

The first annual report of the committee for Clapton and Darenth Asylums for imbecile children to 31st December, 1875.

Contributors

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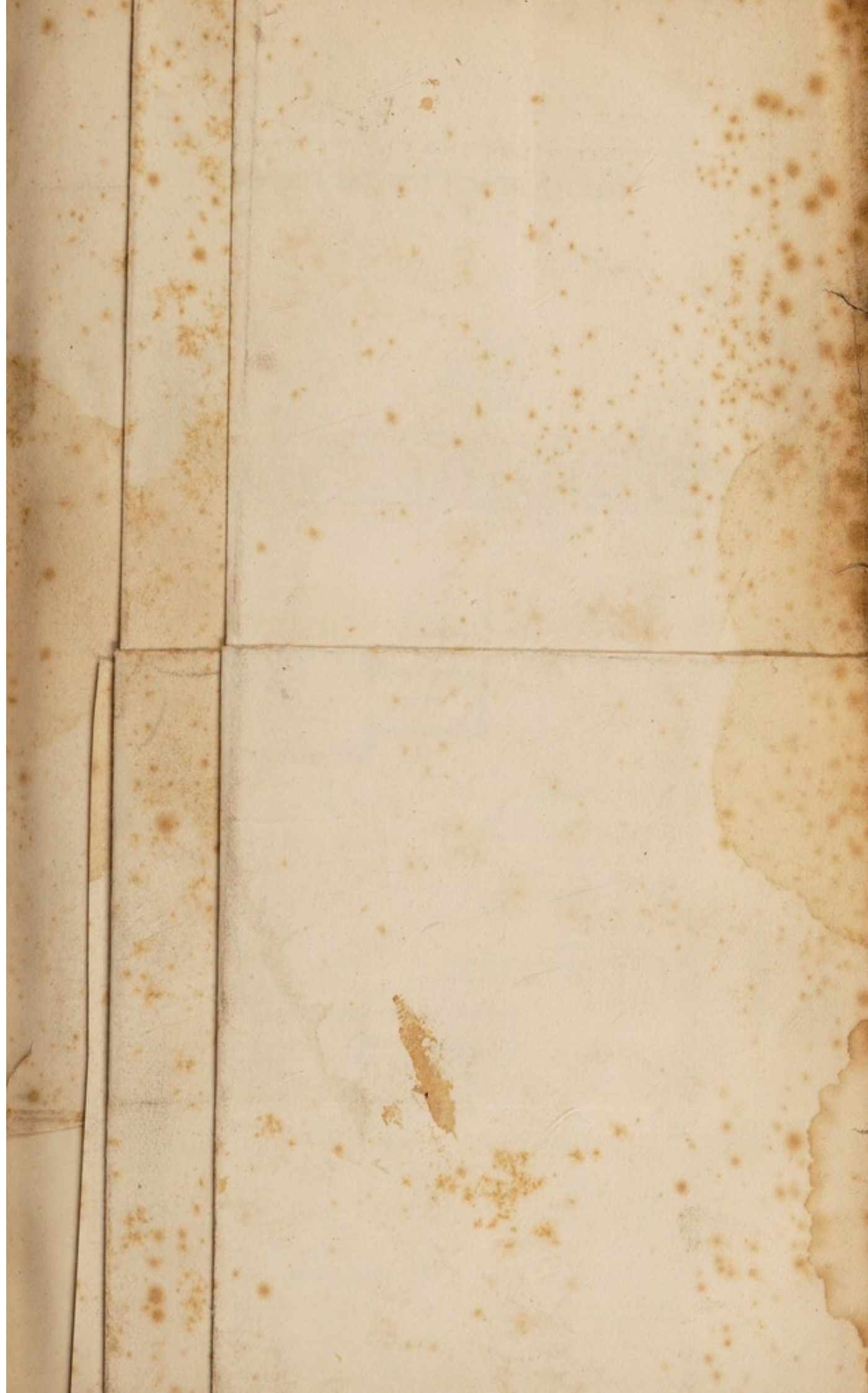
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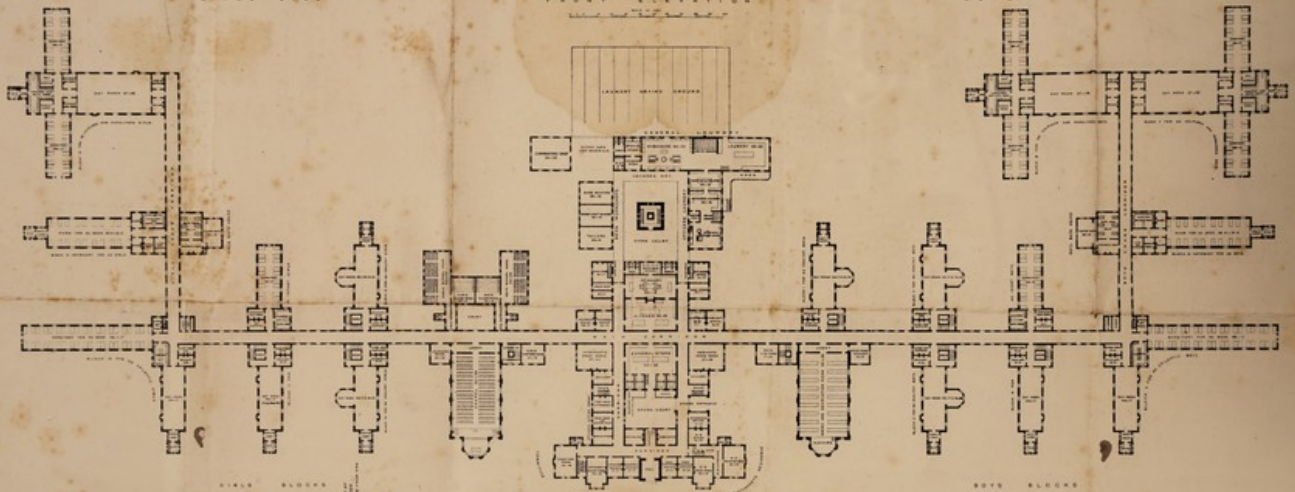


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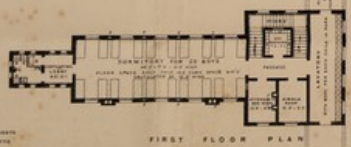


THE BUILDING NEWS NOV 5. 1875.

SELECTED DESIGN FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN DARENTH KENT
A.C.C. HARSTON ARCHITECTS



- NOTE
- A BOYS' HOUSE (LARGE)
 - B ATTENDANTS' QUARTERS
 - C KITCHEN
 - D BOYS' HALL
 - E HALL FOR BOYS' LUNCH AT NIGHT
 - F RECREATING HALL
 - G ALCOVE
 - H CLOSET
 - I HALLWAY FOR THE BOYS
 - J HALL TO THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN



Metropolitan Asylum District.

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

To 31st DECEMBER, 1875.

