

Second report of the inspectors of prisons of Great Britain. III. Southern and Western district / [by F.B. Hawkins].

Contributors

Great Britain. Home Office.
Hawkins, Francis Bisset, 1796-1894.
Great Britain. Inspectors of Prisons.

Publication/Creation

London : H.M.S.O., 1836]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wpuye838>

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>

SECOND REPORT
ON
PRISONS
BY
BISSET HAWKINS.

1837.

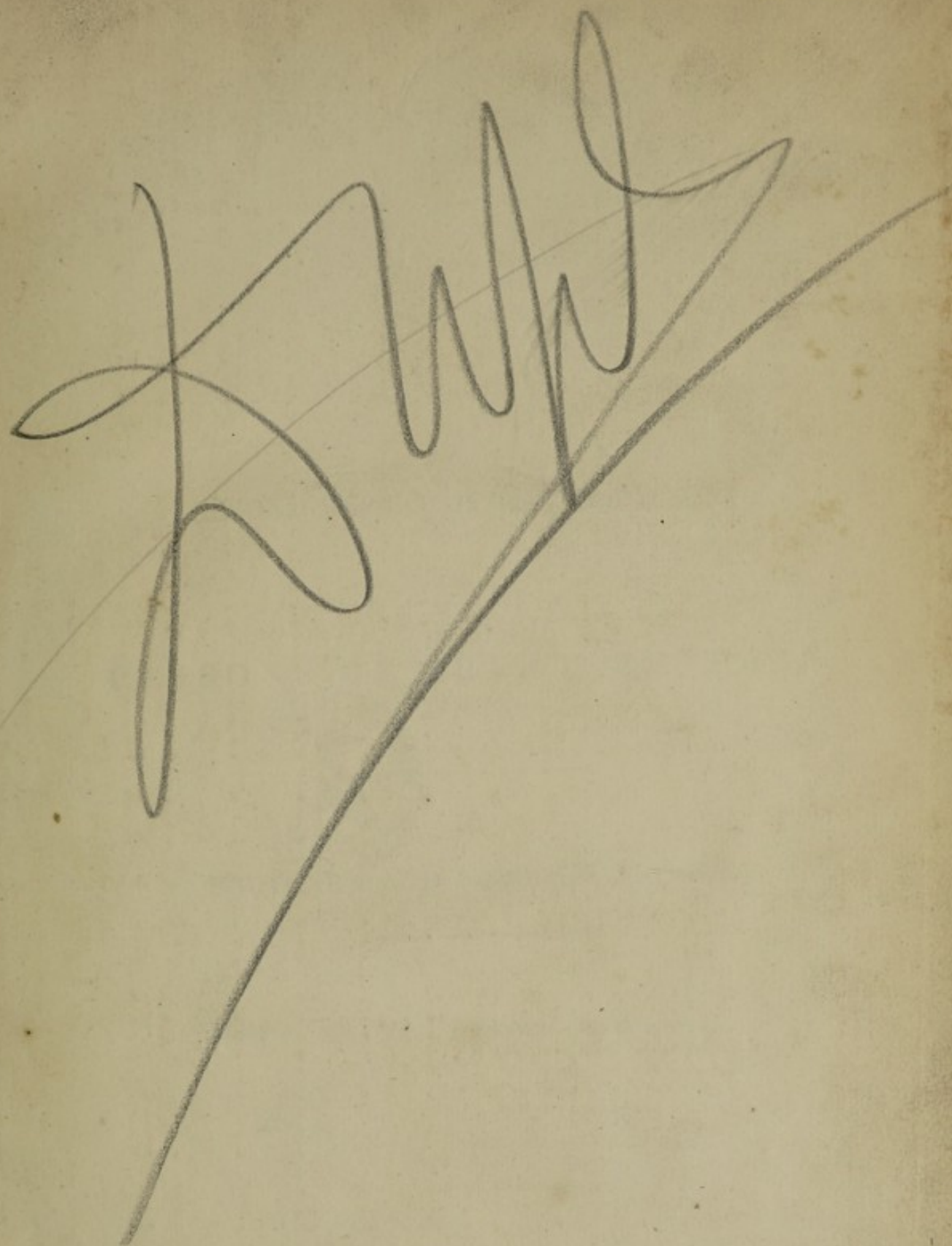
~~W. B. M. 15~~

XXIVK 16

25,480/D

Dupe

950
Pet 61





SECOND REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS

OF

PRISONS OF GREAT BRITAIN.



III.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

GREAT BRITAIN Home Department.

Handwritten signature



CONTENTS.

	Page
INTRODUCTORY LETTER to the Right Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE for the HOME DE- PARTMENT	1
WILTSHIRE :—	
Memorandum on the Reduction of the Number of Gaols	3
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	<i>ib.</i>
Salisbury County Gaol	<i>ib.</i>
Devizes House of Correction for the County	9
Devizes Old Bridewell	14
Marlborough Bridewell	<i>ib.</i>
DORSETSHIRE :—	
Weymouth Debtors' Prison and Lock-up House	17
Poole Town Gaol and House of Correction	18
DEVONSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	20
Devon County Gaol	21
Devon County Bridewell	25
Exeter City Gaol and Bridewell	28
Devon County Debtors' Prison	30
Plymouth Common Gaol	32
Okehampton Borough Gaol	34
Great Torrington Old Borough Gaol, or Bridewell	<i>ib.</i>
Barnstaple Town Gaol and House of Correction	<i>ib.</i>
Bideford Town Gaol and House of Correction	36
CORNWALL :—	
Annual Expenditure upon Prisoners	37
Bodmin County Gaol and House of Correction	<i>ib.</i>
Falmouth Town Gaol	42
Launceston Old County Gaol and Old Town Prison	44
Penzance Town Gaol and Bridewell	<i>ib.</i>
Lostwithiel Stannary Prison. Lostwithiel Lock-up House	45, 46
SOMERSETSHIRE :—	
Bath City Gaol	46
STAFFORDSHIRE :—	
Walsall Common Gaol	48
WARWICKSHIRE :—	
Coventry City Gaol and House of Correction	<i>ib.</i>
GLAMORGANSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	53
Swansea Debtors' Gaol. Swansea Lock-up Cells	53, 54
County House of Correction	54
DENBIGHSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	57
Llangollen Lock-up House	<i>ib.</i>
Ruthin County Gaol and House of Correction	58
Wrexham Borough Gaol and Lock-up House	61
MERIONETHSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	<i>ib.</i>
Dolgelley County Gaol and House of Correction	62
Corwen Bridewell	64
Bala House of Correction and Lock-up House	65
MONTGOMERYSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	<i>ib.</i>
Montgomery County Gaol and House of Correction	66
Welshpool Lock-up House	68
FLINTSHIRE :—	
Annual Expenditure of the County upon Prisoners	69
Flint County Gaol and House of Correction	<i>ib.</i>
SHROPSHIRE :—	
Oswestry Borough Gaol, or Lock-up House	71

III.

SECOND REPORT of the INSPECTOR of the SOUTHERN and
WESTERN DISTRICT.TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
HOME DEPARTMENT.

MY LORD,

SINCE the date of my last Report I have visited the prisons of the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, of the counties of Wilts, Devonshire, Cornwall, Merionethshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, and Montgomeryshire, and some of those in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Glamorganshire, and Shropshire.

I have the satisfaction of announcing to your Lordship that I have observed in almost every quarter a disposition on the part of the magistrates, and also of the chaplains, surgeons, and keepers of gaols, to adopt improvements, and to forward the suggestions which I have ventured, with caution, to propose. I cannot assert that I have encountered any obstacles arising from attachment to old usages, or from professional or local prejudices; on the contrary, it appears to me that the only impediment which exists to the amelioration of prisons and of their discipline (in my district at least), is the absence of the necessary funds, and an indisposition to increase the county and local rates. There is no cause to complain of any difference of opinion as to the mode of carrying improvements into effect, but solely of the deficiency of means. Alterations which do not draw upon the public purse are readily adopted, as far as my observation extends; and thus the prohibition of tobacco, the just restriction of visits and letters within narrow limits, the injunction of silence, the substitution of a regular dietary in the place of an allowance of money, and other similar innovations are rapidly introducing themselves into prisons in which they had been previously unknown.

A considerable portion of the expense hitherto incurred in prison architecture has arisen from a natural but misplaced intention of bestowing on these structures an ornamental and symmetrical character, and of rendering them subservient to the embellishment of the situation in which they are reared. Independently, however, of all consideration of the outlay of money thus created, there is no class of buildings which it seems less expedient to adorn; every feature which is calculated to attract the notice of the stranger, or to excite admiration, tends also to soften the gloom, and to dissolve the atmosphere of mystery which ought to surround a gaol, and which would prove more beneficial in repelling the beholder, by a cold and blank monotony of aspect, than any decorations of art in fixing his attention.

