

Report of the Committee of Visitors for 1853 / Littlemore Asylum.

Contributors

Littlemore Asylum.
Henley, Joseph Warner.
Pulling, Edwin W. R.

Publication/Creation

[Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], [1853?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/sse2puh5>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LITTLEMORE ASYLUM.

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

FOR

1853.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

FOR

1888.

LITTLEMORE ASYLUM.

[*comprising an union of the Counties of Oxford and Berks, the City of Oxford, and the Boroughs of Abingdon and Reading, for the maintenance of their Pauper Lunatics.*]

At the Monthly Meeting of the Committee of Visitors of the PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM at LITTLEMORE, OXFORDSHIRE, held at the Asylum on Thursday the 22nd day of December 1853—

PRESENT

THE RIGHT HONORABLE JOSEPH WARNER

HENLEY, M.P., *Chairman,*

HUGH HAMERSLEY Esquire, *Vice-Chairman,*

GEORGE GRANVILLE HARCOURT Esquire, M.P.

JOHN LOVEDAY Esquire,

JOHN HENRY ASHHURST Esquire,

JOSEPH JOHN HENLEY Esquire,

and

THE REVEREND RICHARD PRETYMAN,

JOSEPH ARNOULD Esquire, M.D.

EDWARD TULL Esquire,

JOHN SAMUEL BOWLES Esquire,

WILLIAM MORLAND Esquire,

and

THE REVEREND FREDERICK JOSEPH HILLIARD,

WILLIAM THORP Esquire,

and

WILLIAM STACY Esquire,

}
Justices
of
Oxfordshire.

}
Justices
of
Berkshire.

} A Justice of
the City
of Oxford.

} A Justice of
the Borough
of Abingdon.

The

The Committee agreed to the following

REPORT

prepared in compliance with the Statute 16 and 17 Victoria cap. 97 § 62 :—to be presented respectively to the ensuing Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Counties of Oxford and Berks, to the next Meetings of the Councils of the City of Oxford and Borough of Reading, and to the ensuing Quarter Sessions of the Borough of Abingdon.

The Asylum is insufficient for the proper accommodation of all the Lunatics for whom it is found requisite to provide accommodation ;—and the Visitors, after careful, lengthened and mature deliberation, have resolved that the following new Buildings and Works are necessary :—and the several Bodies in Union having now sanctioned the proposed Expenditure, the requisite Drawings are being prepared for immediate submission to the Secretary of State, with a view to carrying out those Works forthwith :—namely

AS TO THE BUILDINGS.

At the Estimated
Expense of
£ s. d.

It is proposed to provide further Wards and Day			
Room for the Female Patients by extending			
the northern Wing of the Female Patients'			
Buildings in the form indicated by the Plan	1,850	0	0

			£	s.	d.
Brought forward	-	-	1,850	0	0

And

To make a similar addition to the corresponding

Wing on the Male Patients' side	-	-	1,850	0	0
---------------------------------	---	---	-------	---	---

If the Measures about to be taken to improve the ventilation of the Kitchen (which is immediately under the Chapel,) should not be successful; or, if the increased number of Patients should make it desirable to appropriate a new Room for the purpose of the Chapel,—it would be practicable so to use the first floor of the transverse portion of the new Building on the Male side: And then, by allotting the present Chapel to several of the purposes to which Rooms in the centre of the Building are now appropriated, those Rooms could be added, when required, to the limited Apartments of the Superintendent,—so as to form a proper Residence for that Officer.

