

The sixth annual report of the committee for and Darenth Schools and Asylum for imbeciles, to 31st December, 1880.

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Publication/Creation

London : printed by McCorquodale & Co., 1881.

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Metropolitan Asylum District.

THE
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR DARENTH
SCHOOLS AND ASYLUM
FOR
IMBECILES,

To 31ST DECEMBER, 1880.

LONDON
M'CORQUODALE & Co., LIMITED, PRINTERS, CARDINGTON STREET, N.W.
1881.

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,

For the Year ending 25th March, 1881.

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

Medical Superintendent (Asylum)—T. B. DYER, M.B.

Chaplain—Rev. W. H. LANGHORNE, M.A.

Steward (Schools and Asylum)—Mr. ALFRED KEATON GOWER.

Matron (Asylum)—Mrs. GOWER.

Matron and Schoolmistress (Schools)—Miss M. J. STEPHENS.

OFFICES OF THE MANAGERS,

37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

for the Year ending 30th March 1884

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E. H. Galaway, Esq., J.L., Vice-Chairman of the Board

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Victor A. A. A. (School) - Thomas R. R. (School)

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Victor A. A. A. (School) - W. W. W. (School)

Victor A. A. A. (School) - M. A. A. (School)

Victor A. A. A. (School) - M. A. A. (School)

Victor A. A. A. (School) - M. A. A. (School)

Victor A. A. A. (School) - M. A. A. (School)

Victor A. A. A. (School) - M. A. A. (School)

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE

DARENTH SCHOOLS AND ASYLUM.

December 31, 1880.

*To the Managers of the
Metropolitan Asylum District.*

The Adult Asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 4th May.

The arrangements made for the joint administration of the two establishments have been found to work smoothly and satisfactorily, and appended will be found the reports of the several principal officers.

In the reports of the Medical Superintendents (Drs. Beach and Dyer) are embodied full statistical and other particulars regarding the patients under their respective cares; whilst in those of the Steward and Matron is contained a variety of information respecting the administration and organisation of those departments for which they are directly responsible.

The report of Miss Stephens, the late Schoolmistress, —in itself a valuable and exhaustive document, relating as

it does to the educational acquirements of, and to the progress made by the children under her supervision,—is of enhanced interest when coupled with the fact that it is the last which the Managers will receive from a lady to whose energies and endeavours they are in so large a measure indebted for the success with which their efforts towards the amelioration and improvement of the physical and mental condition of the imbecile pauper children of the Metropolis have been attended.

Miss Wright was appointed to succeed Miss Stephens, but did not enter upon her duties until towards the close of the year.

The average cost per head per day for the maintenance and clothing of the children in the Schools and of the patients in the Adult Asylum has been at the rate of 10½d. and 10¾d. for the half-years ended at Lady-day and Michaelmas respectively.

In July the final settlement of Messrs. Perry & Co.'s claim for the erection of the School buildings was effected.

The tillage and cultivation of the farm land has been energetically proceeded with during the year, and favourable results are anticipated.

Plans for the erection of Male and Female Infirmeries for the Adult Asylum, at an estimated cost of £15,000, have been approved by the Local Government Board. The construction of these buildings will be proceeded with forthwith.

The despatch of a circular letter to several parishes and unions, protesting against the practice of sending old and

bed-ridden patients, who are simply suffering from senile decay, to the Asylum, has been attended with satisfactory results.

An appeal to the Assessment Committee of the Dartford Union against the excessive rating of the Schools was successfully prosecuted.

The Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy upon their recent visit to the Schools and Asylum is appended.

To the Officers and Staff your Committee are in no small degree indebted for any measure of success they may have obtained in the management of the institutions.

For the courtesy and consideration with which their recommendations have at all times been received by the Managers, your Committee desire to record their thanks.

EDM. HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Darenth Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1880 :—

On the 31st of December, 1879, there were in the Schools 443 patients, 254 being males and 189 females. During the past year 143 patients have been received, of whom 77 are males and 66 females. 95 patients, viz., 35 males and 60 females, have been discharged, and 27, viz., 11 males and 16 females, have died. The total number under treatment has been 586, the average daily number resident, 467, and the number in the Schools on the 31st of December, 1880, 464.

ADMISSIONS.

The admissions during the year 1880 were only 13 less than those of the preceding year. In 1879, 155 patients were admitted, and the large number (considering the size of the Schools,) was thought to be due to the fact that many cases had been for some time waiting for admission into the new building, the Institution at Clapton having been able to receive only a few from time to time, for some months previously to its being closed. It is satisfactory to find that the numbers remain nearly the same, for it shows, I think, that

the object for which the Schools were erected is being fulfilled, and the care and training given is becoming more and more appreciated by those in whose hands the sending of patients to us rests.

RE-ADMISSIONS.

Only one patient has been re-admitted, and she was a girl who, with the consent of the Guardians, was sent home on two months' trial. At the expiration of that time she was brought by her friends to see me. She had behaved fairly well, but as her parents were unable to give her that supervision which was necessary, it was considered advisable that she should receive further training.

DISCHARGES.

These have been higher than in any preceding year, in consequence of the removal of a large number of males and females, who were over 16 years of age, to the adult Asylum. In fact, of the 95 patients discharged, 78, viz., 25 males and 53 females, were sent there. Of these, 21 males and 9 females had improved under training, and 4 males and 44 females had not improved; some of these, chiefly epileptics, had much deteriorated.

Two boys and 3 girls have been sent out improved, and 4 boys and 1 girl unimproved, at the request of the Guardians. One girl, alluded to above, was sent out on trial; and 2 boys, having developed excitable and dangerous tendencies, were discharged to the workhouse, to be dealt with as the Guardians thought fit.

Two boys and 2 girls were discharged "recovered," being a percentage of 2·8 on the admissions. One of these, a boy, following the precedent of last year, has been retained in the Schools as a servant; the remaining 3 were taken home by their friends. Three boys who have been discharged "recovered" in previous years have visited the Schools during the past year. Two of these are doing very, and one moderately well. One boy has written a letter giving an account of himself since his discharge. He says—"I have the pleasure to inform you that since I left the Asylum my health is very much improved, and I am not subject to fits, as formerly. I was at Pocock's to work for four months, at 21s. per week. I left, as work was so slack. I then took a situation to drive a cart, 18s. and board, but left that to do a little in my own trade, but that being so slack, I took to drive a baker's cart for a week, and am now out of employ. I beg to thank the Committee for their kindness in teaching me a trade by which I may get a living when I am out of employment." The trade which he had been taught was that of a shoemaker.

DEATHS.

The death-rate, 4.6 per cent. on the total number under treatment, or 5.7 per cent. on the average number daily resident, is lower than last year, notwithstanding the feeble and helpless condition of many of the patients admitted. The low death-rate may be due to the fine weather experienced during the summer and autumn of 1880, as the class of cases admitted and the nursing arrangements and the infirmary accommodation remain the same; but the closing in of the open corridors and of the ventilating lobbies to the W.C.'s no doubt assisted in reducing it.

GENERAL HISTORY.

I am glad to be able to report that, with the exception of one case of Scarlet Fever, the children have been entirely free from contagious disease. To some extent this is due to the distance of the Schools from London, but more especially to the excellent measures adopted by the Committee for the separate treatment of patients suffering from such diseases. The child who was suffering from Scarlet Fever was at once sent to the detached Infirmary under the care of a nurse. Strict quarantine was enforced, and the disease did not spread.

The general health of the patients has been good, notwithstanding the large number of epileptics, feeble and helpless cases, and young children under care. More than half the patients in the Schools belong to these classes.

