

## **Report for 1847 / Littlemore Asylum.**

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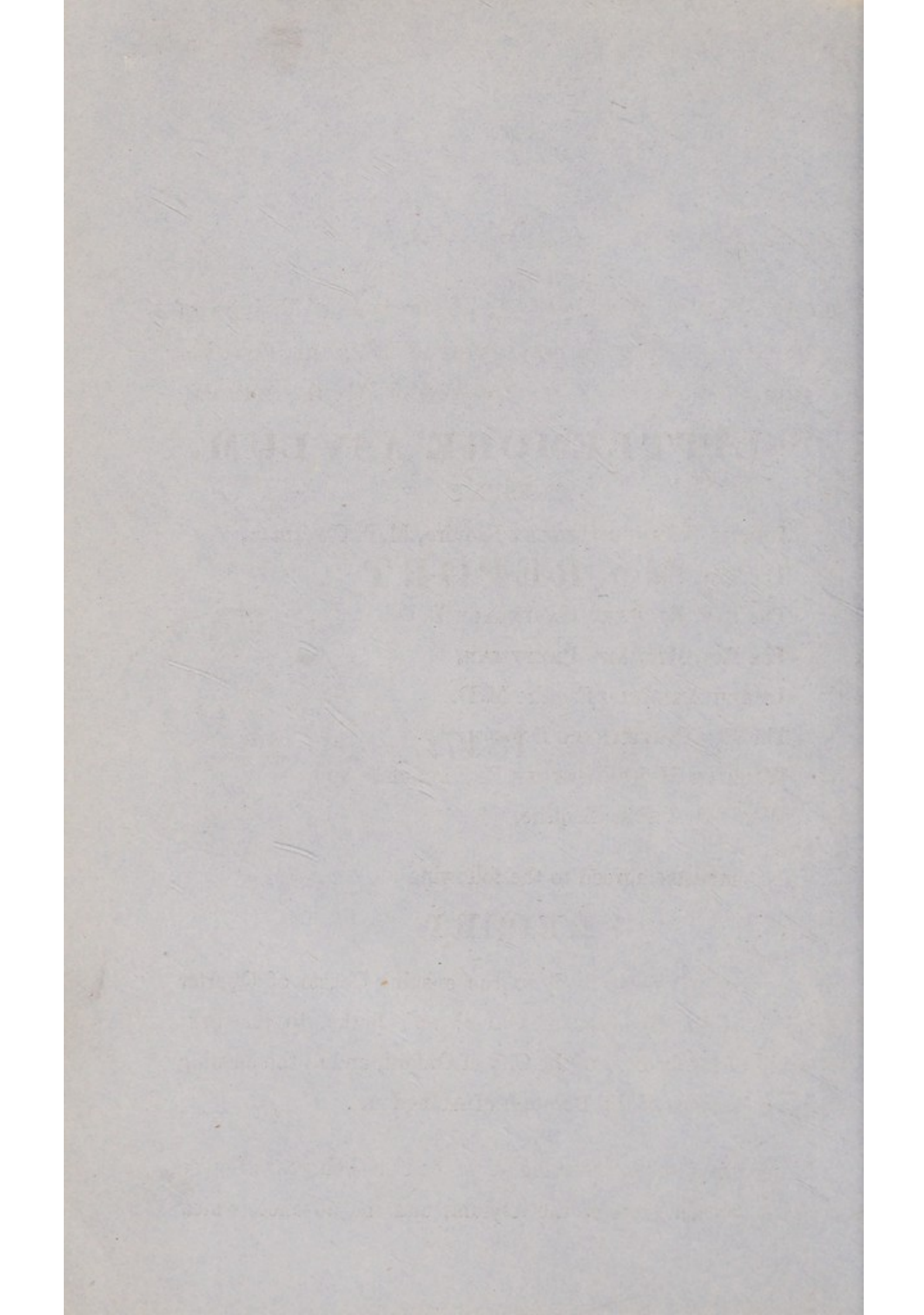
**LITTLEMORE ASYLUM.**

**REPORT**

**FOR**

**1847.**







AT the Monthly Meeting of the Committee of Visitors of  
the PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM at LITTLEMORE, OXFORD-  
SHIRE, held at the Asylum on Wednesday the 29th day  
of December 1847

PRESENT

JOSEPH WARNER HENLEY Esquire, M. P. Chairman,

The Rev. PHILIP WYNTER D. D.

The Rev. RICHARD HARINGTON D. D.

The Rev. RICHARD PRETYMAN,

JOSEPH ARNOULD Esquire M. D.