I now approach the subject of separate confinement, which ought not to be viewed on one side only, nor to be decided upon by theory alone, at a time when we possess few positive facts respecting its influence in reforming old offenders, and in deterring new ones. Most gaolers and prison-officers concur as to the dread which it inspires; and, indeed, in some prisons it is found to be the most useful punishment for offences committed within their walls: but its general adoption as an uniform mode of imprisonment for the untried and the convicted, for the petty culprit and the veteran in depravity, for the shortest equally as the longest term of incarceration, appears in my diffident judgment not as yet sufficiently to be authorized by the experience of our own and other countries, nor to have been enough matured by the observation of numerous and cautious critics. Nor has the mind of the public been as yet prepared to admit it with cordiality by repeated proofs of its efficacy. A large part of our knowledge of this subject is derived from the United States, which contain, according to Dr. Julius of Berlin (the latest personal inquirer), eight penitentiaries conducted upon this system. But the United States do not possess the means of transportation; and the majority of the inmates of these penitentiaries corresponds with that class of our own offenders which is sentenced to exile: seclusion for a long period is there deemed essential to reformation, but with us the term of confinement is usually short in comparison.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

But is it sufficient to say, let separate confinement be adopted in our prisons, without defining the mode, in which alone, consistently with humanity, and with just attention to mental and bodily health, it can be carried into operation? Are the details to be resigned to the caprice of individuals, to makeshifts, to accident? I venture with deference to submit, that separate confinement for the convicted should never be imposed, for any term exceeding a few days, unless accompanied by the following indispensable conditions, which are the more necessary to be complied with in our gaols, because they have not been usually constructed, like the American penitentiaries, with this express object in view.

First. A cell moderately warmed in the winter.

Second. A cell light, well ventilated, and large enough to enable the prisoner to labour or to read with ease, and to move about in freely.

Third. A provision of suitable work or books, according to the previous habits of the prisoner.

Fourth. Daily separate visits of the chaplain, the surgeon, and the gaoler, with a privilege of briefly conversing with them.

Fifth. Daily exercise, of at least one hour, not taken all at one time.

Sixth. A discretionary power confided to the surgeon of allowing still more exercise, when he thinks it advisable.

Seventh. A visit made at least once a month to each prisoner thus confined by one of the visiting magistrates.

So far are these remarks from being prompted by any repugnance on my part to the general principle, that I have uniformly recommended its introduction in all those prisons of my district in which it appeared actually practicable. But in only a small number, as they are at present constituted, with their existing cells, officers, funds, and salaries, can separate confinement be safely enforced. The conditions above proposed would necessitate an entire remodelling in many instances: and the magistrates and the public will not easily consent to try a new and as yet uncertain experiment at a large cost, after having already incurred heavy disbursements on the former plan of classification; and least of all at a time when all are anxious to reduce the amount of rates.

I am led thus to the conclusion that it would be most inexpedient to employ any compulsory interference in favour of separate confinement, which would only conduct to an irregular, and inadequate, and unfair trial of it in prisons not fully prepared, and would accordingly cripple and impair a promising plan, as yet only in a state of infancy. If any evil accidents should arise from partial and premature attempts, the public confidence would be shaken, and a sudden reaction and abandonment of the whole system might be the unexpected result. It will be more safe and rational, I conceive, to leave the prosecution of this plan to the discretion of the visiting magistrates, who will adopt it when the resources of their respective prisons guarantee such a step; and in the proportion in which it gains credit its gradual extension will be ensured.

Wherever this system is applied to untried prisoners they ought to be permitted, in addition to the precautions above specified, to enjoy a double portion of exercise, as well as ample means of intercourse with their friends: but, rather than at once to level the ancient distinction between a house of detention and a house of correction, it would be preferable, in my humble opinion, to allow to the untried the free use of their yards, restricting them, at the same time, from conversation with each other, and from the dangerous privilege of a day-room.

It would be most advantageous if benevolent persons would turn their attention to the helpless condition of the individual who quits a prison, as well as to the discipline of its inmates. Permanent reformation is hopeless, unless some means of gaining a future livelihood are provided for the despised and rejected being, against whom every door is closed, except that of the beer-shop, and who often leaves his last home with scarcely a shilling in his pocket. I am happy to inform your Lordship that a house of industry for the refuge of discharged female prisoners has lately been undertaken at Exeter. I have in other places endeavoured to promote this object.

I take the liberty of submitting to your Lordship two general suggestions: 1. That a printed paper be affixed in the yards of all prisons, minutely describing the discipline which awaits convicts who are transported to our penal settlements; and, 2. That a uniform mode of registration be prepared for adoption in all prisons.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

BISSET HAWKINS.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS ON SEPARATE PRISONS.

COUNTY OF WILTS.

MEMORANDUM ON THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF GAOLS.

AT the commencement of the year 1836 there were four prisons in the county of Wilts, all under the control of the county magistrates, namely, that of Fisherton Anger, at Salisbury, the old bridewell at Devizes, the new house of correction at Devizes, and the bridewell at Marlborough. The county magistrates were desirous of accomplishing a reduction in the number; all appeared to agree that the old bridewell at Devizes might be dispensed with, and some few were of opinion that the bridewell at Marlborough might also be discontinued without inconvenience. Having had an interview with the magistrates on this subject, I gave my opinion that the old bridewell at Devizes was no longer necessary; but that, considering the present degree of accommodation presented by the other prisons of Wiltshire, and the statistics of crime in that county, it would not be expedient to break up the Marlborough bridewell. This opinion was acquiesced in (March 1836), and I agreed to reconsider the subject in company with the magistrates at the end of two years if they should be so disposed. If Marlborough bridewell were abolished, it would be necessary to make additions to Devizes; but I believe that it will be convenient and useful to retain the Marlborough bridewell as a house of detention for untried prisoners.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

EXTRACT from the ACCOUNT of the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the county of Wilts, from Hilary Sessions 1834 to Hilary Sessions 1835 :—

Dr.		Cr.
To balance, in the hands of the Treasurer, at Hilary Sessions 1834, viz. :—	By Payments, viz. :—	
Advanced for the purchase of wheat for the house of correction (repaid out of order of Hilary Sessions 1834)	For salaries and expenses attending the county gaol at Fisherton Anger, from Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834	£1,593 2 0
To cash received of the clerk of the peace for fines imposed by justices at petty sessions	For salaries and expenses attending the house of correction at Devizes, for the same period	3,349 17 5
To cash received of the governor of the house of correction at Devizes, viz. :—	For salaries and expenses attending the old bridewell at Devizes, for the same period	423 19 1
For bread supplied to the Devizes old bridewell, and included in the sums paid for expenses for that bridewell	For salaries and expenses attending the bridewell at Marlborough, for the same period	283 4 10
For bran and pollard sold, and for grinding	To the clerk of assizes, and other officers' fees at assizes	143 15 0
For incidents	To officers attending sessions	3 12 0
	To poor prisoners in King's Bench and Fleet prisons	25 0 0
	To officers removing prisoners under examination	9 13 6
	To allowance to discharged prisoners	19 8 3½
	For expenses of prosecutions, viz. :—	
	At the assizes, 117 prosecutions	£1,609 1 7
	At the sessions, 172 do.	795 16 7
		2,404 18 2
	For conveying persons to prison	784 0 6
	For apprehending and conveying vagrants	16 1 3
	Balance at Hilary Sessions 1835, viz. :—	
	Advanced to purchase wheat for house of correction, to be repaid out of order of Hilary Sessions 1835.	188 7 0

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Salisbury.
Fisherton Anger
County Gaol.

SALISBURY.

FISHERTON ANGER COUNTY GAOL.

Construction.

THERE are 10 yards, containing 10 pumps, and 12 privies. Two of these yards are appropriated to male debtors, and one to female debtors. There are four day-rooms for male prisoners (one of which, however, is only a shed, without a fire-place), but none of them are used at present. There is also a day-room for the female prisoners, which is still occupied. There are four dark cells. The dark cells for the men require to be better ventilated. The cells which are used for this purpose for the females are rendered dark only by shutters. The yards are all gravelled and partially paved.

Number of cells where only one male sleeps	.	.	.	.	92	
Ditto ditto female sleeps	.	.	.	.	4	
Total number of sleeping-cells, separate	.	.	.	.	—	96
Number of sleeping-cells where more than one male prisoner can sleep	.	.	.	.	2	
Number of sleeping-rooms where more than one female can sleep	.	.	.	.	4	
					—	6

Total number of sleeping-cells 102

The usual dimensions of the cells are 9 feet high, 7 feet 6 inches long, 6 feet 6 inches wide. There are six double rooms and one day-room in the sheriff's debtors' ward, which, if divided, would make 15 single rooms.

Management.

I found the gaoler in bad health; he is about 70 years of age. His nephew acts with him and for him. The prison is extremely clean, neat, and dry, even after a long continuance of wet weather. Two points require correction, and can be most easily set right. The diet is not defined by any minute rule, either printed or manuscript; it exists, indeed, rather by usage than by any ordinance. There is an extreme laxity in regard to letters and visits. Thrice a-week both the convicted and the untried are allowed to receive visitors during half an hour; any magistrate (not only the visiting magistrates) may give leave for a visit. Letters are admitted without any limit at all. Visits and letters are the greatest indulgence which a prisoner can experience. But the evil is not confined to himself; not only does this freedom render imprisonment more agreeable, but it diminishes and weakens on the part of the public the dread and disgust which a gaol should inspire. By frequent entries and exits, by personal observation, and by written communications, all the mystery and supposed gloom of incarceration are dissolved. But it is unnecessary to enlarge upon this topic. Some smaller deficiencies are—in two yards the privies have no doors, and the dark cells are not sufficiently ventilated. The little shutters which cover the grating in the outer door of the cells may be opened by the prisoner within, with a little art, and a communication may be easily established with his neighbours: this may be readily prevented as far as the power of opening the shutter extends. The women have not separate sleeping cells, but sleep in rooms containing two, three, or four, according to circumstances. The female prisoners are not generally numerous; but it would be far better to divide the present rooms into separate sleeping cells than to allow the very great indulgence and probable corruption of sleeping in the same apartment. One of these female dormitories might be advantageously set apart as an infirmary for the female prisoners. The male prisoners all sleep in separate cells; but there are rooms for male prisoners in which there are more than one bed.

