

The fourth annual report of the committee for Clapton and Darenth Asylums for imbecile children, to 31st December, 1878.

Contributors

Metropolitan District Asylum at Clapton.
Currie, Edmond Hay.
Beach, Fletcher.
Langhorne, W. H.
Keaton Gower, Alfred.
Gower, Agnes.
Stephens, Mary Jane.
Palmer Phillips, Charles.
Cleaton, John D.
Metropolitan District School and Asylum for Imbeciles at Darenth.

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E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Metropolitan Asylum District.

THE
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR CLAPTON AND
DARENTH ASYLUMS
FOR
IMBECILE CHILDREN,

To 31st DECEMBER, 1878.

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1879.

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CLAPTON AND DARENTH ASYLUMS.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,

For the Year ending 25th March, 1879.

SIR EDMUND HAY CURRIE, *Chairman.*

Dr. BREWER, J.P., *Chairman of the Board.*

E. H. GALSWORTHY, Esq., J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Board.*

GEORGE BURT, Esq., J.P.

RICHARD CULL, Esq., F.S.A.

Rev. H. I. CUMMINS.

ROBERT EVANS, Esq.

JOHN FISHER, Esq.

THOMAS W. HODGES, Esq.

W. G. GUERRIER, Esq.

JAMES MARSHALL, Esq., J.P.

Rev. C. DARBY READE.

Admiral ROBERTSON, J.P.

ALEX. H. ROSS, Esq., J.P.

Clerk to the Managers—WM. FRANCIS JEBB, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

Medical Superintendent—FLETCHER BEACH, M.B. (Lond.)

Chaplain—Rev. W. H. LANGHORNE, M.A.

Steward—Mr. ALFRED KEATON GOWER.

Matron—Mrs. GOWER.

Schoolmistress—Miss M. J. STEPHENS.

Clerk to the Committee—Mr. H. REEVES.

OFFICES OF THE MANAGERS,

37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

CLAYTON AND PARENTS' ASSYLUM

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE

FOR

Clapton and Darenth Schools and Asylum.

*To the Managers of the Metropolitan
Asylum District.*

IN submitting the fourth Annual Report of their proceedings for the year ended the 31st December, 1878, together with the Reports of the Medical Superintendent, Steward, Matron, Schoolmistress, and Chaplain, your Committee propose to divide this record of their labours into three portions—the first of which will relate to the late Asylum at Clapton, the second to the Schools for Imbecile Children at Darenth, and the last to the Adult Asylum now in course of construction.

CLAPTON ASYLUM.

The history of the Clapton Asylum up to the date of the removal of the children to Darenth has been comparatively uneventful.

It will, however, be seen, on comparing the annexed Annual Reports of the Officers of this Establishment with their Reports of previous years, that even under the most disadvantageous circumstances a steady progress has been made in the industrial and educational training of the children during their four years' residence at Clapton.

The cost of the maintenance of children has not varied from past years, but your Committee are sanguine that now the children are located at Darenth a great reduction in this respect will be effected.

All the available fixtures, fittings, &c., were removed during the Autumn to Darenth, and your Committee were enabled last Christmas to formally hand over the Building to the Lessors. There is, however, a question still pending between Messrs. Holmes and Weekes and your Committee, as to the amount of compensation to be awarded for damage caused by the removal of the fixtures, and the matter has been placed by your Committee in the hands of Messrs. A. & C. Harston, the Architects.

DARENTH SCHOOLS.

Although the transfer of the children from Clapton did not take place at so early a date as your Committee anticipated—which was chiefly in consequence of the delay of the several contractors in carrying out their works—the whole of the children and staff were safely removed to Darenth during the third week in November. Notwithstanding the inclement period of the year, this removal was effected not only without mishap, but also without injury to the health of the children. The successful manner in which the 345 patients were trans-

ferred reflects the highest credit on those immediately concerned in the work.

On the 7th December the formal opening of the Schools took place, and the Managers were pleased at their next Ordinary Meeting to express to your Committee "their best thanks for the admirable manner in which they (the Committee) had carried out the work entrusted to them."

The Schools were visited and inspected by the Lunacy Commissioners on the 11th December, and their report, which is of an interesting and exhaustive character as regards the general construction and arrangement of the School buildings, is appended.

Your Committee have great pleasure in again expressing their entire satisfaction with the manner in which the principal Officers and subordinate staff have performed the respective duties allotted to them.

DARENTH ADULT ASYLUM.

At the time of closing their last Annual Report, your Committee had entrusted to them by the Managers the erection of two Blocks and Workshops upon the land adjacent to the Schools at Darenth, to which to transfer the children as they arrived at the age of 16 years, and plans for the erection of these blocks, &c., had already been approved by the Local Government Board, upon the understanding that they would form part of a completed Asylum ultimately to be erected at Darenth. The urgent need, however, for additional accommodation for female imbeciles induced the Managers,

upon the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, to direct the Darenth Committee, on the 12th January, 1878, at once to take steps to provide further accommodation for this class.

Accordingly, on the 9th February, 1878, your Committee submitted to the Manager a general ground plan prepared by their Architects, Messrs. A. & C. Harston, for the erection of an Adult Asylum at Darenth. This plan not only included the two Blocks and Workshops already agreed to, but also made provision for the accommodation of 834 female and 710 male patients, together with separate rooms for 52 patients, in all for 1,596. The plan likewise showed in detail the necessary administrative departments, with a Chapel and Recreation Hall, &c.

On the 23rd February the Managers approved of the plan above referred to, and subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, directed the Committee to proceed at once with the erection of six of the blocks together with the administrative buildings. These blocks will provide accommodation for 496 females and 228 males, exclusive of those in the 24 single rooms; but the administrative block, laundry, bathhouse, workshops, &c., have been designed to meet the requirements of the complete Asylum.

Your Committee had already, in arranging the Contracts for the Gas Works, Engines, Boilers, and Pumping Machinery, Farm Buildings, and other Works, had in view the requirements of the proposed new Asylum, and had directed the Architects to alter the former plans prepared by them for the Schools, so as to make sufficient provision

for both Establishments. Contracts for these Works were taken in accordance with the amended plans.

On the 24th April the Local Government Board assented generally to the plans for the new building, and sanctioned the proposal of the Managers to proceed at once with the portions suggested. These plans, after some slight modifications and alterations, were returned to the Managers by the Local Government Board formally approved under seal, and an order was issued authorizing the Managers to raise on loan the necessary sum to enable them to carry out the proposed work.

