

Tract: Report of the Committee of Inquiry (1814)

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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

INTO THE

RULES AND MANAGEMENT

OF THE

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

15

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COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

INTO THE

RULES AND MANAGEMENT

OF THE

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

At an adjourned Quarterly Court of Governors of
the York Lunatic Asylum, held on Friday the
Seventh Day of January, 1814.

Present,
THE GRACE AND ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, in the Chair, and
Eighteen Gentlemen.

Resolved,
That it be referred to the following Committee,
(any five of whom shall have power to act) to make
an inquiry into the Rules and Management of the
Institution, and to report facts and their opinion
thereon, to the next Quarterly Court
of the Governors, or to the General Meeting in
August; viz.

THE GRACE AND ARCHBISHOP OF YORK,
THOMAS SMITH, Esq. (Lord Mayor),
The Rev. THOMAS J. BARNES,
The Rev. WILLIAM DEATLEY,
GEORGE W. BARNES, Esq.,
SAMUEL WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Esq.,
BENJAMIN BROOKMAN, Esq.,
WILLIAM CARR, Esq.,
THOMAS WILSON, Esq.,
HENRY BLAND, Esq.,
The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM,
MR. BROOK,
MR. JONATHAN GRAY.

That Dr. Best be requested to attend the Meet-
ing to answer such questions and inquiries as may
be proposed to him, and to offer any suggestions
which may occur to him as beneficial to the Insti-
tution.

THE FIRST PART
OF THE
R E P O R T
OF THE
COMMITTEE,
&c. &c.

At an adjourned Quarterly Court of Governors of
the York Lunatic Asylum, held on Friday the
Seventh Day of January, 1814,

Present,

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, in the Chair, and
Sixty-five Governors.

RESOLVED,

That it be referred to the following Committee,
(any five of whom shall have power to act,) to make
an Inquiry into the Rules and Management of the
Institution, and to report facts, and their opinion
thereon, to the next or subsequent Quarterly Court
of the Governors, or to the General Meeting in
August; viz.

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.
THOMAS SMITH, Esq. (Lord Mayor.)
The Rev. THOMAS PRESTON.
The Rev. WILLIAM DEALTRY.
GEORGE PALMES, Esq.
SAMUEL WILLIAM NICHOLL, Esq.
BENJAMIN BROOKSBANK, Esq.
WILLIAM CARR, Esq.
THOMAS WILSON, Esq.
HENRY BLAND, Esq.
The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM.
Mr. BROOK.
Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

That Dr. BEST be requested to attend the Meetings, to answer such questions and inquiries as may be proposed to him, and to offer any suggestions which may occur to him as beneficial to the Institution.

FIRST PART
OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AS TO THE
RULES OF THE INSTITUTION.

YOUR Committee find, on examining the books and other documents relating to this Institution, that neither its design has been distinctly declared, nor the rules for its management ever collected or digested into any regular form. It became necessary, therefore, to trace the progress of the Institution from its origin.

Your Committee have, in the first place, collected in an Appendix (A) such extracts from the order books and from advertisements as relate to the design of the charity. On this head your Committee have briefly to notice, that the Asylum is designed, generally, for the relief of Lunatics, being either parish paupers, or belonging to distressed and indigent families: that persons of limited incomes, or in moderate circumstances, are deemed objects of this charity, if the expense of their care and maintenance cannot be otherwise supported without occasioning pressure and distress to their

families. Your Committee have also to state under this head, that persons labouring under the affliction of an unsound mind, whether considered curable or not, are admissible as patients; and, generally, all persons whom the Governors may deem proper objects; and, that though the Asylum is an establishment for the County of York, patients from other countries or places may be admitted on extraordinary occasions.

In the Appendix (B) are collected the rules relative to patients.

For some years after the first opening of the Asylum in 1777, your Committee find by the rules, that this Institution continued to receive only patients in low or distressed circumstances. The finances, however, being inadequate to the maintenance of a number of patients of this description sufficient to fill the building, a limited number of patients in affluent or easy circumstances was, in the year 1785, determined to be admitted on a rate of payment adequate to their abilities; with a view to providing a surplus, from the payments of this class, towards the support of the most necessitous objects.

The classification of the patients, and the fixing of their respective payments, is intrusted by the rules to a Committee of seven Governors, to be chosen annually, the Physician being one. Your Committee remark, that the payments for *parish paupers* have been fixed, by the rules, at a sum intended to be not less than the computed average expense of their maintenance; with a view to relieve, as far

as possible, such poor persons as are not assisted by parishes.

Your Committee have collected in the Appendix (C) the resolutions which relate particularly to the office of Physician. In 1777, the acting Committee were of opinion that it would be proper to have one Physician only; and Dr. Hunter was requested by them to attend in that capacity. This he appears to have done gratis, for the first eight years; at the end of that period, on the admission of affluent patients, it was resolved, that the Physician should receive from them the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

It may be proper for your Committee here to notice, that an experiment was made by the Governors for one year, of allowing the Physician a salary of £200. in lieu of fees; (a mode strongly recommended in a letter from the late Dr. Hunter.) At the end of the year it was, however, determined, that the Physician should receive his moderate and reasonable fees from affluent patients as before.

For the rules relating to the Governors, your Committee refer to the Appendix (D).

The Appendix (E) contains the rules relative to the regular appointment of Visitors, who in addition to the general superintendence implied in that appointment, are to examine and sign all the bills before they are sent by the Steward to the friends of the patients, in order to prevent fraudulent charges.

The rules for the direction of the Steward (F), Apothecary (G), Housekeeper (H), Head

Keeper (I), and Servants in general (J), will be found in the Appendix, under their respective heads.

The Appendix (K) contains the rules applying to two distinct funds, called the Reduction Fund, and Lupton's Fund.

The Reduction Fund originated in certain donations confined by the donors to the maintenance of patients only, but not applicable towards buildings or repairs. These donations, which were placed at the discretion of the Governors, were formed by them into a fund, for reducing the payments by the most necessitous objects not receiving parochial relief.—The other fund, called Lupton's Fund, is confined to the maintenance of lunatic parish paupers, and other indigent lunatics within the City, Ainsty, and County of York. This fund is directed by the Governors to accumulate until the Archbishop of York for the time being, shall think it so considerable, that the dividends may be applied for the intended purpose.—No subscription to these funds entitles the donor to the privileges of a Governor.

E. EBOR.

SECOND PART
OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AS TO THE
MANAGEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION.

YOUR Committee report, that they have taken Minutes of the information which they have at different times obtained on this head of their investigation, and to these Minutes they beg to refer the Court. They consider it, however, more convenient in this part of their Report, briefly to arrange the information, which they have collected, under the same heads as the rules already stated in the Appendix to the first Report.

PATIENTS. (Appendix, B.)

THE classification of all the Patients in the house, which was made about the year 1785, appears to your Committee never to have been repealed. They have to report, however, in point of practice, a wide departure from this rule. Patients are now admitted, not by a Committee, but by the Physician only, who also fixes the several rates of admission. The number of classes, the number of

Patients in each, and their respective payments as taken on an average of three-quarters of the last year, viz. from March to December, are as follows :

First Class, poor persons, (of whom about 80 are parish paupers,) amount to 107 in number, and pay to the Institution 9s. per week.

Second Class, in number 17, pay each to the Physician 1s. per week, and to the house 9s. per week.

Third Class, in number 13, pay each to the Physician 2s. per week, and to the house 10s. per week.

Fourth Class, in number 15, pay each to the Physician 4s. per week, and to the house 11s. per week.

Fifth, the only Class in the Asylum above these, are the Physician's private Patients, whose accounts do not pass through the hands of the Steward. For these the Physician pays 14s. per week to the Institution ; a sum which covers all charges for board, lodging, coals, candles, tea, and medicines. This class, last year, averaged 16.—Each of the Patients above the first, or poor class, pay the Physician one guinea on admission.

About 28 poor Patients not included in the above 107, (amongst whom, by a resolution of the Governors, in 1788, no parish paupers are admitted,) receive assistance in four different degrees from the interest of the "Reduction Fund," to the amount of £35. per annum. Of these 28, however, 17 pay the sum of 8s. per week.

Your Committee think it important to remark, that none of the classes of Patients of 16s. 18s. and 20s. and upwards, fixed by the Governors in 1785, have for several years found admission into the Asylum; though these may be supposed to be now placed on the list of the Physician's private Patients, for whom the Institution receives 14s. per week.

