Circulars, instructions and forms issued by the Commissioners in Lunacy relating to documentation and medical certificates under 1853 Lunacy Acts

Publication/Creation

1853-1862

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Wellcome Collection 183 Euston Road London NW1 2BE UK T +44 (0)20 7611 8722 E library@wellcomecollection.org https://wellcomecollection.org Office of Commissioners in Lunacy, 19, Hew Street, Spring Gardens, 31st December, 1853.

Sir,

A large number of the Medical Certificates relative to Patients received into the several Singlums, Begistered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses, since the 1st of Hovember, are defective, as respects the omifsion of the Medical Bractitioners signing the same, to insert the places of residence and profession or occupation of the Batients examined. It is not sufficient to state where the examination took place. If a Bauper Lunatic be examined at a Workhouse, of which he is a regular Inmate, the fact of his being so resident should be stated, and not merely that he was examined at the Workhouse. If he be only a Casual Inmate his previous, or ordinary place of abode should be inserted. In every case the profession or occupation of the Lunatic should be added

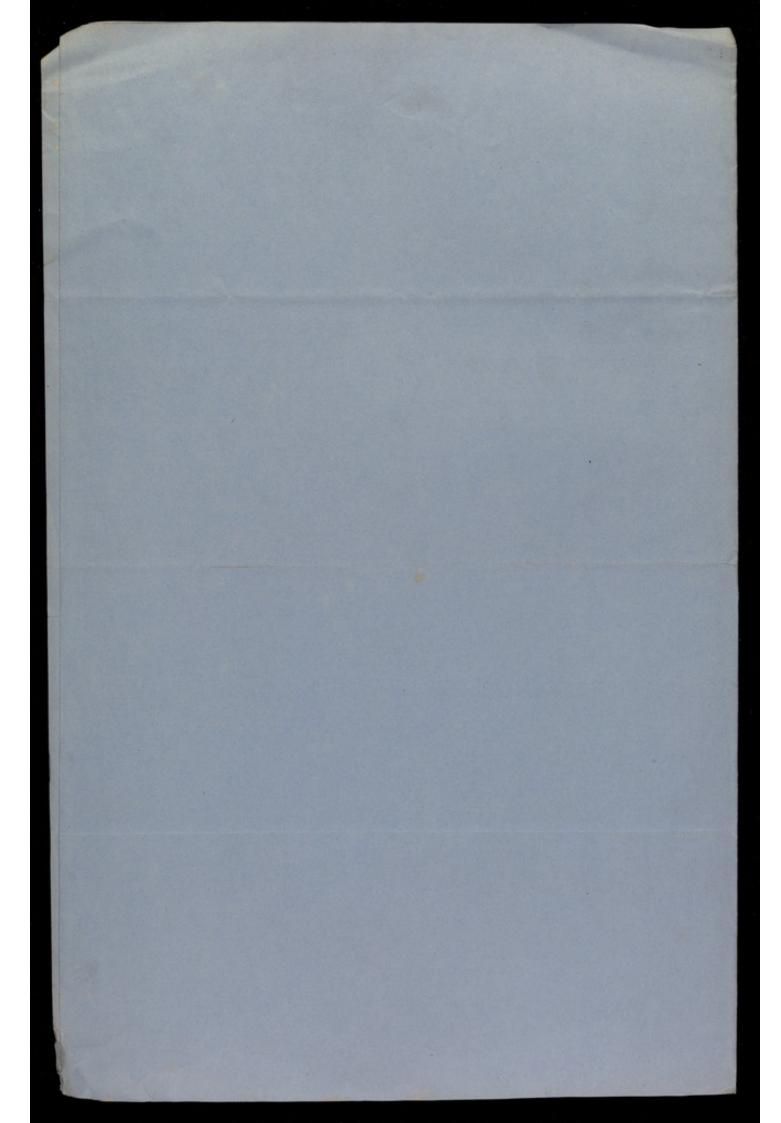
It is efsential that the Law should be strictly complied with, in this and all other particulars, and the Commissioners in Lunacy specially request that you will carefully peruse all Orders and Certificates received by you, and procure the same to be forthwith amended, where necessary, in accordance with the provisions of the recent Statutes, a full compliance with which the Commissioners will feel it their duty invariably to enforce.