Mr. Poland, the Quantity Surveyor, having taken out the quantities of the new building, advertisements were issued for tenders for the erection of the same, and on the 16th November, the Managers, upon the recommendation of the Darenth Committee, accepted the tender of Messrs. Braid & Co., of Manor Street, Chelsea, for the erection of the buildings, amounting to £60,000.

On the 7th December, when the Schools were formally opened, the foundation stone of the Asylum was laid by Dr. Brewer, the Chairman of the Board, in the presence of the Managers and others interested in the work.

According to the terms of the contract, Messrs. Braid & Co. are to complete their work in 21 months from January, 1879.

It will be perceived that the Asylum thus commenced will not only provide the needful accommodation for female imbeciles, but will enable the Managers to continue and

utilize the training of the children after they have arrived at the age at which they are transferred from the Schools. Moreover, it will enable the Managers to meet the increasing demand for accommodation for both sexes of imbeciles, by the erection from time to time of the remaining blocks.

In conclusion, your Committee beg to express their appreciation of the continued confidence reposed in them by the Managers, and for the courteous consideration at all times accorded to their recommendations.

(Signed)

EDMUND HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Chairman and
Committee of the Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1878. As our removal here only occurred last November, it will chiefly refer to the work done at Clapton.

On the 31st of December, 1877, there were in the Clapton Asylum 350 patients, of whom 206 were males and 144 females. During the past year 73 patients have been admitted, viz., 53 males and 20 females. 4 of these, viz., 2 males and 2 females, were re-admitted from Homerton Fever Hospital, whither they had been sent suffering from scarlet fever; 1 was admitted from Caterham Asylum and the remainder, 68 in number, came from the different Unions and Parishes of London. 56 patients, viz., 45 males and 11 females have been discharged, and 28, viz., 18 males and 10 females have died. The total number under treatment has been 423, the average daily number resident 336, and the number in this (Darenth) Asylum on the 31st of December, 1878, 339. This number is less than on the corresponding date of last year, the deficiency being due to the fact that no cases were admitted during the time we were settling into our new quarters. Statistical tables are appended, some of which may prove interesting, more especially the one giving the "Ages of patients at present resident in the Asylum."

30 male patients, being unimprovable and above 16 years of age, were removed to the Asylums for adults; but no girls could be removed, for neither Leavesden nor Caterham Asylums were able to receive female patients during the year. 4 patients, 2 boys and 2 girls, were discharged "recovered." 1 boy and 3 women were removed to County Asylums, being unfit to remain in the schools. 9 boys and 3 girls were removed by the Guardians of the parishes to which they belong. A girl was abducted by her mother from an attendant while outside the Asylum grounds, and one boy escaped.

4 patients, 2 boys and 2 girls, suffering from scarlet fever, were removed to the Homerton Hospital. They recovered and returned to the school. The fever was introduced to the school at different periods of the year, and did not spread.

A child soon after admission into the probationary ward was found to be suffering from measles, which spread to four other children in the ward. The disease was of a mild form, and all did well. Some children who had previously suffered from ophthalmia have again been attacked, but no new cases have occurred. The system of a separate basin and towel for each child has prevented the extension of the disease. The few children in which the disease recurred, were due to irritation of the eyelids after the previous attack.

The death rate 6·6 per cent. on the total number under treatment, or 8·3 per cent. on the average daily number resident, is higher than last year, and more sickness occurred in the Asylum. I am able to report that the health of both

Of these 16 have been removed from School, being over 16 years of age and "improvable," 3 go to School in the afternoon, and 23 go to School morning and afternoon.

The number of children actually attending School on the 31st December, 1878, was 174. 70 feeble and helpless children who formerly went to School at Clapton have been retained in the wards in consequence of the severity of the weather, and the exposure to which they would be subjected in their passage along the open corridors to the schoolroom. Their education will soon be commenced in the wards.

The fife and drum band has made considerable progress during the past year. The boys play the pieces which they first learnt very creditably, and have learnt new ones. The different kinds of drill have gone on as usual.

During the summer a large portion of the spare time of the elder boys has been employed in playing cricket. Two elevens were chosen with a captain each, who directed the movements of his eleven without assistance. On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons matches were played, the rules of the game being strictly enforced. The other afternoons were devoted to practice.

The Asylum at Clapton has not attracted so many visitors as in previous years, probably from the fact that our residence there was known to be drawing to a close. The Commissioners in Lunacy deferred their visit till December, in order that they might report on this new Asylum, and have presented a very favourable report to the Local Government Board.

The Entertainments during the winter months have gone on as usual. The Annual Entertainment took place last January, and consisted as before of a Concert given entirely by the children, and of a Burlesque performed by patients and staff, "Beauty and the Beast" being chosen. Once a fortnight Concerts and Nigger Troupe performances took place, and Farces were sometimes played. On other evenings the more advanced children were amused in the school-room, the teachers supervising the arrangements. During the summer the children were twice taken to Victoria Park, for a row round the lake, and a visit was paid to the Bethnal Green Museum.

My Report would not be complete without a notice of the removal of the patients, 345 in number, from Clapton to this Asylum. They were formed into three detachments and carried in vans, which were specially fitted for the purpose. One or more nurses were placed in each van. The feeble and helpless were wrapped in blankets and provided with hot water bottles, and the sick had a van specially arranged for their reception. The first detachment came down on Monday, the 18th of November, under my own charge, the other detachments followed on the Wednesday and Friday, under that of Dr. Watson, who had been temporarily appointed Assistant Medical Officer. The journey was borne well and no bad consequences followed.

6 blocks on the boys' side, viz., 2 Healthy, the Infirmary, Epileptic, and the 2 Helpless, were ready for their reception, and in these the first two detachments were placed. On the 22nd of November the 2 Healthy blocks and the Infirmary on the girls' side were ready, and received the last detach-

ment on its arrival. The ordinary discomforts of a removal and settlement of so large a family in its new home were cheerfully met by the staff, and the ordinary work of the School was soon resumed.

In conclusion, I have again to thank the Officers for their assistance and the Committee for their continued kindness and support.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FLETCHER BEACH, M.B., M.R.C.P.,
Medical Superintendent.

Darenth Schools, January, 1879.

DARENTH SCHOOLS.