Also

The following Works are intended:

The conversion of certain open Ward Room into

Single Rooms	-	-	-	-	-	800	0	0
Industrial Shops and Sheds	-	-	-	-	-	635	0	0
The readjustment of the present and inclosing								
new Airing Courts	-	-	-	-	-	284	0	0
Wall for Coal Yard	-	-	-	-	-	80	0	0

Carried forward	-	-	£5499	0	0
-----------------	---	---	-------	---	---

					£	s.	d.
Brought forward	-	-	-	-	5,499	0	0
Airing Shed and work connected with present							
Ventilating Apparatus	-	-	-	-	100	0	0
Arched Store Cellar	-	-	-	-	120	0	0
The new Baths	-	-	-	-	120	0	0
Laundry Awning	-	-	-	-	40	0	0
Soap Store and Drying Room	-	-	-	-	80	0	0
Ventilation and Warming Apparatus	-	-	-	-	600	0	0

[To renew the Spouting and Pipes will be necessary, but will be chargeable to the Repair, and not to the Capital fund.]

AS TO WATER.

The Committee of the City of Oxford Water Works offered to include the Asylum in a Scheme now under consideration for that City, and to construct a Reservoir of Two Acres area upon Iffley Hill from which to conduct Water, of a good quality, to the Asylum for high service to the Buildings at their present height :—And they proposed either of the following terms :—

1st. By payment of £3,000 in money upon the execution of the Work, and £82 per annum Rent for a long term of years.

Carried forward	-	-	6,559	0	0
-----------------	---	---	-------	---	---

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	6,559	0	0

Or 2ndly. By an annual payment of £258 10s. if for a term of 40 years;—or £282 if for 30 years;—or £320 if for only 21 years.

The expense of this plan caused the Visitors to pass from the consideration of it to that of obtaining Water from the River Thames at Sandford by means of a Self Working Apparatus (hydraulic Rams;) but finding that this would not answer, it was abandoned to consider two plans suggested by a professional Engineer,—Mr. Phillips of Reading,—the one for pumping up Water by a Wheel placed in the River at Sandford; and the other for conducting Water from Cholsey Well,—a Spring which flows into the Brook at the back of the Asylum Grounds. The former of these plans however, was found to be probably as expensive as that proposed by the Authorities of the City of Oxford; and great, if not insuperable difficulty existed as to obtaining the right to erect the necessary Works.—And, as to the latter plan, a chymical analysis of the Water from Cholsey Well proved it to be of several degrees greater hardness than the Well Water in use at the Asylum, and generally that it was not a source affording the advantages at

Carried forward	6,559	0	0
-----------------	-------	---	---

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	6,559	0	0

first contemplated from it.—Under these circumstances the Committee reverted to the local supply to be obtained either from the present Wells alone, or by the addition of new Wells within the Asylum Ground, or by Water from the Brook,—in either case to be pumped up by a Steam Engine into the present and new Cisterns, and thence to be distributed throughout the Asylum.—And, having tested the capacity of one of the present Wells by means of a powerful Fire Engine, the Committee have resolved to recommend the extension of the local sources by at first digging one new Well.* And the propositions as to Water involve the following Items:—

Boiler House	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	0	0
Engine House	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	0	0
Chimney	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	0	0
Brick barrel Drain	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	0
Carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,179	0	0

* At the date of this Report a proposal has been received from the Committee of the Oxford Water Works to supply the Asylum with Water by simply extending their main Pipes from the eastern suburb of the City to the Asylum.—The proposal is to be more formally made to an adjourned Meeting of the Visitors to be held on the 31st December: and the result will be communicated to the Bodies in union.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	-	-	7,179 0 0
Steam Engine, and Fitting, and connecting Shafts, &c.	-	-	400 0 0
The New Well	-	-	200 0 0
Cisterns	-	-	400 0 0
Add to which (in respect of the whole Works)			
Miscellaneous Expenses at ten per cent.	-	-	750 0 0
Architect's Commission	-	-	400 0 0
And			
Add for the purchase of the Twelve Acres of Ground intervening the Garden of the Asylum and the Brook, which may be now purchased at	-	-	526 0 0
Total	-	-	<u>£9,855 0 0</u>

This Sum does not include any Expenditure for the Furniture, which would of necessity have to be provided from time to time as new Patients were admitted.

The above amounts have been arrived at from actual Estimates, as far as practicable.