Those who are sentenced to hard labour at the assizes and sessions are sent to the House of Correction at Devizes; but those who are sentenced to hard labour by the magistrates' bench, both of the county and of the city of Salisbury, are kept here.

No new cells are at present in contemplation, only the conversion of the day-rooms into cells. Separation and silence are enforced in a moderate degree.

Prison offences are punished by confinement in a cell without exercise for two or three days; the dark cell is rarely resorted to, and only in cases of resistance: the diet is never reduced. Several prisoners are said to have committed little offences in order to escape the ordinary exercise in cold weather. When whipping is ordered, the usual number of lashes is two or three dozen, the instrument is a cat-of-nine-tails made of whipcord.

During 14 years only one attempt at *suicide* is known to have been made; a knife which had been thrown over was used; but the effort was unsuccessful.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

One moderately-sized room serves as an infirmary for the males. It will suitably accommodate six patients, but eight beds might be placed in it on an emergency. During 14 years, however, there have never been two patients here at the same time. It has two good windows, and a water-closet adjoining. There is also a bath. Either a male prisoner acts as nurse, or sometimes a female nurse has been engaged from the town. Sheets are allowed to the sick, if ordered by the surgeon. There is no room specially appropriated as an infirmary for the females; but, if any one is ill, she remains in her own cell, or is removed to another more convenient cell. As all the female cells are much larger than ordinary cells, and contain fire-places, the women sustain no disadvantage through the absence of an infirmary. At the time of my visit one woman was ill, in a large cell (or, more properly speak-

ing, room), with a fire; she had entered the prison unwell a fortnight before. No male was ill enough to lie in the infirmary during my stay.

The surgeon visits every three or four days, either himself or his assistant, and more often if requisite. He has been connected with the gaol more or less for 35 years. During the last year, from March 1835 to March 1836, only one case of illness occurred sufficiently severe to demand removal into the infirmary; and not one woman has been seriously diseased. The most common disorders are venereal ones, acute and chronic rheumatism, occasional slight attacks of fever, and itch. There has been no cholera. There is much ague about Salisbury; but there has been no case of it in the gaol during the last year.

As prisoners are confined here in separate cells, which are not heated, it is important to know the observation of the surgeon on this head. During the last winter neither the surgeon nor his assistant have seen any evil arising from this source. No prisoner has complained to them of cold, with the exception of one weak old man, who was consequently transferred from his cell to the infirmary. But, in order to understand fully this statement, we must place in juxtaposition the circumstance that the prisoners who are thus separately locked up are allowed in this prison to take exercise during three hours, or three hours and a half, daily; consequently they are not so likely to suffer from cold as prisoners in other situations, who are not suffered to take exercise in the open air for so long a time.

A few months before my visit the convicted prisoners had been allowed to receive food from without, as well as the untried. This liberty has been withdrawn from the convicted. The surgeon and his assistant have, however, seen no instance among the convicted in which indisposition has appeared to arise from the stricter diet. The prisoners have complained to them, it is true, of the lowness of the diet. In the opinion of the surgeon and his assistant, many prisoners go out in better health than on their admission. No case of scurvy has been seen.

The prisoners were remarkably healthy in their appearance: the statements which they made to me, as to the coldness of the cells, were so conflicting that I could not arrive at any conclusion; in addition to this, the prison had just been emptied of most of its inmates.

Diet.

Each prisoner receives daily 1½lb. of the best wheaten bread, and soup on Sundays. Prisoners before conviction are allowed to receive eatables from their friends; convicted prisoners only the gaol allowance.

For the year ending Michaelmas 1834:—

Expense of bread	£192	5	3
Ditto of ox-heads	18	6	0
Baking of ditto	3	0	0
	£213	11	3

For the year ending Michaelmas 1835:—

Expense of bread	£115	3	10½
Ditto of ox-heads	17	8	0
Baking of ditto	2	18	6
	£135	10	4½

Debtors from the Courts are only allowed the bread from the county, and a bushel of coals a-week and 14 faggots during the 6 winter months. If destitute they receive bedding. Some of the master-debtors also receive bedding.

Bedding of Prisoners.

One straw mattress and two blankets in summer, and three in winter.

Clothing of Prisoners.

Clothing is only found occasionally before conviction. Felons after trial are put in *party*-coloured clothing, and misdemeanants after trial are put in *plain* dresses. The clothing is a cap, waistcoat, jacket, smallclothes, stockings, shoes, shirts, for men; cap, shift, stockings, shoes, gown, for women.

The diet is not sufficiently defined by rule, and seems to depend upon custom more than upon regulation. I subjoin the following extract from the printed rules relative to the diet:—

“If well behaved, they shall be sustained with bread, and any coarse but wholesome food, and water, according to a dietary to be directed by the visiting justices. No prisoner in the bridewell to be supplied with any food, drink, or money, from any fund or relation whatever.”

The soup is made from ox-heads, but there is no regulation as to the number of heads to be used for a certain number of prisoners, but only a habit. I have recommended a revision of the above rule among other improvements.

Labour.

The labour consists in cultivating the land within the boundary-wall of the prison, and pumping water for the use of the prison. Very few prisoners are ever kept here after trial. Most under sentence go to the house of correction at Devizes for hard labour. Cleansing is another occupation; but an idea is entertained of converting part of this gaol into a house of correction, by the erection of tread-wheels, &c., which may be easily done.

III.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Salisbury.
Fisherton Anger
County Gaol.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Salisbury.
Fisherton Anger
County Gaol.*Religious and other Instruction.*

The chaplain has no other duty except an evening lecture on Sundays, at half-past six o'clock. He goes to the prison every day; he reads prayers daily, and performs divine service twice on Sundays, with a sermon in the morning. He keeps a journal, in which he records the number of prisoners (including the debtors) who attend the chapel. The debtors (at least those who are called master-debtors) are allowed to attend or not, as they think proper; a discretionary power which has a bad effect on others as well as on themselves. If a dissenting prisoner makes an application, he is permitted to see a minister of his own persuasion, but in the presence of the chaplain: this latter caution exists in consequence of bad impressions produced by certain tracts said to have been formerly introduced. The chapel was formerly not sufficiently spacious to contain all the prisoners, but an alteration took place in 1834, and no absence for want of room has since been necessary. There is sufficient accommodation now for 94 prisoners and debtors without kneeling; and for kneeling, 42 felons, 30 debtors, and 5 misdemeanants; those numbers include both male and female.

There is a good supply of religious books, as the following memorandum will attest. Number of prisoners that had Prayer-books, Testaments, &c., during the following years:—

1830	.	.	.	130
1831	.	.	.	75
1832	.	.	.	73
1833	.	.	.	106
1834	.	.	.	143
1835	.	.	.	113

It sometimes occurs that prisoners have their own books; they are, in that case, not included in the above number.

The chapel is not heated in winter. A curtain ought to be placed in front of the female debtors, who sit at present in the gaoler's seat in the gallery, and can look down on some of the men, and can also be seen by them. The sacrament is delivered, when application is made, which is rare; otherwise, it is only communicated to the condemned. The chaplain has seen no evil whatever to result from silence and separation; one prisoner alone, lately hung for murder, complained to him of the cold, and the gaoler gave him an extra jacket. He has never heard any complaint of lowness of diet. The prisoners have the power of conversing freely with him in a private room; after service they have only to express their wish to that effect to the turnkey. The chaplain attributes a great proportion of offences to the beer-shops; most, if not all, who have been condemned, and left for execution, in his time, have imputed their end to some such source.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I.—Number of Prisoners committed from the city of New Sarum during the two past years (not including debtors):—

1834	.	.	.	37
1835	.	.	.	54

II.—Number of Inmates at the date of this return, March 18, 1836 (exclusive of debtors, for whom see No. V.):—

Males	31	} Prisoners.
Females	3	
Prisoners under 16 years of age {	Males	2
	Females	0

III.—Before the last assizes (March 1836) there were 86 prisoners (including those sent from Marlborough and Devizes old bridewell), exclusive of debtors: of these 74 were for trial.

IV.—Number of Prisoners admitted during the last current year, from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835:—

1835:—						210
Males	.	.	.	.	.	22
Females	.	.	.	.	.
						232
Under 16 years of age	{	Males	.	.	.	7
		Females	.	.	.	0

V.—Number of Debtors at present, 19 males and 2 females.

VI.—Number of Prisoners admitted during the five previous current years, from Michaelmas to Midsummer:—

1831	.	.	.	316
1832	.	.	.	255
1833	.	.	.	219
1834	.	.	.	266
1835	.	.	.	232
				1,288

VII.—Recommittals from Michaelmas 1834 to 1835, 26.

VIII.—Salaries from the County :—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Governor, one year's salary	300	0	0			
„ year's allowance for transfer of prisoners to new sheriff	10	0	0			
				310	0	0
Deputy governor, one year's salary				60	0	0
Matron, „				20	0	0
Two turnkeys, „	(each £42)			84	0	0
And an assistant turnkey				30	0	0
Chaplain, one year's salary				120	0	0
Surgeon, „				60	0	0
One year's annuity to the late chaplain				50	0	0
				£734	0	0

Note.—The turnkeys are allowed £4 annually for shaving all the prisoners.