	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Number of Patients in the Asylum at Clapton on December 31st, 1877 ...	...	...	...	206	144	350
Admitted since ...	...	...	...	53	20	73
Discharged--				259	164	423
To other District Asylums, being over 16 years of age and incapable of learning anything...	30	0	30	...	...	...
At request of Guardians, improved ...	4	2	6	...	...	...
At request of Guardians, not improved ...	5	1	6	...	...	...
To County Asylums ...	1	3	4	...	...	...
Recovered ...	2	2	4	...	...	...
To Homerton Fever Hospital...	2	2	4	...	...	...
Escaped ...	1	1	2	...	...	...
Died ...	45	11	56	...	...	...
...	18	10	28	...	...	...
...	63	21	84	63	21	84
Number resident in Asylum December 31st, 1878	...	...	...	196	143	339

Average number resident,

Table showing ages of Patients at present resident in the Asylum.

			Males.	Females.	Totals.
From 3 to 5 years	...	...	2	2	4
" 5 to 7 "	...	...	12	2	14
" 7 to 10 "	...	...	35	17	52
" 10 to 12 "	...	...	50	17	67
" 12 to 16 "	...	...	76	61	137
Above 16 years ...	...	...	21	44	65
			196	143	339

N.B.—The excess of female over male patients above 16 years of age, is chiefly due to the fact that it has been impossible to remove any of the former to Leavesden or Caterham Asylums during the past year.

Table showing ages of patients admitted, discharged, and who have died during 1878.

AGES.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.			DIED.		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
From 3 to 5 years	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 5 to 7 "	9	1	10	2	1	3	1	...	1
" 7 to 10 "	12	5	17	2	1	3	5	1	6
" 10 to 12 "	11	3	14	2	1	3	2	2	4
" 12 to 16 "	19	11	30	5	3	8	7	5	12
Above 16 years ...	1	...	1	34	5	39	3	2	5
	53	20	73	45	11	56	18	10	28

Table showing length of residence in the Asylum of those who have been Discharged or who have Died during 1878.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.			DISCHARGED.			DIED.		
			Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Under 6 months	...	...	6	2	8	0	0	0
From 6 to 12 months	...	...	4	1	5	2	2	4
" 12 to 18	...	...	3	0	3	2	1	3
" 18 to 24	...	...	1	2	3	3	2	5
" 24 to 30	...	...	3	0	3	0	1	1
" 30 to 36	...	...	15	1	16	2	3	5
" 36 to 42	...	...	10	4	14	7	1	8
" 42 to 48	...	...	3	1	4	2	0	2
			45	11	56	18	10	28

Table showing Causes of Death.

Cause of Death.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Cerebral Disease ...	...	2	2	4
Epilepsy ...	...	4	2	6
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	1	0	1
Phthisis ...	...	4	1	5
Pneumonia ...	...	2	2	4
Bronchitis ...	...	5	2	7
Marasmus ...	...	0	1	1
		18	10	28

Table of Industrial Occupations.

OCCUPATIONS OF BOYS.	Number employed in each grade with quality of work.				Total number employed.
	Indifferent	Fair	Good	Excellent	
I. TAILORING.					
1. Preliminary Work ...	7	1	...	2	27 Tailors (5 whole time). 10 } 6 } 2 } 3 } 2 } 4 }
2. Sewing Linings or Seams ...	2	...	3	1	
3. Felling ...	...	...	1	1
4. Repairing ...	...	2	...	1
5. Button-holing ...	...	1	1	...
6. Machining ...	...	...	2	2
II. SHOEMAKING.					
1. Preliminary Work	23 Shoemakers (9 whole time). 17 } 1 } 2 } 3 }
2. Closing Uppers ...	2	10	...	5	
3. Repairing ...	...	...	1	...
4. Finishing ...	...	...	1	1
5. Riveting ...	...	1	...	2

FLETCHER BEACH, M.B.

REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN.

SCHOOL FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN,
DARENTH, KENT.

The Chaplain has the honour to present his report to the Committee.

During the past year, with the exception of the short time occupied by the removal of the Children from Clapton, and their settlement at Darenth, the Services have been faithfully and regularly performed.

The brief interruption, thus caused, had the pleasing effect of manifesting the popular character of the Services, and the interest taken in them by the juvenile and also the adult members of the Congregation.

The attendance has always been regular and devout. As an instance of the order and decorum with which the Services have been conducted, it may be mentioned that a Norfolk Rector, preaching for the Chaplain on one occasion, was greatly surprised when told by the Medical Superintendent that he had been addressing a congregation of imbecile children. Not having been informed beforehand, he could hardly believe it possible that such devout and orderly behaviour could have been secured.

Another encouraging feature in the Services is the increase in the number of attendants worshipping with the children since the opening of the new and commodious Chapel.

No pains are spared to make the Services attractive and interesting both to young and old.

It is only just to remark that the brightness and heartiness of the Services is largely owing to the persevering and painstaking efforts of the Head School-mistress. The kindly tact and skill displayed by Miss Stephens and her Assistants in the management of the children is beyond all praise.

In addition to the Services in the Chapel, there is a regular and systematic visitation of the whole of the Wards, &c., of the Asylum. By this means the Chaplain comes in contact not only with the children but also with the attendants, and has thus an opportunity other than the prescribed Services of using his influence for good.

Since the Consecration of the Cemetery by the Arch-deacon of London, acting for the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the burial of the dead devolves upon the Chaplain. It is pleasant to record that the Service and the Funeral arrangements, under the management of the Steward, are reverently and carefully carried out. Several interments have already taken place.

The opinion is sometimes expressed, "Surely a clergyman's labours must be thrown away upon imbecile children." Such, however, is not the case. Many take much interest in the simple illustrative addresses given in Chapel, and are by no means so forgetful of what they hear as might be supposed. Besides, if it were so, the Chaplain feels that his labours to promote a Christian and kindly feeling among the large staff of officers and servants cannot but have, with the Divine blessing, a good and important effect. He trusts that it will

be found he has "not laboured in vain." At any rate, it is a matter of great thankfulness to have been allowed to take even a small share in so good and excellent a work. The Chaplain, as he looks upon the happy, contented faces of his juvenile auditory gathered on Sunday for worship, can hardly help contrasting their present condition with the neglect and cruelty with which this unhappy class of children were formerly treated. That the experiment has proved a success, and is likely to be widely imitated throughout the country, scarcely admits of doubt.

The Chaplain also feels pleasure in stating that he has been much helped and encouraged in his work by the kindness and consideration of his brother officers, and by the general good feeling which prevails from the highest to the lowest throughout the Asylum.

