

Observations on the prevailing practice of supplying medical assistance to the poor, commonly called the farming of parishes : with suggestions for the establishment of parochial medicine chests; or, infirmaries in agricultural districts.

Contributors

Smith, Henry Lilley, 1788-1859.
University of Glasgow. Library

Publication/Creation

London : [Printed by the Philanthropic Society], 1819.

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OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE PREVAILING PRACTICE

OF SUPPLYING

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR,

COMMONLY CALLED

THE FARMING OF PARISHES;

WITH

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF

PAROCHIAL MEDICINE CHESTS;

OR,

INFIRMARIES IN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

The Profits arising from the Sale of this Publication will be applied to the benefit of the
Eye and Ear Infirmary, established at Southam, 13th April, 1818.

London :

PRINTED BY THE PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY, ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS.

1819.

"Hank, Power, Wealth, Influence, constitute an exemption from activity or attention to duty; but by a weight of accumulated responsibility on the Power. If the Power are (Rich) Idle or Powerless, they are reduced to submit on the benevolence of the Rich; and if the Rich (I except those to whom health and ability and not the will is wanting) are selfish, indolent, and neglectful of the conditions on which they hold superiority of rank and fortune, they sink into a situation worse than that of being gratuitously maintained by the Poor. They become parasites on a slowly and distinguished class, in no way personally contributing to the general stock, but subsisting upon the labour of the industrious Cottager;—and whenever Providence thinks fit to remove such a Character, whether in life or in low life, whether Rich or Poor, the Community is relieved from an useless burthen."

Dr. T. Brown's Prefatory Introduction to the 2d Volume of the Report of the Society for bettering the Condition and lowering the Charges of the Poor, p. 26

*To the Right Honourable the Patrons, to the
President, Vice-Presidents, and Governors,*
of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, Established
in the Town of Southam, in the County of
Warwick, April 13, 1818,*

THE following Observations on a subject which has long engaged the attention and excited the regret of the Philanthropist, but which has never been submitted to the Public with an appropriate plan for its amelioration, are respectfully dedicated.

By your liberal Patronage the Author has been encouraged to pursue, with increased ardour, some of the most interesting investigations in Medical Science.

Utility in his profession is his principal aim, and he has a conscious satisfaction in devoting the best portion of his time to those pursuits, which have a tendency to augment the comforts of life and diminish the sum of human misery.

HENRY LILLEY SMITH.

Southam,
March 1, 1819.

* See Appendix.

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March 1, 1818.

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

THE circumstances of the times in which we live have occasioned the attention of the public of this country to be particularly directed to the condition of the labouring poor. The result of these enquiries, and the Reports of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws, have shewn the great expediency, not to say absolute necessity, of many alterations in the present system. But perhaps the inadequacy of the existing laws to the object they profess to accomplish is never more apparent than when we consider the numerous privations, and unmerited sufferings, to which the poor are still frequently exposed, notwithstanding the great assistance this country is ever ready to afford them under their severe and distressing afflictions. At no period is their situation so interesting to humanity as when disease has attacked, and is consuming that strength and activity on which they and their families depend for support, and which they have been accustomed to enjoy in a greater degree than those who are not dependent on bodily labour for their maintenance. Whatever opinions may be entertained of the policy of that law which maintains the stout and healthy among our peasantry in dependence on any other support than what their own gainful industry should supply; to those who *cannot work* these considerations are inapplicable, and in behalf of the infirm and sick the voice of nature pleads irresistibly.

Yet how mistaken is our treatment of the sick pauper! Not less deficient it may be safely affirmed in provident economy, as it regards the parish, than in tender care to the unfortunate individual.

In large and populous villages, and particularly in manufacturing districts, the number of poor continually chargeable to the parish is very great. The necessity which occasions their ap-

plication for parochial relief arises chiefly from the unwholesome nature of their employment, or the disorders and accidents that are common to all. Even in agricultural villages, the number of paupers receiving relief frequently bears a large proportion to the population; and in all cases of sickness, it is absolutely necessary that relief should be administered as speedily as possible.

Hence to afford instant relief to the poor when in sickness, is in a great measure to save money to the parish; but the Overseers, from their excessive zeal to protect their funds, often mistake the effectual means of doing so. Their parochial burdens,* instead of being reduced by such parsimony, are eventually augmented; and while a seasonable aid would have prevented the growth and fixture of the incumbrance by an early removal of the cause; they, by their hesitation and delay, have allowed the evil to become inveterate.

Nor is this all that is remarkable. The continuance of the present system of farming the sick of parishes, so repugnant to sound judgment and enlightened policy, is matter of very great surprise. Let us see what this practice is, correctly and candidly set forth. "At Easter, in the best and fairest manner possible, a tender is usually made by the Overseers of

* By comparing the assessments in the two counties in this kingdom in which the largest portion is employed in agriculture, viz. Bedfordshire and Herefordshire, it will be seen that there has been the same progressive augmentation in the amount of the assessments, as may be observed to have taken place in the manufacturing counties.

County of	Money expended on Paupers in the year ending Easter, 1776.		Medium average of annual expenditure on account of Paupers in years ending Easter, 1783, 1784, 1785.		Expenditure on Paupers in year ending Easter, 1803.		Expenditure on Paupers in year ending 25 March, 1815.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Hereford	10593	7 2	16727	18 2	48067	8 10	59255	19 0
Bedford	16662	17 1	20977	0 11	38070	3 8	50370	10 11

See Report of Select Committee on the Poor Laws.

the Poor, inviting a statement from all the Medical Men within reach of the parish, of the lowest terms on which they will attend the poor for the ensuing year. The parties answering are required to make an estimate of the value of their time, science, and medicines, in the relief of every disorder to which the paupers of the parish may be exposed, including the occasional inoculation or vaccination of children, and the attendance on women in labour."

There are, however, many parishes in which the system of giving a certain sum to a Professional Man for the purpose of supplying the poor with medical assistance, is not adopted; other plans of more humane character towards the objects of attention, and more grateful to the profession, have in many instances been resorted to under the influence of enlightened individuals. Their better feelings have taught them that it is a dereliction of every principle that should actuate a fellow being in society, to contract for the means of preserving the health of those whose labour is so essential to their comforts, on a plan which they would scorn to adopt for that of their cattle and beasts of burthen. The terms generally concluded on between Professional Men and Overseers of Parishes, are calculated to teach the former to set little value on the lives of the lower classes, which are estimated in the minds of their employers at so low a rate.