There were admitted in 1879—

Helpless.	Epileptics.	Total.
46	59	105 = two-thirds of the admissions.

and in 1880—

Helpless.	Epileptic.	Total.
29	35	64 = nearly half the admissions.

There are now in the Schools—

Epileptics.	Epileptic and Helpless.	Helpless.	Young Children.	Total.
108	40	55	41	244

As might be expected, a large staff of nurses is required and a great amount of watchfulness has to be exercised to keep such a feeble population (244 out of 464 cases) in fairly good health. The building, I regret to say, is becoming more and more a receptacle for the care of helpless and epileptic imbecile children, and is losing in the same degree

the character of a training school. Of those classed above as epileptics, a number are incapable of improvement. I am afraid, if these cases continue to be sent in such large numbers, there will in course of time be few left to profit by the instruction which is given here. I am aware that the Committee are unable to select the cases, and have to receive all patients that are sent to the Schools, but I think it right to draw their attention to the existing state of things, which I think merits their consideration.

In the spring the workshops in the Schools were closed, and the 27 children receiving industrial training were sent to those in the Adult Asylum. I am glad to know that it is the intention of the Committee to reopen as soon as possible the workshops in the Schools, as there are many who would profit by receiving this kind of instruction.

The number of children on the school register on the 31st of December, 1880, was 331. The lower classes are now so large as to be almost unmanageable, and it is proposed to reduce them by carrying on the teaching of some of the children in these classes in the helpless wards by means of charge-attendants specially appointed for the purpose.

The amusement of the patients is continually kept in view, and occupies the attention of officers and staff. During the summer the making and flying of kites has been the chief amusement of the boys, and playing with hoops and skipping-ropes that of the girls. Lately the game of football has been the chief enjoyment. Walks in the grounds, and especially in the wood on the estate, are much appreciated by the patients, who frequently come in laden with wild flowers which they have picked. On wet days picture books and toys are made use of as heretofore.

Special entertainments occur as usual once a fortnight, and farces, concerts, and magic lantern entertainments are given by the staff. The burlesque "Ching Chang Foo" was performed last January for the Annual New Year's Entertainment, and gave much pleasure to the inmates. An excellent performance was given in the spring by some friends of Mr. Turner, to whom, as before, our best thanks are due.

We do not receive so many visitors as when the schools were in London, but those who do come are attracted by hearing of the work that is going on here. Mr. Letchworth, President of the Board of State Charities, New York; Mr. J. A. Lippestad, Director of a School for Imbeciles in Norway; and Dr. Kidd, of Dublin, who is interested in the question of training imbecile children; are among those who have paid us visits. One or two deputations from Boards of Guardians, the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and the Commissioners in Lunacy have also visited the Schools.

The chief improvements that have been made in the building since the last Report are the heating of the epileptic blocks by hot water, and the closing in of the corridors leading to the infirmary, epileptic, and helpless blocks; the ventilating lobbies leading to the W.C.'s have also been closed in. All these improvements have added greatly to the health and comfort of the children.

During the past year the unoccupied block for healthy male patients has been opened and occupied by little boys who previously lived in one of the helpless blocks, and the block thus left vacant was converted into one for epileptics, as that receiving such patients was much overcrowded. The

unoccupied block for helpless girls has been filled by adult women, retained by the Committee to do the household work, so that there now remains only one empty block, which will soon be filled by healthy girls.

Tables similar to those of last year are appended, the most interesting one, I think, being that which shows the assigned causes of mental disorder of those patients admitted during the year. A glance at this will show that among the congenital causes, fright, worry, trouble, and anxiety of the mother during pregnancy, and tedious or difficult labour, either separately or combined, play a most important part; while among the acquired causes, epilepsy, convulsions, injuries or diseases of the brain of the child are chiefly noticeable. In addition, such predisposing causes as insanity, imbecility, epilepsy, or paralysis of the parents, who frequently are addicted to habits of intemperance, are often found to be present, and hence little wonder can be felt that so many imbecile children exist. Not until the parental stock is improved, and their habits of life as well, an occurrence which may possibly ensue from the better diffusion of the laws of health, can we expect much diminution in the number. Such a happy result will not, I am afraid, come to pass in our day, but future generations may perhaps have an opportunity of seeing it.

Again thanking you for your support,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

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

Medical Superintendent.

Darenth Schools, January, 1881.

TABLE I.
Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1880.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1880	254	180	443
Admitted for the first time during the Year	77	65	142
Re-admitted during the Year	...	1	1
Total under care during the Year	331	255	586
Discharged or Removed—			
Recovered ...	2	2	4
*Relieved ...	23	13	36
Not Improved ...	10	45	55
Died ...	11	16	27
Total discharged (for various reasons) and died during the Year	46	76	122
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December, 1880	285	179	464
Average numbers resident during the Year	266.6	201.0	467.6
Highest number resident on any one day	281	218	499
Lowest number resident on any one day	250	188	438

* Of these 21 Males and 9 Females were sent to the Adult Asylum, having improved under training in the Schools.

TABLE II.

Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, 31st December, 1880.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted during the period of 6 Years	...	...	540	379	919
Re-admissions ...	...	...	1	4	5
Total of Cases Admitted	...	...	541	383	924
Discharged or Removed—					
Recovered ...	...	...	8	8	16
Relieved ...	...	...	38	19	57
Not Improved ...	...	...	120	99	219
Died ...	...	...	90	78	168
Total Discharged and Died during the 6 Years	...	...	256	204	460
Remaining 31st December, 1880	285	179	464
Average numbers resident during the 6 Years	205.1	154.0	359.1

TABLE III.

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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	13. 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
1880	77	66	143	2	2	4	*23	13	36	10	45	55	11	16	27	285	179	464	266.6	201.0	467.6	2.59	3.03	2.79	4.12	7.96	5.66
Totals	541	383	924	8	8	16	38	19	57	120	99	219	90	78	168	...	...	...	205.1	154.0	359.1	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Transferred to the Adult Asylum.

TABLE II.

TABLE IV.

*Showing the Ages of the Patients resident in the Asylum on the
31st December, 1880.*

Ages.				Males.	Females.	Total.
From 2 to 4 years	...			3	4	7
„ 4 to 6 „	...			14	7	21
„ 6 to 8 „	...			33	11	44
„ 8 to 10 „	...			44	19	63
„ 10 to 12 „	...			34	26	60
„ 12 to 14 „	...			72	35	107
„ 14 to 16 „	...			62	39	101
16 „	...			18	9	27
17 „	...			3	7	10
18 „	...			...	6	6
19 „	...			1	3	4
20 „	...			...	4	4
Over 20 „	...			1	9	10
Total				285	179	464

TABLE V.

Showing the probable Causes of the Mental Disorder in the Patients admitted during the year 1880.

CAUSES.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CONGENITAL :—			
Fright of mother during pregnancy... (In 3 of these the fathers were intemperate.)	7	4	11
Anxiety of mother during pregnancy... (In 1 of these the father was intemperate.)	4	1	5
Ill health during pregnancy ... ..	...	1	1
Fright or anxiety, and tedious or difficult birth	5	2	7
Tedious or difficult labour (In 1 of these the father was intemperate.)	2	1	3
Premature birth	1	...	1
Unknown	6	7	13
ACQUIRED :—			
Epilepsy (In 1 of these the father was intemperate.)	4	4	8
Convulsions in infancy (In 1 of these the mother was intemperate.)	5	3	8
Illness... ..	...	1	1
Injury to head	3	2	5
Injury to spine	1	...	1
Brain disease	2	...	2
Injury to and fright of child, producing fits	1	...	1
Fright of child, producing fits	1	1	2
Not ascertained	35	39	74
	77	66	143

In a large number of these cases there was a history of insanity, imbecility, epilepsy, or paralysis in the parents or 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.