In conclusion, the Chaplain begs to offer his most sincere thanks to the Committee of Managers for their unvarying kindness and sympathy with him in his work. He trusts ever to merit the generous confidence which they have reposed in him.

(Signed)

W. H. LANGHORNE, M.A.,

Chaplain.

STEWARD'S REPORT.

*To the Chairman and
Committee of the Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1878, there are but few subjects which call for very special mention, beyond the removal of the Patients and Staff from Clapton to the Building they at present occupy.

The removal in question was safely effected in November last, and it must have been a source of considerable gratification to the Committee that it was unattended by the least accident or inconvenience other than that naturally involved in the removal itself.

The Industrial training of the Patients during the past year has received that careful attention which so important a branch of their education deserves, and it is, I feel, in this direction that the practical results of the care and labour bestowed by the Committee upon the question of training Imbecile Children will eventually be shown.

The table annexed shows the number of articles made by the children during the past year in the Tailor's and Shoemaker's shops, and the value of their labour is fairly represented by the sum placed against it.

The earnings of each individual Patient being placed

against its name weekly, in books prepared for that purpose, a very ready means is provided to ascertain the improvement made by the child in the marketable value of its labour.

In addition to the work mentioned in the table referred to, the labour of the Patients is still further utilised in the Carpenter's and Smith's shops, working about the grounds, and in the various domestic requirements of the Asylum. The value of this work may very fairly be estimated at £6 per week, that being the sum which would have to be paid for hired labour, were the work not performed by the children.

When it is considered that the aggregate earnings of the children during the past year represent no less a sum than £420 3s. 8d., and is the result of a labour created by the Committee, which was previously entirely lost to the community, it cannot be questioned that the Committee may be congratulated upon the success which has attended their efforts to ameliorate the unhappy condition of a previously neglected section of humanity.

The present building possesses many and great advantages over the one occupied at Clapton, both from an administrative and sanitary point of view.

The kitchen arrangements generally are very complete, and tend greatly to facilitate the work of that department.

The Laundry is well adapted for the work it has to do, thus allowing the large amount of labour devolving upon this portion of the establishment to be readily and easily performed.

The work in this direction is materially aided by the plentiful supply of excellent water obtained from the well, supplemented as that is by the supply from the rain water tank, capable of holding 120,000 gallons.

The machinery attached to this department appears to be well placed, and is found to do its work admirably.

The arrangements for warming the Asylum (hot water and steam) have been very severely tested during the late severe weather, and appear to have fully answered their purpose.

The pumps, engines, boilers, and machinery generally, not having yet been formally made over to me, I cannot say a great deal respecting them, but have every reason to believe they will be found to meet all the requirements of the Asylum.

The gas works are in full operation, and a plentiful supply of that necessary article, both for lighting and cooking, is obtained at a cost of less than 2s. per 1,000 feet.

The quantity consumed weekly at this very dull season of the year is slightly over 100,000 feet.

Great attention appears to have been paid to the sanitary arrangements of the Asylum, and the general administration of the establishment works smoothly and in order.

The provisions and other articles supplied have been of a good quality, and fully equal to contract.

The work of bringing the land attached to the Asylum

under cultivation is being proceeded with vigorously, and I trust to be able in time to show a marked improvement upon its present condition.

A great amount of labour will also attend double-trenching land for kitchen garden, and in laying out the grounds immediately contiguous to the Asylum.

The live stock at present upon the farm consists of 4 horses, 29 pigs and 20 sheep. As soon as the time of year will permit it will be necessary to purchase cows for the supply of milk, of which article some 40 gallons are required daily for the use of patients and staff. The Committee are aware that accommodation is provided at the farm for 8 horses, 40 cows, and about 150 pigs,—and this I suppose is the stock which will be kept when the Asylum has its maximum number of patients.

It is with very great pleasure that I have to acknowledge the great assistance in my work, which I have received from all persons connected with the Asylum, and whose ready and cheerful co-operation has so materially lightened my labour.

But very few changes have occurred in the Staff belonging to my department, and those mainly in consequence of our removal from Clapton.

In conclusion, I beg to tender to the Committee my most sincere thanks for the great consideration and kindness they have extended towards me, and respectfully requesting a continuance of the same,

I remain, Gentlemen,

very obediently yours,

(Signed) A. KEATON GOWER,

Steward.

Table shewing the number of patients employed in Tailor's and Shoemaker's shop, together with a list of articles made by children, and the amount of money earned.

TAILOR'S.					
Number of boys at work daily.	Average number of hours at work daily.	List of Articles Made.			Value of Labour. £ s. d.
		Jackets.	Vests.	Trowsers.	
32	Two hours each child.	232	170	238	3835 58 10 1
SHOEMAKER'S.					
		Pairs of Boys' Shoes.	Pairs of Girls' Shoes.		
				£ s. d.	
32	Two hours each child.	177	325	49 13 7	
TOTAL		...	...	108 3 8	...

In addition to this work in shoemaker's shop, all the repairs for the Asylum are executed by the patients.

The work done would have been considerably greater had not about 6 weeks been lost by the removal from Clapton.

REPORT OF THE MATRON.

*To the Chairman and
Committee of the Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1878.

I have little or nothing to report as to the Clapton Asylum.

The removal of the children to Darenth has given us that which we so urgently needed at Clapton, viz., ample Laundry accommodation. We have been enabled, since our removal here, not only to supply all the wants of the children, but also to keep an ample stock in store of clean linen. This, having regard to the class of patients, is a matter of primary importance. The Laundry work is carried on most efficiently, about 9,000 articles passing through weekly. This will give an annual total of 39,000 dozen articles, which, estimated at 6d. per dozen, will amount to £975.

The clothing and bedding of the children, which was highly commended by the Lunacy Commissioners, has been largely augmented by the industry of the children, assisted by the workmistress and attendants. We have in the wards an average of 3 changes for each child. I append to my report the number of articles made by the children during the year. In addition to these the whole of the repairs of

the clothing has also been efficiently done in the Asylum. This, compared with similar work two years ago, shews a vast increase, and speaks highly for the improved industrial training of the children.

In connection with this, I may also state that the following girls are regularly employed, viz.:—

20 Scrubbers.

4 in the Laundry.

3 „ Kitchen.

2 „ Needleroom.

In addition, nearly every girl can make her own bed, and several assist in the dormitories.