The proportion of the sum of £9,855 payable by each Body in Union, will be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
OXFORDSHIRE (including the University of Oxford and the Borough of Banbury)	-	-	4,311 10 3

							£	s	d.
	Brought forward	-	-				4,311	10	3
BERKSHIRE (including the Borough of Windsor)	-						4,056	13	4
Oxford City	-	-	-	-	-	-	732	14	2
Abingdon	-	-	-	-	-	-	169	18	3
Reading	-	-	-	-	-	-	584	4	0
							<hr/> £9,855 0 0 <hr/>		

If the whole sum be borrowed on Mortgage, the amount of capital re-payable yearly, for 30 years, will be £328 10s.

And the quota of this sum will yearly be

							£	s	d.
Oxfordshire (including the University of Oxford and the Borough of Banbury)	-	-					143	13	9
Berkshire (including the Borough of Windsor)	-						135	3	10
Oxford City	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	8	10
Abingdon	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	13	3
Reading	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	10	4
							<hr/> £328 10 0 <hr/>		

And,—the amount of INTEREST (calculated at four per cent.)—payable the first year after the whole sum has been borrowed,—will be as follows :—

							£	s	d.
Oxfordshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	172	3	8
Berkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	19	0
Oxford City	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	9	2
Abingdon	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	17	8
Reading	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	10	6
							<hr/> £394 0 0 <hr/>		

Such

Such Interest annually decreasing in the ratio in which the Capital is decreased.

The management of the Asylum has been creditable in every respect:—And the conduct of the Medical Superintendent and the other Officers and Servants has been such as to merit the approbation of the Committee.—And proper care has been taken of the Patients.

The number of Patients now in the Asylum is 398 ; (namely 175 Males and 223 Females.)

Up to this date in the present year, 21 Males and 18 Females have been discharged cured, and 13 Males and 17 Females have died.—The age of the oldest of the deceased Persons was 84, and the youngest 23 years ; and the average age of the whole number was 51 years.

The number of Patients admitted since the commencement of the year has been 106* (of which number 55 were Males and 51 Female Patients ; and of whom 7 Males and 7 Females had previously been confined in this Asylum.) The greatest number

* Namely—

Oxfordshire Patients	..	..	..	48
Berkshire ditto	..	..	..	14
Oxford City ditto	..	..	..	9
Abingdon ditto	..	..	..	0
Reading ditto	..	..	..	5

TOTAL 106

of Patients in the Asylum at any one time in the year 1852 was 382 ; whilst in the present year such greatest number has been 406.

Mr. William Cleoburey, the Consulting Surgeon of the Institution, having died in the early part of the present year, the Visitors elected Mr. James Torry Hester of Oxford to succeed him.—And it is with deep regret that the Committee have to record the recent loss sustained in their own Body by the premature death of the Rev. Dr. Harington.

The charge for the maintenance of each Patient was reduced at Michaelmas 1852, to 7s. 6d. per week ; and it remained at this sum until Midsummer last, when the general increase in the price of Provisions necessitated an increase of the charge to 8s. 6d. per week ;—and this has been raised to 8s. 9d., commencing from Michaelmas last.

The Annual Report of the Chaplain is appended to this ; and will be read with interest.

On behalf of the Committee of Visitors,

J. W. HENLEY,

Chairman.

APPENDIX.

To the Committee of Visitors of the Littlemore Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

According to custom, and in obedience to the Rules, I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Report for the year 1853, to the close of which we have now nearly arrived; and, I think I may venture to assert that this year has been one of greater ministerial usefulness than any of the preceding; as the Patients have appeared to appreciate the Religious Services, and my frequent visits, more than formerly.

I have had my two usual Sunday Services throughout the year, and read Prayers in Chapel every morning; and have visited some of the Wards daily, and prayed with the sick two or three times weekly; and have had much pastoral and social conversation with the different Inmates of the Asylum.

Several of the Patients have had the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered to them, with the Superintendent's permission, and between 20 and 30 Males, and 30 and 40 Females have attended my Reading Classes.