No distinct account is kept of the actual expense to the Institution of each class of Patients. But the payment of 9s. per week was judged sufficient for the support of a Patient in the expensive year of 1801, (when the weekly payments for persons in the class of paupers was advanced from 8s. to 9s.) and the payments made by all the Patients have, with the aid of £35. per annum from the Reduction Fund, been generally equal to the total expenditure.

PHYSICIAN. (Appendix, C.)

It appears to your Committee, that exclusive of the daily attendance of the Physician at the Asylum in the performance of the duties of that office, a considerable portion of his time is occupied in answering the inquiries of the friends of the patients, both personally and by letter. The mode of his remuneration has been noticed under the last head.

TREASURER.

Your Committee find no rules applying to the office of Treasurer, now executed by Mr. BROOK,

There is no emolument attached to the office, and the legacies and donations received, are paid into one of the York Banks to the separate account of the Institution. The payments of the patients or their friends do not come into the Treasurer's hands, being received and accounted for to the Governors by the Steward.

VISITORS. (Appendix, E.)

YOUR Committee find that from the first appointment of Visitors in 1782 they appear to have generally acted, at least till the year 1794; since which period your Committee find no such officers to have been in existence.

STEWARD. (Appendix, F.)

THE Steward (to whom your Committee find full powers over the servants is intrusted by the rules) has a salary of £80. per annum, and the house called the Asylum Lodge.

The present Steward, Mr. SURR, is 82 years of age; and though in full possession of his mental faculties, is often prevented by the infirmities of age, from going out and visiting the Asylum during the winter season. When your Committee consider his years, and the distance of his residence from the Asylum, they view with less surprise the almost total want of subordination and vigilance which they find to prevail amongst the servants in the absence of a watchful and confidential head.

It is the duty of your Committee to notice, that of the fifteen rules prescribed by the Governors, for the regulation of the Housekeeper's conduct, the Steward, in the copy he gave to Mrs. ATKINSON, has omitted rules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 15; and that the key of the beer and bread, which she ought to have, is placed in the hands of an inferior Male Keeper.

APOTHECARY. (Appendix, G.)

THE salary of Mr. ATKINSON, the Apothecary, is £ 100. per annum. He does not consider himself possessed of the authority to prevent the servants going out when they please.

HOUSEKEEPER. (Appendix, H.)

Mrs. ATKINSON, as Housekeeper, is paid £30. per annum.

It appears to your Committee, both from the mutilated instructions which she received from the Steward, and from her account of the conduct of the servants, particularly of the Female Head Keeper, that she exercises only a partial and contested authority in the house.—Having found it impracticable to prevent the ingress and egress of the servants in the night, she has for several years ceased to lock the back-kitchen door before she goes to bed.

HEAD KEEPER. (Appendix, I.)

THOMAS BLACKADER'S wages are £21. per ann. He also receives 5s. on the admission of each male patient above the poor class. His authority as Head Keeper was successively disputed by BACKHOUSE, and by BATTY, two former Keepers, and is now, in a less degree, by HENRY DAWSON, a present Keeper; and the men-servants have refused to obey his orders,

SERVANTS IN GENERAL. (Appendix, J.)

THERE are, besides, in the house, three Male Keepers, whose wages are £20. £16. and £12. respectively. A Gardener receives £25.; a head Female Keeper 12 guineas; two other Female Keepers 10 guineas each. A Cook £15, and an under Cook 8 guineas.

The following perquisites are received: For the male patients of the superior classes are charged about 74 guineas per annum, divided amongst four men.

For female patients of the higher classes, about £25. are shared by three Female Keepers. The servants are apprised of the amount which each of these patients contributes to them. The money arising from the manure that is sold, (though manure is sometimes purchased for the garden,) is divided by the three under Male Keepers and the Gardener. The Keepers also take the cast clothes

of the patients when they consider them to have been worn a sufficient time.

Though the rules provide, that no servant shall absent himself from the house for more than one hour without leave, it appears that they seldom or never ask leave, and that several of them are frequently out late at night at the same time.

MISCELLANEOUS. (Appendix, L.)

YOUR Committee find that an Annual Report of the state of the Institution, signed by the Apothecary, is published in the three York newspapers; but that due care does not appear to have been used as to its correctness. The Annual Report of 1813, states the total number of admissions from the opening of the Asylum to July 1, 1813, to be 2556, and the total number of deaths to be 221.

The Committee, having appointed Messrs. WILSON, GRAHAM, and BLAND, to examine the Steward's Books, have received from them the subjoined statement, from which it appears, that the actual number of admissions from the opening of the Asylum, (November 1, 1777,) to July 1, 1813, inclusive, have been 2560, and that the deaths during the same period have been 365.

STATEMENT.

WE whose names are hereunto subscribed, having been requested, (at a Meeting of the Committee, February 8, 1814,) "To ascertain from the Books, the actual number of Deaths from the commencement of the Institution, in order that it may be added to the Report of the Committee,"

REPORT, That we have carefully examined the same, and find, that from the opening of the Asylum, November 1, 1777, to July 1, 1813 inclusive, the patients admitted have been 2560, and that the deaths during the said period have been 365.—The particulars of each year are annexed.

We have to remark that the deaths of Whiteley and Kildale, in 1802; of Harrison, in 1804; and of Fowler, in 1806, though remembered by the servants of the house, are not inserted in the books.

It does not appear by the books, whether the following patients were discharged or died; they are therefore not included in the above list of deaths.

Margaret Smith, admitted February, 1787.

Catharine St. Clair, admitted October 16, 1790.

D. Myson, admitted April 20, 1796.

D. Thackwray, admitted July 26, 1796.

Mrs. Parke, admitted August 9, 1797.

THOMAS WILSON.
JOHN GRAHAM.
HENRY BLAND.

*Admissions and Deaths of Patients in the Asylum in each year,
from its commencement, to July 1, 1813; taken from the Ste-
ward's Books.*

From Nov. 1, 1777, to July 1, 1778	Admiss.	Deaths.
_____ 1778	18	3
_____ 1779	35	3
_____ 1780	35	4
_____ 1781	38	1
_____ 1782	50	7
_____ 1783	37	6
_____ 1784	40	5
_____ 1785	57	2
_____ 1786	52	4
_____ 1787	59	7
_____ 1788	75	3
_____ 1789	61	3
_____ 1790	63	9
_____ 1791	55	8
_____ 1792	69	4
_____ 1793	58	6
_____ 1794	83	7
_____ 1795	78	6
_____ 1796	85	6
_____ 1797	95	13
_____ 1798	69	5
_____ 1799	67	8
_____ 1800	64	7
_____ 1801	103	18
_____ 1802	85	16
_____ 1803	88	10
_____ 1804	85	18
_____ 1805	79	9
_____ 1806	79	12
_____ 1807	99	22
_____ 1808	120	20
_____ 1809	78	29
_____ 1810	99	23
_____ 1811	92	23
_____ 1812	99	19
_____ 1813	111	24
	<u>2560</u>	<u>365</u>

ON a deliberate review of the results of their investigations, your Committee feel it their duty for the present to subjoin the following observations.

1. That the admission of private patients of the Physician, on the plan for many years past adopted, is a practice not sanctioned by the Rules of the Institution, and in itself objectionable; and that the principles on which the Physician to the Asylum shall be remunerated require the most serious attention.

2. That though the admission of opulent patients, if subjected to proper and specified limits, may be expedient for the purpose of deriving assistance for poor patients from their liberal payments, no sufficient advantage at present results from the admission of such patients.

3. That the permission given to the servants to receive perquisites from the richer patients, is calculated to occasion a neglect of the poorer classes, who have it not in their power to purchase the same attentions.

4. That as the appointment of visitors seems indispensably necessary in all public Institutions, Committed in a great measure to the care and management of hired servants, your Committee feel the greater cause to lament their discontinuance at the Asylum, where the necessity for their attendance is particularly urgent, as the Steward who is vested with the authority

of a superintendent of the house, does not reside in it.

5. That the structure of the building, and the disposition and dimensions of the day-rooms, appear to your Committee ill adapted for the accommodation and superintendence of the Patients.

