

**Printed Report of Sub-Committee established by the Committee of the
Intended London Asylum for the Insane to obtain information on the state
of the insane in their places of reception by Edward Wakefield, Chairman,
18 June 1814**

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THE SUB-COMMITTEE to whom it was referred by the COMMITTEE OF THE INTENDED LONDON ASYLUM FOR THE CARE AND CURE OF THE INSANE, to obtain information relative to the state of the Insane in the places for their reception within the Bills of Mortality; and generally, to report to the Committee, the best means of effectuating the purposes of the GENERAL MEETING held at the CITY OF LONDON TAVERN, on *Wednesday*, the 2d of *March*, 1814, have proceeded to inquire and consider concerning the matters to them referred; and do now, accordingly, make this, their

REPORT.

The present usual modes of confining Persons afflicted with Insanity, are four:

1. At their own homes, or in the houses of their friends, attended by a keeper.
2. In Workhouses, in which the Patients are principally Parish Paupers.
3. In Private Receptacles.
4. In Public Hospitals purposely erected.

I. Respecting Individuals confined AT THEIR OWN HOMES, or in the houses of friends, attended by Keepers, many of whom, being in Custody under a Statute of Lunacy, are not required to be returned to the College of Physicians, the Committee were deterred from making inquiries, by the obvious difficulties of obtaining information; but relative to those unhappy victims of Insanity in the humble walks of life, who are not admitted into any of the existing private or public establishments, they cite SIR GEORGE ONESIPHORUS PAUL's observations, thus expressed,* "that not only the parochial, but other poor Lunatics, and, by poor, I would be understood to mean Lunatics, who, by their own estate, or that of their friends, are not able to pay eighteen shillings per week for care and maintenance; these, I say, are frequently, even by their own relations, treated not only worse than other human beings, but worse than the brute race."—"I have," says SIR GEORGE PAUL, "seen poor Lunatics, not in the Poor-house, who have been fastened to the leg of a table within a dwelling-house; others chained to a post in an out-house; and, in one instance, I witnessed the case of a man shut up, chained, in an uninhabited ruin, and food daily brought to him from his relations, living at a quarter of a mile distance."

II. The Patients in WORKHOUSES, with the exception of a few, who, on being first afflicted by the disease, are sent there for care and custody, and paid for by their friends, are Parish Paupers; and these are generally kept in gloomy and comfortless confinement. It is the usual parochial policy, to keep the Insane in Workhouses, until, from uncleanness or violent behaviour, they become inconvenient to their attendants, when they are dispatched to the Private Receiving Houses. This is a fortunate event for the Patient, who escapes from cheerless thralldom to a state of comparative happiness; and is considered unfortunate for the Parish, who can board and clothe them, in the Workhouse, for something more than half the expense charged by the Keepers of Private Houses. Were proper buildings provided for their reception, the condition of the Insane Poor would be bettered to an extent which no person can conceive, who has not witnessed the wretchedness of their confinement within Workhouse Walls. The Committee saw twenty-six Patients in one Workhouse and fifteen in another; and they have reason to believe, that a very considerable number is confined in various Parish Workhouses within the Bills of Mortality. There are some ex-

* Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the State of Lunatics. 1807. App. p. 21.

ceptions, however, to this general parochial usage, and, as an instance, the Committee state, on the authority of Lord Robert Seymour, with whom they have had the pleasure of communicating, that the Parish of St. Marylebone does not suffer an insane Pauper to remain in the Workhouse for a single day, and that this parish provides a frequent and effectual inspection, by its own Medical Officers, of its Insane Paupers in the private house to which they are sent for confinement; such officers presenting a written report to the vestry. Parish Paupers are especially exempted from return to the College of Physicians, and are not subjected to the examination of the Inspecting Commissioners.

