

The seventy-fifth report of the Visiting Justices of the County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell / [Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum].

Contributors

Middlesex Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell.
Tulk, Charles Augustus, 1786-1849.
Morrison, J.
Wright, Charles.
Allen, C.
Allen, J.

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183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH REPORT

OF THE
VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE
County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY JOHN THOMAS NORRIS, ALDERSGATE STREET.

1845.

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Middlesex.

TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX IN GENERAL QUARTER
SESSION OF THE PEACE ASSEMBLED.

*THE SEVENTY-FIFTH REPORT of the
VISITING JUSTICES appointed to Super-
intend the Building, Erection, and Management
of THE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM AT HANWELL.*

WHILE the Visiting Justices do not forget the position of their last Report to the Court, they think it respectful not to deviate from their accustomed course of presenting on this occasion such observations as they deem to be important.

The Visiting Justices are happy, on this occasion, to Report, that they have reason to be satisfied with the way in which the Asylum continues to be conducted. It is additionally gratifying for them to find that the good management and order which prevail in the Establishment are generally acknowledged, and even by those who at one time entertained grave doubts as to the soundness of the system which was adopted there, and who despaired of its success. Public testimony of the most valuable kind has been lately borne to the manner in which this Institution is conducted, no less creditable to the Medical and other Officers, than valuable to the system which owes so much to their zeal and perseverance.

On the Seventeenth of April last, the Court having resolved, That the sum to be expended in the purchase of Land at Hanwell, for the purposes of the County Lunatic Asylum, be fixed and limited to the sum of Six Thousand Pounds; the Visiting Justices have, in conformity with this Resolution, entered into a Contract with the Earl of Jersey for the purchase of twenty-four acres two roods of Land, adjoining the west side of the Asylum, and mentioned in their former Reports. They have instructed the County Solicitors to take the requisite steps for the completion of the purchase. In the Agreement it is stipulated, that possession of the Land shall be given to the County on the twenty-ninth of September next, and that the purchase-money shall be then paid, or that it shall bear interest at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum from that day. The Visiting Justices would beg, therefore, to recommend that the necessary directions be given by the Court for raising the money in the mean time.

The Visiting Justices having had an offer made to them of a piece of Freehold Meadow Land, nearly opposite the grounds of the Asylum on the west side of the river Brent, and on the north side of the high road leading from London to Uxbridge; and being of opinion that it is exceedingly desirable the County should possess this piece of land, as affording Pasturage for the Cattle of the Establishment, recommend the Court to authorize them to make the purchase. It consists of six acres, little more or less, and is to be purchased for Seven Hundred Pounds. If the Court shall think right to accede to this recommendation, the Visiting Justices should be authorized to make the purchase for the purposes of the Asylum, the

sum being fixed and limited to Seven Hundred and Fifty Pounds, which will include the expenses of the conveyance.

In consequence of some cases of Small Pox having made their appearance in the Asylum, the Visiting Justices, impressed with the importance of guarding as far as possible against the introduction of so fearful a malady within its walls, have resolved, that the attention of Parochial Officers be especially directed to the subject in this Report, that they may, by every means in their power, endeavour to ascertain before a Patient is sent to the Asylum whether he or she has been vaccinated, or has had the Small Pox.

It is with great reluctance that the Visiting Justices find themselves called upon to notice, in terms of disapproval, several clauses in a Bill introduced into the House of Commons for the purpose of amending the Laws for the provision and regulation of Lunatic Asylums for Counties and Boroughs, and for the maintenance and care of Pauper Lunatics in England. So far as the measure provides that there shall be a sufficient number of Asylums built, or otherwise provided, in order to accommodate in a suitable manner the Pauper Lunatics of England, it will receive the praise and concurrence of every one who recognizes the claims of this unfortunate class upon the humanity of the public. Had the Bill stopped there, and, with other similar improvements necessary to carry out the same principle, made the duty of such a provision obligatory, instead of leaving it, as it is by the law at present, permissive, it would have been unnecessary for