The Rev. NATHANIEL DODSON,

WILLIAM HENRY BUTLER Esquire, and

WILLIAM THORP Esquire,

The Committee agreed to the following

REPORT

to be presented respectively to the ensuing Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Counties of Oxford and Berks, to the next Meeting of the Council of the City of Oxford, and to the ensuing Quarter Sessions of the Borough of Abingdon.

The Committee, in reporting at the end of their year of office upon the present state of the Asylum, and the advances which

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have been made during the past year towards completing the Establishment, have to state that since the beginning of the year Agreements have been entered into with the County of Berks and the Borough of Abingdon, and that an Agreement is also now pending with the Borough of Reading for the junction of those several Bodies with the County and City of Oxford for the maintenance of their Pauper Lunatics at this Asylum. And in all the new cases of Lunacy which have happened in Berkshire for some months past the parties have been sent to this Asylum; whilst the arrangements for receiving the Patients now in licensed Houses and Hospitals are so nearly completed that, in the course of a month, it is expected the greater part, if not all, the Male Pauper Lunatics of the County of Berks and of Abingdon may be transferred to this Asylum, and some of the Females; there not being room however, for all the latter until the new Wing, now in course of erection, is built.

The Committee desire to report favorably of the management pursued by the Superintendent, as well in the exercise of his skilful medical care of the Patients as in his mild treatment of them without coercion; and also of his regard to economy in the arrangements of the House. And the other Officers, Attendants and Servants of the Establishment, have conducted themselves to the satisfaction of the Committee, with the exception of one or two of the Male-Attendants, whose behaviour was duly censured, and, in one case, marked by a dismissal.

The good effects of the Institution have been testified in the instances of many Patients who have been discharged cured, and



of others whose disorders have been mitigated from the treatment observed and the healthful situation of the Asylum.

The total number of Patients now in the Asylum is 134 (namely, 55 Males and 79 Females.)

The number admitted since the commencement of this year has been 71\* (of which number 34 were Males and 37 Females.) This number of 71 includes three Persons who were re-admitted after having been discharged. One of these was discharged on the 28th of January, but sent in again on the 19th of February; another was discharged on the 3d of April, and re-admitted on the 26th of April; and the third was discharged on the 27th of August, and re-admitted on the 27th of November.

And during the present year 14 Males and 15 Females have been discharged cured, and 9 Males and 7 Females have died. The age of the oldest of the deceased Persons was 65, and the youngest 18; and the average age of the whole was 44.

There has been expended up to this time in building and furnishing the Asylum (quite exclusive of the costs of maintenance,) the sum of £29,286.

And the new Wing now in progress, with the enlargement of the Chapel and other additions, which are and will be necessary

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\* Namely—

Oxford County Patients	..	..	..	..	44
Oxford City ditto	..	..	..	..	12
Berkshire ditto	..	..	..	..	13
Abingdon ditto	..	..	..	..	2



in consequence of the accession of Berkshire Patients, will considerably add to this amount. The works now being executed under Contract, consisting of the addition of a Wing to the Building on the Female side, the enlargement of the Chapel, Kitchen and Laundry, the subdivision of certain Wards on the Male side, the digging of two Wells, and the painting of all the present Rooms, &c. are to cost £5,415; of which £1,264 has been already paid, and is included in the above sum of £29,286.

The County and City of Oxford, and the Borough of Banbury (part of the County), have this year re-paid a thirtieth annual quota of the capital expenditure; and in the ensuing year those Bodies, and also the County of Berks, the Boroughs of Abingdon and Reading, and the Borough of New Windsor (part of the latter County), will be called upon to contribute their respective quotas of another thirtieth part of the whole. The proportions on which those quotas will be calculated are as follow:—

The total expenditure being divided into 58 equal parts—

The County of Oxford (inclusive of Banbury)

will pay	...	...	...	...	25 $\frac{6}{16}$ ths.
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The County of Berks (inclusive of New

Windsor)	...	...	...	...	23 $\frac{14}{16}$ ths.
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The City of Oxford	...	...	...	4 $\frac{5}{16}$ ths.
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The Borough of Abingdon	...	...	1 part.
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The Borough of Reading	...	...	3 $\frac{7}{16}$ ths.
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Total parts	...	<u>58 .</u>
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With regard to the Maintenance Account, the Committee report that the Receipts from the Parishes have recently exceeded the expenditure, and that in the ensuing year the weekly rate of charge for the maintenance of Patients will probably be reduced.