III. PRIVATE HOUSES divide into three Classes.

1. Those which take only a *few Patients* whose number is limited, and at a rate of charge adequate to remunerate the attention and care which the malady demands.
2. Those whose *number*, although not indefinite, is considerably *more extensive*; and whose rates of charge are accommodated to the different ability of the Patient's friends.
3. Those which take *Patients in the lower ranks of life*, in respect of whom the charge is very low; being chiefly Parish Paupers, or Insane Seamen and Soldiers, who are called Government Patients.

From the Inspection of the Committee they discover, that the Patients in the *first Class of Private Houses*, are treated with various degrees of regard and discrimination, conformably to the habits and views of the Persons having the management of such Houses, and the local conveniences of the Premises; and that although considerable difference prevails, both as to accommodation, and attention to the wants and feelings of the Insane, yet there does not appear, even in those which are not so well managed as others, a disposition to neglect, so much as a want of understanding what is essential to the happiness and comfort of the diseased mind; and particularly, when in that state of approximation towards reason, which requires an intellect of superior discernment to seize and improve it to confirmed Sanity.

In the *second Class of Private Houses* the accommodation and attention vary in proportion to the rate of payment for the different Patients, who, in general, may be considered of that considerable portion of Society, the loss of whose exertions to their families, and whose dependance upon their relations, under this malady, create a large degree of misery and wretchedness within their domestic circles.

The means of convalescence which in these Houses ought to be essentially secured, are with little exception either disregarded or unprovided; and indeed that attention which is particularly essential to mental comfort, as well as constraint, are with little exception neglected.

To *Private Houses* which receive Patients at very *low payments*, and which principally take Parish Paupers, the last mentioned remarks particularly apply; the comforts are in all respects considerably diminished; yet, it must be observed, that the treatment of Parish Paupers in such Houses, is greatly superior to their condition in the Parish Workhouses. The Keepers uniformly complain of the Parishes being very irregular in the annual supply of Cloaths to the Patients, who suffer greatly from such privation when the delay is much beyond, as it very frequently is, the expiration of a year. The payment from the Parishes for these Patients varies from 9s. 6d. to, and does not exceed, in any instance, 11s. per week; and the Committee consider it highly creditable to the Keepers of Houses of this Class that these unfortunate parochial outcasts, one fourth of whom are insensible to the calls of nature, are lodged, fed, and kept clean, for so small a sum. In three large Houses of this description which the Committee have seen, these duties appear to be performed; and, in two of them particularly, in which very great regard was paid to cleanliness, white-washing, and ventilation, with certainly as much attention as such a sum could purchase.

The Committee not being invested with Government Authority, their inspection has been in a great degree superficial. Though in most of the Houses which they have examined, they are not aware that any part was concealed, or not shewn, and though they with pleasure acknowledge the attention which was paid to their inquiries, yet the examination was in fact little more than walking through the rooms, and the different ranges of apartments, and over the grounds attended by the Keeper; and although they were frequently addressed by Patients with whom they conversed in a passing way, they did not feel themselves at liberty to make inquiries of convalescent Patients

(who for want of classification could not have been discovered unless pointed out) relative to the internal economy of such Houses.

The Committee have been enabled to obtain an inspection of the major part of the Houses for the reception of the Insane within the Bills of Mortality.

By three Keepers they have been refused admittance. Not having been permitted on their *first visit* to inspect Gore House at Kensington, kept by PETER GILLES BRIAND, they thought proper, after having seen the majority of the other Houses, to apply to him again for that purpose, but though they with great civility re-stated their object and their progress at similar Houses, he, in language, unnecessarily harsh, peremptorily refused their inspection of his receptacle.

The next refusal which the Committee received was at SIR JONATHAN MILES'S *Receiving Houses at Hoxton*; where they were informed, that the Trustees had met in consequence of the General Meeting at the City of London Tavern, on the 2d of *March last*, and had determined that neither this Committee, nor any other person from that Meeting, should either be permitted to go over the Buildings, or receive any information whatever relative to them or the Patients. In the course of conversation with the Keeper, to whom they were introduced at SIR JONATHAN MILES'S, and with whom they fruitlessly expostulated on the futility of such a prohibition, he observed, that "it would be signing their own death warrant to let the Committee inspect their Premises." The Committee have been informed by DR. WEIR, Physician to the Sick and Hurt Board, and who is the Official Inspector of the Government Patients, at the Hoxton Receiving Houses, that he reported some particular circumstances regarding the Patients in this House, which important Report, the Committee apprehend, can only be obtained by Parliamentary Authority. The Committee deem any observation on the refusal they met with at SIR JONATHAN MILES'S, unnecessary.

