

The fifth annual report of the committee for and Darenth Schools and Asylum for imbeciles, to 31st December, 1879.

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Metropolitan Asylum District.

THE

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE FOR DARENTH
SCHOOLS AND ASYLUM

FOR

IMBECILES,

To 31st DECEMBER, 1879.

LONDON:

M'CORQUODALE & Co., LIMITED, PRINTERS, CARDINGTON STREET, N.W.

1880.

Metropolitan Asylum District

THE

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE FOR PARENTS
SCHOOLS AND ASYLUM

FOR

IMBROGLIOS

TO THE DECEMBER 1870

LONDON:

W. G. & Co. Limited, 15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

1871

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,

For the Year ending 25th March, 1880.

SIR EDMUND HAY CURRIE, *Chairman.*

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

E. H. GALSWORTHY, Esq., J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Board.*

GEORGE BURT, Esq., J.P.

RICHARD CULL, Esq., F.S.A.

Rev. H. I. CUMMINS.

ROBERT EVANS, Esq.

JOHN FISHER, Esq.

W. G. GUERRIER, Esq.

THOMAS W. HODGES, Esq.

JAMES MARSHALL, Esq., J.P.

Rev. C. DARBY READE.

Admiral ROBERTSON, J.P.

ALEX. H. ROSS, Esq., J.P.

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

Medical Superintendent—FLETCHER BEACH, M.B. (Lond.)

Chaplain—Rev. W. H. LANGHORNE, M.A.

Steward—Mr. ALFRED KEATON GOWER.

Matron—Mrs. GOWER.

Schoolmistress—Miss M. J. STEPHENS.

OFFICES OF THE MANAGERS,

37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGERS

The Year ending 31st March, 1910.

SIR EDWARD HAY GURTELL, Chairman.

DR. HENRY J. GURTELL, Secretary.

MR. H. H. GURTELL, Treasurer.

MR. JAMES MARRAS, Hon. Secy.

MR. H. H. GURTELL, Hon. Secy.

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Medical Superintendent - FRANCIS LINDSAY, M.D. (Edinb.)

Physician - DR. W. H. J. GURTELL, M.A.

Surgeon - MR. HENRY GURTELL

Matron - MRS. GURTELL

Pharmacist - MRS. M. J. GURTELL

Officers of the Managers

87, No. 1st Street, Strand, W.C.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE

DARENTH SCHOOLS AND ASYLUM.

December 31, 1879.

*To the Managers of the Metropolitan
Asylum District.*

IMBECILE SCHOOLS.

The twelve months which have elapsed since the presentation of your Committee's last Annual Report are, as regards the schools, chiefly noticeable for the fact that the energies of all concerned in the management and administration of this establishment have been centred in the consolidation of a work so satisfactorily initiated during the latter portion of the previous year, when the transfer of the children from Clapton was successfully accomplished.

A requisite revision of the scale of salaries assigned to the subordinate staff was, with the concurrence of the Managers, decided upon on the early part of the year, and has given general satisfaction.

The general appearance and health of the children have materially improved since their residence at Darenth; excellently ventilated and sufficiently heated wards and dormitories, combined with judiciously chosen recreations, having been mainly conducive to this desirable consummation.

The cost per head for the maintenance and clothing of the children has been at the rate of 11d. and 10d. for the half-years ended Lady-day and Michaelmas, respectively.

The Reports of the Medical Superintendents, Steward, Matron, and Schoolmistress are annexed.

In the Report of the Medical Superintendent will be found interesting statistical and other information, respecting the health and recreation of the children and the general conduct of the schools.

The Reports of the Steward and Matron contain the fullest information respecting the organisation and administration of those portions of the establishment which come under their special supervision.

The Report of the Schoolmistress, which necessarily relates to the educational capabilities of the children confided to her tuition, will be found of great interest.

To the cordial co-operation of these officers, aided as they have been at all times by an efficient subordinate staff, your Committee are in no small degree indebted to the successful accomplishment of their labours.

The Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Schools in

December. Their Report, which is appended, will be found satisfactory.

In July the Managers made their first Annual Inspection of the Schools, and were pleased to express by resolution their appreciation of the Committee's endeavours.

ADULT ASYLUM.

A season of unexampled humidity has necessarily interfered considerably with the progress of building operations at this institution. It is satisfactory, however, to find that the structure is far advanced towards completion.

The following is a list of the contracts for works, &c., in connection with the internal and external administration of the Asylum, which have been entered into by the Managers during the year :—

NAME.	SPECIFICATION OF WORKS.	AMOUNT.
		£ s. d.
Bunnett & Co....	... First Engineering Contract, including cold water tanks, mains and hydrants, hot water supply circulations, main steam and condense pipes, sanitary fittings, gas mains and meters ...	7,500 10 0
Lowcock & Co.	... Second Engineering Contract, including works and fittings in the laundry, boiler and engine-house ...	4,250 0 0
Benham & Sons	... Third Engineering Contract, chiefly comprising kitchen fittings ...	950 0 0
Charles Webber	... *Joinery fittings ...	800 0 0
Smith & Sons ...	... Bakery fittings ...	675 0 0
Beadle Brothers	... Fencing in newly acquired land ...	1,020 0 0

* This contract was accepted in consequence of Messrs. Quinn & Co. refusing to carry out their contract at £700; legal proceedings against this firm are pending.

It is anticipated that a portion of the Adult Asylum will be ready for occupation by April, 1880.

The principle of the appointment of a Medical Superintendent to the Asylum, at a salary of £400 per annum and other allowances, has been agreed upon by the Managers.

GENERAL.

In January last, the Managers, upon the recommendation of your Committee, assented to the purchase of about 58 acres of arable land on the north side of the Board's estate at Darenth, at a cost of £6,322.

The advantages of this investment were clearly pointed out at the time when the purchase was submitted for the Managers' consideration, it being represented that the value of land about institutions such as those at Darenth is invariably enhanced when, at any future time, its acquisition has been desired.

The land in question has been fenced in, and its cultivation is progressing favourably.

A scheme for the drainage of the Darenth Valley, for the furtherance of which, the local authorities propose taxing the Managers' estate together with other property in the neighbourhood, has been submitted to the Local Government Board for ratification. Its adoption, however, has been strenuously opposed by the Managers, who have recently directed an appeal to the Local Government Board with regard thereto.

The excessive assessment of the school buildings by the overseers of the Dartford Union has necessitated an appeal to the Union Assessment Committee. The question at the end of the current year remained in abeyance. It is nevertheless hoped that its settlement may prove satisfactory.

For the courteous consideration with which the Managers have at all times received their recommendations, your Committee desire to tender their warmest thanks.

(Signed) EDMUND HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

(APPENDIX.)

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SCHOOL AND ASYLUM
FOR IMBECILES, DARENTH.

December 6, 1879.

We have during portions of yesterday and to-day gone over and carefully inspected all the occupied parts of this establishment, and seen all the pupils now here.

Our colleagues who visited the Asylum last year made a very full report, and gave therein a detailed description of the Institution, and it will, therefore, be unnecessary on the present occasion that we should do more than notice the progress which has since been made towards the completion of the establishment, and the improvements which have been effected. We are glad to state that many of the suggestions made in that report have been adopted and carried into effect, and that others will also be carried out. Thus the lavatory arrangements have been altered in those wards where the "trough and jet system" was in operation to the ordinary basins; a beginning has been made in enclosing the sides of the covered corridors of communication, and hot water pipes are being laid down for heating the day rooms in the "helpless" blocks.

The severe weather prevailing at the time of our visit made it abundantly obvious that these latter works are of pressing necessity, for the temperature of the rooms referred to was much below what is required, and the cold of the corridors was such as to make it unsafe for many children to traverse them. We trust that the covered ways leading to the closets on the ground floors of several blocks will also be enclosed, maintaining, of course, the means of proper cross ventilation, for, as pointed out last year, the present arrangement is quite unsuited for weather such as has been experienced this winter.

Since the last visit the Probationary block, the block devoted to epileptic girls, and one of the two for paralysed and helpless children of the same sex, have been opened, leaving one block for healthy boys and one for helpless girls yet to be brought into occupation. The Workshops are now in use, and 32 boys are there instructed in tailoring, an equal number in shoemaking, and 3 in carpenter's work. A large amount of painting and colouring has been done in most of the wards and corridors,

and numerous pictures have been hung up, and other objects to interest the children have been introduced, giving to the rooms generally a very cheerful aspect. Outside the building, roads have been formed, the grounds in part laid out, and playgrounds enclosed and brought into use. The farm is in full operation, and we found the farm buildings occupied by a good stock of cows, pigs, &c. All the milk consumed is now supplied by the dairy belonging to the Asylum.

The detached Infirmary is complete, but is used only for cases of infectious disease. At the time of our visit no one was in it, but 5 girls and a boy suffering from weak eyes, not Ophthalmia, of which there is at present no case, were isolated in wards of the Probationary block, and separated from the patients newly received and lodged there.

The state of the various wards as regards cleanliness and ventilation was quite satisfactory. In some we thought the temperature too low, and the means of warming inadequate; and we were glad to learn that attention is directed to this question. The beds and bedding are very good, and in good order, and great care is evidently taken to keep them clean and sweet.

The children now in the Asylum are 441 in number, being an increase of 100 over the number here at the last visit, and they are divided into 254 males and 187 females. A large number are feeble and helpless, requiring great attention from the nurses, and incapable of much improvement. The development of the children of more robust health and better intelligence is carefully attended to, and promoted both by physical and mental training. We saw a number of children of both sexes at their exercises and lessons, and were much pleased, both with the very creditable results attained, and the zeal, patience, and intelligence displayed by the Schoolmistress, Miss Stephens, and her assistants, in the instruction of their very unpromising charges. We have already mentioned the number of boys learning trades. Some of these being over 16 have ceased to attend school. There are besides 2 boys who work in the laundry, and the scrubbing and cleaning of the wards on each side is done by the boys or girls. The girls are taught sewing, and a fair amount of useful work is done by some of them.