Admitted.						Of each Year's Admissions, Discharged and Died in 1880.												Total Discharged and Died of each Year's Admissions to 31st December, 1880.												Remaining of each Year's Admissions, 31st Dec., 1880.		
Year.	New Cases.		Relapsed 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.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1875	213	164	...	...	377	...	...	...	14	5	19	2	32	34	3	3	6	3	2	5	20	7	27	87	70	157	54	38	92	49	47	96
1876	76	44	...	...	120	2	...	2	3	2	5	3	5	8	1	...	1	3	2	5	8	4	12	14	19	33	16	10	26	35	9	44
1877	32	24	...	...	56	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	2	...	1	1	...	1	1	3	...	3	6	4	10	5	7	12	18	12	30
1878	53	19	...	1	73	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	2	5	5	1	6	4	3	7	41	14	55
1879	89	64	1	1	155	...	2	2	3	4	7	5	1	6	4	6	10	2	3	5	3	5	8	8	1	9	9	15	24	68	41	109
1880	77	65	...	1	143	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	4	4	2	5	7	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	4	4	2	5	7	74	56	130
Totals	540	380	1	3	924	2	2	4	23	13	36	10	45	55	11	16	27	8	8	16	38	19	57	120	99	219	90	78	168	285	179	464

Summary of the Total Admissions.						Males.	Females.	Both sexes.
Percentage of cases Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	1.47	2.08	1.73
" " Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	7.02	4.96	6.16
" " Not Improved	...	...	...	...	...	22.1	25.8	23.7
" " Dead	...	...	...	...	...	16.6	20.3	18.1
" " Remaining	...	...	...	...	...	52.6	46.7	50.2

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

Year	New Cases		Recovered		Deaths		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1872	313	404	277	377	36	27	343	404
1873	76	44	72	40	4	4	80	48
1874	42	24	38	20	4	4	46	28
1875	53	10	41	7	12	3	65	13
1876	82	61	74	52	8	9	90	70
1877	77	55	61	42	16	13	93	68
Total	541	590	492	536	49	43	640	677

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

Showing the Means of the Annual Income

TABLE VII.

Showing the Causes of Death during the year 1880, 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		TOTAL.		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	TOTALS
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASES :—																							
Chronic Hydrocephalus
Epilepsy and Convulsions	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Softening, Tumours, &c.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Spinal Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
THORACIC DISEASE :—																							
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleuræ, and Bronchi...	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	8	12	
Pulmonary Consumption	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Disease of the Heart, &c.	
ABDOMINAL DISEASE :—																							
Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, Intestines, or Peritoneum	1	...	1	1	
Diarrhœa	
Exanthemata	
Erysipelas	
Anæmia	
Marasmus	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	
Accidents	
Totals	4	...	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	11	16	27

CAUSES OF DEATH.

DISEASES	SEX	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH.
CENTRAL OR NERVOUS SYSTEM:—			
Chronic Hydrocephalus
Epilepsy and Convulsions
Meningitis
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Cord, and Spinal Disease
THORACIC DISEASES:—			
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleura, and Pericardium
Pulmonary Consumption
Diseases of the Heart, &c.
ABDOMINAL DISEASES:—			
Inflammation and Ulceration of the Stomach, Intestines, or Peritoneum
Hemorrhage
Exanthemata
Erysipelas
Ascites
Marasmus
Accidents
Total

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	...	...	...	1	2	3
„ 3 „ 6 „	...	1	1	1	2	3
„ 6 „ 9 „	...	1	1	...	...	...
„ 9 „ 12 „	...	...	...	1	...	1
„ 1 „ 2 Years	1	...	1	4	7	11
„ 2 „ 3 „	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 3 „ 5 „	1	...	1	3	3	6
„ 5 „ 7 „	...	...	...	1	1	2
„ 7 „ 10 „	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ 10 „ 12 „	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	2	4	11	16	27

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		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Under 1 Month	From 1 to 3 Months	Over 3 Months
1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	4	1	1	2	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...
1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	7	18	1	...	1	...	...	...
...
6	3	9	3	...	3	...	...	...
9	1	10	1	...	1	...	...	...
...
...
27	16	43	4	2	6	...	...	...

TABLE IX.

23

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
1880 ...	3	2	10	7	16	7	12	11	8	7	14	10	13	17	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	77	66	143
Total	10	10	49	24	80	41	83	55	96	56	88	62	105	82	20	13	9	9	1	3	...	...	...	28	541	383	924

TABLE XI.

Showing the Departments where Patients were employed on the 31st December, 1880.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Departments.	Numbers Employed.	Departments.	Numbers Employed.
Blocks	Laundry ...	10
Coaling	Work Room ...	1
Stores	Helpers in Blocks ...	45
Mess Room	Corridor ...	14
Tailor's Shop, shut at present...	...	Dining Hall ...	6
Shoemaker's Shop ditto	...	Kitchen ...	5
Carpenter		
Total ...	43	Total ...	81

STEWARD'S REPORT.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1880.

During the early part of the past year the two newly erected blocks of the Adult Asylum were prepared for the reception of patients, and were opened for 200 female and 25 male patients about Lady-day.

The administration for the patients in question, such as washing, cooking, &c., was carried on from the Schools Asylum, and, I need scarcely say, proved a somewhat severe strain upon the resources of that establishment, and especially so when it is remembered that the maximum number of patients for which the Schools were intended was nearly reached during the year.

I am, however, pleased to say that, thanks to the hearty co-operation of all concerned, the administrative work of the two Asylums was carried on without an excessive amount of inconvenience being experienced.

In accordance with the wishes of the Committee the Administrative Block of the Adult Asylum was prepared for

use as early as possible, and was opened on the 28th of December, so that the strain previously existing on the Schools has been removed, and all cooking, washing, baking, &c., for adults is now carried on in their own Asylum.

The boilers, engines, pumps, and machinery generally, of the two Asylums have hitherto been found equal to all requirements. The cleaning out of the bottom of the well, and some little alterations to the suction of the pumps, have been attended with the happiest results, and have given us what, for all practical purposes, appears to be an inexhaustible supply of water—a most important consideration, having in view the nature of the requirements of two large Asylums.

The painting of the walls of the corridors and blocks of the Schools Asylum has been completed during the past year, and formed the principal work taken in hand during that time, although some few alterations and repairs to machinery and works generally have been carried out as occasion required.

Experience has, however, shewn that a more efficient system of warming the dormitories of the children, and of some of the day-rooms of the blocks, should be provided. It is now arranged that this work shall be carried out during the coming year.

The work in connection with the tailors' and shoemakers' shops still continues to make good progress. The earnings of the patients belonging to the schools in these two departments amount, during the year, to no less a sum than £138 16s. As mentioned in my reports of previous

years, the sum above-named gives an inadequate idea of the value of the services of the patients, since their labour is further utilised in the various domestic requirements of the Asylum, and tends very materially to reduce the general cost of maintaining the establishment. The great assistance which such employment must necessarily prove in the general education of the juvenile patients I leave to be shewn by those to whom such questions more properly belong.

The provisions and other articles supplied during the past year for the use of the Asylum have been of good and uniform quality, and fully equal to contract.

The quantity of Gas made during the past year, together with the cost of the same, is shown by annexed table.

The Farm has been worked with a considerable amount of interest, and although the profits have not been large, due allowance should be made for the up-hill work experienced in taking over land in the condition in which this was found. During the past year we raised about 150 tons of potatoes, 300 tons of mangolds, 130 quarters of oats, 30 quarters of peas, 100,000 cabbages, and a sufficiency of vegetables generally for the Asylums, and green forage for the stock. Of the latter, we have at present 22 cows, 1 bull, 5 horses, 55 sheep, and 80 pigs.