6. Your Committee consider the present number of Servants wholly inadequate to perform the work of the house, and give the requisite care and attention to the Patients, who in consequence of this insufficiency in the number of Keepers, are too frequently left to themselves.

7. As the deviations from the existing Rules which your Committee have remarked, appear to have existed before the appointment of Dr. BEST, your Committee are of opinion, that in case any censure should be considered by the Governors, as attaching to these deviations, it ought not to be imputed to him.

Lastly, Though it may be expected from your Committee that they should proceed to suggest such new regulations as may appear to them requisite, yet they are sensible that the consideration of these must require much time and attention: and they therefore reserve to themselves the further period to which the Court has thought fit to continue their powers, before they make a Report of their opinions on this important topic.

E. EBOR.

APPENDIX

To the First and Second Parts of the Report of the Committee appointed to make an Inquiry into the Rules and Management of the York Lunatic Asylum.

A

*Documents * relating to the Design of the Institution.*

York, Aug. 7, 1772†. **S**ENSIBLE of the deplorable situation of many poor lunatics in this extensive County, who have no other support but what a needy parent can bestow, or a thrifty parish officer provide, we do recommend to the public in general, a Subscription towards erecting a public Edifice for the reception of such unhappy people.

The excellent establishments of this nature at Newcastle and Manchester, give a noble example for imitation to this wealthy County.

It is therefore earnestly requested of those Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, who are desirous of promoting an Institution so highly beneficial to this unhappy part of the community, to meet at the Castle of York, at Twelve o'Clock in the Forenoon, on Friday in the next York Race Week, to consider of proper

* The following documents, (except such as are copies, or extracts from advertisements in the York Courant, and noticed as such, are extracted from the Order Books.

† From the York Courant.

means for putting the same in execution, and of opening a Subscription for so laudable a purpose.

R. Ebor,	Rowland Winn,	Wm. St. Quintin,
Thomas Frankland,	Nathaniel Cholmley,	P. Johnson,
Edward Topham,	George Armytage,	John Lee,
Henry Willoughby,	G. Earle,	J. Dealtry,
George Palmes,	Robert Grimston,	A. Hunter,
William T. Jolliff,	Thomas Gascoigne,	H. Zouch,
John Hudson,	Daniel Lascelles,	J. Blake.
J. Bowman,	Henry Wood,	
W. Milner,	C. Turner,	

*York, Aug. 27, 1772**. At a Meeting held this day at the Castle, it was unanimously resolved, that a Subscription should be entered upon for the establishing an Hospital at York, for the reception of Lunatics. A Subscription was then opened, and a Committee appointed, to carry into execution the humane purposes of the Meeting. As soon as £5000. are raised, proper notice will be given by the Committee of the time and manner of paying in the Subscriptions.

The Committee hold their first Meeting at the York Tavern, on Wednesday, the 9th day of September next, at twelve in the Forenoon; and the general Meeting of the Subscribers will be held at the same place, on Monday, the 9th day of November next, in order to receive the Report of the Committee.

Such Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Ladies, as are desirous of promoting an Institution for the relief of an unhappy part of the community, are requested to send their names, and the sums they intend to subscribe to the Chairman of the Committee of the Lunatic Hospital at York.

A List of those who have already Subscribed.

His Grace the Archbishop of York.
&c. &c. &c.

* From the York Courant.

SUBJOINED TO, OR INCLUDED IN THE PRECEDING ADVERTISEMENT.

Reasons for the establishing a Lunatic Hospital.

IN a Country abounding with charitable Institutions of almost every kind, it is natural to suppose that something should be done for the relief of those unhappy sufferers, who are the objects of terror and compassion to all around them ; and whose cases lay a just claim to the benevolence of their fellow-creatures.

Strongly impressed with a desire of alleviating the miseries of that unhappy part of the community, some humane persons have formed a noble resolution of affording an Asylum for the reception of poor Lunatics. And in order to silence all opposition, and at the same time to diffuse these tender feelings amongst all ranks of people, they think it necessary to observe, that they were induced to plan and encourage this Institution from the following considerations.

1. It is well known, that no particular provision is made by law for Lunatics ; the common parish work-houses, and houses of correction, being no ways proper for their reception, either in point of accommodation, attendance, or medical assistance.

2. That there are only four Hospitals in this kingdom, for the reception of Lunatics, two in London, one in Newcastle, and one in Manchester. And experience has shown, that these humane charities are incapable of receiving and providing for the relief of all the unhappy objects who make application for admittance.

3. That the expense and difficulty attending the admission of a Patient into these Hospitals, do daily discourage applications for that purpose, particularly when made on account of the more necessitous objects, and such as reside at a great distance from these charitable Institutions.

4. That by this unavoidable exclusion, or delay in the admission of objects, many useful members have been lost to society, either by the disorder gaining strength, beyond the reach of medicine,

or by the Patients falling into the hands of persons utterly unskilled in the treatment of their disease.

5. That the constitutional laws of the County Hospital exclude all persons disordered in their senses. A Lunatic Hospital, that only receives rejected objects, cannot, by any means, interfere with that excellent and well-regulated charity.

6. That many families, (in no mean circumstances) through the heavy expense attending the support of one object of this sort, have themselves become the objects of charitable relief, and thereby doubled the load and loss to the public.

7. That the most fatal acts of violence on themselves, attendants, and relations, have often been occasioned by the smallest delay in placing Lunatics under the care of persons experienced in guarding against, and preventing attempts of this kind.

8. The last, but not the least consideration with the promoters of this design, is the assistance that may be given to many persons of moderate circumstances, who, labouring under the terrible misfortune of an unsound mind, have no place to retire to but a private mad-house, where their cure stands a great chance of being protracted for the benefit of the mercenary Keeper, if ever to be accomplished under the care of one who can lay so small a claim to medical abilities. Those persons or their relations, it is not doubted, would gladly give the preference to an Asylum under the direction of men of principles and honour, where the Patients might expect to meet with the most humane and disinterested treatment; and where they might have a chance of being restored to their health and friends, without impairing their fortunes.

Such, and such only, are the motives of the promoters of this humane design. In a country noted for the most extensive charities of every kind, there can be no doubt but that a sufficient sum may be raised, by a general Subscription, for the building an edifice for the reception of Lunatics.

The surplus money arising from this Subscription, after defraying the expenses of the necessary buildings, &c. will be applied towards constituting a Fund for the maintenance of the Patients.

York, Aug. 25, 1772.

York, Sept. 22, 1772.* To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor, of all and every the parishes, towns, or places, within the County or precincts of York.

A scheme being set on foot for building an Hospital for the reception of Lunatics, or mad persons, who are so far disordered in their senses as not to be permitted to go abroad, but are obliged to be kept locked up in some secure place; in order to form a better judgment of the real utility of such a charity in this County, or spaciousness of such an edifice, if necessary, you are required, some or one of you, to send on or before the 9th day of November next, directed to Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. and M. P. to be left at, or sent by post, to the York Tavern, in the City of York, an account of the number of persons, who by lunacy or otherwise, are now furiously mad, within, belonging to, claiming settlement, or becoming chargeable to your different hundreds, towns corporate, wapentakes, constaberies, parishes, villages, or hamlets, and proper objects to be sent to such an Hospital, if erected and endowed. Those parishes which are so happy as to have no such mad persons belonging to them, are equally desired, by their Officers to send that account, under cover, as before requested.

Nov. 9, 1772. It appears to this Board, that there are too considerable a number of such unhappy objects in this County, and that the Subscription does not exceed £4100. at present, nor can any part thereof be called for till £5000. be subscribed. Therefore, it is hoped, that those Noblemen and Gentlemen, who are inclined to favour this charity, would signify their intentions, that something may be resolved upon, as the building must be more extensive than was at first imagined.

Aug. 25, 1773. THAT the building be called the Lunatic Asylum.

That the Asylum when finished, be general for all Patients, who shall be deemed proper objects by the Governors present, and on

* From the York Courant,

whose behalf such regulations shall be conformed to, and such securities given, as shall hereafter be agreed upon.

That the regulation and management of the Asylum be considered at a future general Meeting of the Subscribers, with the advice and assistance of such Gentlemen of the Faculty as are desirous of promoting the undertaking, either by attending the Meeting in person, or by sending their sentiments in writing, under their hands, to the Secretary.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

York, Aug. 25, 1773.* AT a general Meeting of the Subscribers to the intended Lunatic Asylum, held this day, pursuant to advertisement, a Plan drawn by Mr. Carr, Architect, of an edifice to contain, at present, fifty-four Patients, was approved of, and agreed to be carried into execution: and a Committee was appointed with full power to treat and contract for the purchase of ground, and with workmen for the building, and to make calls upon the Subscribers, as occasion shall require, not exceeding £20. per cent. at each payment.

