234 being males and 103 females, are at this time within its walls.

It has generally been the privilege of your Superintendent to report favourably on the sanitary condition of the Inmates. Although he is able to do so at the present time, he is compelled to place the past year as an exceptional one, and to advert to an epidemic of great severity, to a period of corresponding anxiety.

For many years, the Asylum had not been visited by any of the maladies incidental to the earlier periods of life; it contained, consequently, a considerable population who had been excluded from the ordinary risks of contagion, and who were specially receptive of its influence whenever it should be presented. In the autumn a

case of measles appeared, and in a short time—in spite of every precaution—more than one third of the inmates were afflicted with that illness. So great an amount of sickness, in such a community, over-taxed the ordinary nurses and attendants; but your Superintendent was enabled, from the practice which is adopted at Earlswood of meeting all the requirements of the Institution by its own staff, to draft servants employed in the work-room and other departments into temporary service as nurses, and thus meet the emergencies of the case.

The way in which the whole body of officials responded to the call thus made on them, and the alacrity with which they fulfilled most trying duties, was such as to merit the highest commendation; and your Superintendent felt it his duty to make a public manifestation of his obligation to them at the late annual gathering at Earlswood. Happily, the epidemic passed without a larger amount of mortality than might have been predicated, and the stress fell mainly on those who were previously characterised by low mental and physical power. It is with much thankfulness he is able to report a return to the normal standard of health.

The instruction imparted in the schools still continues to be attended with good results.

Increased attention has been given to physical in conjunction with mental training, and your Superintendent is glad to be able to say that in this department no change has taken place in the officer-staff, whose aptitude and zeal are worthy of all praise.

The devotional exercises are conducted as heretofore; much consideration, however, has been given to the choral part of the services.

The various workshops continue sources of profit, and valuable agents for physical and intellectual development. It is important, in comparing the results in this department with those in Lunatic Asylums, to remember that at Earlswood the patients have to be instructed in the *rudiments* of the various branches of handicraft; whereas, in Lunatic Asylums, use is made, for the most part, of those who had been skilled workmen anterior to their mental alienation. The time is still looked forward to when the Board may be enabled, through your liberality, to provide other than the temporary accommodation which is now afforded; an accommodation defective in space for the trades now taught, and not permitting further extension of the present occupations, or an addition thereto of branches of industry which might advantageously be entered upon.

Twenty-five patients are employed constantly on the farm and gardens, and a much larger number take part in periodical out-door occupations.

It must be a matter known to many, that prominence has been given to an isolated opinion that the land belonging to the Asylum should not be retained for the use and enjoyment of its inmates. Looking at the subject broadly, aided by the experience which nearly five years' residence and oversight give, your Superintendent can only regard with admiration the wise prescience which the earlier Boards of Management displayed, in securing a considerable amount of land as an adjunct to such an establishment as Earlswood; and congratulate those interested in its success on the persistence of the present Board in carrying out the intention of its founders, and their resistance to a procedure which could not be contemplated as other than a grave calamity.

At a time when public attention is being directed to the evil attendant on cooping up patients afflicted with mental disease on limited areas of ground in the Metropolis, and when cogent arguments are being adduced in the columns of the public prints for the removal to sites in the country, where unlimited land can be attached, he cannot but feel surprise that a

proposition, which would deprive Earlswood of one of its essential features of superiority, should meet with even one advocate. A correspondent in the "Times" (F. R. S.) thus writes:—"It is now universally recognised that an Establishment which does not give ample facility for healthy out-door pursuits, is not a proper hospital for the insane;" and his remark applies with equal, if not greater force, to that phase of alienation which is treated at Earlswood.

During the past year the new wash-house has been fitted up with the most approved machinery for effecting the work of that department. At present the power is limited, in consequence of the temporary adaptation of a small steam-engine which was previously on the premises. A larger and more powerful engine, which was purchased from the International Exhibition, will soon be erected, and in working order. The completion of the laundry is now being carried out with the greatest possible despatch, and it is anticipated that before the end of the year the entire laundry department will be in that state of efficiency desirable for so large an Establishment. In connexion with the engine-house of the laundry, a fitter's shop is being erected, which will admit of the execution of all the smith's work and engineering repairs of the Asylum.

During the past year an acre of land and four cottages have been added to the estate. The land formed a tongue which partly intersected the lawn, and interfered with the privacy of the inmates. The cottages have been let to the workpeople of the Asylum, and the land retained for the Institution; a proceeding which gives increased frontage to the estate, secures neighbours whose conduct is amenable to control, proximity of workmen in cases of emergency at night, and a very profitable investment of the money employed.