To their credit be it spoken, the regular Medical Men generally are so conscious of the ill effects of this practice, at once degrading to their profession, injurious to the poor, and unsatisfactory to their employers, that they are averse to enter into such engagements. Such men have frequently acknowledged, that a more opulent patient has obtained that time and assistance which should have been given at a particular juncture to one of the unfortunate individuals comprized within the parish contract, and who might, had it been devoted to him, have been rescued from the grave.—With what painful feelings,—with what distressing reflections, must not a liberal mind be frequently agitated on such occasions?

There are doubtless those who do not suffer from these reflec-

tions! as there are in every profession men without skill, without probity, and moral principles: let it be added, too, that the poverty frequently accompanying early practice, may induce compliances with what the judgment and the conscience are alike far from approving, “their poverty but not their will consents.”

And even here it cannot be invidious to advert to the immense and fruitless expense that many parishes in this kingdom incur, in the litigious contentions respecting parish settlements; when a small remuneration to the Medical Attendant is so reluctantly afforded.

It is well known that the large sums* drawn from the legitimate source from whence the distress of paupers should be relieved, are often applied in compliance with the direction of an extensive land-holder,—a litigious overseer,—or capricious parishioner.—These expenditures ought at all times to be most openly exposed; for they answer no good purpose to the parish,—to the individuals,—or to the public. How much more advantageous, therefore, nay, charitable would it be, if parishes would spare even a fourth of those sums for the relief of sickness and disease?

These observations are offered with some confidence, as many in this favoured country, who are not of the Medical Profession, are willing to give their attention to every plan whose professed object is the amelioration of their species; particularly when they reflect, that the fortuitous advantages of birth and fortune, demand from their possessors a benevolent interference in favour of those who occupy a lower, though not less useful station in the order of civilized society. Their condescending care is evinced by the variety of establishments in our populous towns and cities, in which age may repose, or sickness be relieved. But the public spirit by which agriculture is usually directed, has

* The sums expended in litigation and removal of paupers as reported by the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws amounted in 1776 to £35,072; in 1786, to £35,791; in 1803, to £190,072; in 1815, to £287,000. And it appears that the appeals against orders of removal, entered at the four Quarter Sessions for 1816, amount to 4,700.

not extended itself towards those immediately engaged in its employments, who from a variety of causes have not, to an adequate extent, partaken of the benefits which have been received from the institution of hospitals and infirmaries.

Of all the forms of relief to the poor under sickness and disease, there are none that afford so much ready and essential aid as infirmaries* or dispensaries, which certainly at the least expense can distribute to the poor, medicine enough for their necessities, and afford them under the most dangerous and painful operations all that humanity can require, by associating the skill and talent of the regularly educated professional men of the vicinity. They are of easy access, and give opportunities of checking in its first advance the progress of disease. They do not separate, as hospitals do, the invalid from his family, nor during a protracted illness, or a still more protracted convalescence, occasion any feelings of dread and anxiety in the patient as to the discharge of the apothecary's bill. Free from every expense of this kind, and assured that none can be incurred, the patient readily and willingly submits to any plans that may be suggested to him, and which, in the present improved state of

* P. I. G. Carbanis—Coup d'Oeil sur les Revolutions et sur la Reforme de la Medicin—particularly insists on the advantages of Clinical Institutions, as the *sine qua non* of useful instruction.

“There, and there only, the student becomes conversant with the essential object of his labours; the teacher can point out and accurately determine what must be examined and recognized in actual practice; and there only, the method of observing can be traced in its elements. The Greeks taught medicine at the bed of the sick; the Romans and Arabs enjoyed the same advantage; and among the moderns, the school of Vienna and Edinburgh have been the first to avail themselves of that most important part of medical instruction.

“The philosophic zeal of Joseph II. rendered the school of Vienna superior to every thing which had been before conceived; that of Edinburgh, rendered conspicuous almost all at once, by a re-union of eminent men, has not only appeared in the greatest possible splendour, but has in fact formed a number of excellent practitioners, many of whom are now rendering the greatest services to humanity in every part of the world.”

M. Carbanis observes farther, that the practice of medicine is reduced to a few formulæ, by judicious and intelligent practitioners in the Country and in Hospitals; whilst it is obliged to multiply and to vary its resources in the treatment of patients devoted to study, to business, or to the pleasures of refined life.

medical science, are often greatly opposed to the prejudices of the ignorant; and are consequently not enforced with that energy they would otherwise be, if the profession could co-operate and act decidedly.

Hospitals, likewise, by associating professional men, elicit their talents and hold out advantages in long continued diseases, particularly in surgical cases which supersede the dispensary. They are invaluable as schools of medicine and surgery, for in them the duties of different branches of the profession are well defined, separate parts of the same science elucidated, and the labour divided; so that they have contributed more to the advancement of the healing art, than all the detached remarks of the ablest private practitioners. Some considerable men of the best talents and observation have lived and died in great practice, without having promoted science in any great degree, or transmitted one useful fact to posterity. Many others experienced in medicine, who have committed the result of their observations to paper, have never published them, so that many valuable suggestions have been lost from diffidence, which the public practice of an hospital would have otherwise sanctioned. They have therefore died with the individuals, and been "lost to the accumulative stock of medical knowledge."

These remarks are necessary to the developement of the following Plan, which while it promises the conveniences of a small hospital in every district, and of united parochial medicine chests, or general dispensaries, will be found to require little more money from parishes than the expenditure on the present system. This Plan on examination will be found certain and sufficient; for when once established, it will continually excite and keep alive that professional emulation among its medical attendants, and zeal among its benevolent supporters, which the contemplation of indigence, brought on by the visitations of Providence, so justly requires. To promote the object of so desirable an Establishment in every district where these suggestions may apply, the following sketch of Rules and Regulations is respectfully offered.

PROPOSED PLAN.*

- I. **THAT** a General Infirmary and Dispensary be established at
open for all the labouring poor,
who are resident within six or seven miles of that place.
- II. That it be supported by voluntary contributions, and by individual and parochial subscriptions; the latter after the rate of £3 per annum, for every hundred of inhabitants† in all villages situated within three miles, and £4 per annum, for every hundred in all villages beyond that distance.
- III. That mechanics, servants, and labourers, who are not strictly denominated poor, and who may be desirous of availing themselves of the advantages of this institution, be allowed to do so, on contributing annually 5s. each.
- IV. That every female subscriber of 5s. shall be entitled to medical attendance.
- V. The subscriptions for children under the age of fifteen to be 2s. 6d. each per annum.
- VI. That subscribers of one guinea per annum may recommend two patients (cases of midwifery excepted.)
- VII. That annual subscribers of one guinea shall annually elect a committee of twenty from among themselves, who with the overseers of the subscribing parishes forming part of the committee, shall have the direction of the establishment.