LONDON:
HARRISON & SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.
Printers in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1876.

REPORT OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE COMMITTEE FOR CLAYTON AND

BARRETT'S ASSURANCE

EMERGENCY CHITDREN

TO THE BOARDERS

AND A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARDERS
AND A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARDERS

1878

CLAPTON AND DARENTH ASYLUMS.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

For the Year ending 25th March, 1876.

SIR EDMOND HAY CURRIE, *Chairman.*

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

BORLASE H. ADAMS, Esq., J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Board.*

JOHN BRADSHAW, Esq.

RICHARD CULL, Esq.

JOHN DURRANT, Esq.

ROBERT EVANS, Esq.

JOHN FISHER, Esq.

THOS. W. HODGES, Esq.

JAMES MARSHALL, Esq., J.P.

Rev. C. DARBY READE.

ALEX. H. ROSS, Esq.

JOSEPH SALTER, Esq.

THOS. BENNETT SPENCE, Esq.

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. FREDERICK ALDERTON.

Matron—Mrs. ALDERTON.

Schoolmistress—Miss M. J. STEPHENS.

Clerk to the Committee—Mr. J. H. RUTHERGLEN.

OFFICES OF THE MANAGERS,

37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

COLLEGE AND DARTMOUTH

COMMITTEE OF ADVISERS

1. The Committee of Advisers is composed of the following members:

2. The Committee of Advisers is organized as follows:

3. The Committee of Advisers is organized as follows:

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FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR
CLAPTON AND DARENTH ASYLUMS FOR
IMBECILE CHILDREN,
TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1875.

YOUR Committee have received from the Officers of the Clapton Asylum their first Annual Reports on the working of the Asylum for the year ending 31st December, 1875; and they believe that if, in submitting these for the information of the Managers, they commence the practice of recapitulating the chief features of their own work during each completed year, in the shape of an Annual Report, they will be doing that which will commend itself to the Managers, and is in accordance with the course pursued by the Committees having the management of other Institutions under the care of the Board.

Before dealing with the actual work of the past year, it may not be altogether uninteresting to briefly trace the action of the Managers since the inception of the idea that some steps should be taken to separate the Imbecile Children in their care from the Adult Imbeciles, in order that an attempt might be made to impart to them an amount of training and education, which might in many instances fit them ultimately to go out into the world and earn their own livelihood, and which in any case could scarcely fail to ameliorate their unfortunate condition, and at least induce in them habits of cleanliness and order.

The first actual step towards the separation of the Children was taken during the year 1873, when the Leavesden Committee having at that time the management both of the Leavesden and Hampstead Asylums, determined to transfer the Children, who to the number of about 100 were then spread over the several wards of the former Asylum, to Hampstead, with a view to their being kept separate from the Adults and educated under the care of a Schoolmistress, for whose appointment they obtained the sanction of the Managers and the Local Government Board.

On the 4th July, 1874, upon the Leavesden Committee expressing their desire to be relieved from the management of the Hampstead Asylum, your Committee were appointed for the purpose, and one of the first steps they took was to appoint the Schoolmistress already sanctioned, and to commence the work of education which had been planned by their predecessors.

For some time previously to this the Caterham Asylum Committee had been endeavouring as far as the means at their command would allow, to separate and educate the Children in that Asylum, but having regard to the desirability of the whole of the Imbecile Children under the care of the Managers being brought together under a uniform system of training and education, they requested that arrangements might be made with this view, and in December, 1874, the Children at Caterham to the number of 100 were transferred to Hampstead, the like number of Adult Patients being sent back in their place, and at the end of the year 1874 there were about 250 Children undergoing, so far as the temporary accommodation at Hampstead would admit, a regular course of training and education.

Your Committee, in preparing under the reference to them on their appointment, a Plan for the re-erection of the Hampstead Asylum, had given special attention therein to the provision of suitable separate accommodation for 320 Children, with all requisite

School-rooms, Workshops, Recreation-room, &c., but on this scheme not being adopted, and the consideration of the whole question of the accommodation required for the several classes of Paupers under the care of the Managers being on the 10th October, 1874, referred to the General Purposes Committee, that Committee in a Report submitted on the 24th October, "fully concurring that the complete separation of the Children from the Adult Imbeciles is eminently desirable," recommended the erection of an entirely distinct School building capable of providing for the training and education of from 300 to 400 Children, and that it should be referred to this Committee to seek for a suitable site for the purpose; they further recommended that pending the erection of such proposed building, your Committee should be requested to search out temporary accommodation for the 250 Children then under the care of the Managers.

To these recommendations the Managers and the Local Government Board agreed, and under the references thus made to them, your Committee at once took steps, in the first place for obtaining temporary accommodation in which they might more successfully carry on the scheme of education and training than was possible in the Buildings at Hampstead, which were moreover, from the nature of their construction, by no means suitable for the retention of Children of so low a vitality as is generally to be found in this class.

After inspecting the recently-erected Workhouse of the White-chapel Union in Bow Road, and the building at Clapton formerly used as the London Orphan Asylum, both of which were empty and to be obtained for the purpose, your Committee were of opinion that the latter building would be far more suitable, and accordingly, on the 19th December, 1874, the Managers, upon their recommendation, agreed, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, to rent the London Orphan Asylum building for a period of three years, at an annual rent of £1,200,

and authorised the Committee to take all the necessary steps for getting it ready for the reception of the Children.

From this point the Committee had before them two distinct and separate labours; the one the preparation and subsequent management of a temporary Asylum and School for the Children, pending the erection of a permanent School, the other the search for a suitable site and the erection thereon of a permanent School building; and before dealing with the former work, and with the Reports of the Officers of the temporary Asylum at Clapton, it will be more convenient if the Committee record the steps they have taken during the past year for carrying out the latter portion of their labours.

After inspecting several sites offered to them in response to their advertisements, your Committee determined to recommend the purchase of a piece of land known as the Upland Plantation, situate at Darenth, about 2 miles from Dartford, containing about 105 acres, and the price of which, after some negotiation with the owner, was agreed upon at £75 per acre, with the exception of a small portion, for which a somewhat higher price had to be paid.

The Managers having inspected this site, agreed on the 20th February, 1875, with the recommendation of the Committee, and in due course the purchase was completed, and the purchase-money, amounting in all to £9,187 18s. 8d., paid.

On the 8th May following, the Managers authorised the Committee to take the necessary steps to obtain plans for the erection of the proposed School, and on the 19th June, the Committee submitted Instructions to architects which had been prepared by them after a very careful consideration of the requirements of such an Establishment, and after visiting and inspecting several Institutions of a somewhat similar character.

These instructions (which contemplated the erection of a School capable of accommodating 500 Children) having been approved by the Managers and the Local Government Board, were furnished to the six architects who had been selected to send in plans, and on the 2nd October designs were received from the following architects, *videlicet*—

Mr. Henry Currey,
Messrs. Wyatt and Salter,
„ A. and C. Harston,
„ Giles and Gough,
„ Pennington and Bridgen.