It was agreed, that this Asylum be general for all Patients who shall be deemed proper objects by the Governors, and upon such terms as the fund will admit of. The overplus of the money now subscribed, and all future subscriptions, will be applied in enlarging the building if requisite; and in the mean time will be placed out at interest, and the produce applied towards the relief of parishes, and private persons in indigent circumstances, by whom Patients shall be sent in.

The next general Meeting is appointed to be held at the York Tavern, on Friday in the next Assize week, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon.

Subscriptions and Benefactions will be taken in at either of the York Banks.

N. B. The Committee are desired to meet at the York Tavern, on Tuesday next, the 31st inst. at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

S. WAUD, Secretary.

* From the York Courant.

March 24, 1777. AT this Meeting it is ordered, that an Advertisement as now settled, be inserted in the several Newspapers mentioned below, as soon as possible, and that 500 copies of the Paper entitled "An earnest Application to the humane Public," now settled and approved of, be forthwith printed, and sent to Joseph Banks, Esq. to be by him presented or transmitted to such Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Clergy, as he shall think fit.

*An earnest Application to the humane Public, concerning the present state of the Asylum erected near York, for the reception of Lunatics.**

York, April 24, 1777. THE great expense attending the transportation of Lunatics from the northern parts of the kingdom, to the Hospitals of Bedlam, or St. Luke's, with the uncertainty of their being received when presented for admission, induced some humane persons to take into serious consideration the miserable state of these unhappy people, with a view to alleviate their distresses, as well as to remove a heavy and expensive burden from their parishes or families. And in order to silence opposition, and at the same time to diffuse these tender feelings amongst all ranks of people, they think it necessary to observe, that they were induced to plan and encourage this Institution from the following considerations.

1. It is well known that no particular provision is made by law for Lunatics, the common parish work-houses, and houses of correction being no ways proper for their reception, either in point of accommodation, attendance, or medical assistance.

2. That there are only two general Hospitals in this kingdom for the reception of Lunatics, and experience has shown that these humane charities are incapable of receiving and providing for the relief of all the unhappy objects who make application for admittance.

3. That the expense and difficulty attending the admission of a Patient into these Hospitals, do daily discourage applications for

* From the York Courant.

that purpose, particularly when made on account of the more necessitous objects, and such as reside at a great distance from these charitable Institutions.

4. That by this unavoidable exclusion, or delay in the admission of objects, many useful members have been lost to society, either by the disorder gaining strength beyond the reach of medicine, or by the Patients falling into the hands of persons utterly unskilled in the treatment of their disease.

5. That many families, (in no mean circumstances) through the heavy expense attending the support of one object of this sort, have themselves become the objects of charitable relief, and thereby doubled the load and loss to the public.

6. That the most fatal acts of violence on themselves, attendants, and relations, have often been occasioned by the smallest delay in placing Lunatics under the care of persons experienced in guarding against, and preventing attempts of this kind.

7. The last, but not the least consideration with the promoters of this design, is the assistance that may be given to many persons of moderate circumstances, who, labouring under the terrible misfortune of an unsound mind, have no place to retire to, but a private mad-house, where their cure stands a great chance of being protracted, for the benefit of the mercenary keeper, if ever to be accomplished, under the care of one who can lay so small a claim to medical abilities. Those persons, or their relations, it is hoped, would gladly give the preference to an Asylum under the direction of men of principles and honour, where the Patients might expect to meet with the most humane and disinterested treatment, and where they might have a chance of being restored to their health and friends, without impairing their fortunes.

Agreeable to this humane idea, an advertisement was inserted in the York newspapers, on the 7th of August, 1772, and in consequence of that notice, a very respectable Meeting was held at the Castle. His Grace the late Archbishop was invited to the Chair, who, after opening and explaining the nature of the Meeting, proposed a Subscription for the erecting a suitable building for the reception of Lunatics, being either parish poor, or belonging to distressed and indigent families.

This proposal was unanimously approved of. The sum of £2500. was immediately subscribed, and a Committee appointed to further the views of the Subscribers.

The first intention of the Committee was to inquire into the number of Lunatics within the three Ridings of the County of York, in order that some judgment might be formed of the number of these unhappy persons in the neighbouring Counties, that probably might claim the benefits of this humane charity. The returns made, were so numerous and alarming, that the Committee were induced to call a general Meeting on the 30th of July, 1773, when it was unanimously resolved, to desire Mr. Carr to give in a Plan of a building for the reception of Lunatics, with all the necessary conveniences; and he had it in orders to construct the house in such a manner, that the body of it might contain fifty-four Patients, with the power of extending two wings backward upon any future occasion.

At a general Meeting, held on the 25th of August, 1773, this plan was received and approved, and a Committee was chosen with power to purchase a piece of ground in the neighbourhood of the City, for the erection of a building, agreeable to the Plan given in. On the 11th of March, 1774, a field of five acres, contiguous to Bootham Bar, was purchased for the sum of £828.; and on the 12th of May following, the foundation of the building was laid. At this time, the money subscribed amounted to the sum of £5560. which, with the other sums expected to be subscribed during the progress of the building, was judged sufficient for the purpose of finishing and furnishing the house for the reception of Patients.

At this present time the Subscription amounts to £5690. but in consequence of deaths and other accidents, the Treasurer is not likely to receive the whole sum subscribed. It is therefore with concern that the Committee find this sum inadequate to the expense of finishing and furnishing the house for the reception of Patients; and unless some method can be found out to raise an additional sum, the money already expended will be rendered useless, and one of the most humane charities be lost to society. The

Committee, therefore, confide in the humanity of the public for an aid, and they flatter themselves, that the present deficiency will be made up by humane and charitable contributions, especially, when it is considered that this Asylum is confined to no district, but extends its arms to receive poor and afflicted Lunatics from every quarter of his Majesty's dominions.

Agreeable to the plan of the Committee, a weekly payment of Six Shillings from the respective parishes or friends of Patients will be sufficient to defray all the expenses of the house, without the assistance of any Fund, so that little more will be required, besides a sum adequate to the expense of finishing and furnishing the present building, together with a sum for carrying out the wings in case the number of Patients should increase beyond what can be accommodated in the body of the house, and of this there is a great probability, if we may judge from the numerous applications that already have been made from very remote distances. But should the Subscriptions fortunately exceed the charge of the necessary buildings and furniture, in that case, the overplus money will be converted into a Fund for lessening the weekly payments of the Patients.

The Committee propose that this Charity shall be called the LUNATIC ASYLUM, and be under the direction of a President, Treasurer, and Governors. At the last general Meeting, a Treasurer was elected, and a Committee appointed, to direct the business of the Asylum till an establishment be made for the regular admission of Patients.

And here it will be proper to remark, that no attending Physician or Surgeon will receive either fee or reward, as long as the Hospital continues to receive only paupers, or persons in low and indigent circumstances, agreeable to the original design of the Charity.

Donations for this benevolent purpose will be received by, &c.

Aug. 22, 1777. THAT the Rules and Conditions of Admission be, in the mean time, prepared by the Committee, with the assistance of the York Physicians, and published.

That the Asylum be deemed an Establishment for the County of York, with liberty to the Governors to admit Patients from other Counties or places on extraordinary occasions.

THAT * this Charity shall continue to be named the York Lunatic Asylum, and be considered as a general Establishment for the reception of all persons labouring under an unsound mind, whether curable or not.

B

Rules Relative to Patients.

A Diet Table was formed in the year 1783, and is entered in the Order Book.

Aug. 27, 1784. THAT a Committee of Seven be appointed annually at the General Meeting, with power to fix the payments of the respective Patients; the Physician always to be one; two or more of the Committee to have the power of fixing the payments

Aug. 28, 1784†. AT the General Meeting, &c.

Resolved,

That all Patients upon admission shall pay One Pound and Four Shillings in advance, which will be considered as sufficient board for three weeks, during which period the Committee will inquire into the circumstances of the Patients, in order to determine upon the classes to which they shall belong: and of this determination, notice will be sent to the friends of the Patients.