* The form of these detailed resolutions are reduced to a plan which will exhibit at one view the subject divided into its natural branches, and facilitate the acquirement of information as to the means of raising its funds, its officers, its objects, and its expenditure.

See the Plan.

† The payment by the gross amount of population, has the advantage of being generally fair, as the proportion of rich and poor in agricultural districts are for this purpose sufficiently uniform; calculating by the number of paupers only would be liable to much error, and in making and registering the lists, would give an infinity of unnecessary trouble to the Overseers and Secretary.

VIII. That Messrs. A. B. C. be appointed surgeons to the institution, and any, or every regular medical practitioner, residing in the district, be admitted into the establishment at the discretion of the committee.

IX. That Mr. A. be appointed to attend every Monday and Thursday from ten to eleven.

That Mr. B. on Tuesday and Friday.

That Mr. C. on Wednesday and Saturday.

X. * That 2s. 6d. be allowed for every journey within three miles of the infirmary, and for every additional visit in the same place 1s. and for every mile beyond that distance 9d. or That after the expenses of the medicines, and all other demands on the funds are paid, £50 (for the current expenses of the institution) be then kept in the treasurer's hands, the remainder to be divided between the surgeons, in proportion to the number of miles travelled and visits made; and each surgeon shall deliver in a monthly account of his journeys and visits to the secretary, from which his allowance shall be calculated.

XI. That the poor shall have the privilege of being attended at home by such one of the surgeons as they may desire, upon sending an order signed by the minister of the parish, or the overseers.

XII. That the poor of subscribing parishes, who may be able to attend at the infirmary, upon observing the appointed hours, and producing evidence of their belonging to such a parish, require no other recommendation.

XIII. That all medicine be purchased by the surgeons, under the direction of the committee. The surgeons to find their own instruments, except trusses.

XIV. That lodgings, and accommodations, for patients requiring frequent attendance be procured at the expense of the funds, provided they have no accommodation for sick in the house.

XV. Paupers not being maintained out of the funds of the Institution, must, therefore, if in lodgings, be supplied immediately from their parish; and if in the infirmary, will be provided for by the house-keeper for 5s. 6d. each per week, and if under ten years of age 3s. 6d.—Her accounts are separate from the funds, but regularly investigated by the committee.

* The principle once adopted of remunerating professional men in the country by paying their travelling expenses from one common fund, would not when brought into practice be so difficult as might be anticipated.

XVI. That under unavoidable circumstances that may require the absence of the surgeon officiating, he shall provide a substitute.

XVII. That no important operation in the infirmary be performed without the attendance of two surgeons. The operating surgeon only shall be allowed to introduce visitors to an operation.

XVIII. That the committee (five constituting a majority) meet on the first Monday in every month.

XIX. That a treasurer and secretary be appointed, the latter* with a salary.

XX. That in extreme cases the surgeon, if he thinks it expedient, do call in the aid of such neighbouring physician as he may think proper, whose fees shall be paid out of the funds.

XXI. That notice of the physician's attendance be communicated to the surgeons of the infirmary, by the surgeon who solicits his attendance.

XXII. That when the usual midwife is obliged to call in the assistance of an infirmary surgeon to the female poor in labour, such surgeon shall be entitled to one guinea for his attendance from the funds.

XXIII. That no female poor be entitled to medical attendance when in labour, on account of the establishment, but as above.

XXIV. That the names of the surgeons, with their days and hours of attendance, be fixed in the common room.

XXV. That patients desiring a consultation of the surgeons, do, with the consent of two overseers or governor, send the secretary an intimation of their wish to that effect.

XXVI. That the poor find their own bottles, phials, and bandages, and come supplied with them after their first visit.

XXVII. That any complaint of inattention, or neglect of the nurse, secretary, or surgeon, be directly stated to a subscriber, who after investigating its truth, will report it to the committee.

XXVIII. That wine, sago, porter, &c. be ordered for the patients by the surgeon only, and kept by the nurse, who shall deliver in a monthly account of what has been thus expended.

* This being an active rather than an honorary office, requires that some person of ordinary abilities, and in that station of life whose local knowledge and acquaintance with the general state of the applicants would enable him to save much trouble to the surgeons, should be chosen—instead of gentlemen as usual on these occasions—more particularly as a knowledge of accounts and an appropriation of much time will be necessary.

XXIX. That every patient admitted into the house do conform to the rules thereof, or be discharged, and a report of the cause of his dismissal be made to the party who recommended him.

Other Private Rules to be made for the use of the Infirmary—as

Rules of recommendation and directions for subscribers—For patients in the house—For out-patients—For the election of officers—Duties of the Secretary, &c. &c.

Comparison of the Plan as above suggested, with the present system of Farming Parishes.

The review of the two systems distributes itself naturally into three parts.

First—As they affect the Comforts of the Poor.

Secondly—In what concerns the Parochial and Public Interest.

Thirdly—The Respectability of the Medical Profession.

1st.—As they affect the Comforts of the Poor.

Proposed New Plan.

Medical attendance and advice under all circumstances will be easy of access,* and afforded by Surgeons of their own choice.

In difficult cases, the uniting the aid of all the medical talents in the vicinity, so that individual skill, inattention, and indolence, will not escape animadversion.

Who are thus compelled by the publicity as well as enabled by the liberality of the Committee, to use medicine of the very best quality.

Old Plan.

As to very indigent paupers, the Surgeon is rarely of their own choice, and the more respectable resolve not to employ the Parish Surgeon—because he is such.†

Surgeons on the present system of farming parishes do not co-operate; and want of skill, or indolence, or both, may prevail in individuals.

The salary for attendance on parishes when farmed, must produce an inclination to use medicine of an inferior, therefore inefficacious quality.

* In every variation or addition to the rules above suggested that may be thought necessary, it is important these principles should be adhered to.

† This is almost the only instance of independent spirit the Poor Laws have not destroyed.

Which by obtaining the confidence of the patient promotes its beneficial effects.

Their communications to the Surgeon at one stated time and place, render their supply of medicine more regular, and others of the same village can often avail themselves of one patient or messenger going to the Infirmary, and all directions and labels being *printed*, few if any mistakes can arise.

And during a state of convalescence they will obtain a regular supply of wine, sago, porter, and probably other* conveniences, as the benevolent will then know **WHEN** and **HOW** to be useful.

By the payment of 5s. annually, servants will obtain the best medical aid in the neighbourhood in all cases of accident or sickness.

2dly—In what concerns the Parochial and Public Interest.

The expenses on the proposed plan are fixed and certain to each parish, and regulated as to amount by population alone.

The paupers of subscribing parishes will be attended within the district, in whatever parish they may reside.

And if his general supply be good, the worst the practitioner has will be sure to be used in this way, and a poor patient thus disappointed in the effect of remedies doubts the utility of them altogether.