The number of Patients now in the Asylum is 398, viz. 175 Males and 223 Females; and the average number attending Divine Service in the course of the year, has been 245; viz. 100 Males and 145 Females. 70 fits of epilepsy have occurred in Chapel, and the Patients had to be taken out, and 3 Patients have had to be removed therefrom, being excited; but on no occasion has any interruption taken place, as I have always been able to proceed with the service, as if nothing had happened. The conduct of the far greater part of the Patients, during the celebration of Divine Service, still continues to be most orderly and devout, which my daily entries in the journal will testify. Many of them I sincerely believe are spiritual worshippers, and come for the express purpose of rendering to God their unfeigned thanks for past and present mercies.

The Books belonging to the Lending Library are still the means of affording much pleasure, and I trust comfort and instruction to those Patients who peruse them; but as the numbers have so much increased, I do not find that I have a sufficient variety of publications. Most of the Books have been read and re-read, and by constantly being in their hands many of them have become much injured. I therefore hope the Committee will grant a fresh supply of Books, both religious and miscellaneous, with some cheap Tracts for distribution in the Wards, which I consider would have a beneficial effect.*

I would here observe, that the present Chapel does not afford sufficient accommodation for the increased number of Inmates. According to measurement (made by the Architect) it will only seat 213 Patients; whereas frequently 250 and sometimes more are present, exclusive of the Household Servants and Attendants. Considering the peculiar class of persons for whom the Chapel is intended, I think that even more space ought to be allowed, than that which is allotted to each person in all newly-built Churches; as, when over-crowded it consequently becomes excessively hot and offensive, especially in summer, from so many diseased persons being congregated together in so small a space.

The present Chapel has only one thing to recommend it, and that is its central position, as it is of easy access from the Male and Female Wards; and therefore many Patients who are infirm, or recently recovered from a fit of sickness, are able to attend regularly, which they could not do, if the Chapel were a detached building at a distance from the house.

Therefore in the event of a new Chapel being erected, it is indispensably necessary to have it so situated and constructed, that it can be approached by both the Male and Female Patients, without their being

Since presenting this Report the Committee have directed the requisite Books to be purchased.

exposed to the inclemency of the weather; and I should also wish to see it more Village Church-like in its internal arrangements, than the existing one, which is, so to say, only a Prayer Room.

As the Patients who are admitted to our County Asylums, are likely to belong to some of the various Christian denominations which abound in this country, the Chaplain cannot be too much on his guard, when addressing them, either in private conversation in the Wards, or in his more official capacity in Chapel.

The Patients are brought in to be cured (if possible) of their mental disease, and not to be converted from their own peculiar religious opinions; and I can conscientiously say, that it has been my constant endeavour, during the time of my Chaplaincy, (seven years and quarter) to afford religious consolation to those who have thus been temporarily committed to my charge, of whatsoever persuasion they may have been; and in the majority of cases I have found them ready and willing to listen to me.

There are a variety of subjects, and Christian doctrines, upon which all are agreed to think the same; and by making these the chief topics of conversation and preaching, I have found no difficulty in maintaining the most friendly feeling with those who have differed from me on very many points.

The commencement of the year, and the close of the year; the Nativity of Christ, His Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension; our duties to God and man; the efficacy of Prayer; the consolation for the afflicted to be derived from the sacred Scriptures; the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death, &c. &c., are subjects which can be so handled, as to be pleasing, instructive, and consoling to all.

Having probably had more experience in the religious instruction of the Insane than some of my brother Chaplains, has induced me

to make these concluding remarks, trusting that they may be regarded by those who read this Report, as the sincere expressions of one, who has the moral and religious treatment of the mentally diseased deeply at heart.

I have the honor to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDWIN W. R. PULLING,

Chaplain.

Littlemore, December 22nd 1853.

Oxfordshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions 1854. Resolved that the REPORT of the Committee of Visitors of the LITTLEMORE ASYLUM be printed and circulated.

By the Court,

JOHN M. DAVENPORT,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

County Hall, 2nd January 1854.