I am,

Sie,

Your obedient Servant, B. W. S. Lutwidge.

Secretary.



LUNACY ACTS

8 & 9 Vict., c. 100. 16 & 17 Vict., c. 96. 16 & 17 Vict., c. 97.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

GUIDANCE OF SUPERINTENDENTS, PROPRIETORS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, AND OTHERS.

RECEPTION OF PATIENTS.

ORDERS.—In the case of a Private Patient, the Order may be dated before or after the Medical Certificates or either of them.

In the case of every Patient, Pauper or Private, the Order must be signed and dated prior to admission.

No person who, or whose Father, Brother, Son, Partner, or Assistant, shall sign either of the Certificates is competent to sign the Order.

STATEMENT.—The Statement subjoined to the Order need not be signed by the same person who signed the Order.

The special circumstances, if any, assigned as a reason for sending a Private Patient to an Asylum with only one Certificate, should be such as actually to have rendered the previous examination of the patient by two Medical Practitioners impracticable, or so difficult as to justify a deviation from the general rule.

If any of the particulars required to be set forth be not known, the words "not known" should be affixed.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.—After the words "being a" the Medical Practitioner signing the Certificate must insert, not merely the word Physician, Surgeon or Apothecary, but the Diploma or qualification entitling him to practice as such in the United Kingdom; e. g. "Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London," or "Licentiate of the Apothecary's Company," &c., &c. (See Interpretation Clause, 16 and 17 Vic., cap. 96, sec. 36.)

The Certificate need not be filled up, signed, and dated, on the day of examination, but the date and place of examination, and also the place of residence and profession or occupation of the patient, must be set forth in the body of the Certificate.

The examination of the patient must, in every case, take place within Seven clear days before admission.

The Medical Practitioner signing a Certificate must set forth, not merely his opinion, but the specific facts indicating Insanity, upon which that opinion was formed.

SOTIONS OF BEATS.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
16th November, 1853.

No Certificate will be valid unless it contains some fact, indicating Insanity, observed by the Medical Practitioner signing. If other facts are set forth, it must be stated by whom they were communicated.

A Partner or Assistant is disqualified from signing the second Certificate, in the case of a Private Patient. (See sec. 4, 16 & 17 Vic., cap. 96.)

As to persons otherwise disqualified from signing Certificates, attention is particularly directed to the 12th section of the Act, 16 & 17 Victoria, cap. 96.

If a Private Patient be, under special circumstances, received with only one Certificate, two other Medical Certificates must be procured within three days.

AMENDMENT OF ORDERS AND CERTIFICATES.—Incorrect or defective Orders and Certificates may, under section 11, be amended by the person signing the same, within Fourteen days after the reception of the patient; but no such amendment will have any legal effect, unless sanctioned by the Commissioners. Such sanction will only be given upon sufficient cause being shewn.

RETURNS ON ADMISSION.—It is essential that Returns upon Admission be, in every case, made within the Seven days limited by the 52nd sec. of the 8 and 9 Vic., cap. 100; although the Orders and Certificates may be amended within Fourteen days, as before mentioned.

NOTICE.—If a Private Patient be received with only one Certificate, the "special circumstances" must be set forth in the Notice of Admission, as well as in the Statement subjoined to the Order.

STATEMENT.—The Report of the Medical Officer must apply to the condition of the patient, not on admission, but after at least two clear days' observation of the case.

TRANSFER OF PRIVATE PATIENTS.

Private Patients may, under the 20th section, be transferred from any Asylum, Hospital, or Licensed House, to another, or to the care of any person, by Order of the person having authority to discharge such patient, with the written consent of Two of the Commissioners, without the necessity of fresh Certificates.

DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS.

Notice of the Recovery of a Patient is now required, by sec. 19, to be given to his Friends or Parish Officers; and, if he be not discharged within Fourteen days, similar notice must be given to the Commissioners and Visitors.