Consequent upon the transfer of the children to Darenth, several changes occurred in the staff of female attendants, some of the Clapton staff objecting to their removal so far from town. We have endeavoured to supply these vacancies, and the great facilities so kindly afforded by the Committee to enable the attendants to reach town, and also the fortnightly entertainments, will in time, I trust, tend to make the attendants more settled. There will, however, always be some difficulty in obtaining efficient attendants at Darenth, as not only are their duties necessarily of a disagreeable nature, but they cannot receive that large amount of assistance in the performance of such duties from the children that they would otherwise obtain in an adult establishment. The uniform good conduct and attention to their duties by the present attendants is evidenced by the fact that one only out of a staff of forty did not receive the usual gratuity for good conduct during the past year.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

*To the Chairman and
Committee of the Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Fourth Report, being that of your school during the year 1878.

On leaving Clapton, November 18th, the names of 280 children (171 boys and 109 girls) were on the register, but from this date to December 31st, several of the infants and many of the helpless children have been unable to attend, owing to the distance of their wards from the schools. After the excessive cold we are now having, and after the attendants have overcome some of the irregularities caused by our removal to Darenth, the infants will again be sent to school, while several of the helpless children will be instructed or amused in their wards by their attendants, during a part of the afternoon. The latter class are the children previously alluded to in former reports who attended school during a part of the morning and afternoon; great difficulty was then experienced in taking them to and from their wards. The names of these, together with those of 13 boys and 26 girls (who are over the age of 16) being removed from the school register reduces the number from 280 to 174 (111 boys and 63 girls). Of these—134 attend whole time and 40 half time.

The average attendance during the year has been 196, though it has varied from 219 (during the week August 5th to 10th) to 99 (December 23rd to 28th). The great difference in these numbers is caused by so many children being able to attend only during the warm weather, who through the winter suffer so much from cold that they are absent from school, to receive more attention from the Medical Superintendent and their nurses.

Of the 280 children, the

1st class	consisted of	31	boys	18	girls ;	total	49
2nd	„	23	„	19	„	42	
3rd	„	27	„	11	„	38	
4th	„	31	„	13	„	44	
5th	„	41	„	35	„	76	
Speechless	„	18	„	13	„	31	
		<u>171</u>		<u>109</u>		<u>280</u>	

In the last class only 31 children are placed, but several boys and girls of the 5th class are deaf and dumb, but are so thoroughly idiotic that all attempts to teach them the Manual Alphabet are useless.

The following is a list of the work done by the girls in school. A few are learning the sewing machine, while one or two already work it very nicely.

12 sheets machined.
 11 aprons „
 34 bib aprons „
 65 pinafores „ or made by hand.

13 pair socks (run toe and heel).

14 undergarments.

3 towels hemmed.

1 duster „

34 handkerchiefs hemmed.

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As, gentlemen, by a glance at the School Time Table presented with my Report, you will see the subjects taught in the various classes, and the time allotted for each lesson, it may be unnecessary to again enter into detail respecting each subject, as I did in my second Report, but it may be more interesting to give with this year's, extracts from the "Register of Attainments" in which books the progress or retrogression of each child is entered. Before doing so, it is gratifying to me to state, that in some subjects taught, great progress has been made, while the behaviour of the children in school is generally excellent. Unfortunately during the spring and summer months much trouble was caused by the evil influence of one or two boys, newly admitted, who were suffering from epilepsy, but who, apart from this affliction, seemed more suitable for admission into Reformatories than Imbecile Asylums. Happily these children are not with us now, and the mischief caused by them is gradually being overcome. The benefits of classification of the children when at play are plainly to be seen here, the big being separated from the little, and the weak from the strong—each in their separate ward, where they are so much more under control and care than formerly, when only one room was the scanty accommodation on each side of the house, the boys being very badly off in having a badly ventilated, warmed and lighted, underground playroom.

Surprise has sometimes been expressed by visitors on the quiet and orderly way the classes, particularly the 1st and 2nd, work. In reviewing the past four years, and remembering the continual scene of disorder and confusion I had in the schoolroom, on the commencement of my duties at the Hampstead Asylum (then an asylum for adult and juvenile imbeciles), when I think of the repeatedly disheartening attempts to enforce order, and then afterwards to teach, when I recall the effort made day after day to induce the children even to stand uprightly in a line, and compare it with the orderly behaviour of their present daily life, and the amount of work they do now, which they did not do then, I can scarcely realize I am surrounded by the same class of children (the 5th class excepted). A greater contrast may even be expected, as now, as previously remarked, the children will be under so much more supervision than formerly, when owing to the structural nature of the building much supervision was an impossibility. It is satisfactory that some of the boys are making great progress in their trades, while some of the big and little girls are able to make themselves very useful in sweeping, scrubbing, and bedmaking.

In conclusion allow me to thank you for your continued kindness and support.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours respectfully,

M. J. STEPHENS.

Darenth, *December 31st*, 1878.

October 5th, 1874—Admitted T. B., age 13.

Attainments.

Could read from 1st Standard, and spell words of one syllable; wrote a few letters; added to 20; counted to 100; knew to 2 by 12, and all the colours.

October 2nd, 1878.

Read fairly from first half of 2nd Standard; could spell words of two syllables very well, and a few of three; could write and compose a letter; worked compound addition, subtraction, and multiplication sums; counted to 1000; knew to 12 by 12; knew colours, shades, easy and difficult forms, and could tell the time; earned about 1s. 7d. a week at shop. (Has since been withdrawn from school to attend whole time at shop, being over 16.)

October 5th, 1874—Admitted R. W., age 8.

Attainments.

Knew a few letters but could not spell one word; could write "a;" could not add; counted to 15; knew no tables; could not hem; knew a few colours.

October 7th, 1878.

Read from a primer, and could spell words of four and five letters; could do simple dictation and transcribing; worked addition sums, and had a better idea of multiplication than subtraction; counted to 189; repeated twice and three times tables; was learning darning and the sewing machine; knew colours, shades and forms; assisted every morning in scrubbing, bedmaking, and sweeping.

October 5th, 1874—Admitted M. Q., age 4.

Attainments.

Knew nothing of reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, counting, tables, and colour ; could not hem ; was restless.

October 9th, 1878.