Salaries for the year from the City of Salisbury, to

	£.	s.	d.
Governor	25	0	0
Matron	5	0	0
Surgeon	20	0	0

IX.—Expenditure on the Diet of the Sick :—

Extra allowance made by order of the surgeon.

Hilary Sessions 1834	1	11	2
Easter ditto 1835	2	11	3
Midsummer ditto 1835	1	15	9
Michaelmas ditto 1835	1	0	4
	£6	18	6
For the last quarter	3	11	11

X.—The Town Clerk's Abstract of the Expenses incurred by the city of Salisbury for the Maintenance of its Prisoners in the Gaol :—

From January 5th to December 23d 1835.

	£.	s.	d.
Bread for prisoners	23	19	4
Necessaries, such as clothing, shirts, &c.	30	2	2
Gaoler	20	0	0
Matron	5	0	0
Surgeon	20	0	0
Prosecutions	68	18	0
Transports	16	13	0

A person is paid £1 per day for a horse and car for conveying the prisoners from the gaol to the sessions for trial.

XI.—Registration :—

Visiting Justices' Journal.

Governor's Journal.

Account-book (County).

Ditto (City).

Bread-book.

General Description-book of all Prisoners admitted.

Entry-book of Sentences—Discharges, &c., of County Prisoners.

Entry-book of Sentences—Discharges, &c., of City Prisoners.

Chaplain's Journal.

Surgeon's Journal.

Ditto (City).

Visitors' Entry-book.

Transport Account-book.

Incidental Expense-book.

Entry-book of Prayer-books and Testaments.

Rough Cash-book.

Sheriff's Debtors' Entry-book.

Hundred-Court Debtors' Entry-book.

County Letter, &c., Account-book.

The above are all the books, and are chiefly kept by the deputy-governor.

XII.—ANNUAL RETURN of the State of the Prison at Fisherton Anger, from the year 1830 to 1835, ending at Michaelmas in each year, including those committed from the city of New Sarum.

Year.	Number of Prisoners the Prison is capable of containing in separate Sleeping Cells.	Number of Prisoners the Prison is capable of containing, where more than 1 prisoner sleeps in 1 cell.	Total Number of Prisoners.		Number of Debtors.		Number of Misdemeanants.		Number of Felons.		Number of Prisoners committed in the course of the Year.
			Michaelmas, 18 —.	Michaelmas, 18 —.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1830	96	114	. .	93	26	1	11	1	47	7	356
1831	96	114	. .	59	18	. .	11	. .	28	2	316
1832	96	114	. .	53	14	1	6	. .	26	6	255
1833	96	114	. .	48	20	2	9	. .	15	2	219
1834	96	114	. .	50	22	. .	6	. .	16	6	266
1835	96	114	. .	35	16	1	7	2	8	1	232

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Salisbury.
Fisherton Anger
County Gaol.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on separate
Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Salisbury.
Fisherton Anger
County Gaol.

ANNUAL RETURN, &c.—(continued.)

Year.	Number of Tried Prisoners.		Number of Untried Prisoners.		Number of Prisoners above 17 Years of Age.		Number of Prisoners under 17 Years of Age.		Greatest Number of Prisoners at one time.	Number of Prisoners who have been committed before.			
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		Once.	Twice.	Three times.	Four and more.
1830	30	6	29	1	53	8	5	..	135	26	7	0	0
1831	13	1	26	1	36	2	3	..	206	12	3	2	0
1832	8	1	24	5	28	5	4	1	133	15	4	0	3
1833	8	2	16	..	23	2	1	..	121	17	2	2	2
1834	6	2	16	4	22	5	..	1	118	30	2	0	1
1835	5	1	10	2	14	3	..	..	89	19	5	2	0

Year.	Prisoners employed.		Prisoners not employed.	Punishments for Offences within the Prison.				Number of Solitary Cells, and of Apartments below Ground.		Cases of Sickness and Death.		
	Hard Labor.	Employment not being Hd. Lab.		Whippings.	In Irons.	Solitary Confinement.	Other Punishment.	Solitary Cells.	Apartments below Ground.	Cases of Sickness in the Year.	Greatest Number of Sick at one time.	Deaths.
1830	28	10	..	1	1	4	48	3	..	70	8 or 9	0
1831	34	8	..	1	..	3	51	3	..	90	12	0
1832	27	15	..	..	20	4	61	3	..	50	5	0
1833	22	5	..	..	10	3	47	3	..	30	3	1
1834	26	13	..	6	6	1	42	3	..	33	6	3
1835	29	22	..	..	..	2	38	3, and 1 for Women.	..	40	8	0

XIII.—EXPENDITURE.

Disbursements, 1834.

Salaries and wages of officers	£734	0	0
Ditto of extra assistants	0	0	0
Housekeeping—Ordinary	315	8	3
Extra for the sick	11	6	3
Fuel	13	4	9½
Furniture	0	0	0
Prisoners' clothing	22	15	2
Gratuities to discharged Prisoners	0	5	0
Books and stationery	4	16	6
Incidentals	36	17	1½
Rents, taxes, and rates	47	5	6
Repairs and alterations	278	17	5½
Machinery, tools, and materials for work	0	0	0
Conveyance of transports	93	17	0
Conveyance of other prisoners	34	9	0
Total Disbursements, 1834	£1,593	2	0½

Disbursements, 1835.

Salaries and wages of officers	£734	0	0
Ditto of extra assistants	0	0	0
Housekeeping—Ordinary	237	11	0½
Extra for the sick	6	18	6
Fuel	17	1	10
Furniture	0	0	0
Prisoners' clothing	66	7	6
Gratuities to discharged prisoners	0	1	0
Books and Stationery	0	0	0
Incidentals	23	18	7½
Rents, taxes, and rates	36	12	9
Repairs and alterations	295	6	5
Machinery, tools, and materials for work	0	0	0
Conveyance of transports	100	15	3½
Conveyance of other prisoners	42	5	0
Total Disbursements, 1835	£1,560	17	11½

XIV.—AGE, EDUCATION, &c.

At the Lent assizes at Salisbury, 1836, there were 74 prisoners; of whom 21 were under 20 years of age, 29 between 20 and 30, 9 between 30 and 40, 12 between 40 and 50, 1 of 57, and 1 of 82.

Of the 74, 6 could read and write well, 48 imperfectly, and 19 neither one nor the other: 2 of the 6 were convicted of highway robbery, and had sentence of death recorded. The prosecutors of 59 of the prisoners reside nearer to Devizes than to Salisbury.

DEVIZES.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

There is a good inspection from the governor's house over all the yards. The building appears secure; it has two outer walls, and is not overlooked by any other edifice. There are eleven wards, and eleven yards: ten of these belong to the men, and one to the females.

Total number of cells of all kinds	.	.	.	.	210
Of these are single sleeping cells	.	.	.	.	207
ditto ditto for males	.	.	.	.	187
ditto ditto for females	.	.	.	.	20
Of these are cells where more than one sleeps	.	.	.	.	3
ditto ditto male sleeps	.	.	.	.	3
ditto ditto female sleeps	.	.	.	.	0

The dimensions of the single cells for the men are, 10 feet high, 7 feet 3 inches wide, and 8 feet 3 inches long; that of the women, 7 feet high, 5 feet wide, and 7 feet 5 inches long.

It will be perceived that the male cells have a considerable advantage above the female ones in height and extent. The female cells, indeed, form the chief blemish of the gaol. They are placed just opposite to each other on each side of a narrow passage: over each door is a large aperture, through which the inmates can converse together most commodiously. The matron is the wife of the governor; and there is no one sleeping at hand to superintend them at night. The women use a day-room common to all. All the female cells are too small, are principally made of wood, and very ill ventilated; the western cells, indeed, have no windows that open, and are damp from the gutter which passes close to the roof.

The cells are heated by introducing warm air into the corridors.

Management.

The turnkeys, miller and porter are all chosen and appointed by the governor, out the salary of each is fixed at the quarter sessions. The present governor has been here 14 years. He has the power of ordering broken windows to be repaired, without consulting a visiting magistrate, a privilege which does not exist in all prisons. The head turnkey has the principal charge of the registers, or acts the part of clerk.

There are no untried prisoners here, and no debtors. All the prisoners, of both sexes, have each a separate cell: the same cell is used by day and by night. A certain number are locked up in their cells the whole day, excepting during the period of exercise: the details of this arrangement will be found under the head of labour. Silence is enjoined.

Any magistrate may give an order for a visit; and there is no limit to the number of visitors, except that caution is recommended. An officer is always present during the visit, which may be half an hour in length, but is usually shorter.

No slates nor writing are commonly permitted.

Monitors, or wardsmen, are chosen from among the prisoners: they keep the wards clean, and may report misconduct. They are not liked by the other prisoners, and enjoy no other privilege than exemption from labour.

The punishments for prison offences are—confinement in a day-cell; privation of their covering, but not of their bedding; or reduction to bread and water diet.

There is a want of specially constructed dark cells: no such were made originally, but half a dozen can be fitted up for the purpose by shutters; the stay in them is not more than three days.

In flogging, seldom so many as 40 lashes are inflicted; 28 is the average, with a cat-o'-nine-tails of whipcord; the surgeon is not present, nor are the prisoners: when for a prison offence, then it was inflicted in presence of the prisoners; this has not happened for many years.