These were subjected to a very exhaustive examination for the purpose of ascertaining in what respects they complied or failed to comply, with the Instructions issued to the architects, and also of discovering the merits and disadvantages of the several plans, and in the result the Committee unanimously resolved to submit to the Managers, as best embodying the views laid down by them, the design submitted by Messrs. A. and C. Harston, of 15, Leadenhall Street and East India Road, who estimated the cost of carrying it out at £52,000.

The design of Messrs. Harston having been generally approved by the Managers on the 23rd October, the Committee at once conferred with those gentlemen upon certain alterations therein which were calculated to improve it, and the design as thus amended having been submitted to the Managers on the 20th November, together with an approximate estimate which had been obtained from Mr. Poland, Surveyor, that in his opinion it might be carried out for about £60,000, was approved and forwarded to the Local Government Board for their sanction.

The Local Government Board, upon their examination of the plans, suggested certain alterations therein, which, with the exception of the substitution of an open corridor in lieu of

a closed one, were mainly upon mere matters of detail. Upon these your Committee reported on the 19th December, generally recommending their adoption; and the plans having been altered in accordance therewith, were subsequently duly sanctioned under the seal of that Board. Your Committee annex hereto a small block plan of the buildings as finally altered and approved.

Estimates have also been prepared for the additional works which will be required, viz., the sinking of the well, the provision of machinery, the hot-water supply and warming, the drainage, and the general fittings; and these items, added to the architects' estimated cost of the building, make a total of £75,000, for which the Local Government Board have been requested to issue an Order.

As the sinking of a well is one of the first things required in connection with the erection of the buildings, steps are being taken for this purpose, the architects are busily engaged in preparing the working drawings and specification requisite for obtaining tenders for erecting the buildings, a Quantity Surveyor has been appointed by the Managers, and if, as the Committee hope, a satisfactory tender can be obtained from a substantial Contractor in the course of a few months, no effort will be wanting on their part to get the new School ready for the reception of the Children by the completion of the term for which the temporary accommodation at Clapton has been secured.

The Committee cannot leave this portion of their Report without expressing their sense of the assistance they have received in their labours from the experience obtained by the Managers in the erection of the large Institutions already so successfully completed under their supervision.

Returning now to the steps taken for providing temporary accommodation at Clapton, your Committee, upon receiving

authority to prepare the Building for the reception of the Children, at once instructed Messrs. Harston, the Architects, to prepare a specification of the works required for the cleansing and repair of the Buildings, for putting the Boilers and Engine in working order, and for providing such Laundry and Cooking Apparatus as might be required, and to obtain tenders for carrying out the work, and the Committee also took the necessary steps for obtaining the Furniture, Bedding, Clothing, &c., which would be required for 300 Children, and the necessary staff.

While all these works were going on, the Committee having obtained the sanction of the Managers to a scale of the Staff which would be required, took measures for securing in the principal appointments, Officers upon whom they could thoroughly rely to take an interest in the work, and faithfully carry out the objects which the Managers had in view.

Your Committee appointed as Medical Superintendent Dr. Fletcher Beach, who at the time of his appointment was Physician's Assistant at Bethlehem Hospital, and who as Resident Medical Officer at the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street, had made the treatment of Children his especial study ; as Steward and Matron they appointed Mr. and Mrs. Alderton, who had already, in the service of the Managers at the Homerton Smallpox Hospital, given numerous evidences of their special fitness for these appointments ; and as Schoolmistress they transferred from Hampstead Miss Stephens, who had already commenced there the education of the Children who were to be transferred to Clapton.

These and the appointments of the subordinate Staff having been made, and the works required to get the Building ready having been completed, the transfer of the Children was commenced in the last week of April, and by the 22nd May the whole of these, to the number of 250, together with 21 Female Adults, had been transferred to Clapton Asylum, these latter being

sent for the purpose of avoiding, as far as possible, the employment of paid labour for the scouring and cleansing of the building.

Since that date 2 Children have been received from Caterham Asylum, and 81 from the several Unions and Parishes. The average daily number under treatment has been 263, and on the 31st December, 1875, there were 300 in the Asylum.

In the annexed Reports of the Medical Superintendent and Schoolmistress will be found interesting details as to the medical and educational working of the Asylum, and to these your Committee would specially direct the attention of the Managers.

So far the history of the Asylum since its opening has been comparatively uneventful, and all the arrangements for its management have been carried on smoothly and satisfactorily. On the 11th June the Managers inspected the Asylum, and expressed themselves well satisfied with the improved appearance and manners of the Children, and with the arrangements the Committee had made for their comfort, and this has been fully endorsed on several occasions by the Guardians who have visited the Children chargeable to several of the Unions and Parishes in the District, as well as by the Commissioners in Lunacy, whose Report upon their inspection of the Asylum on the 20th October is annexed hereto.

In August there was a slight outbreak of Typhoid Fever, the cause of which was speedily traced and removed, and there have been a few cases of Scarlet Fever, probably conveyed into the Asylum by some of the visitors to the Patients. With these exceptions the health of the Children has been fairly good. The utilisation of the waste steam for heating the Dormitories, at an outlay of only £75, has proved most successful, and the equable temperature maintained in the Wards during the severest weather has without doubt had a beneficial influence upon the health of the Children.

The total cost of cleansing and repairing the Building, of repairing the Boilers and Machinery, and providing new Kitchen and Laundry Apparatus, Furniture, Bedding, Clothing, &c., proved to be somewhat under £6,800. It must be remembered, however, that Kitchen and Laundry Apparatus and Furniture to the value of £2,500 will be available for the new School at Darenth, and that of the Bedding, Cutlery, Ironmongery, Earthenware, &c., which cost about £1,250, property to the value of at least £500 or £600 will also be available. Of the remaining £3,800, about £700 was for Clothing, which would in any case have been required for the Children; and it therefore may be taken that about £3,000 has been sunk at Clapton in making the Building fit for occupation, and in the depreciation of the property used during the three years the Building will be occupied.

This proved to be in excess of what the Committee had anticipated; but in consequence of the very defective and insufficient w.c. accommodation in the Building, a considerable outlay was found necessary in the erection of additional w.c.'s, &c., to meet the wishes expressed by the Local Government Board when they assented to the hiring of the Building, and also to carry out an important feature in the training of the Children to habits of cleanliness.

Upon the completion of the accounts for the half-year to Michaelmas, 1875, it was found that the cost per head for the maintenance and clothing of the Children had been at the rate of $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ per head per day, but of this $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per head had to be charged to cover the large outlay for clothing upon the opening of the Asylum, which will not be incurred to so great an extent in future half-years, while the expenditure had, moreover, to be divided over an average daily number under treatment for the half-year of only 207; it may, therefore, be confidently anticipated that at the next half-yearly closing of the accounts at Lady-Day, the cost for maintenance and clothing will not be found to amount

to more than 9*d.* per head per day, a charge slightly in excess of that at the Asylums for Adults, owing mainly to the much greater wear and tear of clothing among the Children.