DR. MONRO, the sole Physician of Bethlem, also declined to allow the Committee to inspect Brook-house, unless they thought proper to apply to the friends of each Patient for their consent.

The *larger* Private Houses for the reception of the Insane, are in their construction essentially bad; generally having several beds in a room, and frequently two Patients in one bed. In one of the Houses, the Committee saw several small rooms, without any windows, with holes for the admission of light and air, cut in the partitions between each, and into the passage into which they opened: each room contained three beds. This was in a House where considerable attention was paid to cleanliness and ventilation. The Day-rooms are in general much too small, and, in bad weather, must be inconveniently crowded; particularly as there are no galleries for the Patients to take exercise in. The airing grounds, in all the Houses of this class, which the Committee have seen, are much too contracted for the number of Patients allotted to them. The Committee observed very little means of employment or amusement afforded to the Patients; and scarcely any attempt at classing according to the stages of disease or convalescence; but though there is none as to the malady, there is some degree of classification, according to the rate of payment received. The want of due attention to arrangement precludes the propriety of allowing diversions suitable to progression towards recovery.

IV. The two great PUBLIC HOSPITALS, St. Luke's and Bethlem, and the Ward for the Insane at Guy's Hospital, have been visited by the Committee. The Ward of GUY'S HOSPITAL, which is calculated to receive Twenty Female Patients, termed Incurables, is a separate Building from the General Hospital; and is, by being adapted to afford the Keeper a complete and constant inspection of every part, by superior modes of ventilation, and, in all other respects, more suitably constructed than any erection for the Insane within the Bills of Mortality. The management also appeared much better to the Committee than what they observed in any other Establishment.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL is by no means equal in accommodation to the Ward at GUY'S. Notwithstanding the superior activity, and diligence of the present Master, MR. THOMAS DUNSTON, and the great attention paid to cleanliness and ventilation, which the Committee cannot praise too highly, the defects of the Building must preclude him from realizing the judicious views which it appears, by his Evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1807, he entertains of the Disease. "Much,"* says he, "is certainly to be done by management; but "it is impossible, on this head, to lay down a general rule; each effort must be adapted to the "peculiar indisposition; it is necessary to check some, to encourage others, and to animate all,

* Rep. Sel. Com., App. p. 25.

"with a hope of recovery." This Edifice has most of the radical evils of inadequate construction. The Day-rooms are too small for the winter-season, and the windows of most of the cells are unglazed; only one airing ground is allotted to each sex; and the galleries, all communicating with each other, preclude proper classification.

To ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, where the means within the power of the Master, appear to the Committee to be adapted by him to the utmost of his ability, and to the Ward of GUY'S HOSPITAL, the excellent construction and management of which, have been already adverted to, the Committee were instantly admitted upon application; but in endeavouring to obtain a sight of BETHLEM, they had to encounter many difficulties, which appeared to have been purposely thrown in their way by the persons connected with that Hospital. In particular, they think proper to state, that until the 2d of March last, the day of the General Meeting at the City of London Tavern, BETHLEM had been open to inspection by an order signed by a Governor; but immediately after that Meeting, the Committee of Governors revived an obsolete resolution, that no person should be permitted to inspect the Hospital, unless attended by a Governor in person; and it was not until after this Committee had spent much time, that they could obtain that complete inspection, which, when had, put them in possession of what they believe to be the true grounds of opposition to their wishes; and which requires a more detailed account than, previous to their various applications, they supposed would have been necessary.