During 14 years not one attempt at suicide has been known, nor any alarm from fire. Two prisoners have contrived to escape, but both were retaken.

Salaries.

Governor	per annum	.	.	.	£250
Matron	ditto	.	.	.	30
Sub-governor	ditto	.	.	.	60
Turnkey and miller	ditto	.	.	.	46
Three turnkeys, at £42 each	.	.	.	.	126
One porter	.	.	.	.	25
Chaplain	.	.	.	.	150
Surgeon	.	.	.	.	80

The surgeon finds medicines at his own cost, but he is allowed to charge for trusses. No officer of the gaol has any allowance or perquisite whatever.

Account-Books, Registers, &c.

are the magistrates', chaplain's, surgeon's, governor's, commitment-books, account-book, description-book, book for casual visitors and strangers, punishment-book, miller's book, stationery-book, grocery-book, bricklayer's, carpenter's, plumber's, and a few other tradesmen's books.

Diet.

Two pounds of wheaten bread, one pint of gruel made from one ounce of oatmeal, and one pound of potatoes, are allowed daily. On Wednesdays and Fridays, in lieu of potatoes, one

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Devizes.
House of
Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Devises.
House of
Correction.

pint of vegetable soup, made according to discretion of the governor, with a few peas and other vegetables. To those who work on the tread-wheel, when the hours of labour exceed eight per day, one biscuit each of the weight of four ounces: salt as wanted. Warm water is not allowed, but the gruel is given warm in the morning. Meals are taken in the cells at half-past eight, and at one. The biscuit is given on the wheel in the afternoon. No contract for corn: an agent purchases it. The governor buys the potatoes at the best season.

Every prisoner receives for clothing one jacket, one waistcoat, a pair of trousers, a pair of stockings, a pair of shoes, one shirt, a stock, and a cap.

Every prisoner has for bedding a straw mattress, one sheet, one rug, two blankets in winter, and in summer only one, and a night-cap.

Labour.

There is a tread-mill here which grinds corn for the prison and for the public. There is also a crank for raising water which employs two persons who may happen to be incapacitated for the tread-mill by some infirmity. Another crank-mill, capable of employing 16 men, is now disused, on account of the difficulty of maintaining good order at it. The other occupations are whitewashing, baking (under the guidance of a miller), cooking, cleaning. The females wash for the whole prison, and mend for all, but they make no clothes worthy of mention: they make up a few shirts, and all the beds and sheets. At the time of my visit eight women were engaged in washing; two prisoners were employed in the bakehouse, two in the kitchen, six or eight at the crank, and 60 at the tread-mill. There are eleven wardsmen, and one tailor is at his work. About 100 prisoners out of the whole 126 are now at work. Those who do not work at hard labour owing to infirmities, as well as those just entered, (who for the first ten days remain in their cells,) take only half an hour's exercise twice in the day. They go out to wash for a few minutes in the morning, and are also let out by the wardman (on knocking) for their natural wants throughout the day. Only one takes exercise in the yard at the same time.

Two prisoners are often employed in cultivating the land around the prison under the guidance of an officer. It has been stated to me that prisoners are employed occasionally in a field near the gaol appropriated to the governor's use, and that they also occasionally tend his cows. Whether this is true or not—and I trust that, if it has happened, it will not occur again—it is a violation of good discipline to employ prisoners on any pretext outside of the walls of a prison. Once outside, they can be familiarly seen by others, and can see others in turn: it is a return to comparative liberty for the moment, and restores that communication with the external world which it is one of the objects of a prison to cut off.

The hours of labour are, during the summer, 9½ hours; during the rest of the year the hours vary, but they never fall short of 6½ hours.

The profits of the labour in money are about £30. All the profits of labour are appropriated to the county.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain has been in office since the year 1822, and assisted the chaplain the two preceding years. He reads prayers daily and performs morning and evening service on Sundays, with one sermon. At the time of my visit there were no compartments or divisions in the chapel: it is highly desirable that they should be supplied, as many in number as there are wards, although the governor believes he can command attention by his glance. So far from divisions being unnecessary in the chapel of even the best regulated prison, I am of opinion that it would form a material improvement if every prisoner could be insulated from his fellows, so as to preclude the possibility of either present or future recognition; but such a measure could neither be easily nor economically accomplished. The chaplain orders such books as he thinks proper for the use of the prisoners, and the bookseller sends his bill in at the sessions. The chaplain keeps both a public and private journal; in the latter he takes a note of the birth, education, and character of those intrusted to his spiritual charge: he visits every prisoner in his cell on his first admission, and converses readily with them. He forms the prisoners into classes of from 15 to 18 in general; the lowest number composing these classes is 12, and the highest is 24: he assembles one of these classes every day after the service. If he finds that they already know their letters, he assists them in reading, and has thus taught many to read; but he does not usually teach the A B C. There was once a schoolmaster for the prisoners, but he has been dismissed. The chaplain has never been requested by any prisoner to administer the sacrament; they have never alluded to the subject. He has never made an offer to do so, because he does not possess sufficient means of ascertaining that the repentance is sincere. It is remarkable that, in the many cases in which he has interrogated the prisoners as to whether they have ever received the sacrament, he has never known any instance in which they have replied in the affirmative. This is a forcible proof, if any new one were wanting, how rarely the inmates of a gaol have been imbued with religious principles; and it well illustrates the important distinction between an education merely literary, and that deeper instruction which combines Christian with worldly knowledge. The chaplain has favoured me with his experience upon the subject of re-committals. He observes that those who have been flogged often return: according to him the flogging is usually deferred to the last period, instead of being inflicted at first: the culprit consequently leaves the prison degraded in his own estimation, angry, excited, hating all, and ripe for future mischief. Those who have been placed in the infirmary often return to the prison; he believes it to be a fruitful source of corruption, and expresses an opinion, in which I heartily concur, that the infirmary should be attended by a wardman who is not a prisoner. There is no instruction whatever for the female prisoners. The chaplain applied to the magistrates to

give permission that some ladies in the neighbourhood might act as teachers to the females, but this was declined. The women rarely ask to see the chaplain; but when one of them happens to be ill he generally goes to see them. It is his uniform custom to visit every prisoner who requests to see him. He is friendly to short imprisonment, with confinement to the cell, without labour, for 20 days.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

There is an infirmary for the men, containing two rooms: one of these rooms is usually devoted to the use of the sick, and the other is set apart for the convalescent. There is also a separate infirmary for the females. The surgeon does not note down every case in which a medicine is given, but only those which are placed in the infirmary, or those in which some extraordinary indulgence, or relaxation of discipline, is granted. Every prisoner on his admission is examined by the surgeon, has a warm bath, and is then reported by the surgeon as fit or unfit for hard labour. In cases of varicose veins, hernia, enlargement of the joints, and other injuries, the tread-mill is forbidden; but the surgeon has never known a ruptured man to suffer from working at the crank. Venereal diseases and itch are frequent. When a prisoner comes in with itch he is retained in the reception-cell for three days; during that time the compound sulphur ointment is rubbed in three times, in the quantity of a quarter of a pound once a-day. At the end of this time he is bathed, and is invariably cured. Ague has never appeared to originate in the prison. During the last five years the surgeon has performed the operation of castration, of hare-lip, hernia humoralis, and others. He thinks that the health of the prison has sometimes suffered from its being too much crowded: before the day-rooms were converted into sleeping cells the sleeping cells were too full, and diarrhoea appeared to him to result, followed by inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines. Dysentery, also, sometimes was the result of this close packing, and it occasionally passed into the common cholera; but no case of malignant cholera was seen here; the surgeon doubts, indeed, if it reached the town at all. Fever of typhoid character was more common formerly than now. Diarrhoea is still sometimes found, but not so frequently as before. The diet formerly was very generous, and led to congestions: it acquired its present more moderate standard about eight or nine years ago. The prisoners, in his opinion, usually look more healthy on dismissal than on admission; and the table (which will be found below) proves that they generally gain in point of weight. The surgeon has a discretionary power of increasing the diet if a prisoner appears to waste, if even his weight becomes less without being positively ill. He visits twice a-week, and more frequently if necessary; and is allowed to employ an assistant.

As this is one of the prisons in which separate confinement has been partially adopted, it is important to consider the statement made by the surgeon on this head. The solitary cells are now heated by warm air; before this precaution was adopted the prisoners returning from labour heated entered their cold cells, and often contracted colds and rheumatism: at present these complaints occur less frequently. When prisoners are confined in separate cells, without labour, he has often found headache and constipation, and has been obliged frequently to administer purgatives. He has also seen several cases of moral depression amounting to melancholy under the above circumstance. But in such cases he has the power of relaxing the confinement at his discretion: he sometimes orders an additional quantity of exercise. He is not disposed to approve of a long continuance in solitary confinement, but he believes that the present cells are sufficiently large, in relation to the present system of allowing every prisoner to labour or to take exercise.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I.—Number of Prisoners in the Gaol (March 22, 1836) at this time 126: of whom, males 118, females 8.

Number of Prisoners in the Gaol at the corresponding time of last year 186: of the year before the last 233.

II.—Total Number of Commitments during each of the last five years, from Michaelmas to Michaelmas:—

		Daily Average of Inmates for the last Seven Quarters.
1831	724	171
1832	696	189
1833	683	175
1834	885	182
1835	791	127
		110
		128

RETURN of the Number of Prisoners during the Year 1835.