We have now about 22 acres of land laid down in permanent pasture, a great portion of which will be of service as recreation grounds for the 1,000 or 1,200 patients we shall in all probability have in the Asylums before the end of the coming year.

I am pleased to be able to say that few changes have occurred in the staff belonging to my department, and although the number employed has materially increased with the opening of the Adult Asylum, they all appear to be animated by a desire to carry out their respective duties in a conscientious and efficient manner. I avail myself of this opportunity to thank all connected with the Asylums for the great assistance I have received from them in carrying out my various duties.

In conclusion, I have to tender to the Committee my sincere thanks for their uniform kindness and consideration towards me, and trust that my future work will prove that I duly appreciate the great confidence they repose in me.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very obediently yours,

A. KEATON GOWER,

Steward.

GAS ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock in House at Michaelmas, 1879	133	12	6	To 2,688,060 feet of Gas consumed			
" Received to Michaelmas, 1880	273	13	0	during the year	...	...	263 11 0
" Cost of Labour, same time ...	123	4	0	" Coke and Tar sold	...	...	89 19 6
				" Stock in hand	...	...	176 19 0
	<u>£530</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>				<u>£530 9 6</u>
				Average Cost of Gas per 1,000 cubic feet	...	1s. 11½d.	

FARM ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock received to Michaelmas, 1880	1,867	14	3	Stock sold and in hand, Michaelmas,			
General Expenditure same to date	3,109	5	10	1880	...	...	2,088 18 2
Balance ...	...	...	...	Value of produce consumed, and			
				Balance of Crops, &c., in			
				hand	...	...	3,031 13 6
	<u>£5,120</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>				<u>£5,120 11 8</u>

MATRON'S REPORT.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report for the past year, 1880.

The great event in the early part of the year was the opening of the Adult Asylum, two blocks of which were prepared for the reception of about 220 patients (male and female), and opened for them shortly after Lady-day.

Each of these blocks necessitated the preparation and making of upwards of 3,000 articles; and although this work, in addition to the general duties of the Schools Asylum, told somewhat heavily on my department, still, with the able and most willing assistance which I received from Head-attendant Scott, the Workmistress, R. Johnson, and in fact from all connected with me, it proved to be far easier than might otherwise have been found to be the case.

The work in the laundry and the kitchen has been exceptionally heavy during the past year, about 15,000 articles passing through the former weekly, whilst the cooking for 220 adult patients, in addition to nearly 500 patients in the School Asylum, tested the capabilities of the kitchen to the utmost.

The patients (Juvenile) continue to make progress in various household duties, and assisted greatly in making of beds, scrubbing and cleaning dormitories, day-rooms, and corridors, whilst many of them, with the assistance of the attendants, have made and repaired simple articles of their clothing. When I add that we did not find it necessary to purchase any articles of ready made clothing for the 500 patients in the schools, and that all uniforms for attendants, and all repairs of clothing generally, were done in the Asylum, a fair idea may be obtained of the nature of the work done in this direction.

The Reports of the Lunacy Commissioners, and of the various Inspectors who have from time to time visited the Asylums, speak as to the state of the bedding, the clothing of the patients, of the wards generally, and to the manner in which the work of the establishments have been carried on.

Some few changes have taken place amongst the attendants and other female servants during the past year.

Several of these left us to be married, or to otherwise better their position. A general idea of the manner in which they have discharged their duties (duties which were at times of a most unpleasant nature) may be found in the fact that only on two or three occasions has it been found necessary to stop the "good conduct money" granted by the Committee for the efficient discharge of their duties.

I am desirous of dwelling somewhat longer than usual upon this portion of my Report, since it is the last occasion upon which I shall have an opportunity of referring to those who have for many years assisted me in my work, and to

whom I feel greatly indebted for the cheerful and ready assistance they have at all times accorded to me. Drawn together as we have been by mutual interest in our work, by respect and kindly feeling, I experience, upon leaving the Schools to take up my new duties as Matron of the Adult Asylum, that I am parting from old friends and tried fellow workers.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Committee most heartily for their great kindness towards me, and for the ready sympathy I have at all times experienced from them in the discharge of my duties. Respectfully requesting a continuance of the same in my new position,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

AGNES GOWER,

Matron.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my Sixth Report, being that of your School during the year 1880.

Of the 498 patients in the asylum,	
10 are adult women,	
52 „ patients over 16 (not attending school),	
338 „ children attending school,	
98 „ „ in Probationary, Helpless, Infirmary,	
<u>498</u>	or Epileptic Wards.

Of the 338 children attending school (216 boys, 122 girls),	
295 attend whole time,	
43 „ half „	
<u>338</u>	

The attendance during the year has varied from 139 to 268, the average being 226.

Having so thoroughly given the system pursued in the working of the school, together with the attainments of, and subjects taught in each class, it is perhaps unnecessary to bring such detail again under your notice, as I did in my report of 1879. Suffice it to say, the school has been divided into seven mixed classes.

During the year I have had cause to be pleased with the progress made by some of the children in the *first* class, who have perseveringly worked their way up from lower classes, or who by repeated effort have overcome difficulties which at first to them seemed insurmountable.

In the *second* class many children have been industrious, working some of their lessons very creditably. The behaviour has improved greatly.

In the *third* class are several little boys brought up from lower classes. The majority of the children here are bright, active, and in many cases very restless. The remainder are apathetic, but all, unfortunately, have more or less suffered by the absence of their teacher lately through illness, the class being then under the care of a monitress frequently.

In the *fourth* class are several children admitted at the age of 14, 15, or 16, or children who have been found incapable of learning much, if anything, or epileptics who have deteriorated through the violence and frequency of their fits.

In the *fifth* class are the speechless children, many of whom are deaf, the majority being deaf and dumb, and so thoroughly idiotic as to be unable to form the letters of the manual alphabet. A few are bright, and will spell very nicely words on picture cards, or the names of objects shown on a card without the words attached.

In the *sixth* class are many of the infants (boys and girls). Several have lost much of their restlessness and

inattention, and behave at times very nicely, playing much less than formerly. The report of last year was as follows : —“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.”

In the *seventh* class are many of the very helpless and idiotic children, some of whom seem to have no spark of intelligence, and who attempt neither to talk, play, or walk without assistance. The brightest are amused with pictures, toys, balls, hoops, bricks, slates, &c., &c. A few only attempt to sing. With great difficulty many children in this class have been taken to and from school, several being so thoroughly helpless as to cause much anxiety to myself and the School staff during their transit, though fortunately, by dint of great supervision, no catastrophe has occurred. I am glad to find it has been arranged by you for these most helpless ones to be amused or instructed in their own wards, as better ventilation can then be had in the schools, no class-room there being sufficiently large for such a class of children, who, a few minutes after their admittance, unfit such a room for the presence of school attendants or children. Great credit is due to the former, who have so uncomplainingly fought daily against the difficulties there.

The subjects taught in the various classes, together with the time allowed for each subject, can be seen by reference to the School time tables annexed.

The amusements in the evening have been continued as formerly, though during the summer months the children were frequently taken for a short walk during this time.

The Musical Drill has been still carried on in the school, dumb-bell exercises having been added to those already performed, viz., arm, chest, and wand.

Frequently during the hot weather were we enabled to send a class out of school to a set of desks in the playground for a lesson; or, if the children were deserving reward, they were allowed during the time allotted for the lesson to play games, &c., or to have hoops or skipping-ropes. Occasionally, on fine mornings, many of the children have been taken out to the woods for a walk, but this could not be frequently indulged in, owing to the state of the roads.