NOTICES OF DEATH.

In addition to the Notices hitherto required, a Statement, containing the particulars set forth in sec. 19, is to be sent to the Coroner, on the Death of every Patient dying in a Hospital or Licensed House.

ATTENDANTS.

Notice of the dismissal, for misconduct, of any Attendant is required, by sec. 26, to be given to the Commissioners. Any resignation, in order to avoid dismissal, must be considered as a dismissal within the meaning of the Act.

The object of this provision is, by means of a Central Register, available for general reference, to prevent improper persons from being employed in the care of the Insane. It is very important that this enactment should be made known to all Attendants.

The Commissioners in Lunacy trust that Superintendents, Proprietors, Medical Practitioners and others, will co-operate with them, towards insuring a strict compliance with the provisions of the Statutes; and they desire to impress upon Superintendents and Proprietors, that it is their duty carefully to examine all Orders and Certificates, when brought with patients, and, where necessary to take immediate steps to rectify defects and supply omissions.

To prevent any misconception, with reference to the Lunatics Care and Treatment Act, 1853 (16 & 17 Victoria, cap. 96), it may be well to add, that the same is only an amending Statute, and that the Act S & 9 Victoria, cap. 100, remains in force, excepting so far as any of its provisions are expressly repealed, or altered, by the new Act.

By order of the Board,

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary

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By order of the Board.

E.W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary

To Superintendents and Proprietors of Asylums, Hospitals, and Licensed Houses.

Office of Commissioners in Lunace,
19, New Street,
Spring Gardens,
12th December, 1853.

SIR.

The Commissioners in Lunacy are desirous of making generally known their views and intentions with reference to the amendment of incorrect or defective Orders and Medical Certificates.

By the 11th Section of the "Lunatics Care and Treatment Act," and the 87th Section of the "Lunatic Asylums' Act," 1853, it is enacted, that "such Orders and Medical Certificate or Certificates may be amended by the person signing the same at any time within fourteen days next after the reception of the Patient," but "that no such Amendment shall have any force or effect unless the same shall receive the sanction" (i. e. the subsequent approval) "of one or more of the Commissioners."

The intention of the Legislature clearly is, that incorrect or defective Orders and Medical Certificates should be *forthwith* amended, and Copies of the Amendments transmitted to this Office. It rests with the Commissioners to judge, according to the circumstances of each case, as to the propriety and sufficiency of such Amendments.

In the absence of formal sanction, which is intended for the protection of Superintendents and Proprietors against vexatious legal proceedings, they will remain in the same position as in cases of similar Amendments under the old Acts, which contained no express provisions on the subject.

Whenever the formal sanction of the Commissioners to such Amendments made is requested, they will require to be furnished with Copies, in duplicate, of the Original Documents, with the Amendments, in red ink, or otherwise distinguished. One Copy will be retained in this Office, and the other returned with a Certificate of Approval. The Commissioners will also require to see, and collate with the Copies, the Original Documents.

I am instructed to add that the Commissioner's deem it their clear duty, in all cases, to insist upon a strict compliance with the Acts, in reference to Orders and Medical Certificates, and in all other respects.

With a view to insure such compliance they have issued full instructions, to which they request special attention.