(Signed) MICHAEL EASTBURN.

Aug. 26, 1785. THAT when any Patients of a better condition offer themselves to the Asylum, they be admitted upon a rate of payment which may be deemed adequate to their circumstances;

* Entered amongst the Resolutions at the end of the Order Book without date; but supposed to be in the year 1785.

† From the York Courant.

and that Dr. Hunter, to whom the Governors think themselves obliged for his liberal, disinterested, and charitable attendance upon the necessitous objects of the Charity, may be requested to do justice to his own interest, by receiving from the friends of such Patients, the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

THAT* all Patients in the house, and such as hereafter may be received shall be classed according to their respective circumstances.

- Class 1. Eight Shillings.
- 2. Ten Shillings.
- 3. Twelve Shillings.
- 4. Fourteen Shillings.
- 5. Sixteen Shillings.
- 6. Eighteen Shillings.
- 7. Twenty Shillings, and upwards.

The weekly payments discharge board and lodging, coal, candle, tea, washing, and medicines.

That a separate table be kept for such Patients as are rated above 8s. per week, with privilege of being admitted without certificates.

That women with child, labouring under unsound mind, shall be received upon security being given, that the child shall not become chargeable to the parish in which the Asylum now stands.

That in cases of sudden lunacy, Patients will be received into the house without previous notice, if presented before sunset. But in all other cases, it is expected that notice will be sent to the Apothecary, at the Asylum, a few days before the arrival of the Patients, that every thing may be properly prepared for his or her reception.

That Lunatics coming recommended as parish poor, shall be placed in the first class, except upon extraordinary occasions, it

* Resolutions entered at the end of the Order Book without any date; supposed to have been passed about 1785.

being the intention of this Institution to give the greatest relief to such persons as are in low and distressed circumstances, and who do not receive relief from their respective parishes.

That it would be convenient to the public, as well as advantageous to the Asylum, if Patients in easy circumstances were admitted.

That Patients of the last description (but who at no time shall exceed —* in number) shall be admitted, on their paying a suitable pension to the Asylum; but it is understood, that such Patients shall pay reasonable fees to the Physician for his attendance.

That the Fund established by Lady Gower, Mrs. Bouchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, and known by the name of the "Reduction Fund," be considered as an establishment for the relief of those Patients in low circumstances, who pay for themselves, and have no parish relief. The payments made by this class of Patients, not to exceed Six Shillings, nor be under Four Shillings a week, till the increase of the Fund may make a future deduction advisable.

July 3, 1788. It is the opinion of the Committee, this day assembled, that incurable Patients do not for the future exceed one-third of the whole number of Patients which the Asylum will hold, and that one-third of the Cells in number, be reserved for incurables, subject to such other appropriations of those Cells as contingencies shall from time to time require.

That Patients in the first class, who pay above Eight Shillings a week, do not exceed twenty in number at one time.

Aug. 22, 1788. THAT no more than twenty-five rooms be reserved for incurables.

That in case it be necessary to dismiss any incurable, in conformity to the foregoing Resolution, the Visitors shall determine which of them shall be dismissed, paying attention to the nature of

* The word is obliterated in the Order Book.

their case, and the situation of their families; and that two months notice be given to the family of the incurable to take him or her away.

That no person be dismissed as incurable so long as four rooms are unoccupied.

That no more than twenty-five Patients of the first class be in the house at one time.

Aug. 23. 1788. RESOLVED, that whereas £37. a year, arising from the interest upon three separate sums given by the late Countess Dowager Gower, Mrs. Bouchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, is as yet the only fund appropriated to the relief and maintenance of the Patients in this Asylum, a weekly payment which was of necessity exacted of every Patient at the period of its first institution, continues to be necessary still. And whereas, persons of every condition, as well those, in easy circumstances, as those the most necessitous, are admitted into this Asylum to partake of the benefit of commodious habitation, and of the great ease, good order, and excellent medical assistance given here; it was resolved, that the Patients should be formed into classes according to their respective fortunes, and that those of the superior or opulent class should pay, according to their abilities, certain weekly rates exceeding the expense of their maintenance, thereby creating the means of relieving the necessitous by lowering their weekly payments to a rate more suitable to their circumstances, though not adequate to the expense of their maintenance. This Court upon a full and serious reconsideration of the principle of that resolution, and upon the experience of the effect produced by the regulation, does now confirm it; and does also confirm the rule whereby Patients sent into this Asylum by parish officers, and according to the strict injunction of the law, maintained at the charge of their respective parishes, are rated at 8s. per week each, this being the computed average expense of maintaining each Patient: the Court being clearly of opinion, that whenever the means arise, it is more in the true spirit of charity, that those means should be applied to the relief of necessitous individuals, than to the ease and accommo-

dation of the opulent proprietors and inhabitants of a parish, under whatever specious description it may be thought proper to mask their case.

July 2, 1795. THAT in future, no particular servant shall be admitted with any Patient, but that Patients of every description shall be attended by servants belonging to the house.

April 1, 1802. THAT no person be admitted into the Asylum who hath been tried for any criminal offence committed during a state of insanity, and sentenced to a state of confinement.

Jan. 28, 1813. THAT no Patient shall be admitted into the Asylum without a certificate of his insanity, signed either by a regular Medical Practitioner, or by the Clergyman of the parish in which he has resided.

That sufficient security shall be given by some individual of competent circumstances, for the due payment of the Patient's expenses.

That written answers shall be transmitted to the printed Queries of the Physician, respecting the previous history and treatment of the Patient's disorder.

That in the instance of persons not paying more than 9s. a week, One Guinea shall be deposited in the hands of the Steward, and restored on the Patient's removal from the Asylum.

That no individual, who has been guilty of murder, or of any other capital offence against the laws of his country, (even though such criminal act may have been committed under the influence of insanity,) shall be received as a Patient into the York Lunatic Asylum.

C

Rules Relating to the Physician.

Sept. 21, 1777. IT is the sense of this Committee, that it is most proper to have one Physician only, for the Asylum, and Doctor Hunter being desired to attend as such, he consented thereto.

Aug. 26, 1785. That when any Patients of a better condition offer themselves to the Asylum, they be admitted upon a rate of payment which may be deemed adequate to their circumstances; and that Dr. Hunter, to whom the Governors think themselves obliged for his liberal, disinterested, and charitable attendance upon the necessitous objects of the Charity, may be requested to do justice to his own interest, by receiving from the friends of such Patients the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

That a Report be made by the Physician at each General Meeting of the number of Incurables, together with the state of all the Patients.

Aug. 23, 1788. AND whereas, the Court, having considered that it was unfit and unjust that Patients in easy and affluent circumstances should, equally with the necessitous and indigent, enjoy the gratuitous assistance of the attending Physician, did resolve, Aug. 26, 1785, to request the Physician to accept from Patients of the former description, the reasonable emoluments of his profession: And whereas by a subsequent resolution of August 24, 1787, the Court did request the Physician to accept a salary of £200. for the ensuing year, in lieu of fees from Patients of the superior class, this Court, upon a serious and deliberate review of this last-mentioned resolution, determined not to renew it at this period, but request the Physician henceforth to receive such moderate and reasonable fees from the class of affluent Patients, as he was accustomed to receive heretofore.

July 19, 1809. Dr. Best was proposed by Godfrey Wentworth, Esq. and seconded by the Rev. Thomas Preston, as the sole successor to Dr. Hunter, the late Physician to this Asylum, and unanimously elected.

D

Rules Relating to the Governors.

Nov. 9, 1772. THAT all Benefactors of Twenty Pounds and upwards be Governors, as also the Lord Mayor, and the Governor of the Merchant's Company, for the time being.

That there be held a Court of Governors on Wednesday, in each of the Assize weeks, and a general Meeting of Governors on Wednesday in the Race week, and that notice thereof be given in the York Paper.

That a Donation of Twenty Pounds or upwards shall constitute a Governor, with the privilege of recommending as many Patients as he may think proper.

Aug. 24, 1792. THAT no Donation given to the Asylum subsequent to the 26th of August, 1791, being made subject to any condition whatever, or directed to be applied to any particular purpose, shall constitute a Governor.

That in case of any future subscription of Twenty Pounds and upwards, by any public body, society, or partnership, one only of the said partnership, to be then named by themselves, shall act during the course of his life as a Governor, and on the event of whose death this privilege to the partnership shall cease.