From the difficulty of communicating with the Surgeon, many hours or days frequently elapse before a supply of medicines, or repetitions when required, can reach the sick; and they are often obliged to hire a messenger at a time when they can least afford it, and their directions, and labels being *written*, are frequently ill deciphered, or ill understood, and therefore the cause of numerous and serious mistakes.

Wine, and cordials, are now often difficult to be obtained for the poor patients, when the Surgeon recommends it, or they are frequently so injudiciously bestowed by the charitable, as to be of more injury than benefit.

Servants frequently pay the Apothecary in consequence of an illness of a few weeks, a great portion of their yearly wages, as well as for the hire of a nurse, and a substitute in their service; and if advanced in life, are often for ever overwhelmed in poverty and distress by its discharge.

On the present plan of farming parishes, the attendance for midwifery, fractures, vaccinations, &c. are extra charges, and render the sum paid by the parish very uncertain in amount.

The Surgeon when he attends a pauper belonging to the farmed parish, but who resides in another, with reason makes an extra charge.

* See Appendix No. V.

The remuneration of the Surgeons depending upon the ability and exertion actually employed, it may reasonably be supposed that the neglect of a patient will be very rare; and each convalescent being obliged to present himself at the Infirmary, must at some time excite the attention of the Surgeons to his particular case.

When they are disposed to be *malingersers*, and feign themselves ill, they will soon under this system be detected.

3ly—The Respectability of the Medical Profession.

Gratuitous and public attendances at Infirmarys is always duly appreciated, and held honourable in the public estimation, and such attendance is here given to the extent the local population of the district requires.

The remunerations awaiting the attending Surgeons of the Infirmary, are not confined to the sums received for their journeys and visits, but will be considerable, for the Infirmary will be the means of securing the medical practice of the districts to them, and so enhance the profits of their other and more lucrative engagements, which may be expected to increase in proportion to their assiduous and liberal attention to the poor in their neighbourhood.

From the small encouragement given to the powers of the Surgeon by reward, or competition, many paupers are neglected and continue chargeable to the parish from protracted convalescence, without ever coming under the notice of the Surgeon,

Consequently they become malingersers, and the more industrious labourers finding the weekly parish pay of a man's family of this description made equal to their earnings, naturally repine, and "*justly complain that idleness is more profitable than industry, and beggary a better trade than the workshop*".

The system of farming the parochial poor tends in the most direct manner to degrade the character of the profession, their habits are changed by it—their confidence is weakened—and their consequence suffers in the estimation of all mankind.

At present the most contemptible species of opposition, that of underrating each other's services, prevails even amongst the most regular professional men. What is worse, the same system admits the merest pretender to the science of medicine, to practice with equal advantages with the most correct and honourable. The necessary qualifications are not required, valued, or even understood, by those whose object it is to obtain their services at the lowest price. Such medical men residing in the same neighbourhood, rarely meet in practice, or in private society, and form an unhappy exception to the union prevailing in other professions, which become enlightened and improved by communications of opinion, on subjects most interesting to themselves, and the rest of mankind, in their immediate sphere of action.

This system by occasionally requiring the united attendance of the medical men, will create a display of skill and judgment, and from a variety of causes suggests the prospect of that most valuable acquisition, a medical library—and we should then be left to hope, that professional conferences would mature the education of medical men; who, having acquired by the assistance of a good library, and full early practice, a sufficiency of skill and judgment, will thereby give a better assurance of the respectability of the profession, than can ever be obtained for it by the interference of the legislature.

Under the present act of Parliament made for the purpose of improving, nay, enforcing the respectability of the profession, the sums required to be expended in the necessary qualifications to practice, not only exclude many favourable candidates who from circumstances are unable to command them, but also compel the actual practitioners themselves to prefer the opulent to poor patients; because having so great a range, they can withdraw themselves from the poor, yet their professional education is also less solid, and less deeply laid, because the sums of money obliged to be paid in education before they can commence practice, is thought oftentimes as much as can be spared; and unfortunately, most inquiries as to medical knowledge, are subservient to the payment of fees.

Much more might be added in support of the above suggestions; but it is extremely evident, that notwithstanding the novelty or value they may possess, yet the obvious facility of reducing them to practice will be their principal recommendation. All the advantages of the old system are included, without any of its attendant evils, with many beneficial results altogether new. Those who are not so much attached to the system here reprobated as absolutely to reject the suggestion of *any* improvement, and those whose hasty adoption of modern theories may occasionally have led them into error, will perhaps in the trial of this plan, have a-like reason to congratulate themselves on the cautious experiment of a proposed good, and the safe exercise of a speculative benevolence.

It is needless to appeal to the charitable feelings of Englishmen in support of plans which should speak to their judgment alone. The native strength of their minds is ever sufficient to elevate them to the investigation of matters of public as well as private utility;

therefore, without attempting to awaken their sensibility, or enforcing the moral duties of mankind, I will only remind my readers, that in no case can they better fulfil the positive commands of their Creator, or discharge their duty to themselves, their fellow creatures, or their Country, than in the exercise of the labours above required. At all events, I hope and entreat, in the name of brotherly love and Christian charity, that the benevolent and candid—the wise and good—will allow the Plan to occupy some portion of their consideration.

P L A N

FOR A

D I S T R I C T I N F I R M A R Y .

FUNDS
IN SUPPORT OF THE
INSTITUTION
ARE DERIVED FROM

DONORS AND HONORARY SUBSCRIBERS.....	Ten Guineas or upwards, in one year, by virtue of their donation and one annual subscription, are	Patrons and Governors for life, and entitled to have one Patient always on the books.
	Five Guineas or upwards, in one year, by virtue of their donation and one annual subscription, are	Vice Presidents and Governors for life, and entitled to have one Patient always on the books.
	Of One, Two, Three, or more Guineas, by virtue of their subscriptions are	Governors, and entitled to have one Patient always on the books for each Guinea subscribed, and have a Vote at all Elections, their last year's subscription being paid up.
BENEFITED SUBSCRIBERS	Male, such as Servants, Labourers, and Mechanics, are, by an annual subscription of, entitled to	Medical and Surgical attendance in all cases.
	Female of the same order, who, by an annual subscription of, are entitled to	Medical and Surgical attendance in all cases
	Children to the age of fifteen, of parents of the same description, are, by an annual subscription of, entitled to	Medical and Surgical attendance in all cases.
SUBSCRIBING PARISHES	Parishes where the village is within three miles of the Institution, whose Overseers, upon paying annually Three Guineas for every hundred of their population, are <i>ex-officio</i>	Members of the Committee, and entitled to Medical and Surgical attendance for their Poor in all cases.
	Beyond that distance, and not exceeding seven miles of the Institution, whose Overseers, upon paying annually Four Guineas for every hundred of their population, are <i>ex-officio</i>	

Excluding ordinary Labour cases, Difficult ones are provided for. (see OBJECTS, &c)

OFFICERS
OF THE
INSTITUTION

BY VIRTUE OF THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS.....	Gratuitous	Patrons	Who elect a President and are <i>ex-officio</i> Members of the Committee.	
		Vice Presidents.....		
		Treasurer		
		Governors	Who elect from themselves the remainder of the Committee.	
		Overseers	<i>Ex-officio</i> Members of the Committee.	Who have the general management of the Institution, and meet the first Monday in every month, free being a quorum.
		Physicians	Elected by the Committee, and then <i>ex-officio</i> Members of it, and have a Vote in all cases except the election of their colleagues.	
		Surgeons		
BY ELECTION OF THE GOVERNORS	Not Gratuitous	Secretary.		
		Matron.		

