

Minutes of proceedings relative to a proposal for establishing a lunatick asylum in the vicinity of Oxford ... under the ... direction of the governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Contributors

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Publication/Creation

Oxford : printed by S. Collingwood, 1814.

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with C. S. best*

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
RELATIVE TO
A PROPOSAL
FOR ESTABLISHING
A LUNATICK ASYLUM
IN THE
VICINITY OF OXFORD.

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MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
RELATIVE TO
A PROPOSAL
FOR ESTABLISHING
A LUNATICK ASYLUM
IN THE
VICINITY OF OXFORD,
BY
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS,
UNDER THE SANCTION AND DIRECTION OF
The Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary.

OXFORD,
PRINTED BY SAMUEL COLLINGWOOD.
1814.

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DECEMBER 10, 1813.

AT a special Meeting of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary, the Committee “appointed to inquire into the practicability of erecting and establishing by voluntary Contributions a Lunatick Asylum in the Neighbourhood of Oxford,” were requested to print the Minutes of their Proceedings relative to such Inquiry, and to subjoin a List of the Contributions thereto, together with an Account of the Plans and Estimates submitted to the consideration of the Board, and any Observations which may appear useful to explain the nature of the charitable Institution in view, and to recommend it the more effectually to the patronage of the Public. Also that a copy of the Pamphlet be sent to the Governors of the Infirmary, and the Benefactors to the Asylum.

December 10, 1813

RAID LIFE EXHIBIT

At a special meeting of the Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of erecting and establishing by voluntary contributions a Unitarian Chapel in the Neighbourhood of St. Paul, were requested to present the Minutes of their Proceedings relative to such inquiry, and to submit a list of the Unitarian Ministers together with an account of the Plans and Estimates submitted to the consideration of the Board, and any observations which may appear useful to explain the nature of the charitable Institution in view, and to recommend it the more effectually to the patronage of the Public. Also that a copy of the Pamphlet be sent to the Governors of the Infirmary, and the Directors to the Hospital.

Resolved that the Committee be empowered to do all such things as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the Institution.

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY.

IN consequence of the establishment of Lunatick Asylums in various parts of the kingdom, and the most satisfactory evidence of their great public utility, the expediency of such an Institution in the vicinity of Oxford was brought forward at a meeting of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary, in November 1812.

The general proposition having obtained the approbation of the Board of Governors on the third of December 1812, a Committee was appointed to inquire into the practicability “ of
“ erecting a Lunatick Asylum in the vicinity
“ of Oxford by voluntary Contributions, and
“ to obtain every information that might ap-
“ pear useful to accomplish the object in
“ view.”

April 28, 1813. The Committee reported, that, pursuant to the directions delivered to them, they considered it their first duty to find out a proper and convenient situation where to erect the Asylum in question; which they conceived to be, in a Ground south of the Infirmary and Infirmary Garden, (the benefaction of the late Mrs. Heywood to the Infirmary,) together with some adjoining Grounds, the property of St. John's College.

They reported also, that the several Tenants and Occupiers of these Grounds were willing to relinquish their respective interests in the same, on fair and equitable terms, for the accomplishment of so desirable a purpose: that Mrs. Trollope, one of the Lessees under the College, very liberally offered to relinquish her interest in free gift to the Asylum; and that the President and Fellows of St. John's College had expressed their readiness to part with the Fee, if thought necessary.

Of the several statements procured by the Committee from different districts, in which establishments of Lunatick Asylums have been formed, that of Nottingham appearing to have

the preference, application was made to the Rev. Mr. Becher of Southwell (according to whose plan, it was understood, that Asylum had been instituted) for certain points of information that might be useful in their further proceedings; a Plan also and dimensions of the Grounds projected for the Asylum were transmitted to that Gentleman, requesting him to submit the same to Mr. Ingleman, the Architect of the Nottingham Asylum. In consequence of this application, they received a Plan from Mr. Ingleman, copied almost exactly from the Asylum at Nottingham, and calculated for 84 Patients, distributed in distinct and separate classes according to their accommodations^a. The estimate of expence amounts to 16512l. 12s.

It ought to be added, that Mr. Ingleman's Plans in the Buildings at Nottingham have upon trial been found to answer, and have, since the opening of the Asylum, received general approbation.