We were satisfied with the personal cleanliness and clothing of the children. Both showed that the care so much needed by this class of patients is bestowed upon them. A large number of children are now,

we were glad to learn, supplied with flannel vests. The store-rooms for the clothing, as pointed out last year, and also the work-room are much too small for their purposes, and some mode of enlargement should be sought.

The amusement of the children is not lost sight of. In fine weather, parties of them have been taken out for walks in the country, and there has been cricket for the boys; and we learn that there are associated entertainments in the Dining and Recreation Hall fortnightly, and that concerts are occasionally there given, and plays acted, by the Staff. The hall has been decorated, and supplied with a good stage and its necessaries, and is a handsome room, well suited to its purpose. There are Sunday services in the Chapel, and daily prayers. The Chaplain is at present non-resident, but he attends at the Asylum thrice weekly.

In the interval since December 11, 1878, 86 boys and 63 girls have been received here, 16 of each sex have died, and the following numbers have been discharged, viz. :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
To other District Asylums, having attained 16 years of age and being incapable of learning	6	0	6
At request of Guardians	4	2	6
Recovered	2	2	4
To County Asylums	1	0	1
	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>

The two boys "recovered" have been sent home, and the two girls have been retained in the Asylum as servants, being clothed and paid wages.

The assigned causes of the 32 deaths are as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Epilepsy	1	3	4
Other diseases of the brain	5	2	7
Diseases of lungs	5	7	12
Pulmonary consumption	3	2	5
Diseases of abdominal organs	2	2	4
	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>

The mortality has been at the rate of 6.5 per cent. of the total number of children under care. Post-mortem examinations were made in 21 instances. An epidemic of whooping cough occurred this year, 16 children being attacked, but it is now at an end. There has also been one case of measles. The child who had this complaint was placed in the detached Infirmary, and the disease did not spread. At the time of our visit, seven boys and nine girls were in bed under treatment for ordinary complaints. A large number of the children were suffering from chilblains.

The staff of nurses appeared to us to be a very good one. The bigger boys are now in charge of a married couple, instead of two men as heretofore. There are four night nurses, one for each Infirmary and one for each of the epileptic blocks, and a fifth has just been engaged to visit the other wards, and to attend to the children in them; and we doubt not that her attention will be both beneficial to the children, and tend to economy by reducing the number of wetted and soiled beds.

We saw the children at dinner on the second day of our visit, and the meal was good and abundant and well served.

We are informed that the present daily cost of maintenance per head of the children in the Asylum is 1s. 11½d.

Dr. Fletcher Beach is desirous that the system of discharging improved patients provisionally "on trial," as practised in County Lunatic Asylums, should be adopted here. The provisions of the Lunacy Acts in this respect do not apply to these patients, and we are not aware if any authority can be found for a course which in itself would be a proper one, and likely to be attended with advantage to the patients with whom it would be followed.

Reference was made in our colleague's report last year to the commencement of an Adult Imbecile Asylum on the Darenth Estate; and we may here mention that two blocks of this Asylum with workshops have been built and covered in, and are expected to be ready for occupation in the spring. Four other blocks and the administrative buildings are, we understand, to be proceeded with next year; and the Adult Asylum, when complete, is calculated to afford accommodation for 1,596 patients. The children over 16 who are sufficiently intelligent will be transferred from the existing to this Adult Asylum, in order that their industrial training may continue.

The Asylum Estate has been increased by the purchase of 50 additional acres of land.

It is due to the Committee and to Dr. Beach and his fellow-workers to say, in conclusion, that the efficient condition and good working order into which the existing Asylum has been brought in so short a time are most creditable to them. Dr. Beach's energies must indeed be severely, and we think somewhat unduly taxed by the superintendence of such an establishment, and the medical charge of so many children, many of them infirm, unaided by a permanent Assistant Medical Officer. We agree with our colleague in thinking the Staff incomplete without such an officer, and we trust that the Committee may soon see fit to appoint a suitable person to the post.

(Signed) C. S. BAGOT,
ROBERT NAIRNE,

Commissioners in Lunacy.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Committee of Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1879, being the fifth since the opening of the Asylum. As the Institution has now been in operation nearly five years, I have thought the present time a convenient opportunity for entering more fully into detail than heretofore.

On the 31st of December, 1878, there were in the Asylum 339 patients, of whom 196 were males and 143 females. During the past year 155 patients have been received, viz., 90 males and 65 females; 21 patients, viz., 17 males and 4 females, have been discharged; and 30, viz., 15 males and 15 females, have died. The total number under treatment has been 494; the average daily number resident, 412; and the number in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1879, 443.

ADMISSIONS.

With the exception of the year 1875, when the temporary Asylum at Clapton was opened, the admissions this year have been more numerous than in any preceding one. Thus there were admitted—

In 1875	...	...	...	377 patients.
„ 1876	...	...	...	120 „
„ 1877	...	...	...	56 „
„ 1878	...	...	...	73 „
„ 1879	...	...	...	155 „
Total ...				781 „

This, no doubt, has been due to the fact that a large number of cases had for some time been collected together in the workhouses waiting their turn for admission at Clapton, and as soon as it was known that this Asylum was ready to receive them, they were at once sent in.

There were admitted—

In January	...	...	...	44 patients.
„ February	...	...	...	20 „
„ March	...	...	...	14 „
„ April	...	...	...	9 „
„ May	...	...	...	6 „
„ June	...	...	...	7 „
„ July	...	...	...	7 „
„ August	...	...	...	13 „
„ September	...	...	...	12 „
„ October	...	...	...	7 „
„ November...	...	...	...	10 „
„ December...	...	...	...	6 „
				<hr/>
				155 „
				<hr/>

It was known, too, that there was plenty of room, and so patients, instead of being retained in the workhouses for a considerable time until a vacancy occurred, as was the case at Clapton, were sent here as soon as they were certified to be imbecile. Many cases which would have been improved by treatment at Clapton were never sent in at all, for the mothers, finding that there would be no chance of their children being admitted for some time, removed them from the workhouses and took them to their homes.

Of the 781 patients admitted during the past five years, 464 were males, and 317 females. Thus the usual average of one-half as many more males than females, which is found in Idiot Asylums, has obtained here. According to the census, an equal number of male and female imbeciles are born, but the excess of males in Idiot Asylums is due to the fact that the females, unless very unmanageable, are kept at home by their mothers to assist in the work of the house. In Lunatic Asylums, on the other hand, the females are in excess of the males, partly because more insane males recover and are discharged, and partly because a larger proportion of males die.

RE-ADMISSIONS.

Two patients have been re-admitted. One, a boy, discharged last year at the request of the Guardians, was re-admitted in January; the other, a girl, was sent out also at the request of the Guardians, the mother of the child thinking her to be so much improved that she would be able to manage her at home. I had my doubts in the matter, but was willing that a trial should be made. However, she became unmanageable, and was re-admitted in July.

DISCHARGES.

Of the 21 patients who have been discharged, five have been sent out "recovered," being a percentage of 3.2 on the admissions. The number of recoveries is gradually increasing, and there is no doubt that, as time goes on, this will continue. There are a large number of children in the Asylum admitted at an early age, who are growing up and improving year by year as a result of continued training and treatment.

Of the five "recovered" patients, two girls, with the consent of their Boards of Guardians, have been retained in the Asylum as servants. They are provided with uniform, and are treated as servants, a little pocket money from time to time being given them. It was known that their parents were unable to look after them, and it was considered a better plan to provide them with a home, and find employment for them, than to send them out into the world to get their living, with no one to watch over them. They are happy and quite contented with their condition. Cases of a similar kind will arise from time to time, and the same arrangement should be made with regard to them.

Of the remaining three, one, a boy, has written to the Asylum to say that he has obtained employment as underfootman in a gentleman's family; the other two, a boy and a girl, are at home with their friends.

Four patients have been sent out improved and five unimproved, at the request of their respective Boards of Guardians; six have been transferred to Caterham, being over 16 years of age and "unimprovable," and one, becoming insane, was sent to the workhouse, preparatory to being transferred to a lunatic asylum.

DEATHS.

The death rate, 6.07 per cent. on the total number under treatment, or 7.2 per cent. on the average number daily resident, is much the same as last year, and no doubt will be the usual death rate in this Asylum, although exceptionally high or low death rates may now and then occur from exceptional causes. No less than ten children between 2 and

4 years of age have been admitted during the year. These have required careful nursing and treatment, but owing to the improved infirmary accommodation here, the mortality among them has not been large; only two of them, in fact, have died. Statistics show that one child in every three dies before the completion of the fifth year, so that the small death rate among these young children may be considered satisfactory.

GENERAL HISTORY.

There has been very little contagious disease in the Asylum during the past year. In the autumn one case of measles occurred, and the patient was immediately removed to the Infectious Infirmary, under the care of a nurse. The disease did not spread, and the child, who made a good recovery, was in course of time sent back to the main building. A slight epidemic of hooping cough occurred in the summer, and altogether 20 cases suffered from it. One of the dormitories in the unoccupied girls' helpless block was opened, and the patients were removed there as soon as the disease was recognised. All the cases did well with the exception of a girl who died of bronchitis after recovering from the hooping cough. There have been fresh cases of ophthalmia. Patients who suffer from affections of the eyes are treated in a dormitory set apart for them on one side of the probationary block, but separated from the newly admitted cases by locked doors.

The general health of the inmates has been extremely good. Their ruddy faces and well-nourished bodies show that the change from town to country has been beneficial to them,

and that the dietary scale which remains the same as before, is well adapted to their requirements.

A large number of epileptic patients have been admitted during the year, no less than 59 of the 155 admissions suffering from fits. Altogether there are 130 epileptics, viz. :—82 males and 48 females in the Asylum. Accommodation is provided for 40 male epileptics, but we now have more than double that number, and I have been obliged to overcrowd the infirmary and epileptic blocks in order that they might obtain supervision at night. The conversion of one of the boys helpless blocks into an additional epileptic block, acceded to by the Committee on my recommendation, will be a great boon, and will allow of better attention being devoted to these epileptic children.