the Visiting Justices to notice it upon this occasion. But this is not the case; and there are clauses in the Bill of so objectionable a nature, that they deem it to be their duty to bring them distinctly under the notice of the Court. Without stopping to question the propriety of centralizing the powers of government, when directed to a certain object, in one office, instead of entrusting its execution to the Magistrates of the Country, and holding them responsible that the powers confided in them shall not be abused, this, in the opinion of the Visiting Justices, is certain, that there are clauses in this Bill which may be used in a way most detrimental to the proper government of the Asylum. To these clauses they beg to direct the attention of the Court.

In the eighth clause a power is given to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department to determine whether any Asylum be in his opinion inadequate, or unfit for the proper accommodation of the Pauper Lunatics of the County, and to direct the Justices of such county to provide either additional buildings or an additional Asylum; and they are bound to obey his directions, however much their opinion may differ from his, as to which kind of accommodation is to be preferred. In this respect all power of choice is taken out of the hands of the Justices and placed in those of the Secretary of State. The Justices of this County will be no longer free to exercise their own judgment, but will be bound in all that concerns the accommodation to be provided for the Pauper Lunatics of their county to obey the directions of the Secretary of State. Neither will they have the power of determining upon a site for any new Asylum, nor the

plan, which profiting by experience, they might have thought it best to adopt. The proposed site and plan must be submitted in the first place to the Commissioners in Lunacy, and, according to their Report, the Secretary of State will grant or withhold his assent to its adoption. By the twenty-seventh clause all proposals for sites or plans for building or providing Asylums, or the buildings, yards, outlets, or appurtenances thereto or additional accommodation for Pauper Lunatics, and all contracts, and all plans which may be intended to be adopted for such Asylums, accommodation, and premises, shall be submitted by the Committee of Visitors to the Commissioners in Lunacy, and by them to the Secretary of State, and without his approval no such proposals, agreements, contracts, estimates, or plans shall be accepted, executed, or carried into effect. Thus will this provision effectually debar the Committee of Visitors, and through them the Justices of the County from the exercise of all free choice in the building of an Asylum, as much so as if they were themselves a paid Committee and their office a purely ministerial one.

Among other provisions, by the twenty-sixth clause it is provided, that to prevent curable or dangerous Lunatics from being excluded from admission into any Asylum, some separate building shall be provided for chronic or incurable Lunatics, that a sufficient number of the latter may from time to time be transferred to the separate building. To this there would be no objection supposing the transfer were made under the sanction and advice of the Medical Officers of the Asylum, who, having daily opportunities of becoming acquainted with every case, would

be best able to determine, if indeed it can be determined at all, of which in many cases there are great doubts, what Patients can be pronounced incurable; and who alone can tell whether any ill consequences may be looked for from such removal. These are questions which it is to be presumed the Commissioners in Lunacy, with their extensive duties and casual visits to the Asylum, will hardly be able to answer with safety; and yet, by the fifty-second clause, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners in Lunacy or any two of them, by writing under their hands and seals, to direct that any Lunatic confined in any principal Asylum shall be removed from such principal Asylum to an Asylum for Chronic Lunatics, or from an Asylum for Chronic Lunatics, to the principal Asylum; and every such Lunatic shall be removed accordingly by the Visiting Justices of every such Asylum. This is to be done notwithstanding that the Visiting Justices may have the practical opinion of their Medical Officers that such orders for removal are founded on mistaken views as to the curability or incurability of the Patients, or were likely, if put in practice, to be attended with injurious consequences.

Nor is this all. Heretofore it has been thought that the Visiting Justices who were chosen by the general body, might be entrusted with the promulgating of Rules for the government of the Asylum. But by this Bill this discretionary power will be taken from them. The thirty-ninth clause enacts that whether with respect to proposed or existing Rules, they must all be submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval. The effect of this will be, that the judgment of the Visiting Justices, several of whom

may have had considerable experience in the government of an Asylum, must yield to the opinions of the Commissioners in Lunacy.

