

The seventy-fourth 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
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T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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THE
SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE

County Lunatic Asylum, at Hanwell.

LONDON:

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1845.

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Middlesex.

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

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

THE Visiting Justices are desirous in this Report of recording their opinions as to the necessity of affording without any loss of time, accommodation for all the Pauper Lunatics of the County. That the reasons which have led to these opinions may be distinctly seen it will be necessary to give a short account of the progress of the present Institution. It will then be their duty to state what they have already done in furtherance of this object, and what, with the concurrence of the Court, they now propose to do.

At the Michaelmas Quarter Session of the year 1827 the first Committee of Visiting Justices was appointed under the Act of the 9th Geo. 4th, chap. 40.

The Committee soon after their appointment proceeded by public advertisement to invite tenders for not less than 25 acres of Land on which to erect a Pauper Lunatic

Asylum for the County. They required that the Land should be in an airy and healthy situation, and well supplied with water. They offered premiums for the best Plans, and required Estimates for one which might accommodate 300 Patients. At this time it was not accurately known what the number of Pauper Lunatics in the County actually were, nor was the importance so fully felt, as it has since been, of removing them altogether from Private Licensed Establishments and Workhouses, and of securing for all the protection and comfort of a Public Asylum.

Within three years from that time 44 acres of Land was purchased at the rate of £250 the acre; the plan of the building was chosen; the estimates amounting to the sum of £123,730 11s. 10d. made, and a Medical Superintendent and Matron appointed.

Before the Asylum was opened on the 16th of May, 1831, for the reception of Patients, applications were made to the different Parishes for particulars of every case which was proposed for admission. At first there seemed a very great disinclination or indifference on the part of Parishes as to the removal of Patients now that there was an Asylum built expressly for their accommodation, and though the completion was announced, it formed a subject of complaint in the Report presented at the Michaelmas Quarter Session of 1832, that the Officers of some of the Parishes actually declined, and others neglected to send Patients to the Asylum. Gradually, however, as the advantages which it offered became more apparent this disinclination and indifference wore off, and

at length ceased to operate prejudicially to the objects of the Institution, or to the interests of the Public. In the Michaelmas Quarter Session of 1831 the Visiting Justices mention in their Report that the building originally designed for 300 would be made to accommodate 500 Patients, and so completely had the tide of public opinion in the Parishes turned by Easter, 1832, that before the alterations were entirely completed the numbers had increased to 427.

From the return of the number of Pauper Lunatics chargeable to Parishes and places in the County of Middlesex made in the year 1831, it appears there were, exclusive of Lunatic Vagrants, 839 altogether, 248 of whom were about Michaelmas in the Asylum, and 591 in Licensed Establishments and Workhouses; but in 1843, when by the great increase of buildings nearly 1000 were received into the Asylum; so far from there being but few, if any, in Parish Workhouses, and private Establishments, there were then between 430 and 440 for whom no accommodation could be found in the Asylum, and in 1844, the numbers to be provided for had increased in the most extraordinary manner to 721. It is at first sight difficult to account for this alarming increase in the number of Lunatics in the course of thirteen years. Part will be ascribed to the increase of population in the metropolitan county, as well as generally throughout the country. A part also to the irregular habits which prevail in thickly populated districts; and these must continue to operate until moral and religious checks can be effectually applied to curb the vicious habits of a badly educated population. But no small share of the increase

may be fairly ascribed to the limited numbers which were originally admitted into the Asylum, and, what may appear paradoxical, to the humane regulations, by which, from the very first, it has been distinguished.

It has frequently been observed that Insanity, considered apart from the treatment of the Insane, is not a very fatal disease. But the treatment of the Insane is an important element in prolonging or shortening their lives. This appears from the difference in the mortality of those who are confined in Private Pauper Lunatic Establishments, and of those who are kept in Public Asylums for the Poor, as well as in Private Houses for the Rich. The difference is very striking; kind treatment and a sufficiency of good food tend as much to prolong the lives of the Insane, as harshness and scanty fare tend to shorten them. If this be so, and a reference to the Tables of the Statistical Society will sufficiently demonstrate its truth, then is it certain that the system pursued at Hanwell, which has been progressively improving, has tended to increase by accumulation the number of Patients chargeable to the County. But what has tended further to increase the numbers of the Insane Poor has been the unfortunate omission which has continued from the very first of not making a selection of recent cases, instead of sending for the most part old and incurable cases. As early as July, 1832, the Committee of Visiting Justices remarked that "a considerable number sent from Parish Workhouses were almost in a dying state when admitted; that many of them were so far gone as scarcely to be able to bear the fatigue of the journey," and that "many of the recent cases, they regret to find, are still