That no resolution or order of a General Court can be reversed or suspended by authority of a Quarterly Meeting.

April 3, 1794. THAT no sum exceeding 40s. shall be expended without an order from a Quarterly or Special Court.

Aug. 23, 1805. THAT no Subscriber shall be allowed to vote at the election of any Officer in the Asylum, till the expiration of six calendar months after he shall have paid his subscription.

That in case of the death or removal of any Officer in the Asylum, the Quarterly Court immediately subsequent to such death or removal, shall, by public advertisement, call a Special General Meeting, to supply the vacancy within one month after the holding such Court, and that the orders of such General Special Court shall be as valid as if they had been made at an Annual Meeting.

Aug. 25, 1809. THAT no proposition for increasing the number of Officers of this Institution shall be made, except at the General Annual Meeting, nor taken into consideration but at a

Special Court then to be appointed, and to be holden within three months from the said General Annual Meeting, and of which Special Court notice shall be given in the York Papers.

Aug. 23, 1811. THAT in case of the resignation, or intimation of the intended resignation, of any Officer of the Asylum at a Quarterly or Annual Meeting, such Quarterly or Annual Meeting shall, by public advertisement in the York Papers, appoint a Special General Meeting to be held within one month, to fill up the vacancy occasioned by such resignation.

E

Rules Relating to Visitors.

Aug. 22, 1782. ORDERED, that at every Quarterly Meeting two Gentlemen be desired to be Visitors at the Asylum, to make their observation, and report the same to the next Meeting, and that till the next Meeting, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Barstow, and Mr. Myres, be desired to be Visitors.

Jan. 15, 1784. THAT, from this day, no bills, excepting such as are for subsistence only, shall be sent to any of the friends of the Patients in the Asylum, without being signed by one or more of the Visitors.

July 1, 1784. THIS Order was made to prevent all fraudulent charges.

Rules relating to the Steward.

Oct. 5, 1797. ORDERED that the Steward over and above his general duty, is vested by the Governors with full powers over every Servant in the house, except the Apothecary, and in case any servant should prove refractory and disobedient, he or she may be discharged by him, with the consent of the Physician, or a Governor in his absence, and another Servant hired.

G

Rules relating to the Apothecary.

THAT the duty of the Apothecary shall extend to seeing the Servants in the house do their duty, in cleaning out the galleries and rooms of the Patients, and in performing the other offices belonging to them as Servants; that he shall see the Patients take their Medicines, and give the necessary attendance during the operation of such as may require attendance, that he shall strictly attend to the directions given him by the Physician, and shall not absent himself from the Asylum but on proper occasions.

That he shall not order any drugs without the approbation of the Physician.

As the Physician cannot be always present when a Patient comes in, the Apothecary to take care to collect from the Patient's friends an accurate account of the case in writing, for the inspection of the Physician, to be afterwards corrected and inserted in a book kept for that purpose.

H

Rules relating to the Housekeeper.

1. The Governors require that you carefully superintend the management of this Charity in every particular, and see that it is conducted with the greatest possible regularity, cleanliness, and economy.

2. That you take care of the household goods and furniture, according to the inventory, and be ready to give an account thereof when required.

3. That you visit the wards and offices every day, and take care that the rooms, beds, linen, and other things in the house be kept clean.

4. That you keep a regular account of the women's apparel, that the friends of the Patients may have no cause of complaint when the Patient returns home.

5. That you, every morning, give a bill of directions to the Cook, for providing a dinner for the family, agreeable to the directions in the table of diet, and take care that the meat be served up at a regular stated hour, and see that none is wasted, and that neither liquors nor provisions be brought to the Patients but such as the house provides.

6. That you permit no Patients to go into the kitchen, but such as are employed, by your orders, as assistants to the Cook; that you suffer as few persons as possible to have access to the provisions or stores, without your being present, in order that none be purloined.

7. That no provisions or stores of any kind be purchased without first obtaining your order, except such as are purchased by the Apothecary*, and that you see that there is the quantity charged, and that the quality be good.

8. That the Servants will sit down to supper at a stated hour, you being at the head of the table, and the Head Keeper at the bottom; and those Servants who do not attend at the stated hour, shall not have any supper served out, unless they produce a reasonable excuse for their absence.

9. That you suffer no Servant, male or female, to be absent from the house, without leave first obtained from you or the Apothecary.

10. That you shall not absent yourself from the Charity, unless on necessary business, without leave obtained from the Apothecary.

11. That in case of the improper behaviour of Servants, you are to complain to the Apothecary, who may correct the abuse by a reprimand or dismissal, or he may lay the complaint before the Governors.

12. That you treat the Patients with good-nature and tenderness, and that you never suffer any degree of cruelty, insolence, or neglect in the Servants towards them to pass unnoticed.

* In this and following rules where the Apothecary is mentioned, the Steward is intended, the Apothecary at that time filling both offices.

13. That you see the out-doors securely locked within one hour after supper.

14. That you take care to see the Patients go regularly and orderly to bed; the women going at one time, and the men soon after. That you take care, that no fire or candle be left in any of the women's rooms. That you see the galleries locked up every night, and that the house be left in perfect order and security before you go to bed.

15. That you see all the fires put out before you go to bed: but it is impossible, to mention all your necessary duties; it is expected that you so conduct yourself in the family, as becomes a Housekeeper, who is invested with full powers of management.

Sept. 21, 1809. THAT whenever any application shall be made for an additional supply of linen, an account of the linen then in use be laid before the Court, with the cause of the application.

Aug. 28, 1812. THAT an account of the linen be kept by the Housekeeper, in a book, upon the plan recommended by Dr. BEST, and be laid before the Governors half yearly.

I

Rules relating to the Head Keeper.

1. THAT you shall, every day, visit the men's wards and rooms, after the beds are made, and see that every thing be clean and orderly.

2. That you consider yourself as appointed by the Governors to superintend the Men-servants; and in case of any ill behaviour on their parts, to state the same to the Housekeeper, who, if she think proper, may lay the complaint before the Apothecary.*

3. That you pay a particular attention to the apparel of the male Patients, in order that their friends may have no cause of complaint when the Patient returns home.

* Steward.

4. That you treat the Patients with good-nature and tenderness, and that you never suffer any degree of cruelty, insolence, or neglect in the Servants towards them to pass unnoticed.

5. That you take care to see the male Patients go regularly to bed, the women going first, and the men soon after.

6. That you take care that no fire or candle be left in any of the men's rooms, that you see the galleries locked up every night, and that the house be left in perfect order and security before you go to bed.

Aug. 26, 1791. Signed, A. Hunter, H. Jubb, Jos. Oldfield, John Alexander Hunter, Wentworth Fitzwilliam, E. Stillingfleet, William Siddall, H. Myres, J. Hay.

J

Orders for the Servants in general.

1. That all the Servants in the house shall pay a proper attention to the orders given them by the Housekeeper and Head Keeper; and in case of any appeal from a Servant to the Apothecary, such Servant, if found in the wrong, shall be immediately discharged, if the Apothecary judge it necessary.

2. That all the Servants in the house conduct themselves towards each other with civility and good manners.

July 4, 1799. ORDERED, that the following Rules be transcribed and hung up in two or three conspicuous parts of the house, at the discretion of Mr. SURR.

That every Patient, before he or she comes out of the ward, shall be clean washed and combed, and the Servant in the house, whose duty it is to look after such Patient, shall be present to do or see that the above is regularly attended to.

That the beds and bedding be examined once in every week, and the same put into good condition, where they shall be found otherwise.

F

That Mr. SURR or Mr. ATKINSON be present at the inspection of the clothes and bedding in the men's ward, and Mrs. PECKITT in that of the women.

That the Servants shall take their turns once in every half hour, to look to the different Patients in the day-rooms and in the garden.

That no Servant shall be suffered to carry on any employ or traffic, but to attend entirely to the business of the house for which he is engaged, nor to be absent from the house longer than one hour at a time, without giving an account to Mr. SURR, or Mr. ATKINSON.

That Mr. SURR, Mr. ATKINSON, and Mrs. PECKITT, do report at the Quarterly Meeting, where they observe any refusal or neglect in attending strictly to the foregoing orders.