The Committee first obtained admission to BETHLEM on Monday, the 25th of April; they were introduced by Mr. ALDERMAN COX, an official Governor, whose feelings being overpowered before the Committee had gone over the Men's side, that Gentleman was under the necessity of retiring to the Steward's Office, whither he was soon afterwards followed by the Committee, in consequence of a message from the Steward, who then informed them that Mr. Cox was prevented from accompanying them farther. They solicited permission to continue their inspection whilst Mr. Cox remained in the Hospital, but this was declined, and they were compelled to close their visit on that day. On Monday, the 2d of May, the Committee revisited the Hospital, introduced by CHARLES CALVERT, Esq. M. P. for Southwark, a Governor; and accompanied by CHARLES CALLIS WESTERN, Esq. M. P. for Essex, and four other Gentlemen. At this visit the Committee, attended by the Steward of the Hospital, and likewise by a female Keeper, first proceeded to visit the Women's Galleries.

One of the side Rooms contained about ten Patients, each chained by one arm to the wall; the chain allowing them merely to stand up by the bench or form fixed to the wall, or to sit down on it. The nakedness of each Patient was covered by a blanket gown only. The blanket gown is a blanket formed something like a dressing gown, with nothing to fasten it with in front; this constitutes the whole covering; the feet even were naked. One Female in this side Room, thus chained, was an object remarkably striking; she mentioned her maiden and married names, and stated that she had been a teacher of languages. The Keepers described her as a very accomplished lady, mistress of many languages, and corroborated her account of herself. The Committee can hardly imagine a human being in a more degraded and brutalizing situation, than that in which they found this female, who held a coherent conversation with them, and was, of course, fully sensible of the mental and bodily condition of those wretched beings who, equally without clothing, were closely chained to the same wall with herself. Unaware of the necessities of nature, some of them, though they contained life, appeared totally inanimate and unconscious of existence. The few minutes which the Committee passed with this lady, did not permit them to form a judgment of the degree of restraint to which she ought to be subject; but they unhesitatingly affirm, that her confinement with Patients, in whom she was compelled to witness the most disgusting idiocy, and the most terrifying distraction of the human intellect, is injudicious and improper. She entreated to be allowed pencil and paper, for the purpose of amusing herself with drawing, which were given to her by one of the Committee.

Many of these unfortunate women were locked up in their cells, naked, and chained on straw, with only one blanket for a covering. One, who was in that state by way of punishment, the Keeper described as the most dissatisfied Patient in the House; she talked coherently, complained of the want of tea and sugar, and lamented that her friends, whom she stated to be respectable people, neither came to see her, nor supplied her with little necessary comforts. The Patients generally complained much of being deprived of tea and sugar. On leaving the Gallery, the Committee en-

quired of them, whether the visit had been inconvenient or unpleasant, they all joined in saying no; but, (which was sufficiently apparent,) that the visit of a friend was always pleasant.

In the Men's Wing, in the side Room, six Patients were chained close to the wall—five handcuffed, and one locked to the wall by the right arm, as well as by the right leg. He was very noisy: all were naked, except as to the blanket gown, or a small rug on the shoulders, and without shoes; one complained much of the coldness of his feet—one of the Committee felt them—they were very cold. The Patients in this Room, except the noisy one, and the poor lad with cold feet, who was lucid when the Committee saw him, were dreadful idiots. Their nakedness, and their mode of confinement, gave this Room the complete appearance of a Dog Kennel.

From the Patients not being classed, some appear objects of resentment to the others. The Committee saw a quiet, civil man, a Soldier, a native of Poland, brutally attacked by another Soldier, who, we were informed by the Keepers, always singled out the Pole as an object of resentment. They said there were no means of separating these men, except by locking one up in solitary confinement.

Whilst looking at some of the bed-lying Patients, a man arose naked from his bed, and had deliberately and quietly walked a few paces from his cell-door along the gallery; he was instantly seized by the keepers, thrown into his bed, and leg-locked, without inquiry or observation.