While upon this subject, it may, perhaps, be well for the Committee to endeavour to place clearly before the Managers the question of the total annual cost of the Children when treated, as the Managers have determined they shall be, entirely separate from the adult Imbeciles.

The half-year which expired at Michaelmas last, for many reasons cannot be accepted as a fair criterion of the future cost of the Children; in the first place, the Asylum was only occupied for a little more than four out of the six months, but the salaries and wages of the officers and staff, who had been engaged from Lady-Day, had to be paid for the whole period, and were only spread over a comparatively small number of days; in the second place, the average daily number under treatment was only 207, but no greater expenditure for the staff, for coals, gas, &c., would have been incurred had the Asylum contained the full number; and in the third place, a large expenditure was incurred for furniture, bedding, &c., and the works necessary for cleansing and repairing the buildings ready for occupation, which will not be incurred in future half-years to anything like the same extent.

Upon the Committee pointing out the unfairness of charging the whole of the expenditure under the last head to the first half-year, the Finance Committee made an arrangement for spreading this, amounting to £4,204, over the whole period that the Clapton Asylum may be used, and allocated the sum of £800 accordingly to the half-year to Michaelmas, 1875.

After this re-arrangement of the accounts, it was found that in spite of the other unfavourable circumstances referred to, the total cost of the Children for the half-year, exclusive of the

rent of the building, was 2s. 7½*d.* per head per day, which will, without doubt, be very materially reduced in the next and succeeding half-years, when the average daily number under treatment will be 300 instead of 207.

The fairest estimate however to take, is that which your Committee, in accordance with the desire of the Managers, submitted to them on the 4th December last; it is annexed hereto, and therefrom it will be seen that it may be anticipated the cost at the proposed School at Darenth, presuming it to contain 500 Children, will be about 12s. per head per week.

This is practically an excess of 3s. per head per week over what the Children would have cost for the same charges had they been retained in the large Asylums, but the Managers must have foreseen, when they determined upon the separate treatment of the Children, that from the nature of the case they must then necessarily cost considerably more than when mixed up with the Adults.

So long as there were a few Children in each of the Wards of the large Asylums, there was always a number of the better class of adult Patients who could give a certain amount of rough care and attention to these Children, so that no additional attendants were specially required for them, but then there could be no systematic attempt to teach habits of cleanliness, or to develop any latent germ of intelligence in a Child, when unnoticed and thrown into daily contact with the hopeless, and in many cases depraved Adult Imbeciles, whose habits and language they almost unconsciously imitate.

Again, at an Asylum containing Adult Patients, nearly the whole of the cleaning and a great deal of the general work of the building is performed by the Patients, under the supervision of the Attendants, while in a School for Children, not only are

more Attendants required in proportion to look after the inmates, but, except to a small extent, all the work has to be done by paid labour, a difference which is evidenced by the fact that in the large Asylums the staff averages 1 to 25, while in the Clapton Asylum it is about 1 to 13; in addition to these reasons, the same superior officers, with nearly the same rate of pay are required for the School as for the Asylums, with only from one-sixth to one-fourth the number of Patients over which to spread this expenditure.

Taking the difference of cost, then, at about £8 per head per annum, it will be seen that if the Managers have 500 Imbecile Children under their care, the increased cost of giving them such an education and training as may in many cases recover to society a Child who would otherwise have been lost in the mass of Adult Imbeciles in the large Asylums, would be about £4,000 per annum, but your Committee feel confident that while the Managers are anxious to exercise a wise and just economy in carrying out the duties entrusted to them, they have been actuated in their determination to do what is in their power for the unfortunate Children committed to them, by a feeling that if by means of the steps they have taken only a proportion of these Children, though small, can be enabled to go out and earn their livelihood, and that the condition of the remainder can be so far ameliorated for the future, as to enable them either in the homes of their friends or at the large Asylums, to engage to some extent in useful labour, the additional outlay thereby incurred is money well spent, and will in the result effect a greater saving to the ratepayers.

Your Committee cannot conclude their Report without recording their high sense of the valuable aid they have received in the organisation and subsequent good management of the Asylum from Dr. Beach, the Medical Superintendent, the Rev. W. H. Laughton, the Chaplain; Mr. and Mrs. Alderton, the Steward

and Matron ; and Miss Stephens, the Schoolmistress, and her two Assistants, and at the same time expressing their satisfaction with the manner in which, under the supervision of these able Officers, the subordinate staff have performed the troublesome, and in many respects offensive duties which necessarily devolve upon them in an Asylum of this nature. In the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Alderton, received at Christmas last, your Committee have sustained a loss which will be long felt, but they are gratified at the selection of Mr. Alderton for the important post he is about to fill, and both he and Mrs. Alderton will carry away with them not only the best wishes of the Committee for their future success, but the deepest feeling of respect and affection of the whole of the staff of the Asylum.

Your Committee also desire to acknowledge the valuable assistance which the experience of the Clerk to the Committee, Mr. Rutherglen, has enabled him to render to them, not only in the fitting up and furnishing of the Clapton Asylum, but also in the preparation of the Instructions to Architects, and the subsequent examination of the designs sent in for the permanent Schools to be erected at Darenth.

The Committee have, in conclusion, to thank the Managers for the consideration given to the recommendations which they have from time to time made, and for the advice and assistance which the previous experience of the Managers has enabled them to afford, and the Committee trust that they will continue to retain that confidence which has hitherto been so freely accorded to them.

January, 1876.

(Signed)

EDM. HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Clapton Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a Report of the working of the Asylum from the 28th of April, 1875, the date on which Patients were first admitted, to the 31st of December, 1875.

During this time 360 Patients have been admitted, 202 being Males, and 158 Females. Of the latter, 25 were Women, sent here to assist in the kitchen, laundry, and household work. Of these 360 cases, 277 were transferred from Hampstead, 2 from Caterham, and 81 were admitted direct from the Unions and Parishes. Fifty-three Patients, viz., 32 Males and 21 Females, have been discharged, including 21 Patients suffering from Fever and temporarily transferred to Homerton Fever Hospital, and 24, viz., 13 Males and 11 Females, have died. The total number under treatment has been 360, the average daily number resident 263, and the number resident in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1875, 300. Appended are tables of statistics of the discharges and deaths.

With respect to the admissions from the Parishes, the orders accompanying them fail to give such information as to the history of the case and the duration of the disease as is doubtless intended by the Local Government Board, in consequence of no column being provided in the Order in which these particulars might be placed. Hence valuable information, which would aid your Medical Superintendent in giving an opinion as to the probable recovery of the Patient, is lost.

On referring to the table of discharges it will be seen that 2 Patients have been sent to County Asylums, 21 temporarily to the Homerton Fever Hospital, and 22 have been transferred to Hampstead Asylum.