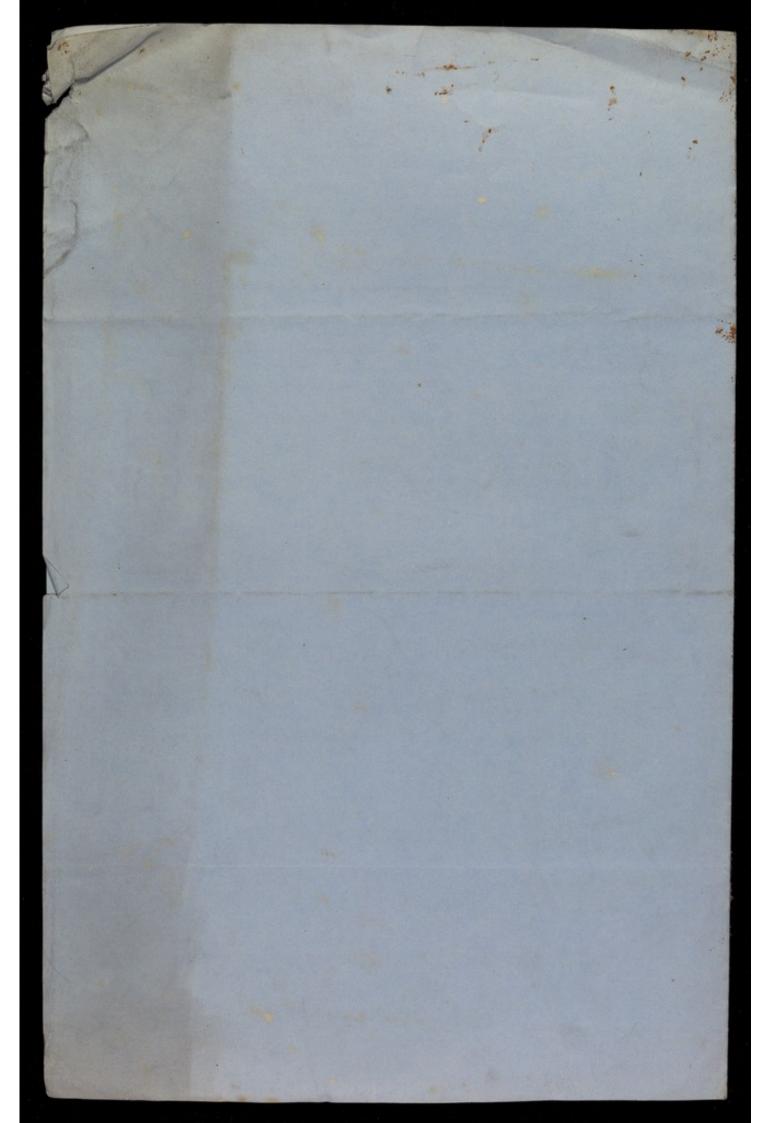
If any doubt or difficulty should arise in carrying out the Provisions of the Statutes, the Commissioners will always be prepared to answer inquiries, and give their advice on the subject.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE, Secretary



TO SUPERINTENDENTS AND PROPRIETORS OF ASYLUMS, REGISTERED HOSPITALS, AND LICENSED HOUSES.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
19, New Street,
Spring Gardens,
12th December, 1853.

SIR,

THE Commissioners in Lunacy will feel obliged by your filling up, and transmitting to this Office, as soon as you can do so after the 31st Instant, the accompanying Tables, numbered respectively, 1, 2, 3, of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, and Average numbers of Patients, during the years 1849 to 1853, both inclusive.

If, on examining the Forms, any difficulty or doubt should present itself, you are requested, before making the Return, to ask for the necessary instructions or explanation.

As respects the Table of Average numbers, you will be kind enough to enter from your Medical Journal, or Medical Visitation Book, the total numbers of Patients, as they existed on, or as nearly as may be after, the 1st of each month of every year.

If the daily or weekly Averages can also be given without much additional trouble, the Commissioners request that it may be done.

The numbers, in every case, are to include Private and Pauper Patients, without distinction.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.



OTICE OF ADMISSION. Sched. (F.)-No. 4. I hereby gibe you Notice, That was admitted into this house as a Broote Patient, on the 185 , and I hereby transmit a Copy of the Order Medical Certificate on which he was received. Subjoined is a Statement with respect to the Mental and Bodily Condition of the above-named Patient. Digned Bated this Day of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty To the Commissioners in Lunacy. STATEMENT. have this Day seen and examined the Patient mentioned in the above Notice, and hereby Certify, that with respect to Mental State he and that with respect to Bodily Health and Condition he Signed Dated this Day of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty

TRANSFER OF PRIVATE PATIENT.

16 & 17 Vict., Cap. 96, § 20.