1835.	Quarter ending Christmas 1834.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1835.	Quarter ending Midsummer 1835.	Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.	Total in 1835.
Brought from last Quarter .	145	188	184	101	147
Committed in the Quarter .	230	268	112	181	791
Total in the Quarter .	375	456	296	282	938
Discharged in the Quarter .	187	272	195	135	769
Balance carried to next Quarter	188	184	101	147	149

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Wilts.
Devizes.
House of
Correction.

RETURN of the Number of Prisoners during the Year 1836.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Devises.
House of
Correction.

1836.	Quarter ending Christmas 1835.
Brought from last Quarter .	149
Committed in the Quarter .	158
Total in the Quarter .	307
Discharged in the Quarter .	210
Balance carried to next Quarter	97

III.—EXPENDITURE.

DISBURSEMENTS, 1835.	Quarter ending Christmas 1834.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1835.	Quarter ending Midsummer 1835.	Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.	Total Disburse- ments 1835.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and Wages of Officers	191 15 0	191 15 0	191 15 0	191 15 0	767 0 0
Ditto of Extra Assistants	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Housekeeping Ordinary	285 1 7	265 13 8	206 0 11	245 3 5½	1,001 19 7½
Extra for the Sick	11 15 6½	26 16 4	15 18 5	9 15 10	64 7 1½
Fuel	0 0 0	69 13 3	0 0 0	33 2 3	102 15 6
Furniture	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Prisoners' Clothing	76 13 8	89 18 9	35 17 4	97 19 6	300 9 3
Gratuities to discharged Prisoners	0 16 3½	2 2 4	1 6 2	2 18 0	7 2 9½
Books and Stationery	2 3 9	7 15 8	5 3 6	5 0 0	20 2 11
Incidentals	6 10 0½	18 14 6	10 6 10	21 19 6	57 10 10½
Rents, Taxes, and Rates	3 1 3	10 0 3	2 15 0	8 19 7½	24 16 1
Repairs and Alterations	32 2 1	53 11 4	51 19 1	0 0 0	137 12 6
Machinery, Tools, and Materials for Work	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Conveyance of Transports	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Conveyance of other Prisoners	5 3 0½	10 12 9	5 14 3	8 5 9	29 5 9½
Total Disbursements, 1835 . . . £	615 2 3	746 13 10	526 16 6	624 18 11	2,513 11 6
RECEIPTS, 1835.	Quarter ending Christmas 1834.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1835.	Quarter ending Midsummer 1835.	Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.	Total Receipts 1835.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Bread supplied to other Prisons	27 16 9	31 12 0	28 16 3	23 3 0	111 8 0
Bran and Pollard	12 6 0	15 16 0	14 0 0	15 12 4	57 14 4
Flour	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Grinding	13 18 10	5 7 6	5 11 9	5 10 2	30 8 3
Manufactured Goods	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Stamps for Receipts	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Keep of Prisoners from Sarum	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Keep of ditto from Marlborough	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Incidentals	0 0 0	2 16 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 16 0
Total Receipts, 1835 . . . £	54 1 7	55 11 6	48 8 0	44 5 6	202 6 7
DISBURSEMENTS, 1836.		Quarter ending Christmas 1835.			
		£. s. d.			
Salaries and Wages of Officers		191 15 0			
Ditto of Extra Assistants		217 5 0			
Housekeeping Ordinary		6 11 10			
Extra for the Sick		0 0 0			
Fuel		35 3 0			
Furniture		0 0 0			
Prisoners' Clothing		185 13 3			
Gratuities to discharged Prisoners		2 12 9			
Books and Stationery		2 2 8			
Incidentals		10 18 7			
Rents, Taxes, and Rates		2 1 3			
Repairs and Alterations		570 10 8			
Machinery, Tools, and Materials for Work		0 0 0			
Conveyance of Transports		11 7 6			
Conveyance of other Prisoners		4 7 6			
Total Disbursements, 1836 . . . £		1,240 9 0			

IV.—As an illustration of the favourable effects of the Imprisonment here upon the health of the Prisoners, I publish, though long, a List, showing the weight of each Prisoner on his admission into the above Prison, from 25th March 1835 to 25th March 1836, and also on his discharge.

No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.
	lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.
1	141	150	77	115	118	153	125	128	228	131	140
2	84	91	78	136	137	154	127	137	229	118	132
3	95	97	79	140	148	155	126	126	230	137	134
4	151	156	80	75	82	156	124	138	231	145	138
5	115	118	81	161	183	157	135	138	232	130	128
6	140	153	82	122	125	158	134	141	233	135	135
7	135	147	83	111	129	159	145	145	234	137	137
8	132	139	84	151	139	160	110	113	235	117	121
9	141	140	85	130	138	161	101	105	236	152	155
10	89	88	86	133	134	162	92	107	237	149	150
11	152	165	87	146	157	163	80	87	238	142	147
12	108	117	88	137	153	164	141	139	239	162	162
13	143	142	89	55	59	165	63	77	240	126	129
14	136	139	90	141	143	166	129	131	241	110	117
15	78	79	91	90	91	167	156	156	242	125	119
16	105	110	92	133	135	168	109	116	243	145	156
17	134	142	93	132	136	169	133	128	244	119	129
18	129	130	94	114	124	170	149	147	245	152	157
19	67	75	95	118	120	171	164	160	246	137	133
20	59	63	96	68	70	172	131	135	247	138	135
21	138	147	97	69	72	173	126	128	248	150	152
22	150	149	98	152	173	174	140	141	249	129	139
23	148	144	99	80	90	175	156	175	250	125	124
24	137	145	100	123	114	176	152	168	251	154	155
25	115	117	101	154	158	177	148	161	252	168	181
26	159	164	102	133	133	178	96	102	253	120	123
27	145	149	103	121	123	179	67	78	254	117	121
28	88	93	104	129	123	180	135	142	255	105	112
29	133	134	105	118	124	181	127	134	256	78	91
30	121	122	106	118	116	182	95	98	257	110	110
31	150	150	107	129	142	183	100	98	258	110	110
32	114	114	108	145	150	184	95	98	259	139	140
33	108	114	109	102	97	185	156	158	260	115	116
34	112	118	110	141	147	186	115	117	261	115	116
35	99	104	111	123	124	187	89	100	262	101	104
36	150	158	112	128	138	188	87	98	263	132	136
37	106	112	113	120	125	189	149	150	264	147	150
38	122	136	114	129	129	190	112	116	265	135	132
39	170	174	115	129	130	191	140	151	266	93	100
40	111	115	116	92	93	192	140	143	265	132	146
41	122	124	117	116	120	193	132	136	266	141	141
42	128	122	118	153	165	194	117	123	267	131	131
43	141	140	119	107	117	195	127	129	268	134	132
44	137	141	120	138	137	196	138	142	269	139	139
45	157	149	122	168	149	197	113	119	270	138	148
46	70	76	123	114	117	198	124	144	271	134	133
47	93	96	124	122	122	199	130	131	272	152	164
48	159	153	125	133	133	200	133	137	273	136	143
49	135	134	126	135	138	201	125	131	274	147	147
50	122	133	127	83	86	202	151	152	275	125	123
51	148	144	128	115	118	203	132	138	276	155	154
52	144	140	129	80	88	204	135	135	277	103	108
53	156	140	130	106	108	205	138	137	278	133	134
54	154	138	131	73	77	206	151	149	279	112	113
55	107	114	132	107	109	207	134	133	280	115	115
56	125	121	133	62	64	208	123	125	281	132	141
57	145	135	134	69	72	209	148	148	282	143	143
58	115	120	135	55	57	210	179	182	283	129	129
59	135	150	136	65	65	211	126	131	284	89	91
60	129	117	137	94	102	212	125	126	285	136	141
61	148	150	138	149	155	213	112	113	286	150	145
62	138	135	139	131	128	214	78	85	287	174	179
63	140	135	140	141	143	215	151	144	288	142	139
64	124	126	141	82	92	216	137	137	289	142	142
65	144	145	142	147	152	217	164	174	290	131	130
66	123	124	143	132	133	218	106	113	291	146	166
67	151	139	144	114	116	219	151	148	292	134	131
68	126	132	145	137	130	220	101	104	293	142	146
69	149	142	146	135	144	221	70	77	294	138	139
70	151	154	147	115	110	222	64	71	295	152	158
71	168	167	148	124	129	223	124	127	296	147	144
72	181	176	149	141	142	224	145	152	297	149	143
73	164	161	150	124	126	225	119	115	298	128	128
74	128	145	151	143	144	226	117	122	299	143	145
75	117	121	152	146	159	227	132	130	300	121	122

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Devizes.
House of
Correction.

III.

A List showing the weight of each Prisoner, &c.—continued.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Devizes.
House of
Correction.