sent to Private Houses contrary to the directions of the Act of Parliament." It has been observed by those who have had the best opportunities of knowing, that of those who enter Asylums soon after the commencement of the malady seven out of eight, or even nine out of ten, recover. The Parish Authorities, in whom rested the selection of Patients to be sent to the Asylum do not seem to have been aware of this. The cases of Insanity which had been of long standing were continued to be sent to the Asylum with scarcely the remotest hope of being restored to reason, and with the greatest probability of a prolonged life under better treatment. Had recent cases been sent, and no other than recent cases, and a sufficiency of accommodation been retained to admit the succession of curable cases that might present themselves, then it is surely not unreasonable to suppose that the numbers of Pauper Lunatics would not have accumulated at so fearful a rate. Had such a judicious system been adopted the numbers could not have been 1,721 in the year 1844, when, in 1831, they were no more than 839, although there might be a slight addition to the latter number were the Vagrant Lunatics included, as they are in the former. Every recent case that is detained beyond a certain time in a Licensed Establishment or Workhouse, is, probably, by such detention, settling down into one of confirmed Lunacy, whereas by a judicious selection of such as present the best prospects of recovery, the relief so far as relates to this description of cases, could not have accumulated in the way they have done from the opening of the Asylum.

But the error of sending old cases which were almost,

if not altogether hopeless was at length admitted, when it was discovered from the very few cures that were made in the course of a year, that the Asylum was fast becoming an Hospital for Incurables. Then came the inquiry what was to be done. The Visiting Justices were always ready to give their consent to any plan for remedying the evil, provided it could be accomplished without offending the law under which they were to act, and without violating the equally cogent law of justice and humanity. No such plan however has been proposed by those who were desirous of remedying their own mistake, and it only remained therefore for the Visiting Justices to consider what other plan could be suggested by which the recently Insane should have the benefit of an establishment where no interest could exist which was opposed to their speedy recovery; where their numbers should not be allowed to accumulate by neglect, and where no cruelty should be inflicted on those, who although past cure, had felt the kind treatment and the many little comforts of the Asylum.

The remedy which should embrace all those points, the Visiting Justices believed could only be found in a large increase of accommodation commensurate to the present wants, or the probable future wants of the County. By whatever means this was to be done, whether by adding to the present building, or by building another very near it, or by building a distinct one in a distant part of the County, it was certain that if the numbers were not to be alarmingly augmented every year, but under the operation of a better system, gradually, it was to be hoped, reduced, some remedy must be applied, and that without

loss of time. To their proposition that was submitted to the Court, that complete and efficient accommodation for all the Pauper Lunatics of the County should be provided, a very general assent was given.

Having ascertained the sentiments of the Court upon this subject, the Visiting Justices set themselves seriously to the task of considering what steps it would be necessary to take in order to accomplish what seemed to be as much a matter of choice as of necessity.

The Court are perfectly aware that an agreement has been entered into with the Earl and Countess of Jersey, by which the County is to become possessed of 24 acres of land, immediately adjoining the ground on the western side of the Asylum, for the sum of £6000. Upon this ground the Visiting Justices have resolved to build.

Before coming to this resolution, they carefully weighed all that could be urged in favour of a situation in the eastern part of the County. They consulted the medical and other officers of the establishment, who, from their experience and talents, might throw any light upon the subject, to guide them in their deliberations. The Visiting Justices have no doubt, whatever, that the greatest number of advantages, and the fewest disadvantages, will be found in having the site near the present building.

Having entered into the agreement for the purchase of the land, the next step was to ascertain, as nearly as could be, what would be the cost of a building, with the necessary out-buildings and appurtenances, in which 800 Pa-

tients could be accommodated. A building of this size would receive the 720 who are at present disposed in licensed houses, work-houses, and with their friends in private dwellings, besides relieving the present building to the amount of 70 patients, an object of great moment to those who, with the Visiting Justices, consider the present building to be over-crowded.