The 2 who were sent to County Asylums had become dangerous to the other Patients, being in fact homicidal, and it was found necessary to remove them.

Of the 21 Patients sent to Homerton Fever Hospital, 13 suffered from Scarlet Fever and 8 from Typhoid Fever. The former disease was no doubt introduced into the Asylum by the friends of the Patients, whom it was found necessary for a time to exclude; the latter was due to contamination of the drinking water with sewage gas in consequence of the overflow pipe of the cistern communicating with the main drain, an error which was rectified as soon as it was discovered. Each case of Fever was removed to the Homerton Fever Hospital within an hour after the nature of the disease was recognised.

The 22 Patients transferred to Hampstead included 5 Adult Women, who were sent back in consequence of their refusing to do any work, and hence their presence in the Asylum was useless; the remaining 17 were Children over 16 years of age, who, on admission from Hampstead were found to be incapable of learning anything in the School, and could do no household work nor work at any trade.

The death rate, 6.6 per cent. if calculated on the total number under treatment during the year, or 9.1 per cent. if calculated on the average number daily resident, though somewhat higher than that in other Idiot Asylums, yet cannot be considered high when the large number of feeble and helpless and epileptic Children resident in the Asylum is considered. It must be borne in mind that this Asylum refuses admission to no

Patient, however little chance of improvement there may be, while in other Asylums of the kind great care is taken in the selection of the cases. That the mortality is not higher is no doubt due to the fact that all the Children are well fed, and the wet and dirty cases constantly being cleansed, so that the air of the wards is kept as pure as possible. In addition, the dormitories have been most efficiently warmed by steam, so that the Children are not exposed to cold at night. During the late frost, which was very severe, the temperature of the dormitories, which is accurately registered, was at no time below 54° F. No doubt the mortality might be still further lessened if Infirmary wards could be obtained, as the noise in the dormitories in the morning and evening, when the healthy Children are getting up and going to bed, is not conducive to the recovery of those who are sick. The present arrangement is, however, unavoidable in this building, as every room and ward is in full use, and the detached Infirmary has to be used partially as a Probationary Ward for Children admitted from the Unions and Parishes, and partially as a Ward for Children suffering from Ophthalmia. Of Ophthalmic cases 14 have occurred, 7 among the Males, and 7 among the Females. In each case the Child was known to have had the disease before, but it recurred in consequence of cold and other irritating influences acting injuriously on the eyelids of those who had previously suffered from the disease. Prompt isolation of the Patients, together with the precautionary measure of providing for each Child a separate basin, towel, and soap, a measure adopted from the opening of the Asylum, has reduced the disease to a minimum.

With respect to the Epileptics, all Children suffering from this disease are as much as possible brought together at night, so as to be under the immediate supervision of the Nurses, 3 of whom are on night duty, 1 being present in each dormitory.

Considering the structural nature of the building, and the class

of Patients resident in it, few serious accidents have occurred, and none have ended fatally. A boy, whose leg it was found necessary to amputate, on account of advanced disease of the knee joint, has made an excellent recovery, and will soon resume his work as a tailor.

Great prominence is given to the industrial training of the Children: 85 are so employed. Of these, 30 boys work as Tailors, 31 as Shoemakers, 2 as Carpenters, 1 assists the Engineer, and 4 work in the garden. More might be employed as Tailors and Shoemakers did the size of the workshops allow of it, while the small number of boys employed as Carpenters is accounted for by the fact that the whole time of the Master Carpenters has so far been occupied in making necessary alterations in, and additions to the Asylum. Nevertheless, one of the boys is able to saw fairly, and the other uses the plane very well. The progress made by the boys employed in Shoemaking and Tailoring is shown in the tables appended. A number of the boys thus employed also work in the dormitories till breakfast time, some assist in the Dining Hall, and others help in carrying clothes to and from the Laundry. On the Female side 12 Girls are employed in making Beds and working in the Dormitories, 1 is employed in the Laundry, 2 assist the Nurses in the detached Infirmary, and 2 work in the Sewing Room. All the Boys and Girls who are industrially employed go to school either morning or afternoon, being, in fact, "half-timers."

The school naturally takes a most prominent place in the work of the Asylum; and excluding those who are on probation in the Infirmary, those who are ill, and the most feeble and helpless Children, every Child attends school some portion of the day—the "half-timers" for two hours either morning or afternoon, those who are not industrially employed for two hours both morning and afternoon, and the better class of the feeble and helpless for one hour morning and afternoon. The number on the school register on December 31st, 1875, was 240.

Various entertainments have been devised for the amusement of the inmates. On every evening in the week there is some kind of entertainment, and once a month a special entertainment takes place. In addition, there is a dance once a-week for the Nurses, adult Patients, and elder Children.

In the summer months, when the weather is fine, the younger Children play out of doors some kind of round game, the elder Boys playing cricket, and the elder Girls systematised games. Walks in the neighbourhood are occasionally taken by some of the more advanced Patients, under the charge of an Attendant. Last summer 60 of the Children were taken to the Zoological Gardens, and much enjoyed their visit.

The Asylum has been visited by the Commissioners in Lunacy, the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and various Boards of Guardians, all of whom have favourably reported on the condition of the Patients and the work going on in the Asylum.

The great principle has been that every Child, who is capable of it, shall be continuously employed, from the time he or she gets up in the morning till the time of going to bed; and that the principle is a good one is shown by the fact, that the Children as a whole have considerably improved both mentally and physically, the listless manner at first so noticeable having to a great extent disappeared.

The Committee will be pleased to learn that as a general result of the training and treatment carried on in the Asylum, many Children who on admission could not speak, have learned to do so; many helpless have learned to walk; the habits of the wet and dirty cases have been much improved, while the number of fits occurring in the epileptics has been considerably reduced.

Few changes have taken place in the Staff of Attendants,

and hence the work of the Asylum has gone on smoothly. Great praise is due to them for the energy and zeal displayed in the discharge of their duties.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Staff generally for their kindness and assistance, always so ungrudgingly given, to aid me in the discharge of my duty.

I would also express very sincerely to the Committee my thanks for their confidence and support.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FLETCHER BEACH, M.B., LOND.,

CLAPTON ASYLUM,

Medical Superintendent.

January, 1876.

NOTE.—The Patients have been too short a time under notice to give a detailed account of those who are likely to improve, but the two following cases are instructive.

T. W., a boy, on admission stated to have been imbecile for twelve months, and to have had a few fits, was at first very dull and slow, but is now much brighter and quicker. Has improved in spelling, reading, and writing. Can do an addition and subtraction sum. Improved in colours and in the multiplication table. Is an excellent shoemaker, and can make a pair of boots throughout. Has had no Epileptic fits since his residence in this Asylum.

E. G., a girl, on admission stated to have been six months Epileptic, was at first very sullen, obstinate, and ignorant. Is now much improved in spelling, reading, writing, colours, and tables. Can hem neatly, braid and crochet. Sings and recites. Spends half the day in industrial work. Is a most useful, obliging little girl, liked by all. Has had no fits since her residence in the Asylum.