The Visiting Justices lament that clauses so objectionable in themselves should have been introduced into this otherwise excellent measure. The power of carrying out to its full extent, and of perpetuating the noble system which has been adopted at Hanwell may hereafter by these clauses be cramped and counteracted to such an extent, as to render the execution of their office neither satisfactory nor honourable. The office of a Visiting Justice is an anxious and laborious one. The successive Committees of Visitors to Hanwell have hitherto fulfilled its duties to the satisfaction of those by whom they were appointed. By this Bill in everything of importance the Visiting Justices will hereafter be under the direction and amenable to the authority of the Secretary of State and the Commissioners in Lunacy.

Entertaining these views the Visiting Justices deemed it to be their duty to present a Petition to the House of Commons, and to communicate with Lord Ashley, and may congratulate themselves and the Court that many improvements have resulted from their interposition, but the main objections stated in this Report are left unre-
moved.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS TULK,

22nd July, 1845.

Chairman.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.**PATIENTS ADMITTED, RE-ADMITTED, DISCHARGED,
AND DEAD.***Quarter ending 30th June, 1845.*

	Males.	Females	Total.
Patients in the Asylum on 31st March, 1845.....	414	564	978
Admitted during the Quarter.....	21	16	37
Re-admitted ..do.....do.....	—	—	—
	435	580	1,015
	Males.	Females.	
Cured.....	4	1	
Discharged Relieved	1	1	
Died	11	12	
	16	14	30
Remaining in the Asylum on 30th June, 1845 ..	419	566	985
Daily Average Number of Patients			984

PATIENTS EMPLOYED,*Quarter ending 30th June, 1845.*

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Garden and Agriculture....	94	Garden.....	—
Helpers in the Wards	46	Laundry	54
Repicking Coir	—	Kitchen and Dairy	18
Store Room, Kitchen, and Engine-house	14	Helpers in the Wards	46
Tailors	10	Repicking Coir	—
Shoemakers	14	Needlework	153
Upholstery Room	40	Knitting	—
Bricklayers	1		
Painters	2		
Carpenters	7		
Tinman.....	2		
Employed.....	230	Employed.....	271
Unemployed	160	Unemployed.....	264
Sick	29	Sick	31
Total in Asylum (as above)	419	Total in Asylum (as above)	566
Males	419		
Females	566		
Total.....	985		

J. MORRISON, *Accountant.*

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNT from 1st April to 30th June, 1845.

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Et.

	£	s.	d.
1845,			
Mar. 31. To Balance of Cash at this date	1,814	19	11
June 30. To Cash received from Parishes £3,432	3,432	13	8
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants.....	731	1	2
		4,163	14 10
		£5,978	14 9

1845.	£	s.	d.
June 30. To Balance of Cash this day	1,959	12	6
To amount due from Parishes	£4,359	9	8
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants	727	11	1
	5,087	0	9

(Errors excepted.)

J. MORRISON, Accountant.

Hanwell, July 22nd, 1845.

CONTRACT PRICES of the Principal Articles of Consumption in the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, for the Quarter of the Year ending 30th June, 1845.—The Articles are delivered at the Asylum free of Carriage.

	£	s.	d.
Ox Beef	0	7	3½
Prime Wether Mutton, the whole Carcase (without heads, shanks or inside suet) ..	0	7	3½
Beef and Mutton Suet (in equal proportions)	0	7	3½
Flour	1	17	0
Malt	2	19	0
Oatmeal	0	14	0
Cheese	2	14	0
Butter	3	19	0
Sugar (Raw)	3	1	0
Sugar (Lump)	4	0	0

CHAS. WRIGHT, Clerk to the Visiting Justices.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A List of all Sums for Payment of which Orders have been made on the County Treasurer, under the authority of the 33rd Section of the 9th Geo. 4th, cap. 40, from the 1st of April to the 30th of June, 1845.

