

Printed paper: William Tuke's recommendations to the Committee on rules for staff, to be submitted to York Asylum Quarterly Court, 2 December 1813

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YORK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Rules for Staff, etc
Wm Luke's recommendations to the Committee

Also small ground plan of Retreat.

(4 items)



It is confidently hoped, that the CASE which has just appeared in the York Herald, with the controversy which has recently taken place respecting the Asylum, will induce a general attendance of the Governors at the Quarterly Court, to be held on the 2d of December. The following judicious Regulations for the prevention and detection of abuses, in a class of institutions of all others the most exposed to them, are extracted from the Rules of several respectable Establishments, and are most respectfully submitted to the serious consideration of the Governors of the York Lunatic Asylum, by

York, 27th of 11th Month, 1813.

WILLIAM TUKE.

“ That the Physicians and Surgeons of the Public Infirmary, shall be the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital and Asylum*: and the Liverpool Parish Poor shall be under the care of the three Senior Physicians of the Dispensary.”—*1st Rule of the Liverpool Lunatic Hospital and Asylum.*

“ That each Patient admitted, shall come under the care of that Physician, who is the Physician for the week, except the Patient be entitled to reside in the Asylum; in which case, the Patient's Friends shall have liberty, at the time of Admission, to choose any one of the Physicians of the Infirmary to attend the Patient.”—*9th Rule.*

“ That none of the Male Servants shall be permitted to go into the Female Patients' Apartments upon any account; nor the Keeper, without the Matron, or some Female Servant, (for whom the Matron shall be responsible) constantly attending him.”—*24th Rule.*

“ That the Officers of the Infirmary be requested to visit the Hospital and Asylum occasionally, and to observe the behaviour of the Keeper, Matron, and their Servants, towards the Patients; to examine into the cleanliness of the Wards and Public Apartments; the quality of the Bread, Beer, and other Provisions; whether they are allowed to walk in the Gardens when the Weather will permit, and whether they be regularly attended by their respective Physicians—also to remark, whether there is cause to infer any damage by fire or insecurity; whether any further improvements can be made, for the greater comfort and convenience of their unhappy Patients, and in particular, that they examine into the Bedding and nightly accommodation of each Patient, for which purpose it is desirable that they occasionally visit in the Evening, and that they enter their Remarks in the Book provided for that purpose.”—*26th Rule.*

These Rules appear to have been copied nearly verbatim from those of Manchester, in which, however, House Visitors are appointed to attend *daily*. It is also directed “that the admission of each Patient shall be signed by four, or more, of the Trustees of the Infirmary,” and that “Consultations be held Monthly, or more frequently, if necessary, by the Physicians, concerning the Cases of the Patients, by which experience and knowledge will reciprocally be communicated, in a Disease, of all others the most perplexing and obscure.”

The following is extracted from the Rules of the Nottingham Asylum.

“ That the House Committee shall meet, at the Lunatic Asylum, on every Wednesday, at the Hour of Eleven in the Forenoon, or oftener, if necessary; and be authorized to admit or discharge Patients, not belonging to the third Class; to determine the amount of the Weekly Payments, demandable from the respective Patients: to superintend the condition of the House and the Furniture; to hire, dismiss, and pay the Assistants and Menial Servants; to inspect and allow, or reject Weekly Bills; to pay all Demands not exceeding Ten Pounds, which cannot be reserved for the consideration of the general Quarterly Meetings; to enforce the observance of the Rules and Orders; to hear and decide Complaints; to correct Abuses, and to transact such incidental and ordinary Business, as may claim immediate attention.”

* A certain part of this Lunatic Establishment, appropriated to superior Patients, is denominated the Asylum.

I have no hesitation to declare, in reply
to thy inquiries, that during the eighteen
years in which I have superintended
the Retreat, no instance has occurred
in which the usual attentions to cleanliness
personal cleanliness have not preserved
the Patients free from Lice - They have
been found on several patients at the
time of their admission, but have been
easily removed by the usual means and
applications: nor does my experience
furnish me with any reason to believe
that the taste of this insect inclines it,
ceteris paribus, to prefer the bodies of
insane persons to those of any other class.

Geo. J. Johnson