Excluding as to travelling expenses

OBJECTS
OF THE
INSTITUTION

PATIENTS RECOMMENDED BY DONORS AND HONORARY SUBSCRIBERS.....	In all cases requiring Medical or Surgical aid	May attend at the Infirmary, or, if unable to do so, send for which of its Surgeons they may prefer, with a recommendation from an Honorary Subscriber—as Benefit Subscribers in their own right, or as Paupers by producing evidence of their belonging to a subscribing parish—to keep the hours appointed, and after the first visit to bring their own bandages, bottles, &c.
BENEFITED SUBSCRIBERS	Male, Female, and Children in all cases requiring Medical or Surgical aid	
PAUPERS	In all cases requiring Medical or Surgical aid	

EXPENSES
OF THE
INSTITUTION

MEDICINE	To be purchased by the Surgeons, under the direction of the Committee.
TRAVELLING EXPENSES.....	Travelling expenses of Surgeons from the town in which the Institution is placed, nine-pence per mile. Extra visits in the same parish one shilling each. (See Rule X. and Note.)
FEES	Physicians
	Surgeons
HOUSE EXPENSES	Levies. Taxes. Rent of Infirmary, or Rent of Rooms. Repairs. Coals. Candles. Soap. Stationery. Wine or Porter.
WAGES	Secretary Matron or Housekeeper.

INFORMED
BY THE
DIRECTOR
OF THE
BUREAU
OF THE
MINE
INSPECTION
AND
SAFETY

1911

FUNDS
IN SUPPORT OF THE
INSTITUTION
ARE DERIVED FROM
CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE
OFFICERS

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. I.

Prospectus of an Establishment of the nature of an Infirmary, on a small scale, and at a moderate expense, at Southam, in the County of Warwick, for the benefit of the Poor afflicted with Diseases of the Eye and Ear, by H. L. Smith, Oculist and Aurist, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

“ ————— With the year
Seasons return, but not to me returns
Day, or the sweet approach of ev'n or morn,
Or sight of vernal bloom, or summer's rose,
Or flocks, or herds, or human face divine ;
But cloud instead, and ever during dark
Surrounds me ; from the cheerful ways of men
Cut off, and for the book of knowledge fair
Presented with an universal blank
Of Nature's works, to me expung'd and ras'd,
And wisdom at one entrance quite shut out.”

Paradise Lost, b. 3.

THE POOR have *many* claims to the attention and benevolence of the Rich, there are none more pressing, or more generally admitted, than those for assistance, when labouring under disease ; and the variety of charitable institutions which distinguish this nation, evince in how very few instances their claims are disregarded.

The humane attention of the wealthy has been long and judiciously directed to the alleviation of the necessities of the indigent blind ;* but it remained long a subject of regret, that no Institution was estab-

* In the Metropolis, a Society for the relief of the Indigent Blind was established, principally at the suggestion of that celebrated Philanthropist, Dr. J. C. LETTSON. In

lished, even in the metropolis, where gratuitous assistance might be administered to the poor, for the prevention of blindness and the restoration of sight. It is only within these thirteen years, that in London an Infirmary has been established for the relief of the poor afflicted with the diseases of the Eye and Ear; since which time, men, eminent for their skill and professional attainments, have devoted their time and attention to this highly interesting class of diseases, which, with few exceptions, had been previously consigned to the hands of presuming empirics, utterly unacquainted with the principles and practice of medical science. The late lamented Mr. SAUNDERS, who established the *Eye and Ear Infirmary in London*, was the first to call the attention of the Public to the magnitude of the evil, and to astonish them by the success of his exertions, in restoring the use of organs, at once essential to manual occupation, and the sources of our most refined and intellectual enjoyments. This benevolent example has been followed with good effects to the community in many other parts of the

1790, another Asylum and School of Instruction, was established at Liverpool, where they are taught to manufacture baskets, hampers, sheeting, lobby cloths, oakum, yarn, curtain lines, and worsted mats; by these means the deplorable calamity of the loss of sight, especially with the habitual idleness that attends a youth without instruction, and without the means or power of occupation, is avoided, and habits of industry substituted. The following beautiful and interesting Hymn, by the Rev. J. SMITH, is used at this School:—

Hark! sisters, hark! that bursting sigh!
 It issues from some feeling heart;—
 Some pitying stranger sure is nigh:—
 Tell us, oh! tell us, who thou art.

Sad is the lot the sightless know;
 We feel, indeed, but ne'er complain;
 Here gentle toils relieve our woe—
 Hark! hark! that piteous sigh again.

If breath'd for us those heaving sighs,
 May heaven, kind stranger, pity thee;
 If starting tears suffuse thine eyes,
 Those tears, alas! we cannot see.

But ev'ry sigh, and ev'ry tear,
 And ev'ry boon thy hand has given,
 All in full lustre shall appear,
 Recorded in the Book of Heaven.

kingdom, and Mr. SMITH is induced, though with much diffidence, to believe, that a similar Infirmary may be established in the town where he resides, and in which he has practised the improved methods of his friend Mr. SAUNDERS for the last seven years.

Patients afflicted with these disorders are not prevented from travelling, and they will readily attend where they have a prospect of relief. The expenses of a small town are more likely to accord with their previous habits than those of a city, or the necessary rules of an hospital. The disorders of the Eye and Ear, with which the poor are afflicted, seldom arise so much from their own imprudence, as from accidental causes connected with their employment, over which they have no controul; and, as they rarely engage the attention of medical men visiting the parochial class, the patient is induced to use a few domestic remedies, which generally do harm, and the cases become chronic.

If Mr. SMITH should meet with that support he anticipates, the principal energies of his professional life will be directed to the benefit of the poor, who may be thus recommended to his care.