Another Plan was sent in by Mr. G. Gutch, a very ingenious Artist, (founded chiefly on that of the new National Asylum, now nearly

^a See Appendix, No. I.

completed in St. George's Fields,) comprising accommodations for a larger number of Patients. It presents a more elegant elevation than the former, but the estimate is considerably higher.

At the same Meeting the following Propositions received the approbation of the Board :

1. That an Asylum for the reception and relief of Insane Patients be established in the Neighbourhood of Oxford.
2. That the annual expence of the Establishment be defrayed by weekly payments from the Patients in proportion to their circumstances ; in the admission of whom it is proposed to give a preference, in cases of competition, to those who have not received parochial relief.
3. That Benefactors to the Asylum of Thirty Guineas be Governors of the Asylum.
4. That the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary be Governors of the Asylum ; but that the Expences of the two Establishments be kept perfectly distinct.

These Resolutions were communicated in a circular Address to all the Governors of the

Infirmary, and others who, from feelings of humanity, local connection, or other motives, might be supposed likely to contribute to the Institution. The success and result of these applications will be seen from the Contributions subjoined to this Statement ^b.

The Committee were further empowered to enter into negociation and treat with St. John's College and their respective Tenants concerning their several interests in the Grounds at present intended and considered as a convenient situation for the Asylum; and that they do apply to Mr. Ingleman of Southwell, Architect, whose Plan was approved, to inspect and survey the said Grounds, and report his opinion, whether the same are fit and proper for this purpose.

Nov. 18, 1813. At a Special General Meeting of the Governors of the Infirmary, the Committee reported the state of the Funds already contributed towards carrying the said Plan of Mr. Ingleman's into execution; and

^b See Appendix, No. II.

also, that it appears to them that the Sum of not less than 20000l. will be required for the several purposes of purchasing the Ground, erecting, establishing, and furnishing the Asylum upon Mr. Ingleman's Plan and Estimates. It was then submitted to the Board, whether the Sums contributed and reasonably to be expected will in their opinion warrant the Committee to proceed with their negotiations respecting the purchase of Grounds, &c.; on which the Board approved of the Committee proceeding so to do.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

*An Estimate of a Lunatick Asylum intended to
be erected at Oxford according to the
annexed Drawings.*

THE whole of the outside of the Building to be stone, from the quarries near Bath; the steps and landings to be hard blue stone, and the paving Yorkshire. The whole of the internal walls to be built with bricks laid clean on the face, so that no plastering in the wings will be necessary; all the vaultings to be likewise of brick. The flooring and roofing to be Memel timber; all the windows, doors, shutters, &c. to be of fir, and the floors in the centre house, gallery, and day room in the wings, to be boarded with fir. The roof to be covered with the best Cumberland slate, laid on laths, and toached. The lead upon the cornice which is to form the gutter to be ten pounds to the foot; the hips, ridges, and stack pipes, to be seven

pounds to the foot. The windows to be glazed with crown glass. The cielings and walls in the centre house to be three coat plastering; the cielings in the gallery and day room in the wings to be plastered, and the whole to be white-washed

13050 6 0

The court walls and the boundary wall to be faced wall stone from the quarries near Oxford, set in a close joint with a coping on the summit. The stairs to the courts to be of hard stone, with cast iron rail and baluster

1680 0 0

Water-closets, rain-water cistern, engines for raising water, lead reservoirs, lead pipes for conducting the water to different parts of the building, stone bath, locks, grates, boilers, ovens, and fire-guards

1782 6 0

RICHARD INGLEMAN.

AUGUST 1813.

No. II.

Contributions to the Lunatick Asylum.

ANNESLEY, Rev. Francis, Eydon Lodge, Northamptonshire	52	10	0
Barton, Rev. Dr. C. C. C.	31	10	0
Bishop, Rev. William, Oriel Coll. by 3 instalments	31	10	0
Bourne, Dr. by 2 instalments	31	10	0
Bowles, Charles O. Esq.	31	10	0
Burton, Francis, Esq.	31	10	0
All Souls College, Warden and Fellows of, 3 instalments	300	0	0
Christ Church, Dean and Chapter of, 3 instalments	500	0	0
C. C. C. President and Fellows of, 3 inst.	150	0	0
Magdalene, President and Fellows of, 3 instalments	300	0	0
Merton, Warden and Fellows of, 3 inst.	300	0	0
New College, Warden and Fellows of	300	0	0
Queen's, Provost and Fellows of, 2 inst.	105	0	0
University, Master and Fellows of	105	0	0
Cobb, Thomas, Jun. Esq. Banbury	31	10	0
Collins, Rev. T. Magd. Coll. by 2 inst.	50	0	0
Collinson, Rev. Dr. Provost of Queen's Coll. 2 instalments	50	0	0

