

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

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THE
SEVENTIETH REPORT

OF THE
VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE
County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell.

HACKNEY

PRINTED BY C. TURNER, CHURCH STREET,
1844.



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Middlesex.

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

The SEVENTIETH REPORT of the VISITING JUSTICES appointed to superintend the Management of THE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM AT HANWELL.

SINCE the date of their last Report the Visiting Justices have proceeded to carry out the plan, which they had prepared, not without the most mature deliberation, for the future government of the Asylum. From among several Candidates, whose testimonials would point them out to be well qualified for the office of Governor, they made choice of Mr. John Godwin. This gentleman came recommended to them by a long and useful career of military service. His testimonials were of the most satisfactory kind, and the course which he had pursued during his professional career seemed to distinguish him as a man well fitted for the objects which the Visiting Justices had in view in the appointment of a Governor.

It has always been the wish of the Visiting Justices to make the Court acquainted with every important change which they might deem it right for the interests of the Asylum to adopt, whenever they might be able to lay it in a proper form before the Court, so that its true bearings might be understood, as well as the reasons which they might have to assign for its adoption. The Visiting Justices will now proceed to state what the changes are which they

have recently made, and of which they prospectively gave a slight sketch in their last report.

The Court may be assured that it was not from any want of respect that the Visiting Justices did not enter into the details of the different changes which they had in view, but because the plan itself was not at that time sufficiently matured, and they would hardly have been able to do justice to it had it been attempted.

It has long been the anxious desire of the Visiting Justices, that the Lunatic Asylum of the Metropolitan County should in every respect be among the best regulated Institutions in the Kingdom, dedicated to this benevolent purpose. They have felt deeply the importance of the trust reposed in them; and the members of this Court could not have been more anxious in watching the proceedings of the Visiting Justices whom they had chosen for the office, than the latter have been in endeavouring to make all things work for the common good of the Asylum.

For some time past certain defects in the system of its government have become apparent, and the more apparent as the Institution increased in magnitude. It was obvious to those who had had the experience of several years to guide them, that if a governing head were requisite in the medical department, still more was it necessary for regulating the general concerns of the establishment. Nor was it only as regards financial economy that such a controlling power was felt to be necessary. In a complicated machine, no one part can be disarranged without its affecting in a greater or less degree the whole; and the paramount objects of the Institution might at any time be weakened or disturbed by some defect in the means, though perhaps remote and indirect, which had been wisely provided to secure those objects.

If it be asked, how it was that such a general superintending power was not given to the head of the medical department, the answer is, that such a combination of duties had been already tried, and had not been found to answer. For some years after the open-

ng of the Asylum, Sir William Ellis undertook the duties of general Superintendant as well as Physician; and while the Asylum contained a moderate number of Patients, this was done without any serious inconvenience. But now that the building contains very nearly a thousand Patients, and more than a hundred officers, attendants, and servants, such an arrangement would be found to be quite impracticable; besides, the habits of life among medical men generally, are not those which best fit them to look into the domestic details of a great establishment. To take them out of the path of their profession is to lessen the sphere of their utility, and to weaken its efficiency. Of late every month's additional experience has served the more forcibly to convince the Visiting Justices that, unless one or other of their body could give a constant attention to the government of the Asylum, the regular working of every part could not for any length of time be secured. While these difficulties were pressing themselves upon their serious consideration, it happened that Doctor Conolly mentioned at one of their meetings the position, somewhat of a peculiar kind, in which he was placed by his engagements with the Visiting Justices. The regulations required that he should give up the whole of his time to his duties in the Asylum, to the exclusion of all private practice whatever, and yet so powerful were the applications for his advice in cases of Lunacy that a rigid adherence to this rule he found in his peculiar case to be altogether impracticable. The rule then must either be relaxed, or another Physician must be appointed, or else a different arrangement must be made with Doctor Conolly. To the relaxing of the Rule by permitting him to visit private Patients there were many serious objections. The interests of the Asylum might be compromised by such a permission; nor would such a course be just towards the County, which might fairly claim the whole of his services for the salary and emoluments which he enjoyed. Neither were they prepared to hazard the experiment if it could possibly be avoided of appointing another physician. The