By a comparison of two different estimates, and by a careful examination of the data on which they were founded, the Visiting Justices believe that a sum not exceeding £90,000 will be sufficient to cover the purchase of the land, and all the expenses of an asylum to accommodate 800 patients, with the necessary out-buildings, walls, &c.

The Visiting Justices have now laid before the Court their reasons, supported as they believe them to be, by facts, why another Asylum should be built to accommodate all the remaining Pauper and Vagrant Lunatics of the County, so near to the present building, as to form together but one asylum. Its magnitude will enable every parish to send down its patients as soon as the circumstances connected with their malady might place them under the care and control of the overseers. By an early attention, every recent case, there is good reason to expect that many more cures will be effected in the course of the year than at present. Besides this every patient, whether the case be one of long standing or not, will have the alleviation, and it is felt as an alleviation by many if not most of the insane, which kind treatment can give, and which distinguish at the present day the Public Asylums of this

Country. In addition to this the Visiting Justices will not in future be under the disagreeable necessity of refusing to remedy a mistake not their own, by offending against the clear dictates of humanity.

But there is still another reason that appears conclusive why accommodation should be afforded for all the Pauper Lunatics of the County, and that without delay. In an Appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench to determine whether Magistrates were authorized to send Pauper Patients to Private Licensed Houses, the Judges were unanimous in their judgment that they had no such power under the Act of the 9th of Geo. 4th, c. 40. But parish officers have not the power of retaining the Insane Poor in Workhouses, and as by this decision, provided there be a County Asylum built, they are prohibited from sending them to any other place, the providing of sufficient accommodation becomes a matter not of choice but of necessity, and it is a necessity which admits of no delay, that some legal place of custody may be provided for all the Pauper Lunatics of this County.

For the execution of this Work the Visiting Justices hope hereafter to satisfy the Magistracy of the County that they have been fully alive to the duties of a most important trust and have not neglected the interests of the Public. In carrying out a work of such importance they feel that they are truly the servants of the public, and it will be among the most gratifying of rewards, if they find that public opinion shall give them credit for an honest performance of their duty.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS TULK.

10th April, 1845.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.**PATIENTS ADMITTED, RE-ADMITTED, DISCHARGED,
AND DEAD.***Quarter ending 31st March, 1845.*

	Males.	Females	Total.
Patients in the Asylum on 31st December, 1844	417	565	982
Admitted during the Quarter.....	10	10	20
Re-admitted ..do.....do.....	2	3	5
	429	578	1,007
	Males.	Females.	
Cured.....	1	5	
Discharged Relieved	1	1	
Died	13	8	
	15	14	29
Remaining in the Asylum on 31st March, 1845	414	564	978
Daily Average Number of Patients			984

PATIENTS EMPLOYED,*Quarter ending 31st December, 1844.*

MALES.		FEMALES.		
Garden and Agriculture....	98	Garden.....	—	
Helpers in the Wards	46	Laundry	50	
Repicking Coir	0	Kitchen and Dairy	21	
Store Room, Kitchen, and Engine-house	14	Helpers in the Wards	44	
Tailors	9	Repicking Coir	—	
Shoemakers	13	Needlework	190	
Upholstery Room	12	Knitting	—	
Bricklayers	1			
Painters	2			
Carpenters	8			
Tinman.....	1			
	Employed.....	204	Employed.....	305
	Unemployed	175	Unemployed.....	229
	Sick	35	Sick	30
Total in Asylum (as above)	414	Total in Asylum (as above)	564	
	Males	414		
	Females	564		
	Total.....	978		

J. MORRISON, *Accountant.*

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNT from 1st January to 31st March 1845.

Cr.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1844.				1845.			
Dec. 31. To Balance of Cash at this date	1,451	18	3	Mar. 31. By cash paid sundry Tradesmen's Bills and other Disbursements to this date.....			4,990 16 7
1845.				Balance—At Messrs. Twining.....	£1,587	9	3
Mar. 31. To Cash received from Parishes	£4,681	12	11	In hand			227 10 8
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants.....	672	5	4	—————	1,814	19	11
					£6,805	16	6
					—————		
1845.				1845.			
Mar. 31. To Balance of Cash this day	1,814	19	11	Mar. 31. By Amount of Tradesmen's Bills, &c. due at this date			3,444 9 6
To amount due from Parishes	£3,602	16	5	Surplus.....			2,704 8 0
To ditto from County Treasurer for Lunatic Vagrants	731	1	2	—————	£6,148	17	6
					—————		
					£6,148	17	6

(Errors excepted.)