Cooke, Rev. Dr. President of C. C. C.	100	0	0
Cooke, Rev. G. L. C. C. C. 3 instalments	31	10	0
Cooke, Rev. T. L. Magd. Coll. 3 inst.	31	10	0
Duncan, P. B. Esq. New Coll.	31	10	0
Duncan, J. S. Esq. New Coll.	20	0	0
Durham, Hon. and Right Rev. Bp. of	300	0	0
Durell, Rev. David, Mongewell	10	0	0
Ellerton, Rev. E. Magd. Coll. 3 inst.	31	10	0
Eveleigh, Rev. Dr. Provost of Oriel Coll.	100	0	0
Finch, Hon. and Rev. David	50	0	0
Ditto, from a Lady	10	0	0
Gardiner, Samuel, Esq. Whitchurch	31	10	0
Graham, Rev. Mr. All Souls College	31	10	0
Griffith, Rev. Dr. Master of Univ. Coll.	50	0	0
Ditto, from a Lady	50	0	0
Goldby, Esq. Banbury	31	10	0
Goring, H. Esq.	31	10	0
Gutch, Rev. Mr. All Souls Coll.	5	5	0
Hall, William, Esq.	100	0	0
Hind, Rev. T. Ardley	31	10	0
Holbech, William, Esq. Farnborough	31	10	0
James, Rev. Mr. C. C. C.	5	5	0
Jenner, George, Esq.	5	5	0
Ingram, Rev. Mr. Trinity College	31	10	0

Isham, Rev. Dr. Warden of All Souls	100	0	0
Kidd, Dr. Oxford, by 2 instalments	31	10	0
Leake, Mr. Henry, Minster Lovell	1	1	0
Legge, Hon and Rev. Dr. Dean of Windsor	50	0	0
Loveday, Rev. A.	31	10	0
Mackworth, Sir Digby, Bart. London	31	10	0
Marlborough, Duke of, Blenheim	500	0	0
Marlow, Rev. Dr. President of St. John's College	52	10	0
Natt, Rev. Mr. St. John's College	31	10	0
Oglander, Mrs. Oxford	50	0	0
Oxford, late Bishop of, Trustees	1000	0	0
Oxford, Bishop of, Cuddesden	100	0	0
Oxford, City of	300	0	0
Peers, Robert, Esq.	30	0	0
Pett, Rev. Dr. Principal of St. Mary Hall, by 2 instalments	40	0	0
Pigou, R. Esq.	10	10	0
Price, Rev. Dr.	31	10	0
Radcliffe, Dr. Trustees of	1000	0	0
Radnor, Earl of	31	10	0

Stratton, George Frederick, Esq.	105	0	0
Talbot, George, Esq. Guiting, Gloucest.	52	10	0
Thorpe, Rev. C. University Coll.	5	5	0
Trollope, Mrs. Oxford.	31	10	0
Vaux, Rev. Mr. Balliol Coll. by 3 inst.	31	10	0
Vincent, Rev. Dr. Rector of Islip	31	10	0
Vye, Rev. Mr. Wootton, Northamp.	105	0	0
Wall, Dr. Oxford, by 2 instalments	31	10	0
Wall, Rev. M. S.	21	0	0
Wells, Hicks, Esq.	10	0	0
Williams, Dr. Oxford, by 2 instalments	31	10	0
Wilson, W. Esq. Worton	50	0	0
Winstanley, Rev. C.	1	1	0
Woodeson, Dr. Magdalene College	5	5	0
	<hr/>		
	7489	7	0

OBSERVATIONS.

IN the circular Address of April 28, 1813, an allusion was made to several existing Institutions, which have all proceeded on the common principle of supporting the annual expence of the establishment by weekly payments from the patients admitted, in proportion to their circumstances and situation in life.