APPENDIX No. II.

SOUTHAM EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

At a Meeting held at the Craven Arms Inn, in Southam, in the County of Warwick, on the 13th day of April, 1818, for the purpose of establishing an Infirmary for the Relief of the Poor afflicted with Diseases of the Eye and Ear, patronized by the EARL of AYLESFORD and EARL SPENCER.

Sir GRAY SKIPWITH, BARONET, in the Chair.

Resolved Unanimously,

1. That an Infirmary for the Relief of the Poor afflicted with Diseases of the Eye and Ear be established at Southam, and that it be

supported by annual subscriptions, not exceeding one guinea each, and by voluntary contributions.

2. That it be governed by the Patrons, President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Annual Subscribers of one guinea, and Benefactors of five guineas and upwards.

3. That the Governors annually elect a Committee of twenty from amongst themselves, in whom, with the Patrons, President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, the right of appointing Medical Directors and other Officers of the Institution, and its internal management and regulation, be vested; five whereof be competent to act: but no medical or other Officer be removed, but by a majority of the Governors, at a General Meeting, at which twenty-one or more be present.

4. That Annual Subscribers of one guinea, and Benefactors of five guineas and upwards, shall have the right of admitting two patients annually; and annual Subscribers of ten shillings and sixpence, one patient; but no patient remain at the expense of the funds more than two months.

5. That patients be admitted on Mondays and Thursdays, between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

6. That a book be kept in the Infirmary, in which the name, age, residence, and disease of every patient, and by whom and when admitted, and when discharged, be entered, and at all times open for the inspection of the Subscribers and Benefactors.

7. That the Surgeon be at liberty to admit such patients to lodge in the house as he may think proper, and that lodgings for out-patients be procured at the expense of the Institution, at Southam, or at Leamington, if the medicinal waters should be thought necessary.

8. That no gratuity be accepted by any individual connected with the establishment.

9. That the Committee meet at the Infirmary on the first Monday in June, and the first in December, and at any intermediate time, upon receiving one week's notice from the Secretary.

10. That a General Meeting of Governors take place at the Infirmary on the first Monday in July, to receive from the Committee the Report of the past year, to elect a new Committee for the current year, and for general purposes; and, upon one week's previous notice, at such other times as the Secretary may appoint, in pursuance of a requisition to him for that purpose signed by five or more of the Committee.

11. That the annual subscriptions become due on the 25th day of May.

12. That the following Officers be appointed,

PRESIDENT.

SIR GRAY SKIPWITH, BART.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Hon. Henry Verney	John Tomes, Esq.
Sir Charles Knightley, Bart.	The Rev. Thomas Ross Bromfield.
John Plomer Clarke, Esq.	The Rev. Robert Barnard.
William Holbech, Esq.	Charles Porter Packwood, Esq.
The Rev. Henry Wise.	Bertie Greatheed, Esq.
The Rev. George Chandler.	William Palmer, Esq.

TREASURERS.

Messrs. Tomes, Russell, and Co. Bankers,—*Warwick.*

SECRETARY.

Mr. Richard Burman,—*Southam.*

PHYSICIANS.

Charles Rattray, M.D.	Peter Francis Luard, M.D.
Charles Wake, M.D.	Amos Middleton, M.D.
Mr. H. L. Smith.— <i>Surgeon.</i>	

COMMITTEE.

The Rev. Charles Palmer, <i>Ladbrooke.</i>	Mr. T. S. Wright,— <i>Southam.</i>
Edward Tomes, Esq.— <i>Southam.</i>	Rev. John Rose,— <i>Whilton.</i>
Edmund Tompkins, Esq.— <i>Long Itchington.</i>	William Collins, Esq.— <i>Warwick.</i>
William Watkins, Esq.— <i>Daventry.</i>	Mr. William Smith,— <i>Southam.</i>
John Russell, Esq.— <i>Warwick.</i>	Mr. Geo. Lowdell, Surgeon,— <i>Southam.</i>
T. S. Samwell, Esq.— <i>Upton.</i>	Mr. John Russell,— <i>Southam.</i>
Mr. Robert Poole,— <i>Kenilworth.</i>	Mr. Wm. Dix, Surgeon,— <i>Long Buckby.</i>
Mr. Richard Burman,— <i>Southam.</i>	The Rev. Thomas Cox,— <i>Baginton.</i>
John Shuckburgh, Esq.— <i>Bourton.</i>	Mr. S. Bucknall, Surgeon,— <i>Rugby.</i>
Richard Tomes, Esq.— <i>Warwick.</i>	The Rev. J. Banister,— <i>Southam.</i>

13. That Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Institution, be received by the Treasurers and Secretary, and at Messrs. Watkins' Bank, in Daventry.

14. That the unanimous thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. H. L. Smith, for the zeal and liberality he has shown in promoting the Establishment.

15. That these resolutions be signed by the Chairman, and with the present Subscriptions, inserted twice in the Warwick, Northampton, Birmingham, and Coventry Newspapers,

GRAY SKIPWITH, Chairman.

The President having left the Chair, the thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted for his able and judicious conduct therein.

APPENDIX No. III.

By Order of the Committee, June 7, 1818.

THIS Infirmary recommends itself to the attention of every friend of humanity, for it is directed to the alleviation of the calamities of the indigent blind and deaf.

No argument will be wanting to induce the enlightened members of the medical profession to promote the benevolent purposes of this undertaking, as they must be well aware that society and science are both indebted to the establishment of institutions for specific purposes. Deafness, or the loss of sight, to the opulent, is an affliction which wealth can alleviate, but not compensate, as it shuts out the sources of their most refined and intellectual enjoyments. When similar visitations await the poor, their condition is that of hopeless misery; for sight especially is essential to their manual occupation, and consequently to their subsistence, on the loss of it their independence ceases, and they are immediately cast either upon the precarious charity of society, or consigned to a workhouse. To such this Institution offers advice, medicine, lodgings, and nursing, gratuitously, when recommended by a subscriber, and as scrofula and constitutional disease form a very considerable part of those complaints which impair the sight and hearing, the vicinity of Southam to the saline springs of Leamington, will, on that account, be found peculiarly advantageous, and the numerous assemblage who resort thither, may sometimes turn their thoughts to those whose poverty not only cuts them off from enjoyment, but consigns them, if unrelieved, to the consequence of disease, without the hope of mitigation.

APPENDIX No. IV.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY, Southam, Warwickshire.