CLAPTON ASYLUM.

	Males. Females.		Total.
Number of Patients admitted from April 28th, 1875, to December 31st, 1875 ..	202	158	360
	Males. Females.		Total.
Number Discharged* ..	19	13	32
Number that have Died	13	11	24
Number remaining in Homerton Fever Hos- pital	2	2	4
	34	26	60
Number resident in Asylum on December 31st, 1875	168	132	300
Average number resident .. .. .	..	263	

	Males. Females.		Total.
* Discharged. To County Asylums ..	2	..	2
Improved, to Friends ..	2	1	3
Not improved, to Friends	1	..	1
At request of Guardians	3	1	4
Transferred to Hampstead	11	11	22
	19	13	32
Temporarily transferred to Homerton Fever Hospital	13	8	21

Table showing ages of those who have died.

	Males. Females.	
From 5 to 10 years	6	5
„ 10 „ 15 „	5	4
Above 15 years	2	2
	13	11
	24	

Table showing causes of Death.

					Males.	Females.
Cerebral Disease	..	..	..	..	4	3
Epilepsy	..	..	..	..	3	3
Phthisis..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tubercle of Lungs	..	..	..	..	0	2
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	0
Pleuro-Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	0	1
Pericarditis and Pleuro-Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	0
Tubercular Peritonitis ..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	1
					<hr/> 13	<hr/> 11


 24

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 ..	8	..	2	.. 4	10 5 5 8 2 31 Shoemakers. 30 Tailors.
2. Sewing Linings ..	1	..	.. 4	.. 6
3. Sewing Seams ..	1	.. 2	..	..
4. Felling ..	..	2	..	..
5. Machining ..	..	..	..	..
II.—Shoemaking.					
1. Preliminary Work ..	10	7	.. 2	..	17 7 5 2
2. Closing Uppers ..	..	5	2	..
3. Repairing ..	..	3	2	.. 2
4. Can make a pair of Boots ..	..	..	..	..

Richard Hensch

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Clapton Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

On commencing my duties at the Hampstead Asylum, January 4th, 1875, 68 Children (38 Girls and 30 Boys) came under care. Since then, and to December 31st, the number has increased to 240 (97 Girls and 143 Boys). Several of these attend school the morning of one week and the afternoon of the next, if engaged in the Tailor's or Shoemaker's shop; and several Girls attend in the afternoon only, being engaged in household work in the morning.

111 attend morning and afternoon.

42 attend 1 hour morning and afternoon.

65 Boys attend half-time.

17 Girls „ „

5 Girls attend occasionally.

240

In school the Children are divided into *five mixed classes*, that of the *first* consisting of 21 Girls and 33 Boys. These read from 1st Standard Reading Book, from Primer or from Reading Sheet. Write in Copybooks. Are able to do dictation of words or letters on slate or paper. Six can write letters to friends without assistance. Several write first on slate, and when corrected, transfer to paper. Several commence with first having the letter written with lead pencil, for their copying over. All attempt

transcribing, either of letters of the alphabet, words, or even sentences. In many cases it is done nicely.

In this class the Children are able to work from the addition of thirty objects up to sums in compound division.

From drawing horizontal, perpendicular, or slanting lines, they have advanced to that of churches, tables, and several common and familiar objects. It is taught on the Kinder-Garten system, by means of chequered lines on paper or slate.

The singing in this, as in the other classes, is taught by ear, the Children first learning the words, repeating being a means of improving their speech. All are very fond of singing. Many cannot sing, but listen to others with great pleasure. Others sing without words. The singing at the morning service has much improved. Beginning with six hymns, which were sung frequently, more have been added every week, till now there is a choice of about ninety, from Hymns Ancient and Modern. They chant, too, the Venite, Te Deum, &c., and read alternate verses of the Psalms. Familiar Day and Sunday School tunes they are also acquainted with.

Collective lessons are given to this and the second, third, and fourth classes, on the following subjects:—Bible and natural History, Common Objects, Colours, Form, Clock, Money, Trades, Morals, and easy lessons on the globe.

Several Kinder-Garten lessons are given in the first, second, and third classes. These are entertaining and instructive, exercising at once the patience, correctness, and ingenuity of the Children.

The sewing of the Girls has much improved; they have been engaged in hemming dusters, handkerchiefs, and towels, and in

making aprons and pinafores. Two Girls, being very good sewers, have been sent every afternoon to assist in the needle-room.

The musical drill is still carried on, three half hours being devoted to it. With the exception of a few of the most helpless and dull of the fifth class, all take part in it.

The Second Class consists of 17 Girls and 35 Boys; these mostly read simple words, or are taught the alphabet. The writing is on slate, with three exceptions, figures are dictated and copied; the Children are taught to count, add, and subtract to 20, the teacher using beads, cubes, or any objects to assist their comprehension.

Drawing in the most elementary form is taught in this class.

The Third Class consists of 23 Girls and 22 Boys; these learn the reading of words by an object being presented to them, with a card at the same time, on which is printed the name of the thing shown; corresponding words are placed on the floor for the Children to distinguish and match. This method has been successfully introduced in an American Idiot Asylum, but so far little progress has been made here in this class; perhaps it may be attributed to the majority being rather old and very dull.

The writing is very inferior, most of the Children only writing an o, a, or t. Two Girls are trying to write their own names.

Objects are counted, added and subtracted to 10.

The sewing of the Girls in this class is very inferior. Several make no attempt, others amuse themselves. Some can hem, but not very neatly.

The Fourth Class consists of 18 Girls and 29 Boys, mostly Infants. These are taught to say the names of most familiar objects, names of Children, parts of the body, &c., &c. They learn a few letters of the alphabet, and to read one or two words, (as in the Third Class.) Are amused with slates (or their hand is guided to form letters on the board), with building up bricks, threading beads of different colours (to learn colour and counting) playing with toys, Kinder-Garten Games, singing and marching, are taught to count and add to 5.

The Fifth Class consists of 19 Girls, and 23 Boys. These Children are the most helpless, noisy, restless and dull, and have attended school for *one* hour, morning and afternoon; but becoming brighter and quieter, they have now commenced to come from 10.30 to 12.0, and from 2.30 to 4.0. Ultimately it is to be hoped they will be able to attend the whole time. They join in the lessons or amusements of the Fourth Class. Many who can take no part, seem to derive much pleasure from watching others play or march, or in listening to the singing.

In all the classes the lessons last for half an hour, so that the Children may not become weary. Between each there is marching and singing. They change systematically from classroom to line, thence to desks, &c., &c., in order to enforce regularity. Supervision is carried on at play and at meals. Much good influence is thus effected by the presence of a Teacher.

Several Children take part in our Entertainments. In my previous experience at a similar Institution, nothing of the kind was attempted, nor did they have a musical drill for all, or even for the Girls.