state of the Asylum at that time would not in their opinion have justified it, they therefore acceded to the alternative of adopting other arrangements with Doctor Conolly, which might allow him to reside in the immediate neighbourhood, and yet insure his attendance on certain fixed days, and for such a length of time as might be necessary for the exigencies of the Asylum. The Visiting Justices were inclined to accede the more readily to this plan as it would give them the opportunity of appointing a resident Governor, to whom they might delegate the whole management of the Asylum, and who might in their absence be invested with full authority to act as their representative. They were fully convinced that if they were fortunate in their choice of a gentleman to be the Governor, a gentleman in whom they could with confidence place the responsibility that all things should go on harmoniously and well, and that proper economy and the utmost regularity should be rigidly enforced, they should be only doing that, which their public duty imperatively called upon them to attempt. The first consideration in the minds of the Visiting Justices, was how they could best secure the well-being and comfort of the Patients. To this every other consideration ought, as it appears to them, to be subordinate. But these objects are best secured when under wise regulations, every officer as well as every attendant is made to contribute his full share to the general service. Negligence in the performance of duties, trifling perhaps in themselves, may occasion much discomfort, and possibly, in an Institution of such a nature, lead to serious consequences. But an exact and methodical performance of various duties can only be secured by such a controlling influence, as shall promote a good understanding among the officers of the Asylum, and a proper subordination among the attendants. In determining upon the change which was, as they believed, to secure this great good, and not only this, but many other advantages besides, the Visiting Justices would not allow the question of expense, within reasonable limits, to offer any obstacle. Where the bodily

health and comfort of Insane Patients are concerned, and what is of even greater consequence, their restoration to mental health ; there are things in question of far more worth than money, and to obtain which he must be short sighted indeed, who would not be prepared to make a sacrifice. Had it involved therefore an extra expense, they felt assured that the Court would not disapprove, nor the County be dissatisfied with the arrangement.

But it so happens that by the alterations which they have thought it right to make in the government and management of the Asylum the expenses instead of being greater will be less. For the alterations are, first, in the appointment of a Governor with an income of three hundred and fifty pounds per annum ; second, in the appointment of Doctor Conolly as Physician residing away from the Asylum, with an income of three hundred and fifteen pounds per annum, instead of his receiving five hundred pounds per annum with residence and board ; third, in the substitution of a Storekeeper with one hundred pound per annum, instead of a steward with two hundred pounds ; and fourth, in the abolition of the office of Deputy Steward altogether. These last mentioned changes are the results of careful investigation as to the services which had been found most important in promoting good order and economy throughout every branch of the establishment.

These are the reasons which have influenced the Visiting Justices in making these changes. As they have been neither lightly nor hastily made, but have been resolved upon only after the most mature deliberation, they trust that, with the blessing of God, the results will not be such as to meet hereafter the disapproval of the Court, nor disappoint their own expectations.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS TULK,

Chairman.

10th April, 1844.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

PATIENTS ADMITTED, RE-ADMITTED, DISCHARGED, AND DEAD.

Quarter ending 31st March, 1844.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Patients in the Asylum on 31st December, 1843	416	566	982
Admitted during the Quarter	8	12	20
Re-admitted do. do.	0	1	1
	424	579	1003
	Males.	Females.	
Cured... ..	3	2	
Discharged Relieved	1	0	
Died.....	8	9	
	12	11	23
Remaining in the Asylum on 31st March, 1844	412	568	980
Daily Average Number of Patients			983

PATIENTS EMPLOYED.

Quarter ending 31st March, 1844.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Garden and Agriculture.....	96	Garden.....	0
Helpers in the Wards.....	48	Laundry	53
Repicking Coir	6	Kitchen and Dairy	21
Store Room, Kitchen, and Engine-house.....	14	Helpers in the Wards	38
Tailors.....	10	Repicking Coir	4
Shoemakers	12	Needlework.....	181
Upholstery Room	7	Knitting	25
Bricklayers.....	2		
Painters	2		
Carpenters	9		
Employed	206	Employed	322
Unemployed	175	Unemployed	212
Sick	31	Sick	34
Total in Asylum (as above)	412	Total in Asylum (as above)	568

Males... ..	412
Females... ..	568
Total	980

J. MORRISON, Accountant.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Dr.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNT from 1st January to 31st March, 1844.