By a reference to various publications relative to these Institutions, it appears that the principle adopted has been found fully adequate to the object in view, though the payments from the inferior classes have been far below the scale on which the same Patients could have been received into any private Asylum.

The Asylum at York is calculated to contain two hundred Patients; and the annual expenditure has of late been from 4500 to 5000*l.* defrayed by the weekly payments, except about 300*l.* for repairs out of certain funded money reserved for such contingencies. In 1812 the weekly payments were, for thirty cases of peculiar distress, five shillings to eight; for others of an inferior class, nine shillings; those of a better condition, ten, fourteen, &c. &c.

In the Newcastle Asylum, founded in 1764, about sixty Patients have been supported for about 1400l. per annum in the following distribution: fifty at eight shillings weekly; eight or ten at twelve shillings weekly; three at forty pounds per annum each. The whole expenditure is thus defrayed with the assistance only of a small annual donation from the Corporation.

No institution stands more distinguished for the whole economy of its management, as well as for the moral and medical treatment of the Patients, than the Retreat near the city of York, belonging to the Society of Friends. In 1812 the number of Patients was sixty-six. In many instances the weekly payments have been as low as four shillings; yet in the dearest years the annual expences have been nearly if not fully balanced by the weekly receipts.

In the Exeter Asylum there are four classes of Patients, paying from ten shillings and sixpence to thirty-one shillings and sixpence weekly. And the whole expenditure in the care and management of about fifty Patients is thus provided for.

It is scarcely necessary to adduce any other examples, though more might be brought, to prove the charitable effect of an Asylum calculated to receive not less than fifty Patients, or to remove any

doubts which might occur to those who are not conversant with the subject, as to the probable success of an Institution near Oxford on the principle proposed.

It may however be proper to add, that the situation of Pauper Lunatics has lately attracted the attention of the Legislature. By the 48th and 51st of the present King^a, the Magistrates in the court of Quarter Sessions are empowered at their discretion to build proper places for the reception of Lunatics who are objects of parochial relief, by a County assessment. Under the acts in question the union of adjoining Counties is authorized, with the view of carrying into effect the benevolent design of the Legislature at the least possible charge to the uniting counties. A farther provision is introduced for the union of the County Establishment with any
 “Asylum built and established by voluntary Con-
 “tribution for the reception and cure of Lunatics
 “of all descriptions, contributing according to the
 “pecuniary circumstances of the parties respectively
 “to the general charge of medicines, maintenance,
 “and care, by certain weekly payments.”

The union of the Voluntary Institution with that of the County has been adopted and carried into complete effect at Nottingham ; and a similar agree-

^a See Appendix, No. V.

ment has been lately made in the county of Gloucester between the Magistrates and Subscribers to the Asylum proposed several years since.

In the outline hitherto offered for the establishment of a Lunatick Asylum in the Vicinity of Oxford, an Institution by Voluntary Contribution has been the object in contemplation. Such an Institution, by experience of those already in existence, would evidently prove an extensive charity, and become in its result highly beneficial to the public; and if placed under the superintendence of the Governors and Medical Officers of the Radcliffe Infirmary, the original Subscribers might rest satisfied that the general management and the medical treatment of the unhappy sufferers, for whose accommodation it is intended, would be provided for in the most effectual and unobjectionable manner.

In proposing to place this Institution under such superintendence, the principal object is to provide for its permanent government. For as contributions are required for the building and furniture only, and it is expected that the Institution, when once established, will secure its own maintenance, it will be left without directors, when the original subscribers shall be no more, unless it fall under the protecting care of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary for the time being.

It was thought right to submit, in the first instance, only a few fundamental rules, and to avoid the introduction of any local restrictions, or the absolute exclusion of Patients of any description, till the subject had been longer under the consideration of the public. It was presumed that such regulations, and many others of a subordinate nature, might be reserved with more propriety for the future discussion and determination of the Subscribers at large.

By the preceding statement of Contributions it appears, that during the short time the proposal has been before the public, it has obtained the most liberal encouragement. Yet by the estimate of the Architect, as delivered in, a much larger sum is required for accomplishing the desired purpose; nor would it be perhaps advisable to commence the building before two thirds at the least of the estimated charge were subscribed, and actually in the hands of the Committee. To reduce the scale of the Asylum, it will be recollected, would be to diminish its beneficial effect as a Charity.