Chains are universally substituted for the strait-waistcoat; but in GUY'S HOSPITAL, a leather belt is used, with side-straps to confine the arms, which, in many instances, is greatly superior.

In the men's wing were about 75 or 76 Patients, with two Keepers and an Assistant; and about the same number of Patients on the women's side. The Patients were in no way distinguished from each other as to disease, than as those who were not walking about, or chained in the side rooms, were lying stark naked upon straw, on their bedsteads, each in a separate cell, with a single blanket or rug, in which the Patient usually lay huddled up, as if impatient of cold, and generally chained to the bed-place, in the shape of a trough. About one-fifth were in this state, or chained in the side rooms. In the *Private Houses*, the Patients are universally made to rise, to wear clothes, to take exercise, and, from being confined in a waistcoat when necessary, were prevented injuring each other.

It appeared, that the Wet Patients, and all who were inclined to lie a-bed, were allowed to do so, from being less troublesome in that state, than when up and dressed.

The end window towards Fore-street was the chief source of entertainment to the Patients; they seemed greatly to enjoy the sight of the people walking, and to derive great pleasure from the visit of the Committee.

In one of the cells, on the lower gallery, the Committee saw WILLIAM NORRIS. He stated himself to be 55 years of age, and that he had been confined about 14 years; that in consequence of attempting to defend himself from what he conceived the improper treatment of his Keeper, he was fastened by a long chain, which passing through a partition, enabled the Keeper, by going into the next cell, to draw him close to the wall at pleasure; that, to prevent this, NORRIS muffled the chain with straw, so as to hinder its passing through the wall; that he afterwards was confined in the manner the Committee saw him; namely,—A stout iron ring was rivetted round his neck, from which a short chain passed to a ring, made to slide upwards or downwards on an upright massive iron bar, more than six feet high, inserted into the wall; round his body, a strong iron bar, about two inches wide, was rivetted; on each side the bar was a circular projection, which being fashioned to, and enclosing each of his arms, pinioned them close to his sides; this waist-bar was secured by two similar bars, which passing over his shoulders, were rivetted to the waist-bar, both before and behind; the iron ring round his neck was connected to the bars on his shoulders by a double link; from each of these bars another short chain passed to the ring on the upright iron bar. We were informed he was enabled to raise himself, so as to stand against the wall, on the pillow of his bed, in the trough-bed in which he lay; but it is impossible for him to advance from the wall in which the iron bar is soldered, on account of the shortness of his chains, which were only twelve inches long. It is conceived equally out of his power to repose in any other position than on his back; the projections, which, on each side of the waist-bar, enclosed his arms, rendering it impossible for him to lay on his side, even if the length of the chains from his neck and shoulders would permit it. His right leg was chained to the trough, in which he had remained thus encaged and chained more than twelve years. To prove the unnecessary restraint inflicted on this unfortunate man, he informed the

Committee, that he had for some years been able to withdraw his arms from the manacles which encompassed them. He then withdrew one of them: and observing an expression of surprise, he said, that when his arms were withdrawn, he was compelled to rest them on the edges of the circular projections, which was more painful than keeping them within. His position, we were informed, was mostly laying down, and that, as it was inconvenient to raise himself and stand upright, he very seldom did so; that he read a great deal; books of all kinds; history, lives, or any thing that the Keepers could get him; the newspaper every day; and conversed perfectly coherent on the passing topics and the events of the war, in which he felt particular interest. On each day that the Committee saw him he discoursed coolly, and gave rational and deliberate answers to the different questions put to him. The whole of this statement relative to William Norris was confirmed by the Keepers.