	£	s.	d.
James Morrison, for Advances to Workmen . .	34	1	0
James Harris, superintending Repairs of Building to 31st March last	13	15	0
Charles Roope, Blankets, House Linen, &c. . . .	180	6	11
Elizabeth Farmer, Ironmongery and Iron	42	4	7
E. Beck, Lime, Cement, &c.	46	8	4
E. Suter, Stationery	4	0	8
Walkling and Co., Earthenware	16	16	2
C. Robinson, Copper Bath.	14	10	0
J. Faulkner, Ironmongery	13	15	4
Chater and Co., Glass, Lead, &c.	34	8	6
J. Montgomery, Timber	21	12	9
T. Adams, Wire Work	6	10	9
T. Woods, Furniture	22	2	5
Russell and Sons, Steam Tubeing	23	1	10
G. Simpson, Cutlery	10	9	5
Norbury and Co., Periodicals	7	12	6
Turner and Son, Feathers.	5	9	8
J. Morgan, Turnery	1	16	0
J. De Ville, Gas Fittings	9	10	6
T. M. Bowden, Clothes Baskets	13	15	7
P. Hayes, Brass Work	11	13	7
G. Reynell, Advertisements, &c.	10	14	2

	£	s.	d.
C. F. Seyfang, Printing.....	7	2	6
G. Chad, Carriage of Goods	12	5	6
G. Stacey, Iron Castings	7	7	0
T. W. Gurney, Brooms, Painting Materials, &c.	39	15	3
Weiss and Son, Surgical Instruments.	16	16	0
Christian Knowledge Society, Religious Books	1	13	4
P. Thorn, Whistles	0	19	6
Waugh and Son, Cocoa Matting	28	5	7
Adams and Ede, Surplice	3	13	6
H. Cater, a Double Steaming Vessel	15	0	0
T. Edgington and Co., Coal Sacks	3	0	0
T. Walker a Plain Phoenix Stove	4	4	0
C. Sims, Clay	2	0	0
James Morrison, Advances to Workmen	370	12	9

CHARLES WRIGHT,

Clerk to the Visiting Justices.

TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX IN
QUARTER SESSION ASSEMBLED.

*THE TWENTY-SECOND REPORT OF
Messrs. ALLEN, of Carlisle Street,
Soho Square, Attorneys at Law.*

SINCE the County Day of the last Quarter Session, Messrs. Allen have attended at the Metropolitan Police Courts and at Petty Sessions in nineteen cases. In three of them, after evidence had been procured by Messrs. Allen, the applications for Orders upon the County Treasurer for payment of the maintenance of the Lunatics were abandoned; and in the remaining sixteen cases, the Magistrates decided that the Paupers were County Patients, and made Orders accordingly. In two of the sixteen cases, however, Settlements have been discovered and adjudicated; in addition to which, Messrs. Allen have discovered and obtained Orders adjudicating the Settlements of Francis Trueman, James Morley and George Pratt, three Criminal Lunatics who had been removed from the Houses of Correction at Westminster and Cold Bath Fields to the Asylum, under Warrants from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Messrs. Allen have successfully defended an Appeal (which was heard at the last Quarter Sessions) against an Order obtained at their instance adjudicating the Settle-

ment of Sarah Pryor, and they have interfered with respect to four other Appeals against Orders which had been obtained by Parish Officers. They have likewise attended Parish Officers, and made inquiries and corresponded in four cases besides those before referred to, with the view of protecting the interests of the County.

In three of the five cases in which Settlements have been adjudicated as before mentioned, the Lunatics belong to Parishes out of the County of Middlesex.

The expence of attending at the Police Courts and in Petty Sessions in the nineteen cases, and in tracing out evidence in several of them, amounts to £36. 6s. 11d.; and the charges relating to the five Appeals, the adjudication of the Settlements of the two Pauper and three Criminal Lunatics, and for attendances, correspondence and inquiries with respect to the four other Lunatics are £77 18s. 7d.

All which Messrs. Allen submit, &c.

C. & J. ALLEN.

24th July, 1845.