The industrial training continues to bear fruit. The amount of work done in the shops will be shown in the Steward's report, but I may be permitted to say that during the past year very few changes have been made among the patients working at the different trades, the boys so occupied having settled down to their work. A table showing the progress made is as usual appended. Sometimes the children express a wish to be put to a particular trade, and unless there is any physical disqualification, the request is usually acceded to. Five more patients have been removed from school, being over 16 years of age, and pass the whole of their time in the shops. The remainder as before, work on the "half-time" system. Five girls who have passed out of the school are now employed in the workroom. A table is appended showing the employments of the children, and the number so employed.

The number of children on the school register on the 31st of December, 1879, was 271. The feeble and helpless children and the little boys, who at present occupy one of the boys' helpless blocks, have been retained in their wards during the very cold weather to avoid the exposure to which they would have been subjected in passing along the open corridors to the schoolroom. The closing in of these open corridors, determined on by the Committee, will, I am quite sure, be attended with the best results. The children will be able to attend school more regularly, and the health of the nurses will be improved. The closing in of the ventilating lobbies to the W.C.'s is much required and will no doubt be effected in time.

The amusement of the patients is regularly attended to. The old adage "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," more especially applies to these children with defective brains. As soon as the playgrounds were finished the children made use of them, and occupied themselves with their different amusements and games. On fine days the children have been sent out for walks into the surrounding country in charge of an attendant, and on half-holidays cricket matches have been played by the boys on a public piece of land about a mile from the Asylum. A cricket-ground on the Asylum estate is very much wanted, and it is to be hoped that the Committee will soon see their way to the formation of one. On wet days the children amuse themselves in their wards with books, pictures, and toys, while the fife and drum band practise, and in the evenings the more advanced are amused in the school-room as in past years under the supervision of the teachers.

Special entertainments during the winter months occur once a fortnight. Since the completion of the stage and dressing rooms, farces, concerts, shadow pantomimes, &c., have been performed by the Staff. The annual New Year's entertainment did not take place last January, as the stage was not then ready, but a special performance was given at Easter. The Staff of the City of London Asylum very kindly came over last winter to give us a concert, and a very good conjuring performance was given later in the season by Mr. Turner. We have to thank these kind friends for their assistance. On Christmas Day the usual Christmas tree was decorated, and the presents were distributed in the afternoon. A novel feature on that day was the performance of an abridged "Jack and the Beanstalk," especially adapted to children, by some of the more intelligent patients.

The arrangements made by the railway company and the Committee to facilitate the visiting of the patients by their friends have been much appreciated by the latter. In the summer months it is not at all uncommon to have 30 or 40 visitors. The children look forward with great pleasure to these visiting days, in the hope of seeing their friends, and especially their brothers and sisters.

The Asylum has been visited by various Boards of Guardians, the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and the Commissioners in Lunacy, all of whom, especially the latter, have reported very favourably on the working of the Asylum. In the spring, Sir Baldwin Leighton, who was preparing a bill for the better treatment of the insane poor, paid us a visit; and in the summer, Mr. Wilkinson, a member of the Charity Organisation Society, and who is much

interested in the treatment of imbecile children, came to see the Asylum. A Norwegian gentleman named Sæthre, who was sent over by his Government to see the methods of teaching imbecile children in England, paid us several visits; and Dr. Seguin, who commenced the training of imbeciles very many years ago, was interested to see the progress we have made. The neighbouring inhabitants often pay us visits.

Since my last Report the block for epileptic females, and one of the two for helpless girls have been opened. The unoccupied healthy block on the boys' side will soon be made use of, and the little boys now in the helpless block (which is to be converted into an additional epileptic block) will be placed there. The probationary block has also been opened for the reception of the patients on their admission. Fourteen days' quarantine is strictly carried out, and to ensure it the more, the admission of patients takes place once a fortnight, an arrangement which has been found to work very well.

The construction of the Asylum on the block system, with one storey buildings for the sick, epileptic, and helpless, has been found to be a very convenient arrangement. The classification of the patients can be properly carried out, and the working of the Asylum be carried on with greater ease. One requires to have had a Clapton experience fully to realise the great improvements made here. The fact that not a single serious casualty has occurred during the past year, is a further proof that the building meets the wants of those for whom it was constructed.

Some alterations both in the construction and the work-

ing of the new Asylum were inevitable, and all have added to the comfort of the inmates. The doing away with the "trough and jet system" formerly in use by the patients occupying the healthy blocks, and the substitution of basins has been found to be a great improvement. The warming of the helpless blocks by hot water, which the Committee were kind enough to carry out on my recommendation, has greatly improved the health of the children occupying them, while the appointment of a married couple in place of two male attendants to take charge of the big boys, has been attended with excellent results. The appointment of a night nurse to look after the cleanliness of those children in the blocks not provided with night nurses, has greatly reduced the quantity of dirty linen, and has done away with the rashes from which the children previously suffered. The arrangements, too, by which the school attendants take their holiday on a day other than that of the ordinary attendants, has proved to be a useful one.

The system of sending out patients "on trial" is about to be commenced. We have a patient who has much improved, and the mother is anxious to have her home for a while. The Board of Guardians have given their consent and she will be sent out on two months' trial, on the understanding that she is to be brought to see me at the end of that time, when, if she has still further improved, she will be finally discharged, but if not she will again be received into the Asylum without fresh certificates being required. This plan I hope, with the consent of the Committee, to again apply as suitable cases may arise. There is no doubt that the mixing of a patient who has arrived at a proper stage of improvement, with the outside world under proper safe-

guards is often attended with good results, while the doctor has the opportunity of testing the mental state of his patient when placed under new conditions of life.

It will be in the remembrance of the Committee that during the past year your Medical Superintendent was summoned to Norfolk Street to confer with the Medical Superintendents of Caterham and Leavesden Asylums, and to assist in drawing up statistical tables, which should give particulars respecting the patients in these Asylums on a uniform plan. These tables were approved by the General Purposes Committee, and copies sent to us. As far as possible I have endeavoured to use them, but I have found it necessary to modify some and to omit others, in consequence of the patients here being of a different class to those resident in the adult Asylums.

The following tables have been appended :—

Table I. Showing the admissions, re-admissions, discharges, and deaths during the year 1879.

Table II. Showing the admissions, re-admissions, and discharges, from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1879.

Table III. Showing the admissions, discharges, and deaths, with the mean annual mortality and proportion of recoveries per cent. of the admissions for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

Table IV. Table of ages of patients at present in Asylum.

Table V. Showing the assigned causes of the mental disorder in the admissions during the year 1879.

Table VI. Showing the History of the Annual admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the discharges and deaths, and the numbers remaining on the 31st of December of each year, and of the year reported on.

Table VII. Showing the causes of death during the year 1879, together with the ages of the decedents.

Table VIII. Showing the length of residence in those discharged recovered, and in those who have died during the year.

Table IX. Showing the ages of patients admitted into the Asylum in each year, calculated from the ages stated on the orders of admission.

Table X. Showing the ages of the admissions, discharges, and deaths, during the year.

Table XI. Showing the departments where patients were employed on the 31st of December, 1879.

Table XII. Showing the grades of work.

The original Tables IV. and V., which related to the classification, under the usual denominations of mental disease, of the mental condition of the patients in the Asylum, have been omitted, as not applicable to the inmates here, and other tables have been substituted. The original Table XII., showing the occupation of the patients admitted during the year, has also been omitted, and one giving some interesting particulars respecting the patients in the Tailor's and Shoemaker's shops has taken its place.

Tables VII. and X. have been modified.

If I may be allowed, I would suggest to the Committee the advisability of removing the patients over 16 years of age into the new Asylum in small numbers at a time.

The Table giving the departments where patients are employed shows that we should come to a standstill for want of workers if all the patients over 16 years of age were removed at one time. If a few are sent over now and then, as suitable cases for training are admitted into the Schools, the absence of the trained children would be much less felt, and the work would be carried on with little difficulty.

I cannot close my Report without referring to the good conduct and perseverance in duty of the attendants engaged in the work of the Asylum. All, I am glad to say, are animated with much zeal in the discharge of their duty, and it is upon this that the successful carrying on of any work so much depends. The children have become much attached to them, and it has often surprised me to see the amount of affection which many nurses and patients have for each other. Some of the most helpless cases are the most affectionate, and notice at once when a change of their nurse is made. Seeing how much the comfort of the patients depends upon the intimate knowledge of their habits and dispositions by those in charge of them, frequent changes are much to be deprecated, and I am glad to say that few have occurred during the year. To relieve the monotony of their work by providing rational amusement for them when they are off duty is, I am sure, the best means of retaining them in your service. To effect this a Glee Society has been started and a Library formed, while

the weekly periodicals are, as usual, distributed among them. Many take part in the entertainments to the patients, and in the preparation for these, and the witnessing of our rehearsals by those not engaged, many a pleasant evening is passed. The two hours' dance, which the Committee have always granted them after the entertainments are over, is very much appreciated.

Once more acknowledging the assistance which I have received from the officers, and the continued confidence which you repose in me,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FLETCHER BEACH, M.B., M.R.C.P.,

Medical Superintendent.

Darenth Schools, January, 1880.

TABLE I.
Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the year 1879.

	Male.		Female.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1879	196	143	339	...	...
Admitted for the first time during the year	89	64	153	...	...
Re-admitted during the year	1	1	2	...	...
Total under care during the year	90	65	155	...	...
Discharged or Removed—	286	208	494	...	...
Recovered	2	3	5	...	...
Relieved	3	1	4	...	...
*Not Improved	12	0	12	...	...
Died	15	15	30	...	...
Total discharged (for various reasons) and died during the year	32	19	51	...	...
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December, 1879	254	189	443	...	...
Average number resident during the year	238.74	176.40	415.14	...	...
Highest number resident on any one day	255	190	445	...	...
Lowest number resident on any one day	198	143	341	...	...