On Wednesday, the 7th of June, when the Committee again visited Bethlem, they discovered that all the male Patients, who were then naked, and chained to their beds in their cells, were in that situation by way of punishment for misbehaviour, and not from disease. In consequence of the discovery made by this Committee of the situation of WILLIAM NORRIS, and of a drawing which they procured to be made of him in his irons, he was visited by the following Gentlemen: HOLME SUMNER, Esq. M. P. LORD ROBERT SEYMOUR, M. P. WILLIAM SMITH, Esq. M. P. Hon. G. BENNETT, M. P. R. J. LAMTON, Esq. M. P. THOMAS THOMPSON, Esq. M. P. and other Members of the House of Commons; and the Committee have now to state, that at this last visit they observed that the whole of the irons had been removed from Norris's body, and that the length of chain from his neck, which was only twelve inches, had been doubled.

In the public Hospitals, it is customary to lock up the Patients in their cells at dusk; this, in winter, is soon after four o'clock; and the cells are not opened until seven o'clock the next morning. The coldness of the season sends the Patient into his bed, however he may incline to remain awake. To him, who is darkness and utter confusion within, this is no privation of comfort—no infliction of sorrow;—but surely fifteen hours dreary, solitary confinement, in a dark cell, must tend to retard the progress of the convalescent, and to deepen the gloom of the mind, shattered by sorrow.

If the Committee have been pained by the remarkable contrast in management between one of our great public Hospitals for the Insane, and the larger private Houses generally, they have been as forcibly impressed by contrasting the practice, of even such Houses, with the general economy of the "*Friends Retreat*" near YORK; where neither chains nor corporal punishment are tolerated on any pretext; where the conveniences provided, both within doors and without, are suitable to Patients in any station of life, and every appearance is avoided that can afflict the mind by painful recollections; and where regulation and control are governed by the experienced efficacy of this important principle—that whatever tends to promote the happiness of the Patient, increases his desire to restrain himself.

Immediately on the attack of Insanity, the first means towards cure, is estrangement from home—an instant removal of the patient to a place of proper confinement; but not to the custody of those, who, whatever may be the local conveniences of the premises, are themselves destitute of the very peculiar intelligence, essential to the discovery of that species of the disease, and that degree of affection, which alone indicate the mode of management with a view to cure; nor should the custody of the patient be confided to a keeper, whose premises, however in other respects unobjectionable, are not adapted to the classification of the inmates.

The Committee deplore, that they have had occasion to remark the frequent almost entire abandonment of the Insane, by their dearest connexions, to hirelings, and persons not interested in their recovery, at a period when they most require protection from the ignorance and neglect of keepers—deserted in their utmost need, when the few comforts, which they are capable of enjoying, can proceed only from the benevolence of friendship and affection. They as much deplore the almost total ignorance which prevails on the nature of Insanity and its proper mode of treatment, even in those most interested in such investigation; but they still more deeply regret that opinions have been hazarded in most respectable quarters, evidently unfounded either upon personal observation or inquiry, calculated to render the public satisfied with inefficient institutions, and to perpetuate the general delusion upon this lamentable affliction of our nature.

Notwithstanding the defects in management, which the Committee have adverted to, they recollect with unmingled satisfaction, the real, sound, discriminative comprehension of the proper

mode of treatment, evinced by a few intelligent keepers. These respectable individuals granted many indulgences, which keepers, in general, would not admit to be either useful or proper; as encouraging various exercises and games in the open air, devising suitable employments and amusements; allowing the use of books, and particularly pen, ink, and paper; permitting the patients, according to their state of mind, to walk out, to attend divine service, to go to a village fair, and generally promoting tranquillity and cheerfulness. In general, notwithstanding an uniform conviction of the inutility of medicine, other means are very little applied, and the patients are mostly left to get well as they can.

Relative to Medical treatment, from the information which the Committee have obtained in various ways, and particularly in their interviews with the Keepers, and Managers of the different Receptacles for the Insane, who without exception agree in opinion, they are firmly persuaded that medicine has little or no effect on the disease, and that, with very few exceptions, the disease is alleviated or cured by management of the mind alone. An intelligent Keeper, who has had many years experience, and several thousand cases under his controul, thus observed to the Committee: "Medicine is of no service that I ever experienced—we know what to do with a patient if he is not open in his body. Physicians send medicine, but we do as we please as to giving it. They know very little about the matter."