Of two Boys who have left, one has gone to work with his father; the other has been in training in H.M.S. "Implacable"

off Plymouth. On returning to London, he seemed to have much pleasure in visiting us, and in a letter he wrote after his return to his ship, stated his intention of taking a voyage to China.

The following will show the attainments of some of those attending school :—

Reading....	19	can read from first Standard Reading Book.
„	15	can read from Primer.
„	24	know the Alphabet.
Writing....	38	can write in a Copybook.
„	16	can write Dictation.
„	21	can write an Exercise of Transcribing.
„	6	can write Letters to friends without assistance.
Arithmetic ..	5	can work the four Simple and Compound Rules.
„	4	can work Addition, Subtraction, and Multiplication.
„	5	can work Addition.
„	23	can add to 30, but not work an Addition sum.
„	40	can count to 100.
Colours	30	can distinguish all the Colours.
„	34	can distinguish several.
Drawing ...	50	can draw most simple or more difficult copies.
Needlework.	35	can hem or sew.
„	6	can Crochet, Braid, or Buttonhole.
Talking	3	being formerly nearly speechless make a very fair attempt.

Many attend school, and unfortunately can only be kept out of mischief and broken of bad habits ; others attend to be amused ;

others to be educated, though to some their education will avail but little, they being too imbecile in mind or body; but were they not sent to school daily, they must either be allowed to run wildly in a most distressing way, or be forced into an unnatural sitting-still—equally as distressing. By attending school they are much brighter, more happy, and much more intelligent, and have each so much more individuality. Education to the rest is really beneficial, and it is to be hoped that that which they are acquiring now will prove of service to them on leaving.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

MARY JANE STEPHENS,

CLAPTON ASYLUM,

Schoolmistress.

January, 1876.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT ASYLUM, CLAPTON, E.

SCHOOL TIME TABLE.

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 2 3 4 5	Bible, Moral, or Nat. Hist. Lessons.	Reading, " " Writing, Cubes.	Writing, Shop Lesson, Reading, Counting & Colours	Mental Arithmetic, " " Kinder-Garten, Songs & Games, " "	Reading, " " Adding & Subt. Writing.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Writing, B. 1, 2, Reading, Beads.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Money Tab., B. 1, 2, Writing, Letters & Pictures.	Counting and Tables, Singing and Marching, " "	Toys.
Tuesday ..	1 2 3 4 5	Spelling, Tables, and Counting.	Sums, " " Paper Folding, Writing.	Drawing, Dictat. of Letters, Adding & Subt. Letters & Pictures.	Exercising, " " " " " "	Adding & Subt. " " Colour & Form. Bricks.	Transcribing, Clock, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Letters, B. 3, 4,	Shop Lesson, Figures, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Slates, B. 3, 4, " "	Singing and Repeating. " "	Dancing Lesson.
Wednesday ..	1 2 3 4 5	Colour, Form, and Clock Lesson.	Reading, " " Writing, Toys.	Dictation, P. Plaiting or Fold. Reading, Counting & Colour.	Singing and Repeating, " " " "		HALF HOLIDAY.			Reading by a Teacher.
Thursday ..	1 2 3 4 5	Spelling, Tables, and Counting.	Sums, " " Paper Plaiting, Writing.	Shop Lesson, Writing, Adding & Subt. Letters & Pictures.	Mental Arithmetic, " " Kinder-Garten, Songs & Games. " "	Reading, " " Adding & Subt. Writing.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Writing, B. 1, 2, Reading, Beads.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Ment. Arith., B. 1, 2, Writing, Letters & Pictures.	Exercising. " " " " " "	Games.
Friday ..	1 2 3 4 5	Trades, Map, or Object Lesson.	Reading, " " Writing, Bricks.	Writing, Drawing, Reading, Colour & Counting.	Exercising, " " " " " "	Adding & Subt. " " Clock, " German Target.	Writing, Colour & Form, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Letters, B. 3, 4,	Col., Form, or Clock Figures, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Slates, B. 3, 4, " "	Singing and Repeating. " "	Dance or Concert.
Saturday ..	1 2 3 4 5	Money, and Money Tables.	Sums, " " Cubes, Writing.	P. Plaiting or Fold. Transcribing, Adding & Subt. Letters & Pictures.	Singing and Repeating Hymns, " "		HALF HOLIDAY.			Practice in Chapel.

Between each lesson, Singing and Marching. The Fifth Class to join the Fourth from 10-30 till 12-0, and from 2-30 till 4-0.

December 31st, 1875.

M. J. STEPHENS.

An approximate Estimate of the amount which it is anticipated the Imbecile Children will cost at the proposed School at Darenth, presuming it to contain 500 Patients, submitted to the Managers on the 4th December, 1875.

						For 500 Children.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Cost of Maintenance and Clothing of Children, at 9d. per head per day ..				6,843	5	0		
Cost of Coals, Gas, Water, Soap, and other necessities consumed on Building (say)				1,900	0	0		
(This includes Coals required for making Gas, pumping the Water, and warming the Building).								
Cost of Furniture and Property, viz.: replacing of Linen and Bedding, Crockery, Hardware, &c., at say 30s. per head per annum				750	0	0		
Cost of "Building"—								
Value of Materials used .. (say)	600	0	0					
Artizans' and Labourers' Wages „	800	0	0					
Rates and Taxes „	300	0	0					
				1,700	0	0		
Salaries of Principal Officers, viz.:—								
Medical Superintendent	400	0	0					
Chaplain	100	0	0					
Steward	150	0	0					
Matron	80	0	0					
Schoolmistress (Head)	80	0	0					
				810	0	0		
Carried forward				£12,003	5	0		

				For 500 Children.		
				£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..				12,003	5	0
Salaries of Subordinate Staff:—						
8 Principal Subordinates at average of £35 per annum ..	280	0	0			
40 Attendants at average of £17 per annum	680	0	0			
10 Kitchen, Laundry, and Domestic Servants at average of £17 per annum	170	0	0			
4 Porters, &c., at average of £30 per annum	120	0	0			
2 Trade Attendants and Steward's Clerk, at average of £70 per annum.	210	0	0			
				<hr/>		
					1,460	0 0
Maintenance of Officers .. (say) ..				1,450	0	0
Uniforms for ditto „ ..				120	0	0
Medical, Stationery, and Incidentals (say) ..				500	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£15,533	5	0
<hr/>						
Cost of Maintaining 500 Children, at 12s. per head per week .. (say) ..						
				£15,600	0	0

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY ON INSPECTION OF THE CLAPTON ASYLUM.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT ASYLUM, CLAPTON.

20th October, 1875.