* Sent to Caterham, being over 16 years and unimprovable, 6 Males. Sent out at request of Guardians, 5 Males. Sent to County Asylum, 1 Male.

TABLE II.
Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges, from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1879.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted during the period of five years	463	314	777
Re-admissions	1	3	4
Total of cases admitted...	464	317	781
Discharged or Removed—			
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Recovered	6	6	12
Relieved	15	6	21
Not Improved	110	54	164
Died...	79	62	141
Total discharged and died during the five years	210	128	338
Remaining, 31st December, 1879	254	189	443
Average number resident during the five years	192.80	144.62	337.42

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Year	Month	Day	Event / Description
1850	Jan	1	...
1850	Jan	2	...
1850	Jan	3	...
1850	Jan	4	...
1850	Jan	5	...
1850	Jan	6	...
1850	Jan	7	...
1850	Jan	8	...
1850	Jan	9	...
1850	Jan	10	...
1850	Jan	11	...
1850	Jan	12	...
1850	Jan	13	...
1850	Jan	14	...
1850	Jan	15	...
1850	Jan	16	...
1850	Jan	17	...
1850	Jan	18	...
1850	Jan	19	...
1850	Jan	20	...
1850	Jan	21	...
1850	Jan	22	...
1850	Jan	23	...
1850	Jan	24	...
1850	Jan	25	...
1850	Jan	26	...
1850	Jan	27	...
1850	Jan	28	...
1850	Jan	29	...
1850	Jan	30	...
1850	Jan	31	...

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TABLE III.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths; with the Mean Annual Mortality and proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Died.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers Resident.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.																	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
*1875 ...	213	164	377	...	...	...	2	1	3	30	20	50	13	11	24	168	132	300	137.6	125.1	262.7	...	...	...	9.44	8.79	9.13
1876 ...	76	44	120	...	...	...	2	...	2	25	18	43	23	21	44	194	137	331	182.9	136.9	319.8	...	...	...	12.5	15.3	13.7
1877 ...	32	24	56	2	1	3	4	2	6	4	9	13	10	5	15	206	144	350	201.1	140.5	341.6	6.25	4.16	5.35	4.97	3.55	4.39
1878 ...	53	20	73	2	2	4	4	2	6	39	7	46	18	10	28	196	143	339	203.6	144.1	347.7	3.77	10.0	5.47	8.84	6.93	8.05
†1879 ...	90	65	155	2	3	5	3	1	4	12	...	12	15	15	30	254	189	443	238.7	176.4	415.1	2.22	4.61	3.22	6.29	8.50	7.22
Totals...	464	317	781	6	6	12	15	6	21	110	54	164	79	62	141	...	...	...	192.8	144.6	337.4	...	...	...	...	...	...

* The year when the Asylum at Clapton was opened.

† The year when the Asylum at Darenth was opened.

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Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

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TABLE IV.

*Showing the Ages of the Patients resident in the Asylum on the
31st December, 1879.*

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 2 to 4 years ...	5	4	9
„ 4 to 6 „ ...	9	5	14
„ 6 to 8 „ ...	26	10	36
„ 8 to 10 „ ...	33	13	46
„ 10 to 12 „ ...	30	23	53
„ 12 to 14 „ ...	70	32	102
„ 14 to 16 „ ...	54	30	84
16 „ ...	10	19	29
17 „ ...	7	15	22
18 „ ...	5	13	18
19 „ ...	3	10	13
20 „ ...	2	1	3
Over 20 „ ...	...	14	14
Total ...	254	189	443

105

14

3

429

TABLE V.

Showing the probable Causes of the Mental Disorder in the Patients admitted during the year 1879.

CAUSES.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CONGENITAL :—			
Fright of mother during pregnancy (In 5 of these the fathers were intemperate.)	7	4	11
Anxiety of mother during pregnancy (In 4 of these the fathers were intemperate.)	3	4	7
Tedius or difficult birth (In 2 of these the fathers were intemperate.)	5	3	8
Intemperance of mother during the entire period of pregnancy ... ..	...	1	1
Fall of mother during pregnancy, producing premature birth... ..	1	...	1
Cruelty to mother during pregnancy, producing premature birth (The father was intemperate.)	...	1	1
Imbecility of father	1	...	1
Unknown (In 2 of these the fathers were intemperate.)	3	5	8
ACQUIRED :—			
Epilepsy	14	9	23
Convulsions in infancy	3	3	6
Illness	2	1	3
Paralysis producing aphasia after fit ... ..	...	1	1
Fright of child ... ..	...	1	1
Fall on head, producing fits ... ..	...	1	1
Not ascertained	56	26	82
	95	60	155

In many of these cases there was a history of insanity, imbecility, or epilepsy in the parents or their relations.

TABLE VI.

Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the Opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the numbers remaining on the 31st December of each year, and of the year reported on.

Year.	Admitted.					Of each year's Admissions, Discharged, and Died in 1879.												Total Discharged and Died of each year's Admissions to 31st December, 1879.												Remaining of each year's Admissions on 31st December, 1879.		
	New Cases		Relapse Cases.		Total	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Males	Females	Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total						
1875...	213	164	...	...	377	...	1	1	2	...	2	5	...	5	7	3	10	3	2	5	6	2	8	85	38	123	51	55	86	68	87	155
1876...	76	44	...	...	120	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	5	2	7	11	14	25	15	10	25	44	16	60
1877...	32	24	...	...	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	4	...	1	1	2	...	2	6	2	8	5	6	11	19	15	34
1878...	53	19	...	1	73	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	3	2	...	2	...	...	2	1	3	5	...	5	3	2	5	43	17	60	
1879...	89	64	1	1	155	2	1	3	...	1	1	3	...	3	5	9	14	2	1	3	...	1	1	3	...	3	5	9	14	80	54	134
Totals ...	463	315	1	2	781	2	3	5	3	1	4	12	...	12	15	15	30	6	6	12	15	6	21	110	54	164	79	62	141	254	189	443

Summary of the Total Admissions.				Males.	Females.	Both sexes.
Percentage of cases	Recovered	...	...	1.29	1.89	1.53
"	"	Relieved	...	3.23	1.89	2.68
"	"	Not Improved	...	23.7	17.0	20.9
"	"	Dead...	...	17.0	19.5	18.0
"	"	Remaining	...	54.7	59.6	56.2

Year	Month	Day	Hour	Minute	Second	Total
1872	Jan	1	1	1	1	1
1872	Jan	2	2	2	2	2
1872	Jan	3	3	3	3	3
1872	Jan	4	4	4	4	4
1872	Jan	5	5	5	5	5
1872	Jan	6	6	6	6	6
1872	Jan	7	7	7	7	7
1872	Jan	8	8	8	8	8
1872	Jan	9	9	9	9	9
1872	Jan	10	10	10	10	10
1872	Jan	11	11	11	11	11
1872	Jan	12	12	12	12	12
1872	Jan	13	13	13	13	13
1872	Jan	14	14	14	14	14
1872	Jan	15	15	15	15	15
1872	Jan	16	16	16	16	16
1872	Jan	17	17	17	17	17
1872	Jan	18	18	18	18	18
1872	Jan	19	19	19	19	19
1872	Jan	20	20	20	20	20
1872	Jan	21	21	21	21	21
1872	Jan	22	22	22	22	22
1872	Jan	23	23	23	23	23
1872	Jan	24	24	24	24	24
1872	Jan	25	25	25	25	25
1872	Jan	26	26	26	26	26
1872	Jan	27	27	27	27	27
1872	Jan	28	28	28	28	28
1872	Jan	29	29	29	29	29
1872	Jan	30	30	30	30	30
1872	Jan	31	31	31	31	31

Year	Month
1872	Jan
1872	Feb
1872	Mar
1872	Apr
1872	May
1872	Jun
1872	Jul
1872	Aug
1872	Sep
1872	Oct
1872	Nov
1872	Dec

TABLE VII.

Showing the Causes of Death during the year 1879, together with the Ages of the Decedents.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	2 to 4.		4 to 6.		6 to 8.		8 to 10.		10 to 12.		12 to 14.		14 to 16.		16		17		18		19		20		TOTAL.					
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.			
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASES:—																														
Chronic Hydrocephalus																											2	2		
Epilepsy and Convulsions						1					1	1			1												1	3	4	
Meningitis													1	1													1	1	2	
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Softening, Tumours, &c...				1	1						1																2	1	3	
THORACIC DISEASE:—																														
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleuræ and Bronchi		2			1	3	1			1			1													1	4	6	10	
Pulmonary Consumption									1	1		1			1		1										3	2	5	
Disease of the Heart, &c.																														
ABDOMINAL DISEASE:—																														
Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, Intestines, or Peritoneum...									1																		1		1	
Diarrhœa													1								1						1	1	2	
Exanthemata																														
Erysipelas																														
Anæmia																														
Marasmus																	1											1	1	
Accidents																														
Totals		2		1	2	4	1		2	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	2			1			1			1	15	15	30	

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death

Chronic Myocarditis

Epilepsy and Coma

Alcohol

Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Meninges,

Toxic Diseases

Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleura and Pericardium

Pulmonary Consumption

Diseases of the Heart

Acute Diseases

Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, Intestines,

Bladder

Exanthemata

Typhoid

Scarlatina

Meningitis

Leucorrhoea

TABLE VIII.

Showing the Length of Residence in those discharged Recovered, and in those who have died during the year.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.	RECOVERED.			DIED.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 month ...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 1 to 3 Months	...	...	...	2	4	6
„ 3 to 6 „ ...	...	...	...	...	3	3
„ 6 to 9 „ ...	1	1	2	2	3	5
„ 9 to 12 „ ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
„ 1 to 2 Years ..	...	...	...	3	1	4
„ 2 to 3 „ ...	...	1	1	...	2	2
„ 3 to 5 „ ...	...	1	1	7	2	9
„ 5 to 7 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 7 to 10 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 10 to 12 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	3	5	15	15	30

TABLE VIII

Showing the Length of Residence in those Discharged Recovered, and in those who have died during the year.