The School staff has been as before, viz., three Assistant Mistresses and four School Attendants (all of whom have worked well during the year), and there has been myself as Head Mistress. Owing to the increase of numbers (December 31st, 1879, 270; December 22nd, 1880, 338), we have frequently found the staff insufficient, particularly during the absence of teachers and attendants for their summer holidays, and the absence of a teacher for $6\frac{1}{2}$ weeks through illness. So much inconvenience has been felt, that it may be found desirable next year to send a supply during the vacancies, as the work, which is usually trying, is then found exceptionally so. This year we have all felt severely the strain thus put upon us.

The following is the list of sewing that has been done in school during the year, in addition to the samplers alluded to in my last report:—

58 Articles of underclothing.

3 Aprons.

44 Pinafores.

105

In resigning my post at the end of six years' labour, I thank you all for the kindness, courtesy, and assistance you have always shown to, and for the thorough trust you have always reposed in me, that I would, to the best of my ability, carry out the work entrusted to me. This trust, together with the ever prevailing thought that a woman does well in looking after little children, particularly the weak and helpless, has made me thus unwearily work on during this long time. If I may now speak of myself, as I am relinquishing my duties, my work has been one in which I have been thoroughly interested, and has been to me a labour of love. I was much honoured by the arrangement made by you that I should become both Matron and School Mistress, and I hoped, had it been carried out, to effect certain alterations in the schools, which as School Mistress I was unable. I was glad, too, to think I should have other work than that which kept me so closely in the schools, a change being desirable, my health not being so good as formerly. The school work has frequently been very disheartening, but ever brightened by the happiness given to many of the children by their attendance there, and by the knowledge that in many respects many of them have been improved. With difficulty I formed the school, commencing January 4th, 1875, with 68 children, who were then at the Hampstead Asylum, and I now, December 22nd, 1880, give back to you the work you entrusted to me, feeling that I have formed and left in systematic working, a school to be carried on by my successor.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

MARY JANE STEPHENS.

Darent's Schools,

December 22, 1880.

SCHOOL TIME TABLE.

MORNING.					AFTERNOON.							
		10.0 to 10.30.	10.30 to 11.15.	11.15 to 11.45.	11.45 to 12.0.	2.0 to 2.30.	2.30 to 3.15.	3.15 to 3.45.	3.45 to 4.0.		6.30 to 7.0.	
Monday	1	Reading,	Copy Books,	Object Lesson,	Tables,	Reading,	Drawing,	Sums,	Singing & Repeating	1	{ Picture Books &c.	
	2	Spelling,	Paper Plaiting, &c.,	Sums,	"	Sums,	Writing Figures,	Reading,	" "	2		
	3	Reading,	Object Lesson,	Writing,	Drilling,	Paper Plaiting,	Add. and Subtract.,	Colour, Form, & Clock,	" "	...		
	4	Reading,	Industrial Lesson,	Drawing,	"	Nat. Hist. Les'n.	Lesson on the Senses,	Writing,	" "	...		
	5	Writing.	Reading.	Colour and Form.	"	" "	Personal Appearance.	Add. & Subtract.	" "	...		
Tuesday	1	Composition,	Paper Plaiting,	Sums,	Spelling,	G 1, 2, Sewing,	Sewing,	Colour, Form, & Clock,	Tables,	1	Singing.	
	2	{ Nu. No. and }	Shop Lesson,	Reading,	} Kindergarten Games.	B 1, 2, Spelling,	Writing,	Object Lesson,	"	2	"	
	3	Reading,	Stick Plaiting,	Writing,		Add. & Subtract.,	Personal Appearance,	Drawing,	Singing & Repeating	...		
	4	{ Colour, Form,	} Sewing,	Reading,		Reading,	Add. and Subtract.,	Paper Plaiting, &c	—	...		
	5	and Clock,		Reading.		Cubes.	—	Lesson on the Senses.	Add. & Subtract.	—	...	
Wednesday...	1	Transcribing,	Industrial Lesson,	Reading,	Singing,							
	2	Sums,	Writing,	Nat. Hist. Lesson,	"							
	3	Reading,	Sewing,	Drawing,	"							
	4	Reading,	Add. and Subtract.,	Writing,	"		HALF	HOLIDAY.				
	5	Writing.	Reading.	Colour and Form.	"							
Thursday ...	1	Sums,	Drawing,	Nat. Hist. Lesson,	Drilling,	Reading,	Writing,	Sums,	Singing & Repeating	1	Dancing,	
	2	Spelling,	Industrial Lesson,	Reading,	"	Sums,	Drawing,	Reading,	" "	2	"	
	3	Add. & Subtract.,	Nat. Hist. Lesson,	Writing,	Counting,	Paper Plaiting, &c.	Add. and Subtract.,	Colour, Form, & Clock,	" "	...		
	4	Reading,	Writing,	Personal Appearance,	"	Object Lesson,	Colour, Form, & Clock,	Drawing,	" "	...		
	5	Writing.	Reading.	Cubes.	"	" "	Reading.	Add. & Subtract.	" "	...		
Friday	1	{ Nu. No. and }	Transcribing,	Reading,	Mental Arith.,	G 1, 2, Sewing,	Sewing,	{ Shop or Object	Drilling,	1	Games,	
	2	{ Rom. Figs. }	} Drawing,	Sums,	} Kindergarten Games.	B 1, 2, Spelling,	Transcribing,	Lesson,	"	2	"	
	3	{ Colour, Form,		Shop Lesson,		Writing,	Add. & Subtract.,	Industrial Lesson,	Drawing,	Singing & Repeating	...	
	4	and Clock,		Sewing,		Reading,	Reading,	Add. and Subtract.,	Paper Plaiting,	—	...	
	5	{ Colour, Form,		Reading.		Colour and Form.	—	Beads.	Pictures.	Add. & Subtract.	—	...
	5	Writing.										
Saturday ...	1	Memory Lesson,	Dictation,	Sums,	} Singing and Repeating.							
	2	Reading,	Writing,	Object Lesson,								
	3	Add. & Subtract.,	Sewing,	Drawing,								
	4	Reading,	Add. and Subtract.,	Writing,			HALF	HOLIDAY.				
	5	Writing.	Reading.	Cubes.								

Between each Lesson, Singing and Marching.

December 22, 1880.

(Signed)

M. J. STEPHENS.

MORNING				
		10.0 to 10.30	10.30 to 11.15	
Monday	1	Reading	Cop. Books	
	2	Spelling	Paper Folding &c.	
	3	Reading	Object Lesson	
	4	Reading	Industrial Lesson	
	5	Writing	Reading	
Tuesday	1	Composition	Paper Folding	
	2	Pen. &c. and	Shop Lesson	
	3	From Texts	Stick Folding	
	4	Reading	Bearing	
	5	Colour Form	Reading	
	6	and Clock		
	7	Writing		
Wednesday	1	Transcribing	Industrial Lesson	
	2	Sum	Writing	
	3	Reading	Writing	
	4	Reading	Add. and Abstract	
	5	Writing	Reading	
Thursday	1	Sum	Drawing	
	2	Spelling	Industrial Lesson	
	3	Add. & Abstract	Nat. Hist. Lesson	
	4	Reading	Writing	
	5	Writing	Reading	

MARY ANN STEPHENS

December 21, 1884

6TH CLASS TIME TABLE.