No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.	No.	Weight in.	Weight out.
	lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.
301	127	130	351	141	130	401	150	154	451	142	156
302	146	145	352	115	118	402	136	131	452	130	135
303	131	125	353	111	114	403	134	133	453	137	141
304	165	153	354	133	134	404	136	137	454	147	149
305	132	136	355	123	124	405	128	125	455	137	135
306	101	102	356	122	122	406	138	136	456	157	159
307	122	124	357	102	102	407	153	158	457	138	139
308	117	117	358	128	132	408	142	135	458	112	112
309	105	108	359	129	132	409	137	143	459	134	138
310	107	113	360	136	132	410	150	156	460	133	130
311	147	144	361	139	138	411	117	120	461	126	129
312	128	123	362	157	154	412	68	69	462	113	118
313	128	128	363	122	128	413	129	133	463	119	121
314	117	128	364	141	135	414	143	135	464	172	179
315	146	142	365	92	95	415	115	118	465	137	147
316	124	137	366	124	129	416	124	113	466	121	121
317	142	147	367	145	145	417	129	133	467	137	135
318	139	136	368	132	127	418	136	140	468	126	122
319	130	127	369	110	109	419	120	122	469	130	123
320	142	142	370	92	100	420	122	130	470	147	146
321	125	126	371	107	111	421	129	139	471	148	148
322	143	139	372	150	149	422	147	164	472	134	130
323	153	151	373	124	123	423	162	164	473	121	126
324	152	156	374	150	156	424	145	143	474	59	58
325	130	129	375	138	137	425	124	129	475	154	150
326	130	133	376	160	161	426	121	124	476	145	154
327	89	112	377	155	160	427	97	97	477	124	128
328	135	134	378	138	140	428	79	78	478	121	122
329	124	124	379	134	133	429	73	78	479	131	138
330	157	158	380	129	130	430	147	156	480	142	138
331	100	107	381	108	112	431	138	138	481	122	120
332	156	157	382	92	96	432	140	130	482	104	100
333	140	157	383	80	86	433	126	122	483	144	142
334	114	118	384	105	98	434	138	128	484	131	135
335	133	135	385	131	135	435	101	106	485	126	128
336	92	93	386	114	109	436	147	141	486	124	123
337	176	187	387	139	140	437	138	136	487	133	133
338	161	171	388	140	145	438	120	119	488	135	136
339	142	141	389	94	101	439	129	132	489	126	127
340	133	134	390	149	150	440	129	132	490	128	127
341	125	124	391	146	138	441	118	116	491	120	117
342	168	180	392	146	138	442	118	113	492	148	144
343	158	160	393	142	140	443	137	140	493	68	69
344	126	133	394	148	142	444	128	126	494	111	107
345	162	179	395	120	125	445	164	165	495	142	137
346	133	132	396	125	123	446	147	144	496	124	124
347	137	139	397	133	139	447	137	151	497	86	85
348	134	138	398	141	149	448	110	109	498	130	142
349	145	146	399	132	141	449	82	94	499	124	121
350	151	149	400	132	135	450	132	138	500	163	162

THE OLD BRIDEWELL.

I went over this prison in March 1836, and took notes respecting all that I observed there; but, as the magistrates, almost immediately after my visit, determined on breaking up the prison, and on transferring the prisoners to the new house of correction, it is not necessary to enter into details respecting a prison which has ceased to exist.

MARLBOROUGH.

BRIDEWELL, OR HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

Marlborough.
Bridewell, or Hou
of Correction.

This prison was built in 1786, and is chiefly defective in point of extent. It might, however, be easily enlarged, by building upon the ground which at present forms the garden of the keeper. It has no boundary wall, but it is not overlooked. There are privies in every yard, but some are wanting in doors; and a supply of water exists in all the yards except one. In consequence of there being only four yards the females, both untried and convicted, are all placed together. The chapel has a separate division for the women, but there is no separation among the male prisoners. The whole prison appears dry. The workhouse adjoins it, but does not overlook it; and this workhouse is stated to be on the eve of removal.

Total number of cells, including day-rooms	.	.	15
ditto ditto for males	.	.	12
ditto ditto for females	.	.	3

Total number of single cells	4
Of cells where more than one sleeps	11
Wards	4
Yards	4
Day-rooms	4

There are no dark cells.

Management.

This is a county prison, and is under the jurisdiction of the county magistrates. It receives no debtors. Although confined in its dimensions it has occasionally been obliged to contain a large number of prisoners at one time: thus, during the riots of 1830, the keeper affirms that so many as 220 prisoners were confined here together at the same time, but only for a very short period. At that crowded juncture he was allowed to have an assistant, and contrived with this one assistant to maintain tolerable order. He has no assistant at present, and has the entire charge of the establishment: his wife, indeed, acts as matron, but receives no salary. There are no rules, either printed or manuscript, and this deficiency strongly demands to be supplied, although their absence has been to a certain degree counteracted by the intelligence and care of the keeper. There are no bedsteads in use here, but the prisoners sleep on the floor, which is of wood. Silence is not rigidly observed; indeed, with only one overlooker, such an event would be impossible. Two prisoners are never allowed to sleep in one bed, and, as far as possible, all are placed at night in separate cells. Seven of the prisoners are now placed at night in separate cells. The untried are allowed to receive letters, with no other restriction than that the keeper first peruses them; but the convicted are only permitted to receive those letters which the keeper deems it important to communicate to them. Visits are made both to the convicted and to the untried by the order of a magistrate only. There is no other labour here except cleansing, whitewashing, washing for the prison, and mending.

Tobacco is prohibited.

The usual punishment is to lock the prisoner in a cell, and to take away his bedding: the diet is never reduced except that cold water is sometimes given in winter instead of warm. When flogging is ordered, three dozen is the usual number of lashes, which are inflicted by a small cat-of-nine-tails, made of whipeord, about two feet long. The women are exclusively attended by the matron. No fees are taken from prisoners in any case whatever. The prison appears to be practically a secure one, if it is true, that, during seven years of the keeper's residence here, only two escapes have occurred; one individual was retaken; the keeper was absent at the assizes. He is absent on business during the whole year for about 25 days in general; sometimes so many as 30 to 40 days: during his absence an assistant is placed here in charge of the prisoners, who receives 5s. a-day. There has been no alarm of fire during seven years. One case of suicide has occurred within that time: a prisoner hung himself with his garters. On the whole the prison is neat, clean, and orderly, and the prisoners appear to be under a steady control. None of them do any work for the keeper.

Diet.

One loaf of the best bread weighing one pound and twelve ounces is the only allowance. It costs at present 2d. The untried may receive food from their friends without, but not the convicted. No beer nor spirits are allowed to enter. The prisoners complain of the scantiness of their fare, but they appear healthy.

Each prisoner is allowed a straw bed and three blankets. No clothing is allowed, except for those who are destitute.

Fuel may be purchased by the untried for their own use: the county lights fires in the day-rooms only during the winter.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain reads prayers three times a-week, and also performs divine service and delivers a sermon on Sundays. If there is any sick prisoner he comes on other days, and usually converses with one or two prisoners after prayers. He sometimes stops for an hour after the performance of service. Last Sunday he had four private conferences with prisoners; and four on the preceding Friday.

There are only a few religious books in the prison; the chaplain, however, informs me that he has given several Prayer-books, and other religious books at his own expense, which is a supply that ought rather to come from the county. He has no preferment nor other office.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

Total number of prisoners at the date of this Report, March 22, 1836	23
Men	19
Women	4
The greatest number at a time during this quarter has been	37
The number of prisoners at the corresponding period of 1835 was	12
In that of 1834	12
In that of 1833	7
In that of 1832	25
The total number of admissions from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835 was	119
From Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834	120
From Michaelmas 1832 to Michaelmas 1833	112
From Michaelmas 1831 to Michaelmas 1832	95

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.
Marlborough.
Bridewell, or House
of Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Wilts.

Marlborough.
Bridewell, or House
of Correction.

RETURN of the Number of Prisoners during the Year 1835.

1835.	Quarter ending Christmas 1834.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1835.	Quarter ending Midsummer 1835.	Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.	Total in 1835.
Brought from last Quarter .	11	13	10	10	11
Committed in the Quarter .	37	39	22	21	119
Total in the Quarter .	48	52	32	31	130
Discharged in the Quarter .	35	42	22	18	117
Balance carried to next Quarter	13	10	10	13	13

RETURN of the Number of Prisoners during the Year 1836.

1836.	Quarter ending Christmas 1835.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1836.
Brought from last Quarter .	13	25
Committed in the Quarter .	38	73
Total in the Quarter .	51	98
Discharged in the Quarter .	26	75
Balance carried to next Quarter	25	23

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

There is an infirmary room for the men, and a room with a fire-place for the females. The surgeon visits about three times in the week, and more frequently if requisite. He has the power of ordering any extra allowance for prisoners who seem to him to need it. The surgeon has known no death to occur in the prison during the last ten years, except in the instance of the suicide above alluded to. He has never seen any case of scurvy; nor could I ascertain any traditional traces of such a disease in conversing with the prisoners. The surgeon believes that the diet is a sufficient one: the prisoners, in his opinion, enjoy a good state of health. He finds that he can deplete freely without any subsequent inconvenience. No epidemic has occurred here during his experience of ten years, nor any case of malignant cholera. During three recent years the total number of cases of sickness was in one year three, in another five, and in the other four; and the greatest number of prisoners sick at one time during these three late years has not exceeded two. There is no insane prisoner in confinement.

Salaries.

Keeper	£70
Chaplain	50
Surgeon	20

The surgeon finds all medicines at his own cost.

The late keeper receives a superannuation of £30 per annum.

Expenditure

Appears to be extremely moderate; indeed, it is affirmed, I know not with what accuracy, that the expenses of this prison do not exceed the sum incurred by the transport of prisoners to Devizes, which costs 1s. a mile for one prisoner, and 1s. 6d. a mile for two. The weekly cost of the diet of each prisoner is stated by the gaoler to have fluctuated during late years between 2s. 0½d., 1s. 9d., 1s. 7½d., and 1s. 5½d., which was the weekly expense per head in the year 1835.