Discharged			Recovered			Length of Residence
Label	Number	%	Label	Number	%	
1	...	1	...	...	...	Under 1 month
2	4	2	...	...	...	From 1 to 3 Months
3	3	...	...	...	...	" " 3 to 6
4	3	2	2	1	1	" " 6 to 9
...	...	...	1	...	1	" " 9 to 12
4	1	3	...	...	...	" " 1 to 2 Years
3	2	...	1	1	...	" " 2 to 3
5	2	7	1	1	...	" " 3 to 5
...	...	...	...	...	...	" " 5 to 7
...	...	...	...	...	...	" " 7 to 10
...	...	...	...	...	...	" " 10 to 12
30	15	15	5	3	2	

TABLE IX.

Showing the Ages of Patients admitted into the Asylum in each year; calculated from the Ages stated on the Orders of Admission.

Years ending December 31st.	2 to 4		4 to 6		6 to 8		8 to 10		10 to 12		12 to 14		14 to 16		16		17		18		19		Over 20.		TOTALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
*1875 ...	...	...	13	7	21	11	33	22	39	27	34	28	51	28	14	8	7	7	1	3	...	...	...	23	213	164	377
1876 ...	2	2	7	1	10	9	13	8	18	1	9	6	13	11	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	76	44	120
1877 ...	...	1	4	2	3	2	7	5	7	5	5	1	5	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	24	56
1878 ...	...	...	5	1	12	3	5	2	12	3	13	7	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	20	73
1879 ...	5	5	10	6	18	9	13	7	12	13	13	10	18	14	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	65	155
Total ...	7	8	39	17	64	34	71	44	88	49	74	52	92	65	20	11	8	7	1	3	...	...	...	27	464	317	781

* The year when the Asylum at Clapton was opened.

Showing the steps of

3 to 5		6 to 8		9 to 11		12 to 14		Years ending December 31st
Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	
33	11	31	7	19	...	...	...	1876
19	9	10	1	7	2	2	...	1875
7	2	3	2	4	1	...	...	1874
3	3	12	1	3	...	...	...	1873
13	9	18	6	10	2	2	...	1872
17	16	14	14	20	3	7	...	Total

TABLE X.
Showing the Ages of the Admissions, Discharges and Deaths during the year.

Ages.	The Admissions.			The Discharges.						The Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or Otherwise.			Male.	Female.	Total.
				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.			
From 2 to 4 years	5	5	10	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
" 4 to 6 "	10	6	16	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
" 6 to 8 "	18	9	27	...	...	...	3	1	...	4	4	6
" 8 to 10 "	13	7	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
" 10 to 12 "	12	13	25	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	5
" 12 to 14 "	13	10	23	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	3
" 14 to 16 "	18	14	32	1	1	2	...	...	...	4	1	5
" 16 "	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	7	1	2	3
" 17 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
" 18 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
" 19 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
" 20 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total	90	65	155	2	3	5	15	1	16	15	15	30

TABLE XI.

Showing the Departments where Patients were employed on the 31st December, 1879.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Departments.	Numbers Employed.	Departments.	Numbers Employed.
Blocks ...	47	Laundry ...	9
Coaling ...	2	Work Room ...	5
Stores ...	2	Helpers in Blocks ...	42
Mess Room ...	1	Needlework in Blocks ...	1
Tailor's Shop ...	24	Corridor ...	15
Shoemaker's Shop ...	23	Dining Hall ...	6
Laundry ...	2	Kitchen ...	4
Carpenter ...	3		
Total ...	104	Total ...	82

TABLE XII.
Showing Grades of Work in Tailor's and Shoemaker's Shops.

Occupations of Boys. Grades of Work.	Number employed in each grade with quality of work.				Total number employed.
	Indifferent.	Fair.	Good.	Excellent.	
I. TAILORING.					
1. Preliminary Work ...	3	1	1	...	5
2. Sewing Linings or Seams ...	1	1	1	2	5
3. Felling ...	...	...	...	..	...
4. Button-holing ...	...	1	3	...	4
5. Repairing ...	...	1	2	4	7
6. Machining ...	...	1	...	2	3
II. SHOEMAKING.					
1. Preliminary Work ...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Closing Uppers ...	6	6	7	...	19
3. Repairing ...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Finishing ...	...	1	...	...	1
5. Riveting ...	1	1	1	...	3
					24 Tailors (5 whole time).
					23 Shoemakers (10 whole time).

*To the Chairman and Committee,
Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for 1879.

Twelve months' experience in working the Asylum has shown that its general arrangement is equal to all reasonable demands made upon it, and, the very few alterations and additions which it has been found necessary to make, speak for the completeness of the original design.

The warming of the day-rooms of the four helpless blocks by means of hot water instead of open fire-places as before, and the enclosing of the open corridors connecting these blocks with the main portion of the building, are the only alterations deserving of notice which have taken place.

The first named work has proved of great value, not, only for the greater comfort it gives to the patients in the block, but, also from an economical point of view, since the saving of fuel by the present arrangement is equal to about three tons of coal per week.

The labour in connection with the work was carried out by our own staff, and the cost was comparatively of trifling amount. It is to hoped that the same system of warming will be extended to the day-rooms of the healthy and epileptic blocks.

The closing of the open corridors will doubtless prove of great additional comfort to the establishment.

The boilers, engines, pumps, and machinery generally, in use in the Asylum have been found to work satisfactorily.

The quantity of water pumped weekly has been about 210,000 gallons, and not the slightest impression appears to have been made upon the yield in the well, which for all practical purposes appears to be inexhaustible.

The work in the Tailor's and Shoemaker's shops has progressed steadily during the past year, and the result of the training of the patients is shown in the enhanced value of their labour. (See Table appended.)

I would add, that the whole of the clothing of the boys has during the past year been made in the Tailor's, and the whole of the shoes for the use of the establishment, in the Shoemaker's shops.

This fact is interesting, as showing the possibility of directing the labour of imbeciles to a practical issue, and as these patients will upon attaining sixteen years of age be drafted into the neighbouring Asylum, they will in time constitute a body of workmen taking an intelligent interest in their labour, and thus prove a source of profit to the Institution.

In addition to this, the labour of the patients is still further utilised in the various domestic requirements of the Asylum, and, when I add that nearly the whole of the cleansing of the building is done by them, a fair estimate may be formed of the value of their labour in this direction.

A Fire Brigade consisting of artisans and workmen

employed at the Asylum has recently been formed, who will be exercised periodically, so that they may be of assistance should occasion unfortunately arise to call for their services.

The provisions and other articles supplied have been of good quality, and fully equal to contract.

The Gas Works have been worked satisfactorily, and a little over 3,000,000 feet of gas made during the year. Judging from the last half-yearly statement, the cost will be but slightly (if any) over 2s. per 1,000 feet.

The work on the Farm has been pursued with interest, and it is also to be hoped not without profit, although the rude condition of the land when taken over, and the length of time it had previously remained unworked, necessitated considerable expenditure for the first year.

The Books of the Farm are made up yearly (Lady-day), so that I hope, in my next report, to present a correct statement of accounts.

During the past season we raised 90 tons of mangold, 30 tons of potatoes, about 40,000 head of cabbages, 50 quarters of pease, 85 quarters of oats, and sufficient green fodder to feed our stock during the summer. This result was mainly due to the utilisation of the sewage of the Asylum.

About 10 acres of land were laid down as permanent pasture during last Autumn, and 4 additional acres will be laid down next Spring.

The last named field will serve as cricket and recreation ground for the patients.

About an acre of ground adjoining the Asylum has been double trenched for kitchen garden, and grounds and lawn immediately in front of the building have been formed. The planting of this with trees and shrubs will be proceeded with directly the state of the weather permits.

The 58 acres of land recently purchased by the Managers were partially cleansed during the summer, and will be brought under cultivation next spring.

The full value to be derived from this land will not be obtained, until arrangements are made by which the sewage of the Adult Asylum can be conveyed to it.

As the Committee are aware this can be readily done by the adoption of the means suggested.

The stock at present on the Farm, viz., 15 cows, 1 bull, 5 horses, 20 sheep, and 40 pigs, are in a satisfactory condition. The cows especially have been a source of profit to the Asylum, the daily yield of milk from each cow averaging 3 gallons.

The average cost of keep of each cow I estimate at 14s., and the value of milk given 21s. weekly. It has also been found that the value of the flesh of such animals as we have killed proves nearly equal to the price originally paid for them.

The pigs, also, as is generally the case, have proved a

profitable source of investment. The sheep are apparently doing well, but are not yet fit for killing.

With one exception only, there has been no change in the staff connected with the Steward's Department, and I am pleased to have this opportunity of thanking all connected with the Asylum, for the hearty co-operation and assistance they have accorded me in carrying out my duties.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Committee for the great consideration they have extended towards me during the past year, and remain,

Gentlemen,

Very obediently yours,

(Signed) A. KEATON GOWER,
Steward.

TAILOR'S.

Number of Boys at Work daily.	Average Number of hours at Work daily.	LIST OF ARTICLES MADE.			General Repairs.	Value of Labour.
		Jackets.	Vests.	Trousers.		
25	2½	248	239	270	2,976	£71 16 10
SHOEMAKER'S.						
23	3	Pairs of Boys' Shoes.	Pairs of Girls' Shoes.		483	£66 12 2
		268	562			
		Total	...	...	...	£138 9 0

*To the Chairman and Committee of the
Darenth Asylum.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1879.

Dealing first with the industrial portion of the Administration, I would state that the work in the Laundry continues to be of a very heavy nature, about 9,500 articles passing through that department weekly.

Although we have at present over 100 additional cases in the Asylum (compared with last year), we have not yet found it necessary to increase the Household Staff, but, in the event of further admissions, I fear that we shall be compelled to engage additional assistance, both in the Laundry and the Kitchen.

I beg to submit a list of the articles made during the past year by the Workmistress, Attendants, and Patients.

List of Articles made in the Asylum during the year 1879.