	<i>Donations.</i>			<i>Subscriptions.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aylesford, the Earl of, Packington-hall	10	10	0	1	1	0
Assheton, Mrs. Wm. Brandon-house.....				1	1	0
Arnold, James, Esq. Wormleighton.....				1	1	0
Ayres, Mr. Coventry.....				1	1	0
Alder, Thomas, Hodnell				1	1	0
Alder, William, Newbold				1	1	0
Buccleuch and Queensberry, Duchess of				1	1	0
Barnard, Rev. Robert, Lighthorne	5	5	0	1	1	0
Buckeridge, Rev. Dr. Lichfield.....				1	1	0
Banister, Rev. John, Alton, Hants				1	1	0
Bromfield, Rev. T. R. Napton				1	1	0
Brookhouse, J. Esq. Warwick				1	1	0
Biddulph, Lady, Birbury				1	1	0
Biddulph, Rev. John, ditto				1	1	0
Burman, Richard, Esq. Southam	5	5	0	1	1	0
Bucknill, Samuel, Esq. Surgeon, Rugby.....				1	1	0
Brickwell, —, Esq. Surgeon, Banbury				1	1	0
Burman, —, jun. Esq. Surgeon, Henley in Arden.....				1	1	0
Burman, John, Esq. Light-hall.....				1	1	0
Botfield, Mrs. Norton-hall				1	1	0
Banbury, Wm. Esq. Long Itchington				1	1	0
Baly, Mr. Althorpe-house.....				1	1	0
Booth, Mr. Architect, Coventry				1	1	0
Bradshaw, Thomas, Esq. Priors Marston				1	1	0
Chambers, Rev. James, Willoughby.....				1	1	0
Chambers, Henry, Esq. Southam				1	1	0
Clarke, John Plomer, Esq. Welton-place, Northamptonshire ...	5	5	0	1	1	0
Clarke, Mrs. Welton....				1	1	0
Cheshur, Hinkley, Esq. Surgeon				1	1	0

	<i>Donations.</i>			<i>Subscriptions.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Chandler, Rev. George, Southam	5	5	0	1	1	0
Cox, Rev. Thomas, Baginton				1	1	0
Collins, William, Esq. Warwick				1	1	0
Cromleholme, Mrs. Leamington				1	1	0
Chambers, Charles, Esq. Surgeon, Leamington				1	1	0
Cawley, Mr. Kingston				1	1	0
Chambers, Mr. Milcote.....				1	1	0
Cooke, Mr. Stoney Thorpe				1	1	0
Coles, Mr. Thomas, Southam		0	10	6		
Campbell, Mr. ditto				1	1	0
Digby, Writtesley, Esq. Meriden.....				1	1	0
D'warris, Fortunatus, Esq. 11, Mecklenburgh-square, London	5	5	0	1	1	0
Dix, William, Esq. Surgeon, Long Buckby				1	1	0
Directors of the Poor for the City of Coventry.....				1	1	0
Friend and Subscriber, a	4	0	0			
Finch, Hon. and Rev. Edward, Bedworth				1	1	0
Fine paid by the Proprietors of the Bristol Coach to the Rev. W. Morgan, of Stockton, and Charles Harwood, Esq. of Southam, for being negligently and furiously driven.....	5	0	0			
Fauquier, Mrs. Stoney Thorpe				1	1	0
Flesher, Gilbert, Esq. Towcester	1	0	0			
Fowler, — Esq. Surgeon, Warwick				1	1	0
Flecknoe, Mr. sen. Harbury.....				1	1	0
Fisher, Robert, Esq. Long Marston, Worcestershire				1	1	0
Greatheed, Bertie, Esq. Guy's Ciff	5	5	0	1	1	0
Gardner, Mr. Southam Grounds				1	1	0
Graves, Mr. Southam				1	1	0
Goodman, Mr.	1	1	0			
Goodman, Mrs. Staverton.....	1	0	0			
Harrison, Rev. H. B. Warmington	5	0	0			
Hertford, the Most Noble the Marquis of, Ragley	10	10	0	1	1	0
Holbech, L. William, Esq. Farnborough.....	5	5	0	1	1	0
Holbech, Rev. Charles, ditto				1	1	0
Holbech, Mrs. Woodcote.....				1	1	0
Hunter, William, Esq. Leamington				1	1	0
Harrison, S. W. Esq. Daventry				1	1	0
Heygate, Robert, Esq. West Haddon				1	1	0
Hiorns, —, Esq. Surgeon, Warwick.....				1	1	0
Harwood, Charles, Esq. Southam				1	1	0
Handley, Mr. Thomas, Woodloes.....				1	1	0
Hobbins, W. J. Walsall, Esq.	1	1	0			
Ivins, Mr. Martin, Long Itchington.....				1	1	0
Jeston, Rev. R. G. Avon Dassett				1	1	0
Kendal, Rev. John, Warwick				1	1	0

	<i>Donations.</i>			<i>Subscriptions.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lickorish, Rev. Rd. M.D. Wolston				1	1	0
Luard, Peter Francis, M.D. Warwick	3	3	0	1	1	0
Lowdell, George, Esq. Surgeon, Southam... ..				1	1	0
Lucas, John, Esq. Walton, near Lutterworth				1	1	0
Mordaunt, Sir Charles, Bart. Walton	5	5	0	1	1	0
Morgan, Rev. William, Stockton				1	1	0
Montgomery, J. B. Esq. Leamington	1	1	0			
Mills, Mrs. Charles, Barford				1	1	0
Moore, Edward, Southam.....				1	1	0
Mash, Miss, ditto				1	1	0
Middleton, Amos, M.D. Leamington				1	1	0
Mash, Mr. William, Warwick				1	1	0
Mellor, G. H. M.D. Coventry				1	1	0
Marriott, G. W. Esq. Lincoln's-inn-fields, London	3	3	0			
Marriott, Mrs.	1	1	0			
Nutcombe, Mrs. Tachbrook				1	1	0
Newdigate, Roger, Esq. sen. Arbury				1	1	0
Newdigate, Francis, Esq. ditto				1	1	0
Poole, Robert, Esq. Kenilworth				1	1	0
Pope, Mrs. ditto				1	1	0
Perkins, Rev. Samuel				1	1	0
Palmer, William, Esq. Ladbrooke.....	4	4	0	1	1	0
Palmer, Rev. Charles, ditto	3	3	0	1	1	0
Price, Mrs. Lucy, Baginton	5	5	0	1	1	0
Packwood, C. P. Esq. Warwick	5	5	0	1	1	0
Parr, Rev. Dr. Hatton				1	1	0
Parkes, John, Esq. Warwick.....				1	1	0
Parker, Captain, R. N. Wasperton				1	1	0
Rattray, Charles, M.D. Daventry.....				1	1	0
Riley, Rev. E. Loxley	2	2	0			
Rose, Rev. John, Whilton.....				1	1	0
Russell, John, Esq. Warwick				1	1	0
Russell, William, Esq. ditto				1	1	0
Russell, Mr. William, Southam.....				1	1	0
Russell, Mr. John, ditto				1	1	0
Russell, Mr. Jos. Marton.....				1	1	0
Reading, Mr. Robert, Wormleighton				1	1	0
Rann, Josh. M.D. Banbury				1	1	0
Spencer, Earl, Althorpe	10	10	0	1	1	0
Skipwith, Sir Gray, Bart. Alveston	5	5	0	1	1	0
Skipwith, Lady, Newbold				1	1	0
Samwell, T. S. W. Esq. Upton-hall	5	5	0	1	1	0
Shuckburgh, Sir Francis	5	5	0	1	1	0
Southam, Parish of				1	1	0
Shuckburgh, John, Esq. Bourton	5	5	0	1	1	0