	10.0 to 10.30. 2.0 to 2.30.	10.30 to 11.15. 2.30 to 3.15.	11.15 to 11.45. 3.15 to 3.45.
Monday Morning ...	Reading.	Object Lesson.	Cubes.
Tuesday Morning ...	Colour, Form, and Clock.	Counting.	Marching, &c.
Wednesday Morning...	Reading.	Paper Plaiting.	Kindergarten Games.
Thursday Morning ...	Reading.	National History Lesson.	Toys.
Friday Morning ...	Colour, Form, and Clock.	Counting.	Marching, &c.
Saturday Morning ...	Reading.	German Target.	Kindergarten Games.

Monday Afternoon ...	Natural History Lesson.	Writing and Sewing.	Kindergarten Games.
Tuesday Afternoon ...	Reading.	Writing.	Personal Appearance or Play.
Thursday Afternoon...	Object Lesson.	Writing and Sewing.	Kindergarten Games.
Friday Afternoon ...	Reading.	Writing.	Personal Appearance or Walk.

7TH CLASS TIME TABLE.

		10.0 to 10.30. 2.0 to 2.30.	10.30 to 11.15. 2.30 to 3.15.	11.15 to 11.30. 3.15 to 3.30.
Monday	{	Counting, Reading.	Writing, Pencussions and Pins.	Game of Ball, Cubes.
Tuesday	{	Reading, Cubes.	Colour and Form, Blackboard Writing.	Horses, Marching & Singing.
Wednesday ... ..	...	Rocking Horse.	Writing.	Marching, &c.
Thursday	{	Counting, Reading.	Writing, Perforated Boards.	Drilling, Cubes.
Friday	{	Reading, Cubes.	Colour and Form, Blackboard Writing.	Horses, Marching, &c.
Saturday ... ..	...	German Target.	Writing.	Marching, &c.

December 22, 1880.

M. J. STEPHENS.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Chairman and Committee of Management of the
Adult Imbecile Asylum for the year ending De-
cember 31, 1880.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the first annual Report of this new Asylum:—

On May 4 the first patients were received, and from that date till the 31st of December 242 patients were admitted (25 males, 217 females), and during that period 11 women have been discharged, and 8 women died, leaving 223 patients in this Asylum on December 31, 1880.

242 admitted	...	...	...	242
11 discharged	...	...	...	} 19
8 died	...	...	...
				<u>223</u>

At first, as simply the blocks were opened, we had to depend on the School Asylum for our washing, bathing, and cooking, and it was not till the beginning of the new year that this Asylum was independent of the schools for the above arrangements. The food used to be cooked at the schools and brought over quite hot, in waggons especially constructed for that purpose, being lined with thick felt, and containing hot water compartments. The clothes to be washed were carried over to the school laundry every week, and those patients who were well and strong enough to walk were taken over to the school bath-house for their weekly bath, while the more feeble were bathed in their own dormitories, a few portable baths being kept for their service.

The two blocks which are now opened are intended for men, but at present are used by the women, as their own blocks are not yet finished, so that when 25 boys were transferred from the schools to over here, they being over 16 years of age, we had to make temporary arrangements for their reception, and utilised an empty carpenter's shop for them to sleep in, and engaged a day and night attendant to look after them. 53 women were also transferred from the schools to this Asylum, they being over 16 years of age.

The patients who are able are employed as much as possible, the women either at needlework and helping to keep their blocks clean, while the boys work in tailors, and shoemakers' shops, and a few go over to the schools daily to give some assistance in cleaning there.

We have had no very severe illness amongst the patients during the year, but the class of cases in this Asylum is not hopeful; and on the 31st of December, out of 223 patients, 60 are reported epileptic, 66 as wet and dirty, and 30 as quite helpless, besides having cases of senile dementia and paralysis.

In consequence of so many of our patients being helpless and epileptic, the going up and down stairs to their dormitories is attended with both danger and difficulty, and I think that a ground-floor, combining both day-room and dormitory, would tend to lessen many risks of accident, and, in case of fire, their removal would be more easily accomplished. Each block has its own night watch, who takes over the custody of the patients from the day nurses from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The food of the patients is good, well cooked, and they have a sufficient quantity, and, with only one or two exceptions, they express themselves contented.

The day-rooms in the blocks are nicely warmed and lighted, can be thoroughly ventilated, and have every appearance of comfort. Both blocks have a piano and a small collection of books for the patients' use, which, no doubt, will from time to time be increased, and, when they get a recreation hall, their entertainments will be more numerous, for at present they feel rather dull and cheerless, for in the winter they cannot get out much, it being too wet, and there is little to amuse them in the evening. Each day-room was intended to hold 120 patients, but I think that more than 100 in each would inconveniently crowd them.

The dormitories are light, well ventilated, and can be warmed sufficiently in the cold weather by keeping up good fires in them in the day time. We are rather short of single rooms at present, in case we want to isolate a patient either for illness or other causes, as they are nearly all occupied by attendants sleeping in them, as it is said there is not room elsewhere. Should this continue to be so when the Asylum is more completed, it will give great inconvenience to their treatment, as it is sometimes beneficial to more careful watching of a patient and more pleasant to other patients if certain cases can be kept separate.

The closets and lavatories are at present working in a satisfactory manner, and the blocks have a good supply of both hot and cold water at all hours, which is a great convenience.

Having no airing courts at present, the patients, when it is fine, use the school grounds for exercise, and also attend the School Chapel for Sunday afternoon service.

The Catholic patients are permitted to see the Priest when he comes.

The visiting day to the patients is at present fixed for the first Tuesday in each month, and in cases of illness friends may come at any time. Patients who can and wish to, may write letters once a week.

I enclose the various lists, giving the details of the ages, length of residence, causes of death and discharges during the year ending December 31, 1880.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Committee for the kind assistance they have given me in opening this new Asylum, and the support I receive from them in working it.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. B. DYER.

Darenth Adult Asylum.

TABLE I.
Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1880.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
* Admitted for first time during the year	25	217	242			
Re-admitted during the year	25	217	242
Total under care during the year	25	217	242
Discharged or Removed—						
Recovered
Relieved	2	...
Not Improved	9	...
Died	8	...
Total discharged (for various reasons) and died during the year	19	19
Total admitted	242
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December, 1880 (inclusive of absent on trial—						
Males, and Females)...	25	198	223
Average numbers resident during the year	24.04	139.84	...
Highest number resident on any one day	25	199	224
Lowest number resident on any one day	10	10

* 25 Males and 53 Females were admitted from the School Asylum.

TABLE II.

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

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st December.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Num- bers Resident.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Relieved.	Not Improved			Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1880	25	217	242	...	2	2	...	9	9	9	...	8	8	25	198	223	24.04	139.84	...	5.15	5.69

TABLE III.

Classifying under the usual denominations of Mental Disease the Mental Condition of the Patients admitted during the year

MENTAL DISEASES.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Imbecile and of Weak Mind	...	25	145	...
Dementia ...	...	...	25	...
Chronic Mania	...	...	2	...
Idiots	...	...	23	...
Senile Dementia	...	...	17	...
Melancholic ...	...	...	5	...
Total	...	25	217	242

And of these, 60 (6 males and 54 females) are subject to Epilepsy.

TABLE IV.

Showing the History of the Admissions since the Opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the numbers remaining on the 31st December, 1880.

Admitted.				Discharged and Died in 1880.									Total Discharged and Died to 31st December, 1880.									Remaining 31st December, 1880.		
Year.	New Cases.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Died.					
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
*1880 ...	25	217	242	...	2	2	...	9	9	...	8	8	...	2	2	...	9	9	...	8	8	25	198	223

* Including those received from the Schools.

Summary of the Total Admissions.								Males.	Female.	Both sexes.
Percentage of cases Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
„ „ Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	·92	·92
„ „ Not Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4·14	4·14
„ „ Dead	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3·64	3·64
„ „ Remaining	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	91·24	92·14

Summary of the History of the Abolition since the Year 1860

Year	New Cases					Discharged
	Admitted	Relieved	Not Im	Relieved	Not Im	
1860	25	217	212	...	2	...

