

Printed leaflet on the Asylum, giving objects, finances etc, 1813

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THE YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM was founded by general Subscription in the year 1777, for the reception of individuals labouring under all the varieties of mental disorder, from every quarter of the British dominions.

The objects it has in view are, To secure to the patients admitted, the moral and medical treatment, best suited to their several cases.—To afford them the accommodations, the comforts, and the humane attentions, which so materially assist in effecting the restoration of reason.—To prevent them from committing any acts of violence either on themselves or on others.—To seclude them from public observation and the intrusion of idle curiosity.—To maintain them in a manner suitable to their respective stations in life, without impairing their circumstances;—and, lastly, By relieving private families from the heavy burthen of supporting a lunatic in his own house, to lessen, in a material degree, the expense and distress attendant on insanity.

These objects, it is evident, are of no small importance to the community, either taken collectively, or individually considered; and the flourishing condition of the Institution, and the estimation in which it has long been held by the public, are the best proofs that the proposed ends have been attained.

Being an Establishment without an adequate Fund, or an annual Subscription for the maintenance of its inmates, the friends of the Patients pay a weekly sum proportioned to their ability; and by this arrangement the utility of the Institution is extended to the various classes of society, and at the same time the expenses of the indigent are reduced by the payments of the more affluent Patients.

Parish and other Paupers are maintained at the expense of nine shillings a week. The weekly payment of persons in low circumstances, but not absolutely in the condition of Paupers, is from ten to fifteen shillings. Patients in better circumstances, and in the higher stations of life, are charged with moderation, according to their respective means. A certain number of Patients, in very distressed circumstances, who pay for their own board, and have no assistance from their Parishes, receive the benefit of £35 per annum, (being the interest of the "Reduction Fund," especially established for the relief of the most necessitous objects, at the discretion of the Governors,) along with the overflowsings of the payments of the more affluent Patients. The above payments discharge lodging, board, coal, and candle, tea, washing, and medicines; but those Patients whose expenses exceed nine shillings a week, are separately charged for their washing.

The Physician is required to attend, without remuneration, on the Paupers, and on those who are maintained at reduced payments; but is authorised to receive from the friends of the more affluent Patients, the reasonable emoluments of his profession.

The present property of the Asylum consists of the sum of £7700 capital Stock, in the 3 per cent. consolidated Bank Annuities;—and also of the principal sum of £183 : 6 : 8d. due on certain Turnpike Securities, together with the buildings, furniture, and premises.

The total number of Patients admitted since the first establishment of the Asylum in 1777, to the first of July, 1812, was 2445; of whom there have been reported cured 1112,—relieved 616,—incurable and removed by desire of their friends, 312;—dead 210,—remaining in the House, 116 men and 79 women.

ORDERS AND REGULATIONS.

The four first Regulations show the conditions to be complied with by the friends of individuals who are candidates for admission.

1. That every Patient, previous to his admission into the Asylum, shall be furnished with a certificate of his Insanity, signed either by a regular Medical Practitioner, or by the Clergyman of the Parish in which he has resided.

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

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

4. That in the instance of persons not paying more than nine shillings a week; one guinea shall be deposited in the hands of the Steward, and restored on the Patient's removal from the Asylum.

5. That every benefactor of twenty pounds and upwards to the general purposes of the Asylum, shall be considered a Governor for life.

6. That female lunatics in a state of pregnancy, shall be considered admissible as Patients, on security being given that the child shall not become burthensome to the Parish in which the Asylum stands.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. That no person unconnected with the Asylum, shall have the liberty of visiting any of the Patients, without a printed order of admission signed by the Physician.

FORM

Recommended for certifying the Patient's insanity.

To be signed by the Clergyman of the Parish, in which the Lunatic has resided, and by a regular Practitioner of Medicine; or by one of those only, when the signature of both cannot be obtained without much inconvenience and delay.

I the undersigned do hereby certify, that _____ aged _____ is at present in a state of mental derangement, and according to my belief and judgment, is a fit person for confinement and care, at the Lunatic Asylum.

Signed _____ Minister of _____, test
_____ M. D. Physician at _____
_____ Surgeon at _____

A statement of the Patient's symptoms, &c. &c. committed to writing by a Medical Practitioner, a neighbouring Clergyman, or one of his own family or friends, it is to be sent along with him to the Asylum; or in cases of sudden emergency, as soon afterwards as possible.—The account is to be drawn up either in the form of distinct Answers to the separate Queries, or in a connected narrative or history of the Case, noticing the several particulars to which they refer; and as the Friends of Patients might be unwilling to make known many of the circumstances alluded to in the Queries, except in confidence, the written Answers are to be sealed up, and addressed to the Physician. The same inquiries apply both to male and female Patients, though, to avoid repetition, the words he and his, are exclusively employed in the following Queries.