	<i>Donations.</i>			<i>Subscriptions.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Saumarez, Rev. J. Staverton				1	1	0
Sawbridge, Rev. J. S. Stretton				1	1	0
Sheldon, William, Esq. London	1	1	0			
Shirley, John Evelyn, Esq. Easington	5	5	0	1	1	0
Scott, Mrs. Wolston	5	0	0	1	1	0
Smith, Mrs. Warwick				1	1	0
Sharpe, Henry, Esq. ditto.....				1	1	
Stott, Mr. Coventry				1	1	0
Spraggett, Mr. Joseph, Chadshunt				1	1	0
Smith, W. L. Esq. Southam	5	5	0	1	1	0
Shepherd, Mr. Hunningham				1	0	0
Tomes, Russell, and Co. Bankers, Warwick.....	10	10	0			
Tomes, John, Esq. Warwick..				1	1	0
Tomes, Edward, Esq. Southam.....	5	5	0	1	1	0
Tomes, Richard, Esq. Warwick				1	1	0
Thornton, T. R. Esq. Brockhall	5	5	0	1	1	0
Tomkins, Edmund, Esq. Long Itchington.....				1	1	0
Townsend, Gore, Esq. Honinton				1	1	0
Turner, Mr. James, Southam				1	1	0
Villers, William, Esq. Birmingham				1	1	0
Vyner, Robert, Esq. Eathorpe	5	5	0	1	1	0
Warwick, Earl of, Warwick-castle	10	10	0	1	1	0
Wilkinson, Isaac, Esq. Leamington	5	5	0	1	1	0
Wise, Rev. Henry, Offchurch	5	5	0	1	1	0
Wise, Matthew, Esq. Leamington	5	5	0	1	1	0
Wool, Rev. Dr. Rugby				1	1	0
Wood, Thomas, Esq. Southam.....				1	1	0
Wake, Charles, M.D. Warwick				1	1	0
Watkins, William, Esq. Daventry.....				1	1	0
Watson, Mrs. Dunchurch.....				1	1	0
Wright, T. S. Esq. Southam.....				1	1	0
Wright, Thos. Esq. Lubbenham, Leicestershire				1	1	0
Wyatt, Mrs. Willenhall				1	1	0
Wyley, Mr. Coventry				1	1	0
Winkley, Mr. Luke, Southam				1	1	0
Welch, Mr. James, Wormleighton				1	1	0
Walters, Mr. sen. Coventry				0	10	6
Walters, Mr. jun. Banbury				0	10	6
Williams, Rev. Charles, Barby				1	1	0
Wilson, Rev. W. Corbett, Priors Hardwicke	5	5	0			
Walker, Miss, Leamington				1	1	0

It is requested that Donors or Subscribers to this Institution will leave their Address with the Secretary, or at the Infirmary; and that any Omission or Error in the above List may be notified to the Secretary, that it may be supplied or corrected.

APPENDIX No. V.

Extract from an Account of a Provision for the Poor at Ongar during sickness. By the Rev. William Herringham.

In the parish of Chipping Ongar in the County of Essex, there are provided for the use of the poor, in time of sickness, not only bed linen and a wrapping flannel gown, but also a large easy wicker chair, with a head to it, a bed chair and a stand for a candlestick, with a convenient apparatus for a pannikin at the top, in which any kind of liquid may be heated, merely by a rush light. These articles, with blankets, which are distributed amongst the poor in winter, and are required to be returned in warm weather, are kept at the Workhouse, and may be obtained upon application.

The chair, which is also made to answer the purpose of a night chair, being of wicker, is lighter and more easily carried about than a wooden chair, and has been provided at a reasonable expense, having cost only 1*l.* 6*s.* It has likewise the advantage of being easily washed, as the lining (which is wadded) is only tied in with tapes, and being hooded, is a shelter to the patient against the wind. The candlestick is of modern contrivance, consisting of a tube with a kind of bason at the top of it, both which are filled with water. Into this tube a rush-light is placed, which as it wastes in burning, is raised up by the water, and kept always at the same height, by which means it is sufficiently near to the pannikin fixed in a frame above it, to warm any liquid which it contains.

Observations.

The want of some conveniences of this kind in country parishes, must have been frequently noticed by those who are in the habit of visiting the sick cottager or his family. Many a poor person has been prevented sitting up when it was advisable so to do, by not having any thing to sit in but a common chair, which does not afford the support to be found in an easy chair, nor the warmth and comfort to be de-

rived from a wrapping flannel gown aided by the lining of the chair: and when the weakness of a patient has rendered a removal from the bed almost impossible, the want of a bed chair has been ill supplied, by some person supporting the patient during the time of administering either medicine or food. The difficulties which poor families experience in obtaining a change of bed linen during sickness is very obvious; nor is it a trifling inconvenience, that out of a scanty pittance they are sometimes compelled to keep a fire during the night, when the state of the patient would not require it for warmth, and when the heat of a candle, if they had the means of supplying it properly, would be sufficient for the purpose of warming any liquid. If it should appear upon consideration, that these domestic comforts of the sick poor may be provided in any parish, at a very trifling expense, it is not too much to hope, that this mode of alleviating the sufferings of the sick, and of accelerating their recovery, will be adopted by other parishes.

See the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor, Vol. 4, p. 211.

Jan. 8, 1805.

For farther matter upon these subjects, the Author refers to *The Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor.*—*The Reports of the Worcestershire Medical and Surgical Society.*—*The Suggestions of John Dunn, M.R.C.S. for the Relief of the Sick Poor.*—*Remarks by John C. Yeatman, M.R.C.S. on Medical Care of the Poor, on the Improvement of Poor Houses, and Establishment of Small Infirmeries in populous Towns.*—To Dr. Borrows' "*Cursory Remarks on a Bill for regulating Mad Houses* ; and the Report of the highest Authority in the Kingdom, that of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws.

March 1, 1819.

THE END.