Could read such sentences as this, "This new book is mine ;" could spell about 50 words of three or four letters ; could write from memory all the capital letters except "P" and "N," and the small except "j," "r," and "x" ; writes words in a copy book ; knew the Roman figures to 10, and other figures ; could add well figures to 10, mentally or on slate ; counted to 140 ; hemmed neatly and was learning darning ; knew colours and shades, and easy and difficult forms ; assisted every morning in dressing some of the little children before attending school.

February 19th, 1875—Admitted G. E., age 15.

Attainments.

Read words of one syllable from reading sheets ; could not spell one word ; wrote "a" and "b" ; added to 5 ; counted to 100 ; knew to 2 by 12, and a few colours ; was very restless and impudent.

January 31st, 1878.

Read badly from 1st Standard ; could spell some well-known words, but had not the slightest idea of spelling others ; could write his name from memory, but other words from a copy very nicely ; worked sums in compound multiplication ; counted to 1000 ; knew to 12 by 12 ; knew colours, shades and simple forms ; was much improved in many

respects ; earned about 1s. 4d. a week. Has since been discharged (March 1st) and is earning his living as a driver with a salary of 15s. a week.

June 29th, 1875—Admitted G. M., age 6.

Attainments.

Knew nothing of reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, and tables ; could count to 9 ; hemmed badly ; knew blue and red ; was very restless, and spoke indistinctly.

October 11th, 1878.

Could read words of three and four letters, and spell about 40 words of two, three, four, and five letters ; could write the capital and small letters from memory, and easy sentences and words in books ; could do an addition sum, and a subtraction (without borrowing) ; counted correctly to 100 ; knew only to 3 by 3 ; could make (with supervision) articles of underclothing ; could darn, and work the sewing machine ; knew easy and difficult forms, colours, and shades ; had thoroughly lost the former restlessness, but still spoke indistinctly.

July 13th, 1875—Admitted E. R., age 8.

Attainments.

Knew several letters ; could not spell one word, write a letter, or add ; counted to 12 ; knew no tables ; could not hem ; knew a few colours.

October 11th, 1878.

Read from first part of Standard I. ; could spell words of four, five, and six letters, well ; wrote fairly in copy

and exercise books; worked easy addition and subtraction sums, and easy multiplication and division (the two latter generally incorrectly); could count to 1000; knew, but not well, to 8 by 12; hemmed and sewed neatly; could darn, and work the sewing machine; knew colours, shades, and difficult forms; could tell the time; helped in the dormitory in scrubbing, sweeping, and bedmaking.

March 13th, 1876—Admitted W. J. C., age 13.

Attainments.

Read from 1st Standard badly; could spell most words in primer; wrote in an easy copy-book; worked addition sums incorrectly; counted to 100; knew multiplication tables to 4 by 8, and a few colours; was an intelligent boy, but mischievous and cunning.

December 30th, 1878.

Read from 2nd Standard; spelled easy words of three syllables; wrote very carefully on a slate; but carelessly in a copy-book; worked compound addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, but always incorrectly; counted to 1,000; knew to 12 by 12, and colours, shades, and simple forms; was getting on nicely at shop, earned 6s. or 6s. 4d. a week.

March 28th, 1876—Admitted J. B., age 13.

Attainments.

Knew "a" and "o"; could not spell one word; could copy words from a reading book; could not add; counted to 10; knew no multiplication tables or colours; was shy, deaf, nervous, and nearly speechless.

December 24th, 1878.

Read simple words by his fingers and said them indistinctly; spelled about 60 easy words (names of objects); wrote fairly in a copy and exercise book; worked sums in multiplication by three figures, and simple division: could write figures to 250 on a slate and the multiplication table to 11 by 12; knew black, white and blue; earned at the shop 6s. or 7s.; was a very useful boy.

April 20th, 1876—Admitted J. S., age 14.

Attainments.

Knew nearly all the letters of the alphabet; could not spell one word; printed several letters incorrectly; added to 20; counted to 100; knew to 2 by 12, and several colours; was quite deaf and nearly speechless.

December 16th, 1878.

Read from "Picture Teaching" very well, and could spell very nicely most words in the same book; wrote in a copy-book words of six letters; worked sums in multiplication and division by two or three figures; wrote to 1,000 and 12 by 12 from memory on slate; knew the colours but not the shades; worked very industriously in school and shop; earned 6s. or 7s. a week as a tailor. Has since the above date been withdrawn from school (being over 16) to work whole time at shop.

May 6th, 1876—Admitted T. K., age 10.

Attainments.

Read words of two, and a few of three letters; could spell the same; wrote all the letters of the alphabet

except "p"; could add to thirty, but could not work an addition sum; counted to 30; knew to 2 by 12, and a few colours.

December 23rd, 1878.

Read nicely from 1st Standard, and could spell words from any part of this reading book; wrote very nicely in copy and exercise books; worked sums in compound long division; counted to 1,000; knew to 12 by 12, and colours, shades, forms and the clock; was still getting on very nicely, and was a very useful boy—is the bugler.

August 18th, 1876—Admitted A. W., age 11.

Attainments.

Could read words of two letters, and spell several words of three; wrote several letters; added to 6; counted to 100; knew the multiplication table to 2 by 12, and red and blue.

December 23rd, 1878.

Read fairly from 1st Standard; spelled easy words of two syllables; wrote words of four, five, and six letters in a copy book; worked simple sums in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; counted to 1000; knew tables to 7 by 12, colours, shades, easy and difficult forms; was getting on nicely in school and shop; earned 5s. a week at tailoring.

April 13th, 1877—Admitted M. D., age 14.

Attainments.

Read words of two and three letters, and spelled some of the same words; wrote the alphabet but some of the

letters very curiously; added to 5 correctly, and to 10 incorrectly; counted to 100 with *one* mistake, and repeated the multiplication table to 12 by 12 incorrectly; hemmed fairly, knew blue and red.

December 21st, 1877.

Read fairly from end of primer; had learnt to spell several words, but had not much idea of sound; had improved in writing and wrote in a copy and exercise book; worked an easy addition sum on her slate, but took a long time, and added by means of strokes; counted to 120, and knew the multiplication tables better; was making under-clothing, and learning darning; still only knew blue and red, and a ring and a triangle; was helping every morning to scrub.

October 31st, 1878.

Discharged. Had made great progress during the year; could work the sewing machine; is at home assisting her mother.

SCHOOL TIME TABLE.