The supply of water for the Establishment has enlisted serious consideration. Hitherto, it has been entirely derived from a brook which is one of the tributaries of the river Mole, filtered into a reservoir, and pumped by water-power into the various cisterns of the building. In consequence of the vast increase of population in the neighbourhood, the purity of the stream has been interfered with, and the water-power being inefficient to pump up a quantity adequate to the increasing requirements of the Asylum, an Artesian well was commenced with the legitimate hope of obtaining a profuse supply. Contrary, however, to expectation, a considerable depth was pierced without that result being attained; and after a competent geological opinion had been sought, it was resolved to

suspend further expenditure of money for the time, and to rest satisfied with the quantity of 1500 gallons per diem, which the well at its present depth yields, and which will be ample for drinking and culinary purposes. A large tank, capable of holding 30,000 gallons, has been constructed in proximity to the new laundry, to receive the greater portion of the rain-water from the roof of the Asylum. The water-wheel at the brook having proved an obstruction to the drainage of some neighbouring land, the owners thereof have arranged to compensate for its removal by the gift of a steam-engine, which will be powerful enough to throw an abundant supply from the reservoir to meet the remaining household requirements. Thus from these three sources, it is hoped, that previous difficulties will be obviated.

Continued experience having confirmed the opinion previously entertained of the value of amusements calculated to stimulate mental activity through the medium of the senses, efforts have been put forth to provide entertainments of varied kinds during the past winter months; and like attention will be given to supply new spurs to activity, and to devise new sources of interest in the out-door amusements of the coming season.

In conclusion, your Superintendent acknowledges with much pleasure the earnest co-operation of the staff of officers and servants in the various plans which are adopted to ameliorate the condition of those entrusted to their charge; and desires to express a wish that all interested in the Charity would visit the Asylum, to encourage those who are labouring there, and to stimulate their own zeal to larger effort on behalf of the most afflicted and helpless of their race.

J. LANGDON H. DOWN, M.D., LOND.,

Resident Physician and Superintendent.

EARLSWOOD, April 14, 1863.

APPENDIX.

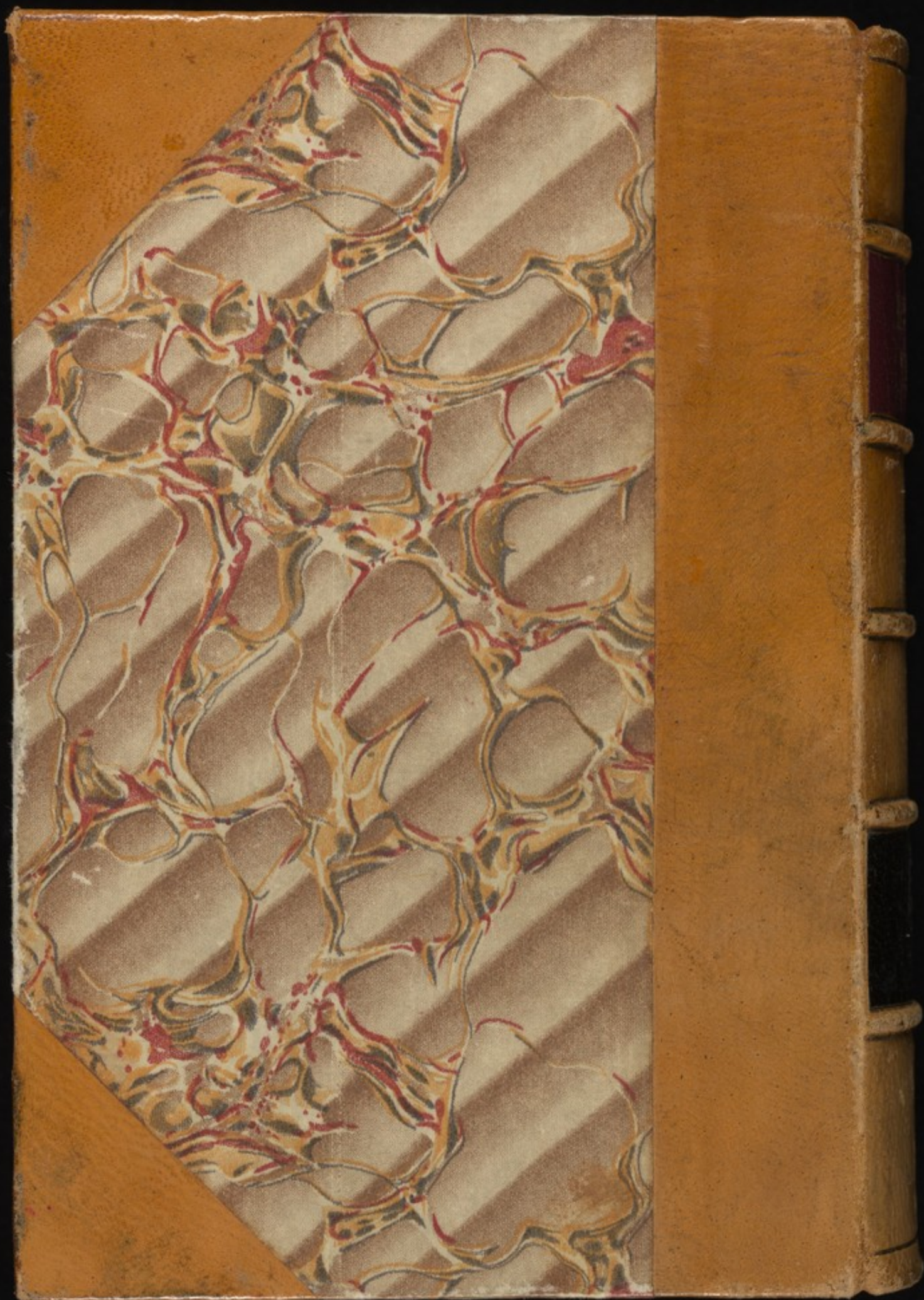
Numbers of the Patients employed in Industrial Occupations:—