It remains therefore to solicit the patronage of the public in favour of an Institution, recommended in an eminent degree by the principles of benevolence and charity, which will be secured from every danger of mismanagement under the administration of

a large and disinterested body of Governors. It is desirable that as little delay as possible should intervene before the execution of a design so useful and benevolent, and which in many other parts of the kingdom has been carried into effect with complete success. At present there appears very little prospect otherwise of any similar institution in the vicinity of Oxford, the Magistrates having expressly declared, that they cannot, with due attention to public economy, at this time avail themselves of the power granted by Parliament for raising an Asylum by a general assessment on the County.

In this district therefore the indigent under the most melancholy and severest of all human visitations have no public establishment by law for their protection and relief; nor have persons of a better condition that resource which experience has manifested to be the best calculated, and in the most economical way, to remove their calamity.

No. IV.

Postscript.

SINCE the foregoing Statement and Observations were prepared for the press, pursuant to the resolution of the Board of Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary in December last, the Committee have

received authority to add, that the County Magistrates at their last Epiphany Quarter Sessions were of opinion, that, by virtue of an act passed in the last sessions of Parliament, entitled "An Act for making an equal County Rate for the County of Oxford," they should be enabled to offer proposals for uniting with the voluntary Contributors to the proposed Lunatick Asylum, under sanction of the 48th of the present King; on the principle, that a proportional part of the Asylum be appropriated to the reception of Pauper Lunatics of the County of Oxford, according to the sum contributed from the County Rates.

Whenever the Committee shall receive a more distinct and formal proposal from the Magistrates of the County, a general meeting of the Voluntary Contributors to the Asylum will be called for the express purpose of collecting their opinions upon it.

48 *Geo. III. Cap. 96. §. 22.*

“**W**HEREAS in many parts of this kingdom Lunatick Asylums have been built and established, and others may hereafter be built and established by voluntary contribution for the reception and cure of Lunaticks of all descriptions, contributing according to the pecuniary circumstances of the parties respectively, or of their immediate connections, to the general charge of medicines, maintenance, and care, by certain weekly payments, (the excess of payments of the more affluent being applied to relieve and lower the payments of those in more limited circumstances :) And whereas it is fit and expedient to support and encourage such laudable Institutions, and it may be of great advantage that Asylums intended by this act for Pauper Lunaticks should be united to or connected with such Institutions by voluntary Contributions :—Be it enacted, that at any meeting of the Justices of the peace in any county, for the purpose of considering and determining on the expediency and propriety of providing a Lunatick Asylum or house of reception for Lunaticks, or other insane persons, if it shall appear to the major part of the Justices so assembled, that it would be expedient to unite and join with any Lunatick Asylum so built and established by volun-

tary contribution, or so intended to be built and established, it shall be lawful for the Justices so assembled to appoint a committee (as is before directed in their treating with other counties) to treat with and enter into and subscribe an agreement with a committee of Governors, Directors, or Subscribers to such voluntary institution; and all provisions herein before directed in regard to counties treating and agreeing with each other shall be adhered to, and be effectual, as far as the same will apply, or as the different circumstances of the two cases will admit; and the number of the committee of Governors, Directors, and Subscribers shall not exceed the number of the committee of Justices, &c. &c."

And by another clause (§. 8.) in the said act it is provided, certainly in view to ease and relieve the burden on occupiers of land, and other contributors to the county rate, "that when it shall appear to the said Justices that the charge and costs of carrying this act into execution shall exceed one half of the amount of the ordinary annual assessment for the county rate, (such ordinary assessment to be taken on a mean proportion of the said rate for the last five years preceding,) then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices to take up money on mortgage of the said rates at legal or lower interest as to them, or the major part of them,

shall appear necessary and expedient for the purposes aforesaid; the same to be secured on the credit of the rates to be raised upon such county respectively."

And by §. 10. it is provided, "that the Justices of the peace in their respective quarter sessions shall and they are hereby required to make provision by means of the rates, (which they are hereby authorized to make,) and by their orders and directions, (which they are hereby authorized to give,) in such manner that the whole money to be borrowed under the authority of this act shall be fully paid and discharged within a time to be limited, not exceeding fourteen years from the time of borrowing the same."