That in case any of the Patients shall escape, the expense of following and bringing them back shall be defrayed by the Servants of the house, in proportion to their wages, the Cook, the Under Cook, the Gardener, and House Steward excepted. The Housekeeper is also afterwards excepted.

Jan. 28, 1813. That if any Keeper or Servant shall strike or otherwise ill treat any Patient in the Asylum, such Keeper or Servant shall be dismissed from his situation.

K

Design of the Reduction Fund, and Lupton's Fund, and Rules relating to them.

Aug. 20, 1778. THAT Lady Gower's donation of £500. was given upon condition that the interest shall be applied for the relief of Patients only; that sum is accordingly vested in the public funds, and the dividends are applied for that purpose only.

THAT* the fund established by Lady Gower, Mrs. Bourchier, and Mrs. Bouverie, and known by the name of the "Reduction

* Resolutions supposed in 1785, (no date.)

Fund," be considered an establishment for the relief of those Patients in low circumstances who pay for themselves, and have no parish relief; the payments made by this class of Patients not to exceed Six Shillings, nor to be under Four Shillings a week, till the increase of the fund may make a further reduction advisable.

Oct. 1, 1789. AT a Quarterly Meeting of the Governors of the Lunatic Asylum, held for the purpose of auditing the accounts, the Archbishop being present, Mr. Mason having introduced Mr. Rockett, the intended donor to the Charity, and the said Reverend Mr. Dudley Rockett having declared that he is the person, who, in the resolution of the last General Court, held on the 28th of August last, intended to become a benefactor to the Asylum, upon the condition there expressed, and having this day given a benefaction of £400. out of the residue of the estate and effects of the late Mr. Thomas Lupton, deceased, to be appropriated * for the maintenance of Lunatic parish paupers, and other indigent Lunatics within the City, Ainsty, and County of York, [only]† and to be placed on government security for that purpose. It was therefore ordered, that the said sum of £400. together with £100. a late benefaction given by the Rev. William Mason, for the like purpose, be denominated Lupton's Fund, and be placed in the 4 per cent. consolidated annuities, in the names of the Archbishop of York for the time being, the Rev. William Mason, William Preston, Esq. and the Rev. Dudley Rockett, as Trustees; and that the dividend be suffered to accumulate, and be laid out in the same fund from time to time, together with any other benefactions which may hereafter be given for the like purpose, till it may be thought by the Archbishop of York for the time being, that the fund is so considerable that the dividends may be

* "Solely" erased.

† "Only" interlined. The alteration in this paragraph was made by the Treasurer, in consequence of a verbal order given for that purpose at a General Annual Court, his Grace the Archbishop of York in the chair, Aug. 28, 1795.

applied towards the relief of the poor objects for whom it is peculiarly intended; and it is further declared, that this fund shall be kept distinct from that which is now called the Reduction Fund, the produce of which is applicable to the immediate relief of those who are considered by the Governors as the greatest objects of charity.

July 21, 1791. A motion being made and seconded, "That it appears unreasonable and unjust, that the Subscribers to Lady Gower's 'Reduction Fund,' and 'Lupton's Fund,' should enjoy the same powers and privileges as those who subscribe in general terms, as from the very nature of their subscriptions, they must have a 'partial' and not a 'general' interest in the affairs of the Asylum."

Resolved, that placing the power of direction in the hands of those persons who subscribe their money for "partial" and not for "general" purposes, appears to this Court to be an infringement upon the rights of the general Subscribers, who alone ought to have the distribution and application of their own money. They therefore are decidedly of opinion, that no other than General Subscribers ought to be concerned in the General management of the Asylum.

That as the money placed in "Lady Gower's Fund" and "Lupton's Fund" is not subject to be disposed of at the will of the Governors of this Charity, this Court is of opinion that the power of the Subscribers to these funds, ought only to extend over their own Subscription money, and that in all future cases, where the application of the money is "particularly" directed, the Donors ought not to have any power beyond the disposal and application of the money subscribed by themselves.

Oct. 2, 1794. THAT the payment of the Patients so much exceeding the expenditure, One Pound Four Shillings per week may be added to the Reduction Fund.

July 2, 1795. THAT in consequence of the increasing income of the Asylum, the sum of One Pound Four Shillings per week

be added to the Reduction of the payment of poor Patients, which sum, together with weekly allowance ordered in October last, will make that Reduction to be Two Pounds Eight Shillings per week.

L

Miscellaneous.

Jan. 4, 1781. THAT a general State of the Asylum be annually published the first week in January, together with a List of the Benefactors.

Aug. 22, 1794. THAT in future the Annual State of the Asylum shall contain an account of the receipts and disbursements of the preceding year, and be published in the York Papers.

Feb. 8, 1813. THAT no persons unconnected with the Asylum shall have the liberty of visiting any of the Patients, without a printed order of admission, signed by the Physician.

MINUTES

*Of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed to
inquire into the Rules and Management of the
York Lunatic Asylum, &c.*

Jan. 21, 1814.

PRESENT.

The Rev. WILLIAM DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

Mr. BLAND.

Mr. BROOK.

Rev. J. GRAHAM.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

HAVING examined the Books which seem to contain the only documents relating to the Asylum in the possession of the Institution, and referred to such Rules as are of importance for our present consideration ;

Ordered,

That Mr. Brook be desired to extract the several Rules to which reference has been made, and draw them out in the order they occur in the Books.

Ordered,

That the next Meeting of this Committee be held at the Asylum,
On Wednesday the 26th inst. at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

Jan. 26, 1814.

PRESENT.

The LORD MAYOR.
Rev. W. DEALTRY.
GEORGE PALMES, Esq.
Mr. BLAND.
Rev. J. GRAHAM.
Mr. BROOK.
Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

THE Committee find, on inquiry, that the Asylum is under the management of the following officers:

Dr. BEST, Physician.
Mr. BROOK, Treasurer.
Mr. ATKINSON, Apothecary, at a Salary of £100. per annum.
Mr. SURR, House Steward. Salary £80. per annum.
Mrs. ATKINSON, Housekeeper. Salary £30. per annum.

And that the rest of the Establishment is as follows, viz.

	Salary.		
	£.	s.	d.
Male Servants.—A Head Keeper	21	0	0
A Second Ditto	20	0	0
A Third Ditto	16	0	0
A Fourth Ditto	12	12	0
A Gardener	25	0	0
Female Servants.—A Head Keeper	12	12	0
A Second Ditto	10	10	0
A Third Ditto	10	10	0
A Cook	15	0	0
An Under Cook	8	8	0

The Committee having requested Dr. BEST and Mr. BROOK to state what they consider to be the duties of their offices ;

Dr. BEST stated to the following effect :

That he exercises a general superintendence over the subordinate Officers and Servants of the Institution ; attends the Asylum daily, except when prevented by any particular business ; visits all the wards and apartments of the Patients ; orders any thing he sees amiss to be corrected ; prescribes medicines for such Patients as he judges to require them ; directs the diet and treatment he considers most proper in particular cases ; settles the rate of payment on the admission of each Patient, except in the instance of those who pay less than parish paupers ; answers the letters of inquiry from the Patients' friends ; informs the parishes or relatives of Patients when he considers them fit for removal, or directs the Steward to do so.

Mr. BROOK stated, That the Treasurer receives all legacies and donations to the Asylum ; receives the dividends and interest upon the money in the funds or on securities ; issues money to the steward, when he (the Treasurer) sees necessary, and makes up a general Annual Account (which is printed) of the receipts and disbursements of the Institution. The payments of the Patients or their friends do not come into his hands. He pays the money which he from time to time receives, into one of the York Banks, to the separate account of the Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. ATKINSON states, That his duties are those mentioned in the Order of the 5th of October, 1797.

That he does not consider his authority over the Servants to extend to prohibit them from absenting themselves from the house without his leave.

Mr. SURR, the House Steward, says, he comes down between nine and ten in the morning to the Asylum and asks the Servants if all is well, and any thing wanted, and frequently comes down two or three times a day. If any thing is wanted, he provides it. The Housekeeper orders the meat, and he sees it weighed. He pays the Housekeeper's weekly bill ; attends to repairs ; makes out the Patients' bills ; receives all the money paid by the friends of the Patients ; keeps an account of the number of the Patients, and what is paid for them ; pays the tradesmen's weekly bills, and

their other bills, when ordered by the Court. Receives securities for the payment of the Patients' bills.