Summary of the To

Percentage of cases Recovered		Percentage of cases Recovered	
Relieved	"	Relieved	"
Not Im	"	Not Im	"
Dead	"	Dead	"
Remaining	"	Remaining	"

TABLE V.

Showing the causes of Death during the year 1880, together with the Ages of the Decedents.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	20 to 29		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60 to 69		70 to 79		80 to 89		TOTAL.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
CEREBRAL OR SPINAL DISEASES—																	
Apoplexy and Paralysis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Epilepsy and Convulsions	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
General Paresis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Maniacal and Melancholic Exhaustion or Decay
Inflammation and other Diseases of the Brain, Softening, Tumours, &c.
THORACIC DISEASE—																	
Inflammation of the Lungs, Pleuræ and Bronchi	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
Pulmonary Consumption
Disease of the Heart, &c.
Exanthemata
Erysipelas
Cancer
Anæmia
General Debility and Old Age	1	...	1	...	...	2	...
Accidents
Suicide
Totals	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	8	8

CAUSES OF DEATH

General in Rural Districts	1
Alcohol and Drugs	2
Scabies and Eruptions	3
General Issues	4
Alcohol and Atmospheric Pollution of the	5
Intestines and other Diseases of the	6
Intestines, Liver, &c.	7
Intestines, Liver, &c.	8
Intestines, Liver, &c.	9
Intestines, Liver, &c.	10
Intestines, Liver, &c.	11
Intestines, Liver, &c.	12
Intestines, Liver, &c.	13
Intestines, Liver, &c.	14
Intestines, Liver, &c.	15
Intestines, Liver, &c.	16
Intestines, Liver, &c.	17
Intestines, Liver, &c.	18
Intestines, Liver, &c.	19
Intestines, Liver, &c.	20
Intestines, Liver, &c.	21
Intestines, Liver, &c.	22
Intestines, Liver, &c.	23
Intestines, Liver, &c.	24
Intestines, Liver, &c.	25
Intestines, Liver, &c.	26
Intestines, Liver, &c.	27
Intestines, Liver, &c.	28
Intestines, Liver, &c.	29
Intestines, Liver, &c.	30
Intestines, Liver, &c.	31
Intestines, Liver, &c.	32
Intestines, Liver, &c.	33
Intestines, Liver, &c.	34
Intestines, Liver, &c.	35
Intestines, Liver, &c.	36
Intestines, Liver, &c.	37
Intestines, Liver, &c.	38
Intestines, Liver, &c.	39
Intestines, Liver, &c.	40
Intestines, Liver, &c.	41
Intestines, Liver, &c.	42
Intestines, Liver, &c.	43
Intestines, Liver, &c.	44
Intestines, Liver, &c.	45
Intestines, Liver, &c.	46
Intestines, Liver, &c.	47
Intestines, Liver, &c.	48
Intestines, Liver, &c.	49
Intestines, Liver, &c.	50
Intestines, Liver, &c.	51
Intestines, Liver, &c.	52
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Intestines, Liver, &c.	62
Intestines, Liver, &c.	63
Intestines, Liver, &c.	64
Intestines, Liver, &c.	65
Intestines, Liver, &c.	66
Intestines, Liver, &c.	67
Intestines, Liver, &c.	68
Intestines, Liver, &c.	69
Intestines, Liver, &c.	70
Intestines, Liver, &c.	71
Intestines, Liver, &c.	72
Intestines, Liver, &c.	73
Intestines, Liver, &c.	74
Intestines, Liver, &c.	75
Intestines, Liver, &c.	76
Intestines, Liver, &c.	77
Intestines, Liver, &c.	78
Intestines, Liver, &c.	79
Intestines, Liver, &c.	80
Intestines, Liver, &c.	81
Intestines, Liver, &c.	82
Intestines, Liver, &c.	83
Intestines, Liver, &c.	84
Intestines, Liver, &c.	85
Intestines, Liver, &c.	86
Intestines, Liver, &c.	87
Intestines, Liver, &c.	88
Intestines, Liver, &c.	89
Intestines, Liver, &c.	90
Intestines, Liver, &c.	91
Intestines, Liver, &c.	92
Intestines, Liver, &c.	93
Intestines, Liver, &c.	94
Intestines, Liver, &c.	95
Intestines, Liver, &c.	96
Intestines, Liver, &c.	97
Intestines, Liver, &c.	98
Intestines, Liver, &c.	99
Intestines, Liver, &c.	100

TABLE VI.

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	2
„ 3 „ 6 „	4	4
„ 6 „ 9 „	1	1
„ 9 „ 12 „
„ 1 „ 2 Years
„ 2 „ 3 „
„ 3 „ 5 „
„ 5 „ 7 „
„ 7 „ 10 „
„ 10 „ 12 „
Total	8	8

TABLE VI

Showing the Amount of Expenditure in each of the several Departments, and the Total Expenditure during the year.

Month	Expenditure					Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
1	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	2	2	2	2	2	10
3	3	3	3	3	3	15
4	4	4	4	4	4	20
5	5	5	5	5	5	25
6	6	6	6	6	6	30
7	7	7	7	7	7	35
8	8	8	8	8	8	40
9	9	9	9	9	9	45
10	10	10	10	10	10	50
11	11	11	11	11	11	55
12	12	12	12	12	12	60
Total	60	60	60	60	60	360

TABLE VII.

Showing the Ages of Patients resident in the Asylum on 31st December ; calculated from the Ages stated on the Orders of Admission.

Year ending December 31st.	16		17		18		19		20		20 to 29		30 to 39		40 to 49		50 to 59		60 to 69		70 to 79		80 to 98		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.	Totals.
1880 ...	8	12	1	13	6	12	3	12	...	...	7	41	...	24	...	18	...	24	...	26	...	10	...	6	25	198	223

TABLE VIII.

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

Ages.		Admissions.			Discharges.						Deaths.		
		Male.			Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.			Male.		
					Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.			
From 5 to 10 years...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 10 " 15 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 15 " 20 "	...	...	...	...	18	49	67	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 20 " 30 "	...	...	...	...	7	46	53	...	...	...	...	2	2
" 30 " 40 "	...	...	...	...	...	26	26	...	...	...	...	2	2
" 40 " 50 "	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	2	2
" 50 " 60 "	...	...	...	...	...	27	27	...	...	...	...	3	3
" 60 " 70 "	...	...	...	...	...	28	28	...	...	...	...	1	1
" 70 " 80 "	...	...	...	...	...	14	14	...	...	...	...	2	2
" 80 " 90 "	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	1	1
" 90 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ages unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	25	217	242	...	...	...	...	11	11	...	8	8

TABLE IX.

Showing the Departments where Patients were employed on the 31st December, 1880.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Departments.	Numbers Employed.	Departments.	Numbers Employed.
Blocks ...	...	Laundry...	2
Centre and Hall...	...	Workroom ...	...
Coaling ...	...	Helpers in Blocks	22
Stores ...	...	Needlework in Blocks	4
Kitchen ...	...	Centre ...	...
Bakehouse	...	Messroom	...
Messroom	...	Kitchen ...	2
Tailor's Shop ...	...	Night Duty	...
Shoemaker's Shop	8	Medical Superintendent's Residence	...
Upholsterer's Shop	7	Steward's Residence	...
Painter's Shop ...	...	Chaplain's do.	...
Grounds	...	Matron's do.	...
Laundry...	1	Engineer's do.	...
Gashouse	...		
Enginehouse	...		
Attending to Earth Closets	...		
With Tailor Attendant...	...		
Carpenter	1		
...	...		
Total ...	17	Total ...	30

TABLE X.