MALES.		Household Work.....		13
Carpenters	16	Laundry	4	
Shoemakers	13			170
Mat Weavers, & Helpers		FEMALES.		
in Mat Shops	71	Household Work.....	20	
Basket Makers.....	11	Needlework	46	
Tailors	16			
Farm and Garden	25	Total.....	236	
Plumber.....	1			

N.B.—Mats, Matting, Hearth Rugs, and Baskets, the work of the Pupils, on Sale, at reasonable prices. These articles will also be made to order.

Receipts and Expenditure, from Dec. 31st, 1861, to Dec. 31st, 1862.

To Balance at Bankers.....	£1,446 10 4	By Housekeeping Expenses for Board, Clothing, Education, &c.	£3,142 6 0
" Annual Subscriptions	4,262 10 6	" Salaries of Officers, Earlwood and Office, Com- mission, Rent, and all Office Expenses	2,037 12 10
" Donations	2,468 8 2	" Wages—Attendants, Masters of Trades, and Servants	891 8 6
" Pupils' Payments	1,782 8 6	" Washing	400 10 11
" Legacies	6,993 17 9	" Furniture, including Bedding, Linen, Earthen- ware, Hardware, &c., &c.	1,291 14 9
" Life Payment	2,540 14 3	" Repairs, Painting, Colouring, and Varnishing	360 16 7
" Farm and Kitchen-garden Produce sold	500 0 0	" Printing Lists of Subscribers, Reports, Proxies, and "Visits to Earlwood,"	290 7 3
" Loan from Bankers.....	1,087 12 10	" Stationery, Office and Books for Schools	93 12 9
" Rent of Cottages	500 0 0	" Advertisements	334 9 1
" Dividends	44 1 6	" Postages of Proxies, Letters, &c.	173 8 8
" Sale of Sundries	11 19 0	" Carriage of Goods, Materials, and Travelling Expenses	184 6 6
	37 11 5	" Rates and Taxes	159 8 3
		" Annual Dinner, Elections, and Miscellaneous Expenditure.....	231 19 7
		" Law Expenses	18 10 8
		" Gas	222 10 0
		" "The Well" (Paid on Account)	612 0 0
		" Cost of "The Charter"	249 15 4
		" Insurance, Funeral Bills, &c.	77 12 0
		" Public Meetings—Yorkshire	126 3 9
		" Interest on Loans	347 3 3
		" Workshops, Materials, and Wages... 191 15 9	
		" Less Work Sold .. 134 2 0	
		" New Washhouse, Rain-water Tanks, Ma- chinery, Steam and Gas Fittings, Fixtures, and Additions to Building	57 13 9
		" Purchase of Additional Land & Four Cottages (£500), New Roads, Paths, and Fencing ..	2,550 17 6
		" Expenses of Farm and Kitchen Garden.....	805 1 11
		" Purchase of Nine Additional Cows	835 1 1
		" Repairing Roads, Paths, Fences, &c.	150 0 0
		" Balance in hand, Treasurer..... 901 14 11	115 7 1
		" Ditto, Petty Cash	14 1 4
			915 16 3
			£21,675 14 3



MEDICAL
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