Mrs. ATKINSON being asked what duties she performs, states they are contained in a Paper delivered to her by Mr. SURR, under his signature, and now produced by her.

This Paper, the Committee find to contain only the 1st, 2d, 12th, 13th, and 14th of the Rules for the Housekeeper.

Mrs. ATKINSON further states, she has complied with these orders as far as she was able. That she manages the domestic part of the family; looks after the victuals, and sees there is proper economy, and no waste. That she keeps an account of the linen.

Says she continued to see the doors locked for about six months; after which, she found the Servants got into the house some other way, and she has since that time left the back-kitchen door open. Says the Servants are frequently out when she goes to bed.—Complains that Mr. SURR would not permit her to have power in the house. She is not obeyed by the Head Female Keeper.

Adjourned to Jan. 28.

Jan. 28, 1814.

PRESENT,

His GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.

Rev. Mr. PRESTON.

Rev. Mr. DEALTRY.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

S. W. NICOLL, Esq.

Rev. J. GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

Mr. SURR's Books having been examined for the three last Quarters, the Patients were classed agreeably to the Books, in the manner stated in the annexed paper.

Classes.	Description.	Average number of each Class.		
		Quarter ending June 12, 1813.	Quarter end. Sept. 12, 1813.	Quarter end. Dec. 12, 1813.
1.	Dr. BEST's private Patients; for whom he accounts to the Steward for 14s. per week each	16	16	17
2.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 15s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 4s. per week	16	16	14
3.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 12s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 2s. per week	11	13	14
4.	Patients who pay to the Ste- ward 10s. per week, of which Dr. BEST receives 1s. per week	17	17	17
5.	Parish Paupers, &c. paying 9s.	110	108	103
6.	Indigent Lunatics, paying 8s.	13	13	13
	Ditto 6s.	7	6	6
	Ditto 5s.	4	6	6
	Ditto 4s.	4	4	4
	Totals	<u>198</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>194</u>

Mr. SURR says, that 80 of the Patients in the 9s. class are parish paupers.

The amount of the sums charged to the men Patients in the superior classes, for the attendance of the Servants, is about 74 Guineas per annum, which is divided amongst the four men.

The manure is divided amongst the Men-servants and Gardener, except the Head Keeper. The amount of the sums charged to the female Patients in the superior classes, for the attendance of

Servants, is about £25. per annum, which is divided amongst the three female Servants.

Dr. BEST says, when he succeeded Dr. HUNTER, the classification now stated, was, with some slight differences, in existence. The highest class of Patients, or those called Dr. HUNTER's own, at the period of Dr. HUNTER's death paid only 10s. per week each to the Institution. The sum of 15s. per week, paid by one class, was divided into portions of 5s. paid to the Physician, and 10s. to the House, which is now 4s. and 11s. Dr. BEST does not know when the existing classification and mode of payment took place, or on what authority. No statement is made to the friends of Patients of the distinct purposes, as far as the House and the Physician are concerned, to which the payments they make are applied. Dr. BEST receives £1. 1s. on the admission of Patients in the 2d, 3d, and 4th classes, amounting in the year to perhaps £30. They also pay 5s. which on the admission of male Patients, is received by the Head Keeper, and of female Patients, by the Housekeeper.

Dr. BEST knows no exact limit to his own Patients ; the number has varied from 12 to 18. He visits the house daily ; is sometimes occupied half an hour there, sometimes much more, perhaps three hours, but the latter time not very often ; he is seldom less than an hour.

Dr. BEST sees all the Patients every day ; or very rarely omits seeing the whole.

Visiting the house is a small portion of his duty ; he also corresponds with the friends of the Patients, and sees them at his own house ; and much of his time is thus occupied.

Mr. ATKINSON says, he has no particular authority over the Servants ; that department belongs to Mr. SURRE. Mr. SURRE's habit is, when he is well, to come down every morning, particularly on a Saturday when the meat is weighed. He might stay half an hour or more. The Servants look upon Mr. SURRE as having the authority over them ; but Mr. ATKINSON has also a superintendence over the male Servants. He goes round the

wards every day, but seldom sees the Patients in bed, or put to bed.

The upper classes of Patients have tea included in their weekly payments. The lower classes have no tea*.

The higher classes have tea twice a day; the lower classes have gruel, or milk and oatmeal, for breakfast.

The better Patients, about 40, dine at one table, and the paupers at another.

There is another table where Mr. and Mrs. ATKINSON dine after the rest, and a few of the Patients dine with them. THOMAS BLACKADER, the Head Keeper, has a table which he attends, where five or six of the better Patients dine. A few have their dinners sent up stairs.

THOMAS BLACKADER, Head Keeper, has been thirteen years a Servant in the Asylum.

He had a paper containing the Rules for his direction as Head Keeper, but has lost it. Says it did not contain all that has now been read to him.

Says he used to superintend the Patients' linen, and their beds; (that is, to fix, on their admission, the proper rooms for them;) he used to take his turn with the other Keepers in going out. Two of the Keepers used to go into the town after eight o'clock. The doors used to be locked at ten; but for several years the regulations have not been so strictly enforced; any Servant can go in and out of an evening. Says the Servants refuse to obey his orders or directions; he does not consider himself as having the authority he used to have. BACKHOUSE used to have the principal power, though BLACKADER was called Head Keeper. BATTY followed BACKHOUSE, and HENRY DAWSON followed BATTY. There is not any one Keeper with particular powers; but BLACKADER says, he represents to the other Keepers if there is any want of cleanliness in the wards. Says, HENRY DAWSON has the whole power

* See Mrs. ATKINSON's statement.

over the other two Keepers. He is looked on as having the head power.

Mrs. ATKINSON, many years ago, ceased to lock the back door at nights, after which the Servants could obtain admission after ten o'clock at night. Says Mrs. ATKINSON has given up keeping the key of the beer and bread. Mr. SURR gave it to CHARLES HOLGATE, one of the Keepers.

Says he never knew a Patient confined in a cell for more than three or four days, or put in without a shirt on.

HENRY DAWSON says, he succeeded to BATTY's situation and powers as a Keeper. He has been a Servant in the Asylum between five and six years. BLACKADER does not interfere with him. Has never seen any written directions for the Servants. He does not consider BLACKADER as having particular power. Has always attended to Mr. ATKINSON's directions, but does not ask him leave of absence. Says the back-kitchen door is never locked night or day. A Servant may go out at this door and be out all night.

Besides the sums which are divided amongst the Servants for attendance on some of the better Patients, they have the Patients' old clothes. The Keepers judge amongst themselves when the clothes are getting bad; and sometimes Dr. BEST observes it; the Keepers tell Mr. SURR, who takes the Servants' representation: he does not see the Patients' clothes himself.

When Patients are very violent, and the strait-waistcoat makes their arms swell, it is taken off, and they are put in the cells. They stay there two or three days, or as much as a week, if very violent. They have blankets and straw; they are sometimes put in without a shirt on. When Patients are confined, the cells are cleaned out three or four times a week.

Adjourned to Feb. the 8th.

York Tavern, Feb. 8, 1814.

PRESENT.

HIS GRACE the ARCHBISHOP of YORK.

GEORGE PALMES, Esq.

Rev. Mr. PRESTON.

BENJAMIN BROOKSBANK, Esq.

S. W. NICOLL, Esq.

Mr. BLAND.

THOMAS SMITH, Esq.

Rev. JOHN GRAHAM.

Mr. BROOK.

THOMAS WILSON, Esq.

Mr. JONATHAN GRAY.

Mrs. ATKINSON says there are about twelve gentlemen and ladies whose diet is the same as that at Mr. and Mrs. ATKINSON's table. Of these, two or three dine at table with them; and about seven gentlemen dine together at a table which the Head Keeper attends. Mrs. ATKINSON sends up meat from her own table for some of the ladies who dine in their rooms.

The middle class of Patients have three meagre days. They have a separate table from the paupers.

The paupers have three meagre days; and have roast meat only on Sundays. On the other two meat days, they have boiled meat. On Saturdays the middle class have principally cold meat, and the lowest class have offal in hash. She separates the coarsest parts for the lowest Patients.

THE First and Second Parts of the Report of the Committee were considered and settled; and ordered to be laid before the next Quarterly Court.

Adjourned to the morning of the next Quarterly Court, an hour previous to the meeting of the Court.

THE END.