Cr.

1843.		1844.	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Dec. 31. To Balance of Cash at this date	3,459 2 4	Mar. 31. By Cash paid sundry Tradesmen's Bills and other Disbursements to this date	5,653 13 6
1844.		Balance—At Messrs. Twining ..	£2,360 5 2
Mar. 31. To Cash received from Parishes	£4,190 19 0	In hand.....	273 14 2
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants.....	637 11 6		2,633 19 4
	4,828 10 6		£8,287 12 10
	£8,287 12 10		
1844.		1844.	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Mar. 31. To Balance of Cash this day	2,633 19 4	Mar. 31. By Amount of Tradesmen's Bills, due at this date.....	3,588 17 9
To amount due from Parishes..	£3,154 11 6	Surplus.....	2,794 14 5
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants.....	595 1 4		£6,383 12 2
	3,749 12 10		
	£6,383 12 2		

(Errors excepted,)

Hanwell, 15th April, 1844

J. MORRISON, Accountant.

CONTRACT PRICES of the Principal Articles of Consumption in the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum for the Quarter of the Year ending 31st of March, 1844. The Articles are delivered at the Asylum free of Carriage.

	£.	s.	d.
Ox Beef, entirely free from Bone.....	0	5	7
Prime Wether Mutton, the whole Carcase (without head, shanks or inside suet) .	0	5	7
Beef and Mutton Suet, (equal proportions)	0	5	7
Flour.....	2	0	0
Malt	2	16	6
Oatmeal.....	0	13	0
Cheese	2	10	0
Tea.....	0	3	6
Sugar (Lump)	4	0	0
Sugar (Raw).....	3	3	0

CHARLES WRIGHT,

Clerk to the Committee.

MIDDLESEX 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 January to the 31st of March, 1844.

	£.	s.	d.
James Morrison, Advances to Workmen	69	0	8
James Harris, Superintending Repairs	13	15	0
The Countess of Berkeley, Quit Rent to Michaelmas, 1843	0	14	2
John Vincent, Rates and Taxes	12	3	4
Thomas Pierce, Writing Tablets in Chapel . .	18	10	0
William Sheldon, Machine Oil	0	16	0
J. Parsons, Repairing Clocks	0	15	6
Harriet Rattliff, Furniture	19	1	0
P. Hayes, Brass Work	38	17	3
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Books and Tracts	4	11	11
John Smith, Rope Mats, Flax and Yarn	11	16	4
Weiss and Son, Respirators	3	0	0
Peter Thorn, Whistles	1	16	0

	£.	s.	d.
William L. Nicholl, Weighing Machine	21	1	0
Thomas Adams, Wire Work	21	12	2
T. M. Bowden, Repairing Baskets	4	16	2
Charles Smith, Frames and Canvas for Tablets	3	10	0
George Chad, Carriage of Goods	13	10	1
C. F. Seyfang, Printing	7	9	6
Bailey, Pegg and Co., Iron Castings	11	17	0
Thomas Wilkinson, Repairing Mangle	0	12	0
Russell and Son, Steam Tubing	6	2	9
Wildey and Co., Cocoa Nut Fibre	28	0	0
Mountjoy and Son, Trees	1	18	0
Richards and Sons, Bottles	6	2	0
J. Casswell, Medical Bottles	2	9	8
Robert Forest, Paving Tiles	32	16	0
John Morgan, Turnery	1	15	6
P. and M. A. Norbury, Periodicals, &c	6	9	3
George John Graham, Feathers	10	19	4
Turner and Son, Floor Cloth and Matting	8	0	2
George Simpson, Cutlery	5	19	11
William Tucker, Ironmongery	0	17	6
J. A. Abbott, Additional Duty on Window Glass	5	15	6
Charles Roope, Bedding, &c	199	7	10
James Montgomery, Timber	28	14	8
Chater and Hayward, Window Glass and Lead	59	11	1
John Faulkner, Ironmongery	40	2	3
Charles Robinson, Pumping Engine and Cast- ings	118	17	2
Edward Suter, Account Books	4	7	6