Hancwell, April 16th, 1845.

J. MORRISON, Accountant.

CONTRACT PRICES of the Principal Articles of Consumption in the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, for the Quarter of the Year ending 31st March, 1845.—The Articles are delivered at the Asylum free of Carriage.

	£	s.	d.
Ox Beef, entirely free from Bone	0	6	10½
Prime Wether Mutton, the whole Carcase (without heads, shanks or inside suet).. . . .	0	6	10½
Beef and Mutton Suet (in equal proportions)	0	6	10½
Flour	1	14	6
Malt	2	19	0
Oatmeal	0	13	6
Cheese	2	14	0
Butter	3	19	0
Sugar (Lump)	4	0	0
Sugar (Raw)	3	1	0

CHAS. WRIGHT, Clerk to the Visiting Justices.

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 Act 9th Geo. 4th, cap. 40, from the 1st of January to the 31st of March, 1845.

	£	s.	d.
James Morrison, Advances to Workmen.....	30	2	8
James Harris, superintending Repairs, 1st October to 31st December.....	13	15	0
Charles Roope, Blankets, Ticken, and House Linen.....	205	12	1
Elizabeth Farmer, Ironmongery and Iron....	48	10	3
E. Beck, Lime, Cement, and Stones.....	24	19	11
E. Suter, Stationery.....	10	6	6
E. Westbrook, Bricks.....	1	15	0
Messrs. Walkling and Co., Earthenware.....	17	13	11
C. Robinson, Iron Castings.....	19	7	8
J. Faulkner, Ironmongery.....	17	14	9
Messrs. Chater and Co., Window Glass.....	21	2	8
J. Montgomery, Timber.....	89	12	11
T. Adams, Wire Work.....	3	7	9
T. Woods, Furniture.....	6	15	6
Messrs. Russell and Sons, Steam Tubeing....	0	14	10
G. Simpson, Cutlery.....	8	9	2
P. & M. Norbury, Periodicals.....	6	13	4
Messrs. Turner and Son, Feathers.....	21	18	8
J. H. Tillyer, Oil and Bottles.....	9	1	8
Messrs. Mountjoy and Son, Trees and Shrubs..	7	1	6

Carried forward £564 15 9

TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

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

SINCE the County Day of the last Quarter Session, Messrs. Allen have attended at the Metropolitan Police Courts and in Petty Sessions in twenty-seven cases. In nine of them, Orders upon the County Treasurer for payment of the maintenance of the Lunatics were refused, or the applications for them abandoned. In two the Lunacies were not established; and in the remaining sixteen cases, the Magistrates decided that the Paupers were County Patients, and made Orders for their admission into the Asylum accordingly.

Messrs. Allen have defended four Appeals against Orders obtained at the instance of Parish Officers. They have likewise procured the settlements of Charles Clark and Robert Mark to be adjudicated, and they have attended Parish Officers, and made enquiries, and corresponded in four cases in addition to those before referred to, with the view of protecting the interests of the County.

The expense of attending at the Police Courts and Petty Sessions in the twenty-seven cases, and of tracing out evi-

dence in several of them, amounts to £53 4s. 0d., and the charges relating to the four Appeals, the adjudication of the settlements of Charles Clark and Robert Mark, and the four other Lunatics, are £34 16s. 11d.

In the case of Mary Ann Pugsley, whose settlement had been discovered by Messrs. Allen, and adjudged to be at Cadbury in the County of Devon, the appeal which was stated in Messrs. Allen's last Report to be pending has been since abandoned, and the Court of Quarter Sessions has been applied to for an order upon the Appellants for payment of the Costs of defending the Appeal, but the Court refused make the Order, The costs in that case (including £38 7s. 3d. paid to Country Agents and Witnesses) amount to the sum of £49 14s. 3d.

All which Messrs. Allen submit, &c.

C. & J. ALLEN.

17th April, 1845.