Showing the Occupations of the Patients admitted during the Year.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Occupations.	Numbers.	Occupations.	Numbers.
Tailors ...	...	Collar-maker	1
Shoemakers	...	Straw-bonnet-maker	1
Carpenter	...	Factory hand	1
Laundrywork	...	Servants...	29
Errand-boy	...	Needlewomen	9
Not known	...	Hawker ...	1
		Charwomen	3
		Nurse ...	1
		Laundresses	7
		Midwife ...	1
		Cartridge-maker	1
		Housekeepers	2
		Governesses	3
		Not known	157
Total ...	25	Total ...	217

To the Chairman and

Committee of the Darenth Asylum and Schools.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1880.

During the past year the various wards of the Adult Asylum, and the different departments of the Schools, have been regularly and systematically visited. The sick and dying have also received at my hands such spiritual consolation as they were capable of receiving. The recent opening of the Adult Asylum, whilst considerably adding to my labours, has at the same time largely increased the interest of my work. It is highly gratifying to me to observe the readiness and pleasure with which my visits are received by the patients. A very little time sufficed to make me quite at home with them. All now seem to regard me as a friend.

The Chapel services have been faithfully and regularly performed. Their popularity continues unabated. It is pleasant to hear that to be compelled to stay away from Chapel is regarded by the children as a punishment, whilst the older members of the congregation, with very few exceptions, are most willing to attend Divine worship.

The behaviour at both the Sunday and week-day services leaves little to be desired. As a general rule all are quiet and well conducted. Of course, much of the seed sown must fall upon unprofitable ground, but a considerable number seem

to comprehend in some measure the simple expositions of Holy Scripture which they hear in Chapel and on their sick beds.

The musical portion of the services—to which much of their popularity is owing—is steadily increasing in efficiency. For this I am indebted to the care and exertions of those to whom the care of the children's education is committed. In Miss Bashford we have a skilful player, and one well fitted to preside at the organ, the funds for which you have kindly promised. The present harmonium is too small for a building of the size of the Asylum Chapel.

The funeral services have been much improved by the attendance, in the event of there being no other mourners, of the Nurses who had charge of the deceased patients. Owing to the careful supervision of the Steward, all the necessary arrangements have been carried out with due propriety and decorum.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the valuable help and sympathy which I have received—from the highest to the lowest in the Asylum—in the performance of my duties.

Thanking you most heartily, Gentlemen, for the unvarying kindness and consideration which I have received at your hands,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. LANGHORNE,

Chaplain.

APPENDIX.

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

19, Whitehall Place, S.W., 21st December, 1880.

We on this day inspected the Metropolitan District School and Asylum at Darenth. The new block for adults is now open, and some portions of it are occupied. At the School are 286 boys and 178 girls under the charge of Dr. Beach. At the Asylum are 198 females and 25 males under the care of Dr. Dyer. The boys and girls include a large number of epileptic, feeble, and helpless children, some of them very young. Last year two-thirds of the admissions into the School were epileptic, feeble, and helpless, and this year one-half were in that condition. 66 children have been admitted under six years of age during the last two years, and some have been received not much above two years old. The great increase of epileptics has compelled the authorities to convert one of the blocks for helpless cases on the boys' side into an epileptic ward. The block for healthy boys, which was vacant at the date of our colleagues' visit last year, is now occupied, and the block originally set apart for helpless girls has been utilised by placing in it a certain number of women required for household work. All the School blocks to-day contain patients, except that intended for the accommodation of healthy idiot girls.

That no efforts are spared to establish the physical health of the patients, and to develop the intellects of the idiotic, is certain, but we more than doubt whether the strain to which Dr. Beach is now subjected is not so excessive that he cannot much longer efficiently discharge his duties and retain his own health. According to present arrangements, the two Medical Superintendents are each to supply the temporary absence of the other, even for an hour's walk beyond the grounds. This duty we are decidedly of opinion should be given to some junior medical gentleman, who might also assist Dr. Beach in other matters in an establishment where there are so many children sick and of exceptionally low vital powers.

We saw the idiot pupils at lessons in their class-rooms and were much pleased by their general behaviour, and the kindly relations which

appear to exist between them and their zealous teachers. Miss Stephens, the head schoolmistress, in our presence, musically drilled a large number of the boys and girls. In the staff several changes have occurred. Dr. Dyer has taken office as Medical Superintendent of the adult patients. Miss Stephens has just resigned her appointment (her successor in teaching should be a very able person). Mrs. Gower, the Matron, has been transferred to the new block for adults, there to act in the same capacity. The junior assistant schoolmistress has resigned, another has been appointed in her room, and we hear an additional assistant teacher is about to be appointed. The new block is built very much upon the plans of the District Asylums at Leavesden and Caterham, and contain no small wards. This is under the circumstances to be much regretted since, owing to the existing pressure for Asylum accommodation for female lunatics chargeable to Unions in the Metropolis, the girls transferred from School to the new block are now of necessity daily associated in the large day-rooms with many old and demented women. We trust that Dr. Dyer will do all in his power by separate employment and otherwise to counteract the mischief which must result from placing children, whose intellects have been at considerable cost slowly developed, with women whose mental capacity and habits are certainly far more degraded than those of idiots who have benefited to some extent by special training. The boys transferred from the School are temporarily accommodated at night in a workshop in the new block which has been converted into a dormitory. They are employed by day in other shops in the new block with other boys sent from the School. The general dietary is unchanged. The clothing is now supplemented by flannel vests to every child, and its condition is creditable.

There has been no epidemic, one case of scarlet fever has occurred and was removed to the infirmary for infectious children; that infirmary is at present closed and being disinfected. In the probationary block there is one patient suffering from ophthalmia (and separated from the other patients), there are four children in the same block with weak eyes. Since the Commissioners' visit in 1879, 82 males and 66 females have been admitted by Dr. Beach, and 145 women have been received by Dr. Dyer. 25 lads and 53 girls have been transferred from the charge of the former to the care of the latter; 10 boys and 5 girls have been discharged at Guardians' requests. 2 males have been sent to County Asylums and 2 patients have gone home on recovery. A third who recovered is employed as a paid servant in the Asylum.

The deaths of children have been 27, of which 16 were on the female side. The causes of death were diseases of various kinds; 12 fatally affected the lungs, 6 deaths were due to epilepsy. 8 women have died, all from natural causes; 11 have been discharged, 9 being unsuitable cases for the Asylum.

Enquiries made into the arrangements for Divine Service inform us that the Asylum Chaplain visits five times weekly. There is a service for children and adults on Sundays, and there is another service for the adults on Thursdays. Morning prayers are read daily by the head schoolmistress. The general condition of the old and new buildings, so far as occupied, is good. The bedding examined by us was everywhere sufficient and clean. In regard to structural improvements, we notice that the covered corridors of communication have, pursuant to the Commissioners' recommendations, been closed in; the sides of the covered ways leading to the water-closets have also been enclosed, with proper means for ventilation, and hot water pipes have been laid down for warming all the blocks appropriated for the helpless and epileptic. The entertainments for the children are frequent, and varied according to the season of the year, and, weather permitting, walking exercise is frequently given to separate parties in the adjoining woods. The removal from their poverty-stricken homes of such a population as this Asylum holds must indeed be a great boon to many parents and children of the Metropolitan Unions, and the benefits it confers must not be calculated with reference solely to the advantages which result to the idiots themselves.

(Signed)

CHARLES P. PHILLIPS,
W. R. P. WILLIAMS,

Commissioners in Lunacy.