The Committee prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State, within the period required by the Statute, "General Rules" for the government of the Asylum; and the Secretary of State having referred the Draft of the Rules to the Commissioners in Lunacy, they introduced Clauses into them which the Committee upon consideration thought objectionable; but, after a correspondence in writing and a personal explanation rendered by the Chairman to the Commissioners, they have at length conceded to the Committee, and the Rules are about to be finally settled and will then be published.

The Annual Report of the Chaplain is appended to this.

On behalf of the Committee of Visitors,

J. W. HENLEY, Chairman.



## APPENDIX.

*To the Committee of Visitors of the Littlemore Asylum.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my second Report, which I trust you will deem a satisfactory one. Since I wrote the last, twelve months have elapsed, and consequently more opportunities of gaining experience in my peculiar kind of duties have been presented to me, which I hope I have taken advantage of for the benefit of the Patients generally.

My public duties (if I may so use the expression for a private Chapel) have been performed with regularity and punctuality during the past year, and the conduct of the Patients when present is so orderly that several persons who have visited the Asylum, and attended the Service in Chapel, have expressed their astonishment at their quiet and attentive demeanor ; and truly indeed it is a gratifying sight to see so many persons, so grievously afflicted, joining the Church Service with such apparent serious attention.

The Sunday Services have been conducted in the same manner as stated in my last Report, viz., Prayers at eleven o'clock, and Prayers and a short Sermon at three o'clock. The Weekday Services are as follow : Communion Service on *Mondays*, Prayers selected from the Liturgy on *Tuesdays*, the Litany on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays*, and Prayers selected from the Liturgy on *Thursdays* and *Saturdays*.

On Monday the 1st of March I commenced reading the Communion Service for the first time, substituting it for the Prayers which I had selected from the Liturgy. The following is an extract from my journal where I noticed it :—" Monday, March 1st. As it is considered expedient that the Sunday Services should neither of them be extended beyond an hour, but rather under than otherwise, I have never read the Communion Service until this day, when I commenced doing so for the



first time, and intend to continue reading it every Monday morning, instead of the Prayers selected from the Liturgy, which I have hitherto used. I now read the usual Communion Service, with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, one of the Sentences from the Offertory, the Prayer for the Church Militant, concluding with a Collect and the Blessing." I still continue to have my reading classes, which I find have a good effect, as they prepare the Patients for the service in Chapel. I have been called to pray with several when seriously ill, and am happy to be able to state that they derived consolation. One instance deserves to be particularly mentioned, and therefore, I will copy the entry which I made in my journal at the time (omitting only the name of the Patient):—"July 15th. This morning I read some prayers from 'The Order for the Visitation of the Sick' to A. B., an Oxfordshire Patient. She has always had some very extraordinary delusions, and has refused to have me pray with her ; but yesterday she expressed a wish for me to see her this morning, which I did before Chapel ; she joined in the prayers with apparent seriousness, and she seemed much comforted. I prayed with her at eight o'clock A. M., and she died in less than two hours afterwards."

As it may not be known to the Committee of Visitors generally, I ought to state that I have formed a small Library of miscellaneous reading for the Patients (the list of Books which I have selected was approved of by the Finance Committee, September 28th), and I find that they take great pleasure in reading the Books, and, if it causes no other good than amusement, that will be a great thing attained.

There are at present in the Asylum 134 Patients—55 Males and 79 Females. Out of this number 40 Males and 50 Females attend Chapel occasionally, and about 80 attend generally. I have distinguished between those who attend occasionally and those who are in the habit of attending, because there are many who would attend, but cannot do so regularly, being prevented by attacks of illness, arising from fits and various other causes.



The Patients who have been discharged during the year always paid the greatest attention to their religious duties, and were very attentive in their attendance at Chapel ; and in these cases the benefits arising from the regular celebration of Divine Service have been most satisfactory ; in fact, it is in the curable cases where the public and private ministrations of the Chaplain will be productive of most permanent good, but even in the incurable cases the stated hour of prayer is calculated to keep up a devotional feeling among them ; and it is impossible but that the good effects resulting from these religious services must be felt throughout the whole Establishment.

I have not been forbidden by the Superintendent to visit any of the Patients, but have had free intercourse with all, and have conversed with all those who have been disposed to talk with me, and whom I have considered likely to derive benefit from my so doing.

I have the honor to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDWIN W. R. PULLING,

*Littlemore, December 28, 1847.*

Chaplain.

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*Oxfordshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions 1848. Resolved that the REPORT of the Committee of Visitors of the LITTLEMORE ASYLUM be printed and circulated.*

*County Hall,*

*3rd January 1848.*