	CONSENT.
WE, the	undersigned, Commissioners in Lunacy, hereby consent to the removal, on or
before the day of	185 , of
a Private Patient in	
	to
	Given under our hands this day of
	in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and
	Fifty-
) Commissioners
	in Lunacy.
	ORDER.
I,	the undersigned
having Authority to discharge	a Private
Patient in	hereby order and
direct that the said	be removed
therefrom to	
	Given under my hand this day of
	in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and
	Fifty-
	(Signed)
	Place of Abode

Notice of chamission from according to Lunacychets Molice of abbuilton Thoras of 1853.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

INSTRUCTIONS.

EVERY Medical Certificate must be according to the subjoined Form, prescribed by the "Lunatics Care and Treatment" and "Lunatic Asylums" Acts, 1853.

In filling up the Certificate, the Medical Practitioner signing is requested especially to observe the following essential particulars, viz.:-

 After the words "being a," he is required to insert not the word "Physician," "Surgeon," or "Apothecary," but the legal Qualification, Diploma, or License entitling him to practise as such within the United Kingdom.

The words of the Interpretation Clause are as follows:—"'Physician,' 'Surgeon,' or 'Apothecary,' shall respectively mean a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, duly authorized or licensed to practise as such by or as a Member of some College, University, Company, or Institution legally established and qualified to grant such authority or license in some part of the United Kingdom, or having been in practice as an Apothecary in England or Wales on or before the 15th day of August, 1815, and being in actual practice as a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary."

- 2. He is required to insert, not only the date and place of examination, but also the place of residence, and profession or occupation (if any) of the Patient.
- 3. In any case where more than one Medical Certificate is required by the Act, he must insert, before the words "personally examined," the words "separately from any other Medical Practitioner."
- 4. He is required, in order that his Certificate may have any validity in law, in every case to set forth the fact or facts, or some fact or facts, indicating Insanity, observed by himself.
 - The Certificate need not be dated on the day of examination.

Note.—Medical Officers of Unions or Parishes are no longer prohibited from signing Certificates in the cases of Pauper Lunatics belonging thereto.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

FORM OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

I, the undersigned, [here set forth the Qualification entitling the Person certifying to I, the undersigned, [here set forth the Qualification entitling the Person certifying to practise as a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, ex. gra., "being a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London," and being in actual practice as a [Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, as the case may be,] hereby certify, That I, on the [here insert the Street and Number of the House (if any) or other like particulars,] in the County of [in any case where more than One Medical Certificate is required by this Act, here insert separately from any other Medical Practitioner, [personally examined A.B. of [insert Residence and Profession or Occupation, if any], and that the said A.B. is a [Lunatic, or an Idiot, or a Person of unsound Mind,] and a proper Person to be taken charge of and detained under Care and Treatment, and that I have formed this opinion upon the following grounds, viz.—

