

Memoranda of Alterations etc to Belle Vue House Premises

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Belle Vue House Premises. The Retreat.

Memoranda of Alterations &c. July 1879. -

In considering the best mode of utilising the Bellevue Property it was at first thought desirable to make provision for the accommodation ^{at once,} of at least 12 Patients with their necessary attendants. This would of course have required that considerable additions should be made to the present building. Various suggestions were made, and plans prepared for such additions, difficulties of site, and other questions however arose, which seemed to indicate the desirability of occupying the present building without any serious alteration or addition, in order that the nature and extent of any larger additions might be more fully realised before they were commenced. It was therefore determined to follow this course, and take possession of the house with as little delay as possible.

A few matters however required attention before the house could be safely and conveniently occupied by Patients. The principal Staircase was constructed with an open well in the centre, for the admission of light from above. This, - however suitable for a private house - was evidently a source of danger in a building used for the purposes of the Institution. - and it was determined to cover over the well by an ornamental Iron framework, filled in with glass, of sufficient strength to permit of persons walking over it, and yet to preserve the light. - Further Bedroom accommodation was also needed, and this has been obtained by altering a Loft over the Stable, so as to secure a good and sufficient bedroom for three or four servants. Two of the Bedrooms have had new Windows, and three Bedrooms have been fitted with efficient shutters to the Windows, and the whole of the doors have been fitted with Locks to agree with those in

The main building - The inside of the house has been whitewashed, and painted & papered where necessary, and the new parts of the outside have been painted -

It was thought necessary to protect the Property on the side next the ^{the distance} ~~strip~~ - from the entrance Lodge to the Stable building - this has been done by a close wood fence 510 ft. long and 8 ft high. The Drainage of the house was found to be taken to a small cesspool near the Stable. This was sure to be offensive at times, and would require to be frequently emptied, as the overflow was taken to an open gutter at the lower part of the ground, and would have caused a serious nuisance, - it was therefore thought advisable at once to construct a new drain of Fireclay Pipes in connection with the main sewer, in Hestington road; This new drain is about 400 ft. in length and varies from 3 ft to 12 ft. below the surface having branches to receive any future drains to a depth of 14 ft. below the ground at its highest point. or 7 ft

below the level of present cellar. - The main drain is cut off from the sewer by one of Muchan's Traps, and is ventilated by vertical Iron pipes, at the lowest & highest points, taken above roofs of Gardeners Lodge & House, so as to secure a through draft. The branch soil drain is cut off from the main drain by a similar trap, & ventilated by vertical Iron pipes in the same manner.

The main Pipe for supply of Gas from the Company's Pipes, in the road, was found to be small & defective, and a new 2" Iron supply Pipe has been laid.

The excavations for the new drain and for the Gas Pipe necessitated the reformation of the carriage drive, which has been done in as careful & economical a manner as possible consistent with sound work.

Leave was obtained from the Pasture masters of the Stray to construct & use a Footpath across their ground for the purpose of affording ready access from the Retreat Grounds to the new Premises: an asphalt Footpath has therefore been laid here.

The cost of the various Works has been as follows viz.

| | £ | s | d |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Alterations to building | 104 | 12 | 11 |
| General Repairs. Cleaning &c | 53 | 5 | 9 |
| New Drain | 86 | 12 | 9 |
| New Gas Main | 15 | 6 | 0 |
| Fence by Stray | 90 | 12 | 2 |
| Remaking Road + Footpath across the Stray } | 21 | 8 | 6½ |

£ 371. 18. 1½

No Hadden's Bill not incurred
E.S.

Report on
Belle Vue
Attractions

535