QUERIES.

1. What is the Patient's name? Age? Occupation? and Place of Abode? At what age, and in what manner, was he attacked with Mental Derangement, and what changes has the Disorder undergone since its commencement?

2. Has he attempted or threatened to commit any act of violence on himself or on any other person? Is he noisy, uncleanly, and in the habit of destroying furniture, or tearing his clothes? or in what particular respects are his conduct and actions inconsistent with reason or sanity of mind?

3. Is his conversation on general subjects collected and rational, or flighty, wild, and incoherent? What absurd ideas or extravagant notions does he in particular entertain? And on what subjects is his understanding the most disordered?

4. Has any remarkable change taken place in his natural Manner,—Expression of Countenance,—Disposition,—or Spirits?

5. Are his Sleep,—Pulse,—Heat,—Appetite, and all the bodily functions, healthy and natural?

6. Has he complained of either Pain, Heat, Throbbing, Brawling, Noise, Giddiness or Swimming in his Head? Has he ever laboured under Palsy,—Apoplexy,—Epilepsy,—Convulsions, or any kind of Fits,—obstinate Stomach Complaints,—Nervous Disorders,—Scrophulous Affections,—Rickets,—Gout,—Eruptions of Skin,—or Rupture? And has he at present any symptoms of the above, or of any other bodily ailment?

7. Did he in his natural or healthy state, exhibit any remarkable weakness, or imbecility of mind, or peculiarity, oddity, or singularity of character? And has he ever been deranged at any former period?

8. Have any of his family, or near relatives, been affected with Low Spirits,—Flethfulness,—Singularity of Character,—Idiotism, or Insanity?—Or have any of them laboured under Scrophulous Affections,—Water in the Head,—Consumption,—Nervous Disorders,—Apoplexy,—Palsy,—Fits,—or Gout?

9. Can any reason be assigned for his present derangement, or has it been occasioned by any of the following causes? frequent or habitual intoxication,—irregular habits of life,—blow or injury on the head,—exposure to a hot sun,—a preceding fever or acute disorder,—a repelled eruption of the skin,—Grief or anxiety of mind from distressed circumstances or domestic misfortunes,—irritation of mind from supposed ill-treatment, injury, or insult,—religious enthusiasm or apprehensions,—extreme mental exertion,—terror or sudden fright,—excessive joy,—jealousy,—or disappointment? (Or, if the Patient is a female, is her Insanity connected with child-bearing?)

10. Has he been bled or blistered, or taken any internal medicines, or been subjected to any management or medical treatment?

The Postage of all Letters to be paid, and the Letters to be addressed either to Dr. BREV, the Physician of the Institution, or to Mr. STUBB, the Steward. Donations received by Mr. JOHN BROOK, the Treasurer, and at the Banks of Messrs. HARRIS, SWANN, and Co. and Messrs. WILSON, TWISDEN, and Co. York; and at Messrs. ROBERTS and Co's. London.

YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM

The York Lunatic Asylum was founded by general subscription in the year 1797 for the reception of lunatics, and has since that time been the scene of many valuable experiments in the treatment of mental disease. The asylum is situated in the parish of St. Andrew, near the town of York, and is a large and commodious building, capable of receiving upwards of 1000 patients. It is divided into two main divisions, the male and female wards, each of which is further subdivided into several smaller wards, and is surrounded by a large garden and pleasure grounds. The asylum is under the management of a Board of Directors, who are appointed by the General Assembly of the County of York, and who are responsible for the conduct of the institution. The medical and nursing staff are also appointed by the Board, and are assisted by a large number of attendants and servants. The asylum is open to all persons who are unable to take care of themselves, and who are not otherwise provided for. The charges for the maintenance of patients are regulated by the Board, and are generally very moderate. The asylum has been the scene of many valuable experiments in the treatment of mental disease, and has contributed greatly to the advancement of our knowledge of this important branch of medicine.

ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

1. The Governor of the Asylum shall be responsible for the general management of the institution, and shall have the power to make and alter the regulations, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
2. The medical and nursing staff shall be appointed by the Board, and shall be responsible for the medical and nursing treatment of the patients.
3. The attendants and servants shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall be responsible for the general care and maintenance of the patients.
4. The charges for the maintenance of patients shall be regulated by the Board, and shall be generally very moderate.
5. The asylum shall be open to all persons who are unable to take care of themselves, and who are not otherwise provided for.
6. The asylum shall be situated in the parish of St. Andrew, near the town of York.
7. The asylum shall be a large and commodious building, capable of receiving upwards of 1000 patients.
8. The asylum shall be divided into two main divisions, the male and female wards, each of which is further subdivided into several smaller wards.
9. The asylum shall be surrounded by a large garden and pleasure grounds.
10. The asylum shall be under the management of a Board of Directors, who are appointed by the General Assembly of the County of York.