We to-day inspected this Asylum, formerly known as the London Orphan Asylum, but, since the 28th April last, temporarily used for the accommodation of Imbecile Pauper Children chargeable to Metropolitan Unions. Three hundred and forty-five Patients have been admitted, *i.e.*, 192 Males and 153 Females; but, by discharges and deaths, the former have been reduced to 155, the latter to 128, which makes the number now on the books 283 of both sexes. Of these 20 are Female adults transferred by selection from the Metropolitan District Asylum at Hampstead to assist in the housework here, they being chronic harmless cases capable of such employment. There are at present a considerable number of vacant beds, but the accommodation does not appear to be sufficient for more than 335 Patients. The ages of the Children under care and treatment range from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 years. At that maximum age, since all paupers (according to the view taken by the Local Government Board) then become adults, the boys and girls are transferred hence, and their special educational training we believe, comes to an end. If this be so we think it is to be regretted, especially in those cases where the past gives hope of such future improvement under training as would fit Children, albeit of slow apprehension, ultimately to earn their own livelihood in the outside world. We trust that it may be found practicable to modify this practice of adhering strictly to the age of sixteen as the time for removal. Of the Children discharged, 11 Boys and 6 Girls were sent away to Caterham and Leavesden Asylums because superannuated here, 3 Boys and 1 Girl were given over to their friends, 2 Boys were transferred to

County Asylums; 12 Boys and 7 Girls, being fever stricken, to Homerton Hospital, and 5 Female Adults back to the District Asylum at Hampstead. The mortality is represented by 15 deaths, of which 9 occurred in the Male and 6 in the Female division; 4 Children died of Epilepsy, 7 sank under Brain Disease, 3 from attacks on the lungs, and 1 from disease of abdominal organs. *Post-mortem* examinations were made in every case. All Fever Patients have been removed in an early stage of their illness to the District Asylum at Homerton. Of Scarlet Fever there have been 11, of Typhoid 8 instances. The last-mentioned malady appears to have been traced to pollution of the drinking water supply by the accidental admission of sewer gas into the main cistern, which also supplies the drinking water. This defect has since been rectified. The Scarlet Fever is supposed to have been introduced by visitors to the Children. Seven of each sex have suffered from Purulent Ophthalmia. The general sanitary condition of the inmates has otherwise been good. We found in bed in the main building only 4 Boys and 7 Girls, and in the detached building only 2 of each sex in bed. The Ophthalmic cases have been treated in an isolated and darkened room in the detached building, which was the general Infirmary; another room in the Building is used for Whooping Cough cases, and space is also found elsewhere in the same building for a receiving ward, where the newly-admitted Children go through a kind of quarantine.

The absence of any general Infirmary with proper fittings for treatment of ordinary sick cases, is one of the grave drawbacks of this Asylum under its present occupation, but upon those defects we do not dwell, since the interior appears to be fairly convenient, as a whole, for temporary use. All the day-rooms, passages, and dormitories were, at the time of our visit, as well ventilated as their structure will permit, and great attention is manifestly given to cleanliness everywhere. Some fresh painting and white-washing would be, however, desirable next Spring, especially in

the lower wards and connecting corridors. The Laundry lacks space for sorting and delivery of the linen, and the drying closets are too few, but the last-mentioned defect is mitigated by working at night, and we did not observe any dirty linen worn by the Children. Their bedding also was throughout quite clean. In view of the situation of the Asylum, exception cannot be taken to the small amount of land ($6\frac{1}{2}$ acres) on which it stands. The Boys can and do play cricket there, and both sexes go beyond the grounds; a party of 60 Girls went lately to the Zoological Gardens.

Adverting to the Staff of the Asylum, we can report that the Superintendent (Dr. Beach) has been prepared for his duties by several years' medical experience in Bethlehem and at the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street. The Steward and Matron have come from situations previously held by them at Homerton Hospital, and the Schoolmistress was a teacher at Earlswood; she has two female Assistants. The attendants (26) are, we are glad to find, all women, the Steward is indeed the only man who sleeps in the main Asylum Building. The nurses have the sole personal charge of the Children, and exclusively attend to their beds. The adult Patients, a very contented set of women, assist only in the household work. As the rule of the Asylum is to admit all Children chargeable to the Metropolitan Unions, however hopeless of mental improvement their cases may be, and as young as four years of age, the attendants have no easy task, but they seem to be numerically sufficient, and treat the Children well and kindly; the cleanliness and behaviour of the little Patients show it. Three of these women sit up through the night, one in each of the Children's dormitories, the Epileptic cases being there brought together as much as possible for constant supervision. The Male employés are a Tailor and his assistant, 2 Carpenters, 1 Shoemaker, and 3 men who act as porters, one of them also attending to the water closets, another serving in the stores. The physical training of the Children is studied quite as

much as the mental culture, and the gradual improvements effected in mind and body show that the superintendence is kind and judicious. The present dietary is an experiment. It is, rightly, liberal, giving in each week 6 dinners of beef or mutton, and 1 dinner of fish with vegetables, bread and beer or porter. Also on six days pudding to follow the meat. At other meals tea with bread and butter or jam are supplied, and, to such Children as require bread and milk between tea and breakfast, there is no stint of that food. The workers have five meals daily. We tasted the beef put on the table to-day, and found it tender and good. The sexes are much associated, and doubtless with advantage to each other. We were present throughout a very useful drill much enjoyed by the Children. It consisted of muscular exercises performed by them to piano music and singing. We also heard a large class well taught on the Kindergarten System; saw 120 Girls and Boys associated at dinner, many Boys working in the artisans' shops, and a large number at play in the covered playground on the basement of the Asylum. The behaviour of all the Patients was orderly, and several exhibited much affection for those in charge of them, and not a few sympathy for those in pain or in fits. Great efforts appear to be made to bring under the beneficial influences of the school-room for short periods as many as possible. The average number so brought daily, we were told by the Schoolmistress, is nigh 200. Restraint has not been used except for surgical reasons, and seclusion is never adopted. No heavier punishment is resorted to than putting to bed, scolding, and depriving the wilfully troublesome of their share of pudding. Of the Boys 59 work at trades, 7 in the garden; many Girls are taught needlework, and a few assist in domestic duties on their own side of the Asylum. Short religious services are given by the Vicar of St. Luke's, acting as Chaplain, in a chapel within the main building, and prayers are also daily read there. For the past two months Visitors have been excluded on account of the prevalence outside of Scarlet Fever, but this, we are assured by the

Superintendent, is merely a temporary prohibition. The visiting days are two in each week, and the average number visited on those days is stated to be fifteen Children or thereabouts. Associated entertainments are given every evening to the young folks ; these alternately are games, singing, dances and readings, all concluded at a very early hour. There is besides a special evening once a month for Punch and Judy, magic lantern, &c. The Nurses, the Adult Patients, and a score of selected Children have also for their separate enjoyment dancing on one evening in each week. To sum up, the Asylum is so administered that at the conclusion of our inspection we were convinced that it supplies a want long felt, and cannot fail to do much good, though its results will not probably bear comparison with Idiot Asylums where the cases admitted are more of a selected character.

(Signed)

CHARLES PALMER PHILLIPS.

JOHN D. CLEATON,

Commissioners in Lunacy.