1. Eacts indicating Insertity observed by myself [here state the Earts]

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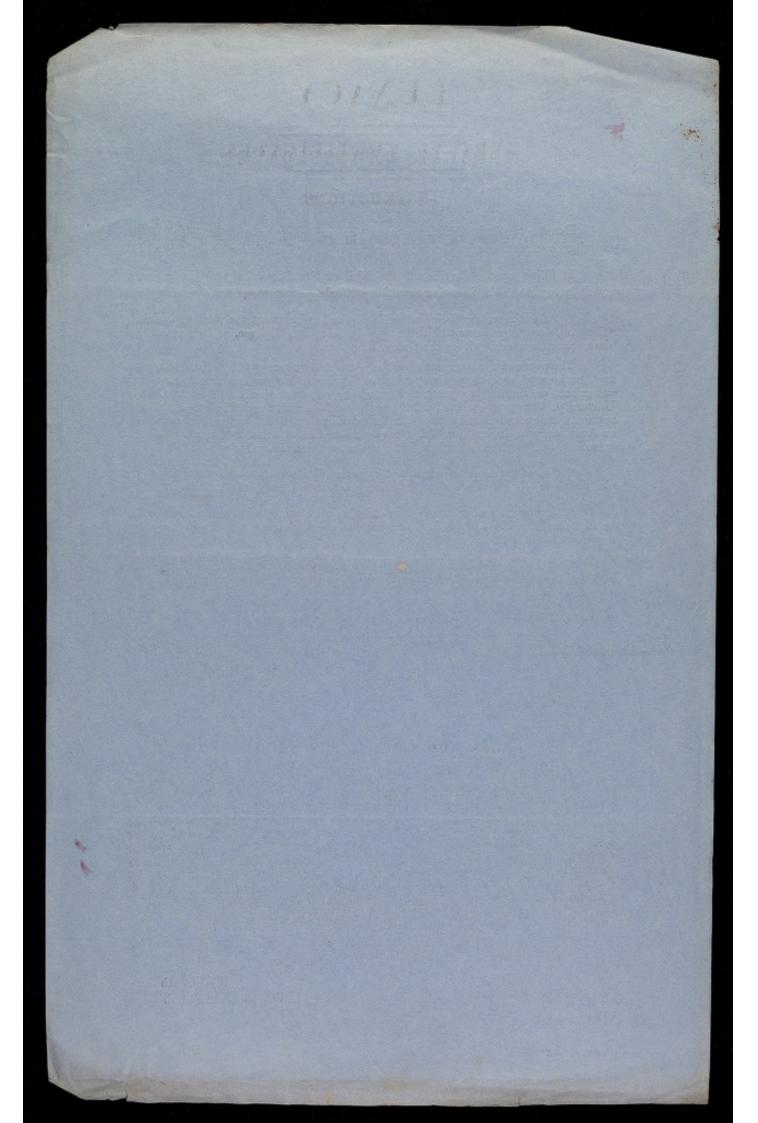
2. Other Facts (if any) indicating Insanity communicated to me by others [here state the Information, and from whom].

(Signed)

Place of Abode. One thousand eight hundred

Dated this and

day of



MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

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Note.—Medical Officers of Unions or Parishes are no longer prohibited from signing Certificates in the cases of Pauper Lunatics belonging thereto.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

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Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

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Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself [here state the Facts].

2. Other Facts (if any) indicating Insanity communicated to me by others [here state the Information, and from whom].

(Signed)

Place of Abode.

Dated this

day of

One thousand eight hundred

Medical

TO MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS &c.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
19, Whitehall Place,
15th February, 1854.

SIR,

In the Report which the Commissioners in Lunacy are preparing for presentation to the Lord Chancellor, they propose to submit some statements and observations relative to the progress made in the treatment of the Insane, especially as respects the disuse or employment of mechanical restraint and seclusion.

With this view the Commissioners are desirous of collecting and recording the System of treatment pursued in the various Institutions for the Insane in England and Wales, and the results of the experience of the several Medical Officers.

You will, therefore, oblige the Commissioners by favouring them, at your earliest convenience, with a concise statement of facts, shewing the system adopted in the Institution under your Medical Charge, together with any observations which you may deem material for consideration.