The improper accommodations for the Insane in the larger private houses within the bills of mortality, arise from the want of separate sleeping rooms, of convenient day-rooms, of galleries to exercise in during bad weather, of commodious airing grounds, and, of the means of classification, according to the advanced periods of disease or convalescence.

Private Institutions being generally commenced by persons not in affluence, with a view of deriving a livelihood from their profits, the irremediable evils arising from bad construction, and the defects in management, increase with the increased numbers of Patients, and are likely to be obviated only by well-regulated Public Establishments, in buildings purposely erected.

The erection of a "LONDON ASYLUM FOR THE CARE AND CURE OF THE INSANE," which, avoiding the bad construction of the present Establishments, should, in its general economy, be assimilated as near as possible, to that of "*The Retreat*," near York, appears to this Committee, from the Inspections they have had of the Receptacles within the Bills of Mortality, a measure loudly called for, by the defects of existing Institutions, and the increased and* encreasing prevalence of Insanity, which at least keeps pace with a rapidly increasing population.

MR. THOMAS DUNSTON, the master of St. LUKE'S, stated, in 1807,† that the average number of patients in that Hospital is 300, and that 640 persons were then waiting for admission. This statement is greatly corroborative of the statement of SIR G. O. PAUL,‡ "that of all the Insane in the kingdom, the one half are not in a situation to be relieved from their malady,"—a remark which unhappily remains applicable to the state of the Insane at this moment.

The Committee recommend, that the proposed Asylum shall be commenced under the direction of an active and vigilant Committee, on such a principle that it may accommodate a small number at first, and be augmented as occasion may require. But, as to the number of Patients, they are especially anxious that reference should be had to the opinion of Sir G. O. Paul, (a higher authority than whom, from his close attention and persevering inquiries, relative to the subject the Committee cannot refer to,) who states, That "the Individual cost of each Patient, will diminish in proportion as the numbers encrease to a certain extent; that the most economical Establishment "would be from 250 to 300." Beyond the accommodation of this number, the Committee recommend that the Building should be encreased, from time to time, until it arrive at the greatest magnitude to which it may be judged proper that it should extend. To effect this object, and to provide as constant, and as extensively pervading an inspection of the proposed Asylum as can be given to its manager, the Committee consider the PANOPTICON Principle eminently calculated. The Erection of central Offices in the first instance, with the requisite ranges of separate sleeping rooms for each Patient, and the Chambers, Day Rooms, and Airing Grounds, for the different classes of Patients, diverging in radii, afford the capability of gradual enlargement for the accommodation of any number of inmates, and enable the acting Superintendent to observe from his own apartment by a glance of his eye the conduct of every individual, Keeper as well as Patient, under his controul.

* Dr. Powell on the Prevalence of Insanity. Med. Trans. Vol. IV. p. 139.

† Rep. Sel. Com., App. p. 21.

‡ Ibid, App. p. 18.

|| Ibid, App. p. 18.

In conclusion, The Committee state, that they have corresponded with the Right Hon. GEORGE ROSE on the subject of the Bill introduced by that Gentleman into the House of Commons, for the better regulation of Houses for the reception of the Insane; in an interview which he had, through their Chairman, who had written to him on the subject, expressed a wish to have with this Committee, they had the pleasure of explaining to him the views of the General Meeting on the 2d of March, and of learning from him, that his object is to obtain by legislative Enactments the utmost possible security for the proper treatment of the Insane of all classes. He did the Committee the honour of requesting their opinions in writing, beyond what they had then expressed verbally, respecting his Bill, which they have drawn up at length, and transmitted to him accordingly.

EDWARD WAKEFIELD,

Chairman of the Committee.

June, 18th, 1814.

This REPORT is not to be *Publicly Circulated*, as it has not yet been laid before a *Public Meeting*; but is printed for the individual information of those Persons, who are anxious to learn the Proceedings of the Sub-Committee.

London June twenty
second 1814
Dr Belcombe
New York
Wm Thompson