FORM

For the purpose of receiving the Governor's orders, the following form is to be filled up by the medical and nursing staff, and submitted to the Governor for his signature. The form shall be filled up in duplicate, and the original shall be retained by the Governor, and the duplicate shall be retained by the medical and nursing staff.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the York Lunatic Asylum?
2. Who are the members of the Board of Directors?
3. Who are the medical and nursing staff?
4. Who are the attendants and servants?
5. What are the charges for the maintenance of patients?
6. What are the regulations of the asylum?
7. What are the orders of the Governor?
8. What are the questions of the medical and nursing staff?
9. What are the answers to the questions of the medical and nursing staff?
10. What are the conclusions of the medical and nursing staff?

LEGACIES.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1777 Mrs. Mary Green	22	0	0	1787 William Dawson, M.D.	20	0	0	1795 Mrs. Ayton	20	0	0
80 Thomas Norfolk, Esq.	423	0	0	81 Mrs. Dorothy Dade	20	0	0	95 Mrs. O'Brien	200	0	0
81 Mrs. Mary Key	100	0	0	83 Mrs. Mary Ford	20	0	0	96 Mrs. Telf	100	0	0
82 William Domes, Esq.	100	0	0	84 Mrs. Lucia Threlknap	20	0	0	98 Mr. John Hurdley	100	0	0
83 Mrs. Maria Kromberg	30	0	0	85 Mrs. Wood Hargrave	10	0	0	99 Rev. John Hargrave	100	0	0
84 John Packer, Waterman	5	0	0	86 Timothy Mortimer, Esq.	100	0	0	97 Mr. Whitlocke	21	0	0
in the Asylum	150	0	0	87 Mrs. Ann Ward	20	0	0	98 James Woodhouse, Esq.	150	0	0
85 Mrs. Arabella Johnson	100	0	0	88 Charlotte Wham, Esq.	100	0	0	99 Rev. Mr. Knipe	10	0	0
86 Benjamin Peck, Esq.	20	0	0	89 Mr. Charles Yates	144	16	6	99 Miss Margaret Walker	200	0	0
87 Mr. Edward Lohas	20	0	0	90 Mrs. Weighman	10	0	0	1801 Mrs. Hannah Marden	20	0	0
88 Robert Davies, Esq.	100	0	0	90 Mrs. Barbara Slingsby	30	0	0	01 Mrs. Frances Legard	30	0	0
89 Matthew Chitty St.	10	0	0	90 Thomas Wilson, Esq.	100	0	0	02 Dr. Fountain, Dean of York	30	0	0
Quintin, Esq.	50	0	0	92 Mrs. Hannah Norris	20	0	0	03 Joseph Holman, Esq.	21	0	0
90 James Woodhouse, Esq.	50	0	0	92 Mrs. Harrison	24	10	0	03 Mrs. Stillingfleet	200	0	0
91 Mrs. Tabitha Bower	30	0	0	92 Mrs. Threlknap	20	0	0	04 William Shelton, Esq.	30	0	0
92 Mr. Thomas Layton	100	0	0	93 Mr. James Satchell	20	0	0	05 Mrs. Mary Stillingfleet	200	0	0
93 Mrs. Thomas Turner	20	0	0	93 Mr. Benjamin Whittle	25	0	0	06 Mr. Samuel Brown	30	0	0
94 Mrs. Elizabeth Trullard	40	0	0	94 Mr. John Kenon	200	0	0	06 Peter Neville, Esq.	30	0	0
95 Miss Elizabeth Dwyer	40	0	0	94 Hm. Ann Fairfax	100	0	0	08 Rev. Robert Doughty	100	0	0
96 Modestus Catta, Esq.	40	0	0	94 Hersey Myers, Esq.	200	0	0	08 Mrs. Elizabeth Affaton	100	0	0
97 Mrs. Ann Cressford de	100	0	0	95 Mrs. Mary Ward	20	0	0	12 J. Jefferson, Esq.	500	0	0
Blotford	100	0	0	95 Mr. James Linsley	104	12	0	12 Miss Bapton	100	0	0
97 The Rev. Thomas Kay	100	0	0	95 Mrs. Whithead	20	0	0				

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