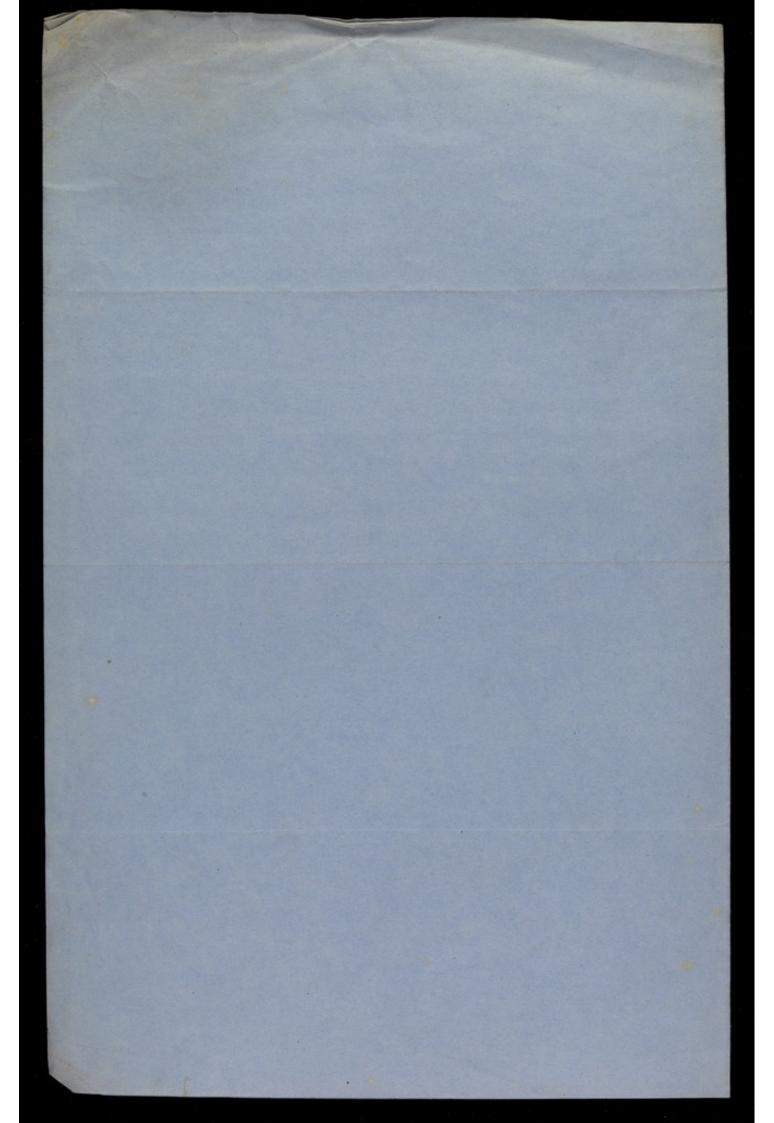
I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.



MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

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- 2. He is required to insert:—1. The Date of examination. 2. The Place, with "the Street and Number of the House (if any) or other like particulars," where the Patient was examined. 3. The Patient's ordinary Place of Residence. 4. The Patient's Profession or Occupation, if any.
- 3. In any case where more than one Medical Certificate is required by the Act, he should insert, before the words "personally examined," the words "separately from any other Medical Practitioner."
- 4. He is required, in order that his Certificate may have any validity in law, to set forth some fact or facts, or symptoms, indicating Insanity, observed by himself.
- 5. The Certificate need not be drawn up or dated on the day of examination, but the Patient must be examined within seven clear days prior to admission.
- Every Certificate should be an independent and complete document, and no reference should be made therein to another.

Note.—Medical Officers of Unions or Parishes are no longer prohibited from signing Certificates in the cases of Pauper Lunatics belonging thereto.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

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Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself [here state the Facts].
 Other Facts (if any) indicating Insanity communicated to me by others [here

state the Information, and from whom].

Place of Abode.

(Signed)

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R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary,

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

FORM OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

I, the undersigned, [here set forth the Qualification entitling the Person certifying to practise as a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, ex. gra., "being a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London,"] and being in actual practice as a [Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, as the case may be,] hereby certify, That I, on the at [here insert the Street and Number of the House (if any) or other like particulars,] in the County of [in any case where more than One Medical Certificate is required by this Act, here insert separately from any other Medical Practitioner,] personally examined A.B. of [insert Residence and Profession or Occupation, if any], and that the said A.B. is a [Lunatic, or an Idiot, or a Person of unsound Mind,] and a proper Person to be taken charge of and detained under Care and Treatment, and that I have formed this opinion upon the following grounds, viz.:—

1. Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself [here state the Facts].

Other Facts (if any) indicating Insanity communicated to me by others [here state the Information, and from whom].

(Signed)

Place of Abode.

One thousand eight hundred

Dated this

day of

Medical ler-topicates.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES,

INSTRUCTIONS.