Uniform Dresses...	...	...	...	170
Patients' do. ...	...	...	...	272
Pinafores...	...	...	...	538
Aprons ...	...	...	...	300
Upper Petticoats	...	...	...	563
Flannel Vests ...	...	...	...	625
Under Petticoats	...	...	...	619

Shirts	381
Chemises	96
Night Gowns	177
Neckties	258
Sheets	12
Bibs, Hoods, &c.	261
Kitchen Cloths	60
Tea Cloths	75
Pillow Slips	34
Shrouds	26

Articles made by the Patients in School.

Night Gowns	6
Chemises	6
Shirts	9
Pinafores	96

In addition to this work, about 1,400 articles are repaired weekly, or 72,800 articles during the year.

Such of the patients as are able to work have been usefully employed in various offices in the Asylum, and nearly every girl not physically incapacitated for such work is able to make her own bed, and render assistance in keeping the establishment clean.

The boys, especially, are found of great assistance in scrubbing floors, and the whole of the beds in the boys' healthy block are made by them. This work is in addition to the training they receive in the various shops.

Two of the more advanced patients (girls) have been

taken on as permanent assistants, and are found to do their work in an intelligent manner.

Since my last Report, one of the Head Attendants has resigned her situation in consequence of ill-health, when it was determined to try the experiment of having but one Head Attendant for the whole Asylum.

The alteration in question has been in force for four months, and has hitherto been found to work satisfactorily.

The system of changing the night nurses occasionally, which was first introduced at Clapton, has been continued at Darenth, and is found to be attended with beneficial results to the nurses so engaged.

But few changes have occurred amongst the staff of attendants and household servants during the past year, and those principally in consequence of approaching marriage, or a desire to improve their position in life.

Again I have the pleasure of reporting that on one occasion only has it been necessary to withhold the gratuity kindly granted to the subordinate staff for good conduct.

The fortnightly entertainments, which were continued last winter and spring until Easter, commenced about three months ago, and are a source of great pleasure to those of the patients (nearly 300) who are able to attend, and the two or three hours' dancing by the attendants and others which occur occasionally after the patients have retired serve to relieve the monotony of Asylum life.

In conclusion, I have to thank the whole of the staff engaged for the great assistance I have at all times received from them, and the Committee for their continued kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very obediently yours,

(Signed) AGNES GOWER,
Matron.

SCHOOLMISTRESS'S REPORT, 1879.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Fifth Annual Report.

Of the 443 patients in the Asylum,

14 are adult women.

97 are children over 16 (not attending School).

271 are children attending School.

61 are children in Probationary, Helpless, Infirmary, or Epileptic Wards.

—
443
—

Of the 271 children attending School (boys, 181; girls, 90)—

227 attend whole time.

44 attend half time.

—
271
—

The attendance during the year has varied from 90 to 214, though the average attendance has been 161.

In School these 271 children have been classified according to their various abilities, and have been arranged in the seven *mixed* classes formed for their improvement.

The following will show the number of children in each class, the subjects taught, and the standard of attainment:—

CLASS I.

Contains—22 boys, 15 girls. Whole time, 24; half time, 13. Total, 37.

Many children here are making great progress, while others are able to work in some subjects well, though in others badly—perhaps reading nicely and writing very indifferently, or *vice versâ*. Since the removal of the children over 16 years of age from the School, the standard of this class has been lowered slightly, several children having come up from the 2nd Class to fill up the vacancies caused by those leaving. Sudden outbursts of temper and excessive naughtiness are rarely found here, the majority rather priding themselves on being in the 1st Class.

READING.—From Nelson's Reading Books, Standards I. and II., and from Primer (American). Occasionally *Children's Friend* and *Infants' Magazines*.

SPELLING AND DICTATION.—Words of one, two, or three syllables; generally the names of the objects surrounding them.

WRITING.—From the formation of letters, to sentences in copy books. Many children write very nicely paragraphs on slate or in exercise books.

Occasionally letters to friends are written, much interest and care being bestowed upon them. Eight or nine children compose their own letters, others copy from one arranged on black-board.

ARITHMETIC.—The first four rules; a few children working the same in money. Nearly all will work correctly an addition sum in thousands (of five or six rows of figures). Several work subtraction, but cannot be got to understand the borrowing and the paying back of the “ten,” and yet they can do an easy multiplication or division sum.

NUMERATION AND NOTATION.—Words and figures to 1000.

COUNTING.—To 1000.

ROMAN FIGURES.—The majority to L. Several know all.

DRAWING.—Symmetrical figures on chequered slates or books.

SHOP.—Buying, selling, and weighing groceries, &c., to teach balance, together with calculation of amount to be paid or given in change, and knowledge of current coins. Articles bought and sold generally to the amount of 2s. 6d.

TABLES.—Multiplication Tables to 12×12 , together with a little knowledge of Tables of Money, Weight, Measure, and Time.

FORM AND COLOUR.—Well known; together with the shades of the latter.

CLOCK.—Not well known, imbecile children learning very slowly the minutes past, or to, an hour, though the Roman figures may be well known, and the minutes required to compose the parts of the hour.

KINDER GARTEN EMPLOYMENTS.—Paper cutting, folding, and plaiting. In this class the children plait, for them, difficult forms. Occasionally they take embroidery of texts, stick plaiting, and cork modelling.

COMPOSITION.—As may be expected, poor returns can only be given ; the composition consisting of a written account (on slate) of a visit paid to the farm, of a walk in the wood, or of a lesson given previously on some common object. Fifteen or sixteen will write eight or nine lines with the sentences fairly arranged and spelt. Others write the names of the objects seen or heard of, but have no idea of the arrangement of the same into sentences.

MEMORY LESSON.—10.0 to 10.30, Saturday. This consists simply of the learning of a verse or two, or a few sentences in prose, and then writing or repeating the same from memory.

INDUSTRIAL LESSON.—Bedmaking, boot, stove, window, hearth, and silver cleaning, dusting, sweeping, arrangement of table for meals, washing platter, glasses, and dishes. Lessons are given occasionally on cooking potatoes, boiling eggs, and making tea, coffee, and cocoa.

NEEDLEWORK.—Carried on twice a week, 2.0 to 3.15. During the time (added to which is the sewing of the 2nd class) the following articles of clothing have been made :—

96 pinafores (hand and machine).

6 night gowns.

9 shirts.

6 chemises.

6 pairs socks (run heel and toe).

The sewing machine is still taught, and used in the School. Lately each girl has been supplied with a piece of canvas for making a sampler. The hemming round has been done, but it remains to be proved whether many or few will overcome the intricacies of marking. At the next visit of the Managers the samplers could be shown, together with the sewing—reference having been made to them in this Report. Much pleasure and interest was experienced during one fortnight, by the brightest of the children (girls, with a few boys) with the Chairman's permission making some articles for a bazaar. They then had the enjoyment of making up various coloured materials, and of seeing the same grow into pretty articles under their hands; while at the same time they were taught harmony in colour, neatness of execution, and the necessity of clean hands and light fingers for such work.

CLASS II.

Contains 22 boys, 15 girls; whole time, 21; half time, 16—total, 37.

As in the 1st Class, many are making great progress, the majority of the children being able to write, draw, and read fairly. In this Class are several little ones from the 3rd Class, and a few big boys (with violent tempers easily aroused) who occasionally are difficult to manage, though at times they are most docile and obedient.

READING.—From reading sheets, primer (American), and picture cards. The latter, 7 by 9, contain one printed word, over which is pasted a picture of the object, the name of which is given. After these words are known, cards with the words only are then learnt. The words taught are those

afterwards found in the primer, the latter being one in which the type is much larger than that found in ordinary books for beginners. Colours and forms have also been mounted on cards in the same way, and are found of use in this class and in other classes, as by these, one colour or form may be presented at a time, together with its name. Until I made them, it was found, that the colour and form boards supplied by school stationers were unsuited for this class of children, who on seeing a board with 20 colours or forms shown at once, were apt to become bewildered. In teaching the speechless and deaf children, these single cards are of great use.

WRITING.—Several write very nicely the alphabet (capital and small letters) from memory, or will copy from board an exercise written from a reading book. Ten or eleven are attempting to transcribe. About twenty children write in copy books, letters or part of letters. A few children write only a few letters from a copy. Four can write a letter on paper to their friends, copying the words from the board. The remainder, with a few exceptions, write over a letter previously pencilled for them. (It is very gratifying to both teacher and child to receive answers in which pleasure is expressed at the improvement made. These frequently come in return to the letter sent.)

ARITHMETIC.—Nine or ten will work carefully on slate by means of strokes an addition sum in tens, with five or six rows of figures. A third of the class have no idea of addition beyond $1 + 1$, $2 + 2$, $3 + 3$. Lessons are given on the board and with cubes; when the class will work simple sums in addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

NUMERATION AND NOTATION.—The former to 10, the latter to 20.

ROMAN FIGURES.—To 12 from memory, but will copy from the board figures to 50.

COUNTING.—To 150.

DRAWING.—Symmetrical figures on slate with chequered lines, from copy on board with corresponding lines. Lately in the copies set, curves have been introduced which many draw nicely and correctly. The drawing of this class on slate, equals that of the 1st Class, and is for the class of children very creditably done.

SHOP.—As in the 1st class, but with simpler buying and selling, generally to the amount of 1s.

TABLES.—To 4×12 , a few children knowing to 6×12 .

FORM AND COLOUR.—As in the 1st Class.

CLOCK.—As in the 1st Class.

PAPER PLAITING AND FOLDING.—Plaiting of coloured paper into difficult forms, such as diamonds, &c., &c., and folding into triangles, oblongs, and other forms.

NEEDLEWORK.—Six or seven girls make up underlinen, pinafores, &c., the remainder only hemming, or sewing pieces of calico. Three girls can make button holes; three have commenced samplers.

INDUSTRIAL LESSON.—Bed-making, boot, stone, and hearth cleaning, dusting, sweeping, scrubbing, arrangement of table for meals, washing up platters, &c.