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MORNING.						AFTERNOON.				
		10.0 to 10.30.	10.30 to 11.0.	11.0 to 11.30.	11.30 to 12.0.	2.0 to 2.30.	2.30 to 3.0.	3.0 to 3.30.	3.30 to 4.0.	6.30 to 7.0.
Monday . . .	1	{ Paper or Stick Plaiting, }	Dictation,	Reading,	Industrial Lesson	Reading,	Transcribing.	Mental Arithmetic,	{ Singing and Repeating. }	Toys or Pictures.
	2	Shop Lesson,	Cubes,	"	Drilling.	"	Writing,	Tables,	"	"
	3	Sewing,	Sewing,	Drawing,	Colour & Form,	Object Lesson,	Counting,	Reading,	"	"
	4	Writing.	Reading,	Counting,	Repeating,	Cubes.	Personal Appearance.	Colour and Form,	"	"
	5	—	Counting.	Reading	Singing.	—	Nat. Hist. Lesson.	Perforated Board.	Drilling.	
Tuesday	1	Drawing,	Copy Books,	Sums,	Numeration, &c.	Sewing,	Sewing,	Sums,	Tables & Counting.	Singing,
	2	Sewing,	Sewing,	Add. & Subtract.,	{ Kinder Garten.	Object Lesson,	Drawing,	Add. and Subtract.	"	"
	3	Reading,	Writing,	Toys,	{ Songs, and	Counting,	Nat. Hist. Lesson,	Personal Appearance,	German Target,	
	4	Writing.	Reading,	Counting,	Games,	Drawing.	Beads,	Object Lesson,	Pictures,	
	5	—	B. B. Writing.	Colour and Form.	"	—	Sewing,	Beads,	Singing & Marching.	
Wednesday . . .	1	{ Colour, Form, and Clock, }	Transcribing,	Reading,	{ Singing and Repeating, }					
	2	Tables & Counting	Colour and Form,	"	"					
	3	Reading,	Writing,	Cubes,	"					
	4	Drilling.	Sewing,	"	"					
	5	—	Counting.	Reading.	"					
Thursday . . .	1	Cubes,	Dictation,	Sums,	Map Lesson,	Reading,	Copy Books,	Roman Figures,	{ Singing and Repeating,	Dance,
	2	Moral Lesson,	{ Paper Cutting or Stick Laying,	Add. & Subtract.	Clock,	"	Writing,	{ Money & Money Tables,	"	"
	3	Sewing,	Sewing,	Colour and Form,	Drilling,	Counting,	Lesson on the Senses,	Reading,	Pictures,	
	4	Writing.	Reading,	Counting,	Industrial Lesson,	Paper Plaiting or Folding.	Pictures,	Colour and Form,	German Target,	
	5	—	B. B. Writing	Colour and Form.	Horses.		Nat. Hist. Lesson.	Cubes.	Drilling.	
Friday	1	Drawing,	{ Natural Hist. or Object Lesson,	Reading,	Numeration, &c.	Sewing,	Sewing,	Sums,	Drilling,	Games,
	2	Sewing,	Sewing,	"	{ Kinder Garten.	{ Nat. Hist. or Object Lesson,	Drawing,	Add. & Subtract.	Industrial Lesson,	"
	3	Reading,	Writing,	{ Paper Cutting or Stick Laying,	{ Songs, and Games,	Counting,	Bible or Moral Lesson,	Industrial Lesson,	Roman Figures,	
	4	Writing.	Reading,	Counting,	Game of Ball.	Toys.	Clock,	Bible Lesson,	Money,	
	5	—	Counting.	Reading.		—	Sewing.	Pincushion & Pins.	German Target,	
Saturday . . .	1	{ Paper Cutting or Stick Laying }	Composition,	Sums,	{ Singing and Repeating, }					
	2	Tables & Counting	{ Paper Plaiting or Folding }	Add. & Subtract.,	"					
	3	Reading,	Writing,	Paper or Stick Plait.,	"					
	4	Clock.	Sewing,	Sewing,	"					
	5	—	B. B. Writing.	Colour and Form.	"					

December 31st, 1878.

B. B., i.e., Black Board.

Between each Lesson, Singing and Marching.

M. J. STEPHENS.

MORNING.

10.00 to 11.00		10.00 to 10.30		10.30 to 11.00	
Monday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
Tuesday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
Wednesday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
Thursday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
Friday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
Saturday	1	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	2	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	3	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	4	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing
	5	Reading	Writing	Copy Books	Transcribing

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SCHOOL AND
ASYLUM FOR IMBECILES,
DARENTH, 11th December, 1878.

We have to-day visited the above-named Institution, seen the patients in residence, and inspected the wards and offices at present used for their accommodation.

The establishment is situated at Darenth, about two and a half miles from Dartford, Kent. The estate consists of 108 acres of land, having a subsoil of chalk. The highest part of the ground is about 250 feet above the level of the Thames—of which river, and of the adjacent country, good views are obtained.

The present buildings consist of a central administrative department, containing the residence of the Medical Superintendent, Steward, Matron, &c., the kitchen, laundry, stores, and work-shops; and of 13 blocks, 7 on the male side, and 6 on the female, connected with each other and with the central offices by corridors and covered ways. Of these blocks, 3 for healthy boys, and 2 for healthy girls, are three-storied; the remaining 4 blocks on each side, and which are intended to be used for the sick, the epileptic, the helpless, and the paralysed, are of one story. There is an associated bath-room, and also a plunge bath, for each division. The chapel and school rooms are on the female side, near the central offices,

and the dining hall in a similar situation on the male side. Somewhat removed from the main buildings, there are, on one side, probationary wards for the use of the children when first received, and on the other side, an Infirmary or Hospital for the treatment of any of the inmates who may be attacked with contagious or infectious disorders.

The other buildings at present erected consist of a Bailiff's house (with accommodation also for a few boys), farm buildings, and gas works. The water supply is pumped from a local well, and there is a storage tank of 45,000 gallons, as we were informed. The sewage is disposed of by irrigation on the estate.

The accommodation is for 500 children—270 boys, 190 girls, and 40 infants. The present inmates—197 boys and 144 girls, total, 341—were removed hither from the Clapton Asylum on the 18th, 20th, and 22nd of last month, under the immediate charge of Dr. Fletcher Beach, the Medical Superintendent, and of Dr. Watson, who is temporarily engaged as Assistant Medical Officer. No ill result accompanied or followed the removal, and the health of the inmates since their arrival has been good, with even less sickness, as we are informed, than was the case at Clapton. Six wards on the male side and three only on the female are as yet open, and the classification is necessarily incomplete, more especially on the female side, as the separate ward for the helpless and the epileptic girls, and for infants, are not yet furnished. The probationary buildings, the detached Hospital, and the workshops are also not yet opened. The roads and approaches are in course of formation, and the grounds in immediate proximity to the buildings are being levelled and laid out by

the contractors; but the airing and exercising courts are as yet not formed or enclosed, and there is at present no covered playground for use in wet weather.