Every Medical Certificate must, in order to its validity, be according to the subjoined Form, prescribed by the "Lunatics' Care and Treatment" and "Lunatic Asylums" Acts, 1853.

In filling up the Certificate, the Medical Practitioner signing is requested especially to observe the following essential particulars, viz.:—

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The words of the Interpretation Clause are as follows:—" 'Physician,' Surgeon,' or 'Apothecary,' shall respectively mean a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, duly authorized or licensed to practise as such by or as a Member of some College, University, Company, or Institution legally established and qualified to grant such authority or license in some part of the United Kingdom, or having been in practice as an Apothecary in England or Wales on or before the 15th day of August, 1815, and being in actual practice as a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary."

2. He is required to insert:—1. The Date of examination. 2. The Place, with "the Street and Number of the House (if any) or other like particulars," where the Patient was examined. 3. The Patient's ordinary Place of Residence. 4. The Patient's

Profession or Occupation, if any.

3. In any case where more than one Medical Certificate is required by the Act, he should insert, before the words "personally examined," the words "separately from any other Medical Practitioner."

4. He is required, in order that his Certificate may have any validity in law, to set forth some fact or facts, or symptoms, indicating Insanity, observed by himself.

 The Certificate need not be drawn up or dated on the day of examination, but the Patient must be examined within seven clear days prior to admission.

6. Every Certificate should be an independent and complete document, and no reference should be made therein to another.

Note.—Medical Officers of Unions or Parishes are no longer prohibited from signing Certificates in the cases of Pauper Lunatics belonging thereto.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

FORM OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

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JOHN FORSTER,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

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W. C. SPRING RICE,

Secretary.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy.

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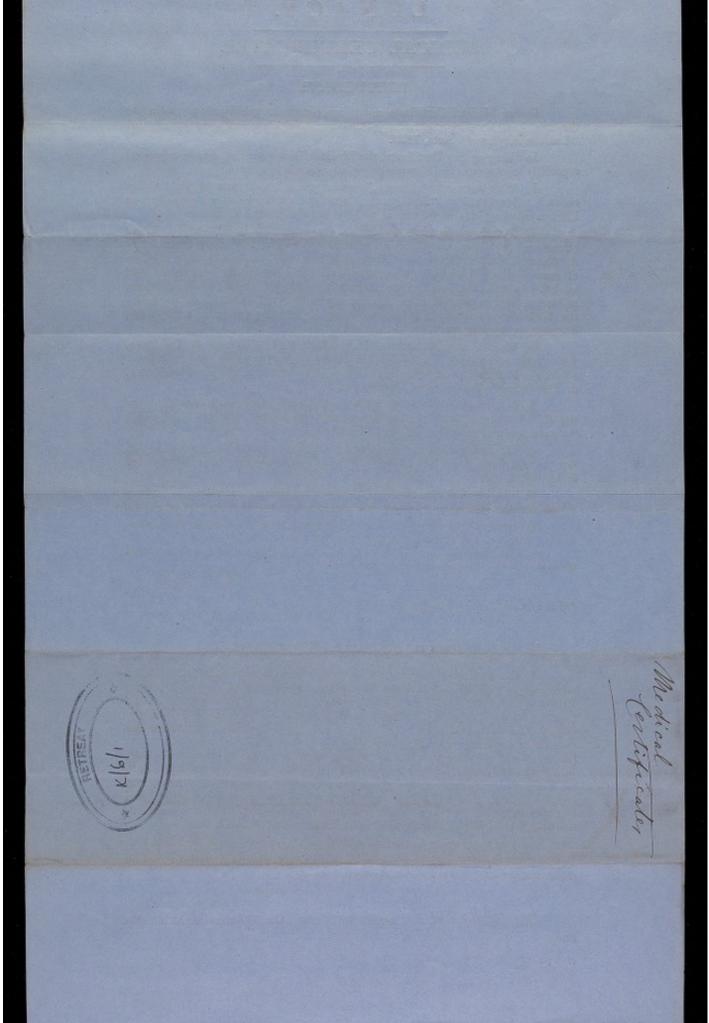
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