CLASS III.

Contains 23 boys, 10 girls; whole time, 32; half time, 1—total, 33.

Here all are little children, a few being restless and inattentive, while others are painstaking. Some seem for the class of children rather bright, though others, while looking ordinarily intelligent, are most dull, a few not being able to read, write, or count.

READING.—From picture cards, and the alphabet. Several will point to words asked for, such as book, key, tub, pie; others only knowing some letters. A few know neither.

WRITING.—The letters *a, b, c, d, m, n, o, t*. About twelve children will copy these letters fairly on slate or black board. Several will copy the letter set for them, but cannot write it from memory. A few always write one letter, whatever may be the copy, and that not correctly, or in the lines.

ARITHMETIC.—Addition of cubes to 30.

COUNTING.—To 100, to which number several count.

DRAWING.—On slate or board, simple forms, such as a square, circle, triangle, window, ladder, kite.

FORM AND COLOUR.—Simple forms, together with colours and their shades, well known by several.

CLOCK.—Roman figures to V. None can tell the time.

PAPER PLAITING.—Six or seven plait correctly over one stripe, the remainder attempting the same, but not succeeding.

STICK PLAITING.—Arrangement of sticks to form square, triangle, &c.

SHOP.—Most simple lessons on buying and selling.

Knowledge of coins from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1s. None can buy, sell, or weigh correctly.

INDUSTRIAL LESSON.—Dusting, sweeping, bed-making, and arrangement of table for meals.

NEEDLEWORK.—Hemming, and sewing on pieces of calico.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE. — Washing hands and face, brushing and combing hair, with arrangement before glass, buttoning, shoe fastening, tying strings on pinafores, &c.

CLASS IV.

Contains 35 boys, 13 girls; whole time, 45; half time, 3—total, 48.

The majority of the children in this class are 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16 years old, some having been admitted at the age of 14 or 15 when there is not so much hope of improvement. Several boys who have been in higher classes are found here, having deteriorated so much through the frequency and violence of fits that they are now reduced to the standard of the 4th Class, and while retaining some of the knowledge they previously possessed, which enables them to still read and write nicely, in other subjects their mind is a blank. One or two boys are excessively restless, and at times—before or after a fit—are nearly one person's work to look after.

READING.—Words from picture cards, known by some children well, other children not being able to name any word or letter correctly.

WRITING.—As in 3rd Class.

ARITHMETIC.—Addition of cubes to 20.

COUNTING.—To 100.

DRAWING.—As in 3rd Class.

INDUSTRIAL LESSON.—Bed-making, boot, window, and stove cleaning, sweeping, dusting, and scrubbing.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.—As in the 3rd Class.

NEEDLEWORK.—Hemming scraps of calico. Two can, with assistance, make a pinafore.

LESSON ON THE FIVE SENSES.—By this lesson the five senses are taught; bottles of liquids, and solids, for taste and smell being introduced. Some in this class, and in other classes, have no sense of smell, or are colour blind.

CLASS V.

Contains 24 boys, 10 girls; whole time, 33; half time, 1—total, 34.

These are speechless, and, in some cases, deaf and speechless. A few are capable of much improvement, and have already learned the manual alphabet, and will form letters from this or an ordinary alphabet sheet. One or two are commencing words attached to picture cards. Effort is made by the teacher of the class to get some to speak.

READING.—From the manual alphabet, some knowing how to form the letters on their fingers, others not knowing, nor trying to do so. A few are at last beginning to make some, after having had much patience shown by the teacher to get them to form the required positions.

WRITING.—The letters *a, o, t*. Ten or eleven will copy that set for them, which frequently is the letter they are learning to form on their fingers. The remainder scribble on their slates.

COUNTING.—To 10. Taught with cubes or other objects, the class holding up a corresponding number of fingers.

FORM AND COLOUR.—Simple forms and primary colours. Several will match these, but, so far, cannot spell the names.

LESSON ON THE SENSES.—So many children being deaf in this class, this lesson is given with difficulty.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.—As in the 3rd and 4th Classes.

PERFORATED BOARDS.—Into these, thick blunt-pointed nails are placed (the boards being circular, square, oblong, and triangular). The holes are at the edge, into which the nails are dropped. Touch and form are conveyed by this lesson.

CUBES.—Copy of simple forms arranged by teacher; some imitating correctly, while some of the little ones (infants) simply build up a column to have the pleasure of knocking it down.

BEADS.—Threaded at the direction of teacher, to teach number, colour, and touch. Coloured wooden beads similar to those on the abaci frames are used, though care has to be taken to prevent some children putting them in their mouths.

PICTURES.—Much enjoyed, and raising much interest.

Sometimes it is amusing to see the efforts made to convey to the teacher an idea striking the children in connection with the pictures given.

CLASS VI.

Contains 32 boys and 9 girls—total, 41.

Here are found infant boys and girls, many of whom are very restless, and rarely work, their time being occupied in playing, teasing, and quarrelling. Some, at times, give much trouble, and greatly tax the patience of the attendant of the class.

READING.—Picture cards, no child being able to tell the word given, unless the picture be attached. One or two children will point to the letters *a*, *o*, & *t*.

WRITING.—The letters *a*, *m*, *t*, *o*, though only three children will copy these letters if set for them, several scribble over their slate, while some do not even make this effort. Lessons given by the attendant in writing on the black-board, when the child's hand is guided, are found useful.

COUNTING.—To 20. Three or four children will hold up the same number of fingers as attendant.

FORM AND COLOUR.—Primary colours and simple forms known by a few. Egg-cups, with balls of same colour, and boards with various forms cut out, into which corresponding pieces are fitted, are used in this class.

PAPER PLAITING.—The plaiting of one stripe, four or five of the class being able to do this. Of the remainder, some

make no attempt, while others invariably tear up the paper given.

SEWING.—Lessons on threading the needle, the use of the thimble, and the finger on which it should be placed, and the position of the work. Two girls can hem badly, the remainder cobble, and break and lose their needle and thread.

INDUSTRIAL LESSON.—Bed-making and the names of things found in a kitchen.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.—As in other classes.

TOYS.—Three-quarters of an hour a-week being given up in school for this purpose. This amusement is much liked. Hoops and skipping-ropes are also distributed.

CUBES.—As in the 5th class.

CLASS VII.

Contains 23 boys and 18 girls—total, 41.

In this class are the worst cases, with occasionally a very restless child from the 5th or 6th class. Very little can be taught, though effort can be made to improve and amuse. Several on coming to school cry for some minutes with being roused to walk along the corridor, though on being seated show an interest in that which is going on, perhaps doing nothing more. A few are very troublesome, and sometimes upset the class for the morning or afternoon by their excessive restlessness. Though these children might be amused in their wards, yet the change of atmosphere and surroundings is of great benefit to them, and while they are in school an opportunity is given for purifying their wards.

READING.—Words on picture alphabet, principally taught to teach speaking. Many being speechless and very feeble-minded, or idiotic, little is known in this class of this or other subjects taught.

WRITING.—On slate and black-board. None can copy a letter set for them, but nearly all thoroughly enjoy scribbling on a slate, and like doing so very much, for on its removal will cry long and loudly. One or two boys, upon entering school, commence crying for one, and do not cease until it is given to them. Unfortunately, so far, the attendant has not been able to break them off this habit. Some children write on the board, their hands being guided.

COUNTING.—To 5 with cubes, soldiers, &c., &c.

FORM AND COLOUR.—As in the 6th Class, only one or two can name correctly a colour or form.

PERFORATED BOARDS.—Of much use in this class, where the fingers are so useless; the dropping in the nails causing interest and occupation for many who rarely use their hands.

CUBES.—An endless source of interest and amusement. None succeed in building more than a column, and, like the little ones of the 5th class, they delight in building and rebuilding it.

HORSES.—These also give much pleasure, and are of use sometimes in rousing apathetic children from their seats. Generally all the faces here brighten when the horses are brought out, many children running immediately from their place to obtain one. One little boy of this class—speechless and very apathetic—has lately learnt to say a few words,

the first one being "Oss." This word he repeats again and again as he runs about, dragging behind him one of these toys. Of the rocking-horse, many are afraid to sit on its back, or to mount to the side seats.

GAME OF BALL.—Played with balls of various colours, to teach throwing and catching, as is the

GERMAN TARGET.—An immense brilliantly coloured face with wide-opened mouth, into which the balls are thrown.

PINCUSHIONS.—These being covered with striped or spotted print, are used by some to teach the placing a pin on the stripe or spot. Pins can only be given to those who do not place everything in their mouth.

As will be seen from the Time Table attached, the lessons vary from a quarter to three-quarters of an hour, while the school is carried on from 10.0 to 12.0 and from 2.0 to 4.0. This time is found to be too long for the little ones, consequently they leave at 11.45 and 3.45, the remaining children being then able to leave school orderly. I may here mention that great improvement is shown in the way they enter or leave school, dining hall, or chapel, and it is also shown in the many little acts which form their daily life. Carefulness of property, instead of destructiveness, is frequently apparent, the attendants now in the healthy wards being able to place about pretty things to brighten the rooms, without the assurance of their destruction.

During the half-hour between 6.30 and 7.0 the 1st and 2nd Classes attend school, when an effort is made to amuse and instruct.

MONDAY EVENING.—Being devoted to monthly magazines, picture books, or scrap books. The magazines having on them the possessors' names, are kept throughout the year, when they are stitched into a glazed lining cover—the volumes for the preceding year being passed down to a lower class. A few volumes of each year have been strongly bound (*Infant's Magazine, Children's Friend, Peep Show, Little Folks, Chatterbox, Kind Words*), and are lent to some of the class for a week. This was at first tried as an experiment, but finding care was taken with the books lent, a school library was formed. At present we have about 30 volumes.

TUESDAY EVENING is spent in singing. Lately during this practice a Tonic-Sol-Fa Modulator has been introduced. Some children are getting to take the intervals, while others cannot overcome the difficulty, and can only run up and down the scale—and sing, doh, me, soh, doh.