The establishment thus described is intended as a school for the training of Imbecile children under 16 years of age, but on the same estate, and at a short distance from the present buildings, the foundation stone has been laid for an Asylum intended ultimately, to contain 1,500 adult imbeciles, into which it is proposed to draft children attaining 16 years of age, and where the training adopted at the school might, as regards those capable of further improvement, be continued. The accommodation in the new adult asylum is, we learn, to be at first limited to 768 beds in 6 blocks of 128 each.

According to a printed statement by the architects, Messrs. A. and C. Harston, the contracts relating to the school buildings amounted to £76,329, and those already executed in connection with both school and intended adult asylum to £18,345. The latter comprised the engineering expenses, well and water supply, farm buildings, gas works, boundary and burial ground, fences, &c. These contracts are independent of the cost of the land.

The buildings are devoid of all unnecessary ornament, and the arrangements generally promise to be satisfactory, though in some matters of detail supplementary additions and alterations will we think be necessary.

We visited all parts of the main building which have been brought into use, and considering the short time that the

Institution has been open, creditable progress has been made in the arrangements. The wards generally are light and cheerful, but they are, of course, as yet not fully furnished, and are entirely wanting in those objects of interest which they will, we have no doubt, receive in due course. The means of heating comprises Galton's open stoves, supplemented in the dormitories by hot water pipes. Such supplementary heating will, we think, be found also necessary in some of the one-storied day-rooms for use of the helpless and paralyzed, and which are now being heated by open fires only. All the windows are provided with extra means of ventilation. The water closets are a special contrivance for children, consisting of a glazed earthenware trough, with several seats, the water supply being under the control of the attendants. The water closets on the ground floor in several blocks are accessible from the day-rooms only by a covered way, an arrangement unsuited for cold weather. This covered way should be converted into a closed but lighted and cross ventilated corridor as on the first floors. The lavatory arrangements are principally by simple basins on wooden stands, but in some wards they are on what is called the "trough and jet system," the object being to render it impossible for any child to use water which had been already used by another, a plan adopted in some institutions to guard against the spread of ophthalmia. For ordinary use, however, the arrangement appears not to be either convenient or efficient, and some modification will probably be found necessary. At present there is not a single case of ophthalmia, nor of any other contagious or infectious disorder among the children. The dressing rooms attached to the associated bath rooms will require some means of heating available for winter. The day rooms and dormitories were throughout in a clean and orderly state; the beds and bedding

clean and of good quality, and the supply of blankets liberal. The male epileptics are under continuous night supervision, and it is intended that a similar arrangement shall be made for the girls. Since the removal of the children from Clapton, an additional male attendant has been engaged, and the big healthy boys—40 in number—who occupy one block have now two men for their supervision. With these exceptions the staff of attendants consists, for both sexes, we are glad to observe, of females, and they are numerically the same as when at Clapton. We think that a third night nurse is required to attend upon the helpless and paralysed boys who now receive only very occasional visitation at night.

The day on which our visit was made was a half-holiday, so we had no opportunity of seeing the training of the children—physical, educational, or industrial—but we saw both sexes in the wards. They were, as regards clothing and personal appearance, in a satisfactory condition. The clothing was of good quality and kept clean, notwithstanding the large number of children of faulty habits. For the boys we thought that flannel vests would be generally desirable in winter. At present they are only in use among those who are known to be delicate. The matron appears to take a very active part in the wards and in the management of the clothing. Her store rooms appear, however, to be too small, and require enlargement. The covered ways of communication between the central and the more distant blocks are at present not closed in. We think that this will be found necessary in winter alike as regards the welfare of the children and the staff, efficient means of ventilation, by swing windows or otherwise, being at the same time preserved.

We did not see any of the meals served, but we saw some of the provisions in the stores and thought them of good quality. The excellent dietary adopted at Clapton is continued, and this is no doubt a prime necessity. The weekly rate of maintenance has not yet been calculated at Darent, but will probably be found to be high at present. We doubt not that it will be reduced when the establishment is up to its complement in the number of patients, and is fully organised. In the domestic and financial arrangements the Committee have evidently an earnest and zealous officer in their present steward.

Since the Clapton Asylum was visited by our colleagues on the 19th of December, 1877, 53 male and 50 female cases have been admitted; 45 boys and 11 girls have been discharged. Of the boys discharged 30 were sent to Leavesden and Caterham, they having attained 16 years of age and shewn themselves incapable of further improvement. Two children of each sex were discharged as recovered; 5 boys and 3 girls were removed at the request of the Guardians of their Unions or Parishes; 3 females were transferred to County Asylums, and 8 males and 3 females were discharged for other reasons. The deaths have amounted to 17 among the boys and 9 among the girls. The causes of death were all of an ordinary kind requiring no special comment, and the mortality calculated on the average daily number resident has been at the rate of about 7 per cent. per annum.

4 cases of scarlet fever occurred at Clapton during the year under consideration, the disorder having been introduced into the Asylum by friends visiting the patients. These 4 patients were at once sent off to the Homerton Fever Hospital, and are included in those discharged "for other reasons."

Dr. Fletcher Beach continues to discharge with zeal and ability the office of Medical Superintendent. As yet he has no permanent Medical Assistant Officer, but we trust such an appointment will not be long delayed, as we consider it most necessary, in order that the Medical duties shall, at all times, be efficiently performed and well provided for.

The establishment of this Asylum is a very humane experiment, and we hope and have no reason to doubt but that it will be carried out in a manner to insure success. It must not be forgotten that the development and training of these imbecile inmates are not the only benefits derivable from such an Institution, but that the withdrawal, for proper care, of helpless children of this kind from the households of many of the industrious and deserving poor is a frequent means of warding off pauperism in the parents.

The results will doubtless be watched with much interest in Counties beyond the Metropolitan District, and the Committee are to be congratulated in having manifested so much forethought and judgment in the arrangements as far as they are completed.

(Signed)

CHAS. PALMER PHILLIPS,
JOHN D. CLEATON,

Commissioners in Lunacy.