	£.	s.	d.
Edward Beck, Stone Baths, Lime, Cement, &c.	88	15	10
Walkling and Co., Earthenware and Glass ..	13	16	6
Edward Westbrook, Bricks,	15	15	0
Elizabeth Farmer, Ironmongery	49	13	8
William Terry and Co., Painting Materials, &c.	58	5	0
James De Ville, Gas Burners	6	6	0
F. Davis, Zinc Work	3	0	0
James Morrison, Advances to Workmen	453	10	2

CHARLES WRIGHT,

Clerk to the Committee.

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

*The SEVENTEENTH REPORT of MESSRS.
ALLEN of Carlisle Street, Soho Square.*

Since the County day of the last Quarter Session, Messrs. Allen have attended before Magistrates at the Metropolitan Police Courts and Petty Sessions in seventeen cases. In three of the cases, in consequence of the opposition offered by Messrs. Allen, the applications against the County were abandoned. In another case the Lunatic absconded before the investigation was completed; and in the remaining thirteen cases the Paupers were adjudged to be County Patients: but, in one of the thirteen, the Husband of the Lunatic was found, and induced to take care of his Wife without her being sent to the Asylum. And in three others, settlements have been since discovered and adjudged. So that in nine only of the seventeen cases, the Patients remain chargeable to the County.

In addition to the before mentioned three cases, in which settlements have been discovered and adjudicated, the settlements of Amelia Wickens, Sarah Batt, and Joseph Heard, who were admitted into the Asylum before the County day of the last Quarter Session, have been also discovered and adjudicated. In

five of those six cases the Lunatics were settled out of the County of Middlesex, viz. in Surrey, Somersetshire, Norfolk, Essex, and Lancashire; and the amount directed to be repaid to the County Treasurer by the different parishes in the six cases, is £35 8s. 9d.

Messrs. Allen have likewise settled two Appeals, in which Notices had been served on the Clerk of the Peace—they have also prepared for and instructed counsel in an appeal in the case of Harriet Ellis, in which the question as to the jurisdiction of Magistrates to send Patients to private Licensed Houses, when there is no room or accommodation for them in the County Asylum, is intended to be raised by the Overseers of Saint Luke, Old Street, who are the appellants. And they have made enquiries, and corresponded in ten other cases, with the view of protecting the interests of the County.

The expense of attending at the Police Courts and Petty Sessions in the seventeen cases, and of tracing out evidence in most of them amounts to £32 13s. 8d.; and that of discovering and adjudicating the six settlements, settling the two appeals, preparing for and instructing Counsel in the case of Harriet Ellis, and the business done by Messrs. Allen, with reference to the ten other Lunatics, including payments to the amount of £17 8s. 7d. to Country Agents, is £78 6s. 11d.

All which they submit, &c.,

C. and J. ALLEN.

18th April, 1844.

five of these six cases the judgments were satisfied out of the County of Milwaukee, viz. in Europe, Germania, North, East, and Lancaster; and the amount directed to be repaid to the County Treasurer by the different parties in the six cases is \$285 84 1/2. Messrs. Allen have likewise settled two Appeals, in which Notices had been served on the Clerk of the Peace—they have also prepared for and have been heard in an appeal in the case of District No. 1, in which the question as to the jurisdiction of Magistrates to send prisoners to private licensed houses, when there is no room or accommodation for them in the County Jail, is intended to be raised by the Overseers of Saint John, Old Street, who are the appellants. And they have made enquiries and corresponded in ten other cases, with the view of protecting the interests of the County.

The expense of attending at the Police Court and Petty Sessions in the seven cases, and of tracing out evidence in most of them amounts to £32 12s 6d; and that of discovering and recovering the six settlements, settling the two appeals, preparing for and instructing Counsel in the case of District No. 1, and the business done by Messrs. Allen, with reference to the ten other Lancasters, including payments to the amount of £17 8s 7d to County Agents is £49 6s 11d.

All which they submit, &c.

G. and J. ALLEN.

18th April, 1844