THURSDAY EVENING a dance is given. This may be thought unnecessary by some on reading this, but were they only to see the pleasure evinced by those who dance, or attempt to do so, they would be glad that a little time could be spared to give this amusement, and at the same time they would think such exercise beneficial to children who naturally stand, move, or sit so awkwardly, and in many cases are so apathetic that they require thorough rousing.

FRIDAY EVENING is given up to play, such games as "Blind Man's Buff," "Musical Chairs," "Hot and Cold," &c., &c., when such games are as much appreciated as if the players were rational.

SUNDAYS are spent very happily, the morning being devoted to a Bible lesson, followed by a walk generally to

the farm or wood. It is pleasant to find that these visits are ever fresh, the children, particularly the younger ones, being thoroughly delighted at seeing the live stock. In the afternoon service is held by the chaplain from 3.30 to 4.30; while in the evening from 6.30 to 7.0, the 1st and 2nd classes have a Bible lesson or a story read to them.

ARM AND CHEST EXERCISES are still carried on, together with some performed with wands. All these have pianoforte accompaniment. To many of the exercises songs are sung. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th classes are able only to take the set of exercises forming the *musical drill*, the other children taking some of the simplest movements to which they sing. Between each lesson, when the classes change position (from desk to line or *vice versâ*), the children march and sing, generally to accompaniment on piano. Amongst some of the children in the 6th class and those of the 7th, who can be aroused to such an exercise, marching can only be carried on by the little ones holding the pinafore or coat of the child before them.

REWARDS of little books (costing 2d., 3d., or 4d.) are given occasionally when a child merits praise for work done well, or improvement in work, or behaviour. The honour of the reward, together with the fact of the name being inside and for what given, is much appreciated. The boys of the healthy ward (for younger children) congratulate themselves on the honour of having eight or nine reward books on the table in their room.

INDUSTRIAL LESSONS appear this year on the plan of school work, and are taught in one of the class-rooms attached to the school. This is fitted up as a kitchen with dresser and range (though in one part of the room is bed and

washstand). Here various classes are taught bedmaking, boot, window, hearth, and stove cleaning, and arrangement of table for meals, the first class occasionally lighting a fire, then boiling water for making tea, coffee, or cocoa. After the beverage is made it is distributed at the table already set, one girl presiding, after which all commence to clear away. Sometimes potatoes or eggs are boiled.

THE SCHOOL STAFF consists of three assistant mistresses and four school attendants. Three of the latter when not in school assist in various wards, the fourth being responsible for the cleanliness of the school and class-rooms. All work conscientiously and well. There is also myself as head mistress.

THE EDUCATION is carried on entirely in the schools, which consist of one large room (capable of holding two sets of desks, with circular line for class), and four class rooms, two being fitted with galleries, one with Kindergarten desks for the lowest class, and containing circular desk, holding 7 or 8 little children (who can thus be seated round the attendant), and the other as industrial room.

THE NUMBER OF FITS occurring each year during school hours never having been previously mentioned, I may here state that 1260 are entered in Schoolmistress's diary. In one class, out of 65 entered for the week, 48 occurred. These cause, as may be expected, frequent interruption.

Perhaps it may not be out of place to mention that on Christmas Day some of the children acted entirely by themselves a simple arrangement of "Jack and the Beanstalk." Such a thing has never been attempted before by them, though occasionally a few have acted in farces and burlesques with the Staff, when, of course, they have said nothing, or

very little, being required to fill up the unimportant characters only. Previous to the acting of this play, presents from a Christmas tree were distributed. The amusements for the afternoon gave much pleasure, the children being thoroughly delighted, the happiness being contagious.

On the afternoon of May 31, pleasure was experienced by the School Staff by a visit from a Local Government Board School Inspector, Wyndham Holgate, Esq., he commenting "on the hearty co-operation of the whole School Staff, and the distinct marks of success attending their mutual efforts, not only in order but in intellectual capacity."

In the 2nd Report (1876) the subjects taught in each class were given. Comparison with this of 1879 may be interesting. It will then be found that the standards of some classes are raised, particularly the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and that some subjects taught to these classes are now below them, and are used in the lowest classes. Some new lessons, it will be seen, have been introduced, also that we have a class for speechless children, and have now 7 instead of 5 classes.

Great difference is seen in the behaviour of the school children since removal to Darenth, much of the excessive mischievous destructiveness or naughtiness having disappeared, many of the children here spending happy and useful little lives.

In conclusion, allow me, Gentlemen, to thank you for the support and invariable kindness you have this year (as in other years) shown to me.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) MARY JANE STEPHENS.

Darenth, December 31st, 1879.

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 { Paper or Stick Plaiting, 2 Shop Lesson, 3 Sewing, 4 Writing. 5 —	Dictation, Cubes, Sewing, Reading, Counting.	Reading, " " Drawing, Counting, Reading.	Industrial Lesson Drilling, Colour & Form, Repeating, Singing.	Reading, " " Object Lesson, Cubes. —	Transcribing. Writing, Counting, Personal Appearance, Nat. Hist. Lesson.	Mental Arithmetic, Tables, Reading, Colour and Form, Perforated Board.	{ Singing and Repeating. } " " " " Drilling.	Toys or Pictures.
Tuesday.....	1 Drawing, 2 Sewing, 3 Reading, 4 Writing. 5 —	Copy Books, Sewing, Writing, Reading, B. B. Writing.	Sums, Add. & Subtract., Toys, Counting, Colour and Form.	Numeration, &c. { Kinder Garten, Songs, and Games, " "	Sewing, Object Lesson, Counting, Drawing. —	Sewing. Drawing, Nat. Hist. Lesson, Beads, Sewing,	Sums, Add. and Subtract. Personal Appearance, Object Lesson, Beads,	Tables & Counting, " " German Target, Pictures, Singing & Marching.	Singing, " "
Wednesday...	1 { Colour, Form, and Clock, 2 Tables & Counting 3 Reading, 4 Drilling. 5 —	Transcribing, Colour and Form, Writing, Sewing, Counting.	Reading, " " Cubes, Sewing, Reading.	{ Singing and } { Repeating, } " " " " " "		HALF HOLIDAY.			
Thursday ...	1 Cubes, 2 Moral Lesson, 3 Sewing, 4 Writing. 5 —	Dictation, { Paper Cutting or Stick Laying, Sewing, Reading, B. B. Writing	Sums, Add. & Subtract. Colour and Form, Counting, Colour and Form.	Map Lesson, Clock, Drilling, Industrial Lesson, Horses.	Reading, " " Counting, Paper Plaiting or Folding.	Copy Books, Writing, Lesson on the Senses, Pictures, Nat. Hist. Lesson.	Roman Figures, { Money & Money } Tables, Reading, Colour and Form, Cubes.	{ Singing and Repeating, Pictures, German Target, Drilling.	Dance, " "
Friday	1 Drawing, 2 Sewing, 3 Reading, 4 Writing. 5 —	{ Natural Hist. or Object Lesson, Sewing, Writing, Reading, Counting.	Reading, " " { Paper Cutting or Stick Laying, Counting, Reading.	Numeration, &c., { Kinder Garten, Songs, and Games, Game of Ball.	Sewing, { Nat. Hist. or Object Lesson, Counting, Toys. —	Sewing, Drawing, Bible or Moral Lesson, Clock, Sewing.	Sums, Add. & Subtract. Industrial Lesson, Bible Lesson, Pincushion & Pins.	Drilling, Industrial Lesson, Roman Figures, Money, German Target,	Games, " "
Saturday ...	1 { Paper Cutting or Stick Laying 2 Tables & Counting 3 Reading, 4 Clock. 5 —	Composition, { Paper Plaiting or Folding Writing, Sewing, B. B. Writing.	Sums, Add. & Subtract., Paper or Stick Plait., Sewing, Colour and Form.	{ Singing and } { Repeating, } " " " " " "		HALF HOLIDAY.			

December 31st, 1878.

B. B., i.e., Black Board.

Between each Lesson, Singing and Marching.

M. J. STEPHENS.

No. of Vols.	Author	Title
100	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
101	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
102	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
103	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
104	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
105	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
106	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
107	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
108	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
109	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
110	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
111	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
112	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
113	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
114	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
115	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States
116	H. B. W. W.	The History of the United States

*To the Chairman and Committee of the
Darenth Schools.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for 1879.

Nothing has occurred during the past year which calls for any very special remark.

The Chapel services have been well attended, and have been much appreciated by the children. In the case of many of them, as will be readily imagined, even the very simple form of worship employed is quite beyond their comprehension. Not a few of these afflicted ones, however, join with evident delight in the bright children's hymns which always form part of our services. Owing to the excellent discipline which prevails throughout the Asylum, their behaviour leaves nothing to be desired.

In addition to the Chapel services, the wards have been regularly and systematically visited. Except in the case of very sudden and unexpected departures, I have attended the deathbeds of all those who have passed away during the last twelve months. It gives me pleasure to record that my visits are looked forward to and welcomed by the nurses and attendants as well as by the children committed to their care.

The Service for the Burial of the Dead has always been reverently and carefully performed. The only defect in the arrangements has been on many occasions the entire absence of mourners. I am thankful for the kind provision you have lately made for remedying this in future. When there are

no friends present, as is too often the case, the presence of the nurses who have attended the little patients in their last hours adds solemnity to the ceremony. Should, however, other mourners be present, I cannot but think they will feel gratified at witnessing those to whom they have been compelled by an afflictive Providence to delegate the charge of their children assisting at the last sad offices by the grave.

It seems to me only right that I should take this opportunity of expressing the obligation I am under to my brother officers, for their kindness and consideration for me in my work, and their unfailing readiness to assist me on all possible occasions. My thanks are especially due to Miss Stephens for her kind and indefatigable help in the skilful arrangement and performance of the musical portion of the services.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to thank you very heartily for the generous kindness and sympathy you have always manifested towards me.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

(Signed)

W. H. LANGHORNE,

Chaplain.