Registers

are the chaplain's book, surgeon's, keeper's description-book, keeper's register of punishments, commitment-book, magistrates' book, one account-book.

All bills are brought to the keeper, who enters them in a book, which is delivered to the finance committee of the magistrates, who order payment.

EXPENDITURE.

DISBURSEMENTS, 1835.	Quarter ending Christmas 1834.	Quarter ending Lady Day 1835.	Quarter ending Midsummer 1835.	Quarter ending Michaelmas 1835.	Total Disburse- ments 1835.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and Wages of Officers	42 10 0	42 10 0	42 10 0	42 10 0	170 0 0
Ditto of Extra Assistants	2 10 0	4 0 0	1 0 0	2 10 0	10 0 0
Housekeeping Ordinary	10 13 7½	13 19 3	10 14 2	7 4 0	42 11 0½
Extra for the Sick	0 6 4	1 4 0	1 12 4	0 5 0	3 7 8
Fuel	2 5 2	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 5 2
Furniture	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Prisoners' Clothing	1 8 6	3 0 11	1 6 9	0 0 0	5 16 2
Gratuities to discharged Prisoners . . .	0 1 6	0 0 0	0 1 9	0 2 0	0 5 3
Books and Stationery	0 9 9	0 4 10½	0 3 10	0 4 3	1 2 8½
Incidentals	1 6 7	4 3 6	5 16 0	3 13 6	14 19 7
Rents, Taxes, and Rates	0 12 0	2 19 7½	0 10 6	3 2 7½	7 4 9
Repairs and Alterations	11 6 3½	0 0 0	5 6 3	3 7 9	20 0 3½
Machinery, Tools, and Materials for Work.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Conveyance of Transports	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Conveyance of other Prisoners	1 10 0	1 13 6	0 0 0	0 0 0	3 3 6
Total Disbursements, 1835 . . £	74 19 8½	75 15 8	69 1 7	62 19 1½	280 16 1½

DISBURSEMENTS, 1836.	Quarter ending Christmas 1835.
	£. s. d.
Salaries and Wages of Officers	42 10 0
Ditto of Extra Assistants	2 0 0
Housekeeping Ordinary	19 7 6
Extra for the Sick	1 5 6
Fuel	0 0 0
Furniture	0 0 0
Prisoners' Clothing	0 0 0
Gratuities to discharged Prisoners . . .	0 1 0
Books and Stationery	0 8 4
Incidentals	1 2 8
Rents, Taxes, and Rates	0 12 0
Repairs and Alterations	0 0 0
Machinery, Tools, and Materials for Work .	0 0 0
Conveyance of Transports	0 0 0
Conveyance of other Prisoners	1 0 0
Total Disbursements, 1836 . . £	68 7 0

DORSETSHIRE.

WEYMOUTH.

DEBTORS' PRISON AND LOCK-UP HOUSE.

UNDER the town-hall, and adjoining the street and market-place, is a cell for debtors, and at the back are two cells which are used for prisoners before they are committed to Dorchester gaol. These latter are seldom detained above a night or two. In very rare cases an individual has been kept there so long as 14 days: this has been done, as I am given to understand, with respect to refractory apprentices, whom it has been thought inexpedient to expose to the contamination of a large gaol. One debtor has been kept for some months in the debtors' cell, which has a window looking upon the street, and is on the ground floor. No one resides in this prison, but the key is kept by the serjeant-at-mace, who visits it three times a-day when any one is confined there. At the time of my visit there was no one in the criminal cells, and some inconvenience was felt owing to the sudden arrival of a second debtor, for whom there is a difficulty in finding the requisite accommodation. He is placed for the present in the waiting-room adjoining the court-room.

The serjeant-at-mace is allowed sixpence for every meal which he furnishes to the prisoners, and he brings them three meals a-day.

The prisoners are not allowed to smoke tobacco, nor are they permitted to receive fermented liquors, but these regulations do not extend to the debtors.

The county sessions are held here, as well as the town-court. It is in contemplation to build a new gaol here, and a plan of it was shown to me. It was to form a part of the proposed new town-hall. It included four debtors' cells, and ten other cells. As far as debtors are concerned, as long as they continue to be confined here, it is absolutely indispensable that more extended, decent, and wholesome accommodation should be provided for them; but, in other respects, a good lock-up house is all that is necessary for Weymouth, and would prove least onerous.

The lock-up cells are clean, and there is a privy belonging to them.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Dorset.

Weymouth.
Debtors' Prison and
Lock-up House.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Dorset.

Weymouth.
Debtors' Prison and
Lock-up House.

The single cell, appropriated to the debtors, is one of the worst in England destined for such a purpose. It affords facilities for escape and for conversation with the passengers in the street. It has no yard belonging to it.

This cell is a very small one on the ground floor, with two windows looking on the street. It is very close. There is a fire-place, but the inmate did not use it all last winter, because it is so near to his bed. If any accident happened, he would have to wait till the serjeant-at-mace, his keeper, could arrive. The town allows 1s. 6d. a-day for his maintenance.

He now (June 1836) has been here 10 months, at the suit of a tradesman in Jersey. He was brought up at the last insolvent debtors' circuit at Dorchester, but the commissioner remanded him, believing that he had contracted the debt without means. He is to stay till September next. He takes a walk most days for an hour or even longer, with the serjeant-at-mace. He bears ample testimony to the kindness of the mayor and of his keeper, the serjeant-at-mace; but he wishes much to be removed into a lodging in the town, on the ground of the unfitness of his cell for a long imprisonment. The mayor objects to this. The commissioner was informed by the mayor of the bad state of the prison, but, under all the circumstances, he deemed it proper to remand the debtor to his present apartment. The individual in question is in very good health; but 10 months passed in this cell are equivalent to a longer period in a more wholesome place.

Such an imprisonment is not, however, likely to occur here again under the same circumstances, because the authorities of the town are about to make a new building, on a small scale.

36 persons were confined in the cells during the year 1835, and 12 have been confined there from the beginning of this year (1836) up to the 10th of June.

POOLE.

TOWN GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

The whole prison is very contracted in space, but the yards are not so much so as the building. There is only one day-room, which is appropriated to the use of the debtors. There is no room for the sick, no chapel, no bath.

There is a great deficiency of cells, and particularly in regard to females, for whose use one only is appropriated. In consequence of this scarcity of cells, prisoners often sleep together, two in one bed, which cannot be too soon discontinued. There is water and a privy in each yard. The yards are four in number; one is for the debtors, one for the females, one for the felons, and one for the tread-mill. In the passage leading to the felons' yard there is a fire-place: when it rains the felons sit in this passage.

There is a boundary wall, and it is not overlooked in any part by the adjacent houses. There has been only one escape in 14 years; this one was unsuccessful, and occurred recently. There has been no alarm of fire during that period.

If the prisoners who are sentenced to hard labour and to long terms of imprisonment were transferred to Dorchester Gaol there would be less necessity for building new cells; but if that plan be not adopted, it will be absolutely indispensable to enlarge the accommodations of the prison. There is some ground which might be used for building, which at present forms the gaoler's garden.

Management.

Prisoners sentenced to hard labour were formerly sent to Dorchester, but they are now retained here since the erection of the tread-mill. No prisoner has been detained here longer than 12 months during the occupancy of the present keeper. Tobacco is not allowed. The mayor often inspects the gaol: he visited it twice in the last week.

Two men were in the habit of sleeping together in the same bed at the time of my visit; and such also is often the custom with respect to the female prisoners. Here, as elsewhere, I have endeavoured to prevent a repetition of this evil practice by pointing it out to the mayor and other authorities.

The keeper is the only resident officer. It would be impossible for him to perform his duty even in the inadequate manner which he attempts if it were not for the assistance of his wife: she acts voluntarily as matron, and has never received any directions to attend upon the women; she has no gratuity, but earns 6d. a-pair by washing the prison blankets. An additional turnkey is absolutely necessary if this gaol is to maintain any higher character than that of a good lock-up house.

The rules observed here respecting visits and letters are not sufficiently strict nor well defined. Visits cannot be made without an order from the sheriff, and they must take place in the presence of the keeper or of his deputy. The gaoler generally reads the letters, but there is no fixed regulation respecting letters. I have earnestly recommended the adoption of fixed rules on these and other subjects.

Labour.

There is a small tread-mill, which is capable of containing 12 persons; but no more than six have ever been employed upon it at once. The power is not applied to any profitable purpose. When a prisoner is unfit for this kind of work, the keeper sends to the workhouse for oakum in order to be picked. The prisoners wash their yards, cells, and privies. I found one female prisoner washing for the gaoler's wife.

Poole.
Town Gaol and
House of Correction.

The tread-mill is of comparatively little use from the want of an assistant to superintend; as there is only one officer, he cannot be constantly on the watch.

Religious and other Instruction.

There is no chapel. I have recommended that the debtors' day-room be used as a temporary chapel in the absence of better means, and that a chaplain be engaged, with a fixed salary, and on the condition of visiting the prison at regulated times. There is no want of religious books here. It is needless, perhaps, to add that there is no provision made for instructing the prisoners in reading, except when some ladies have sometimes taught a female. A clergyman of Poole comes to visit the prisoners occasionally, and converses a little with them. He brings them religious books, of which there is a good supply. He receives no salary, and has not visited for a month past.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

There is no surgeon engaged at a fixed salary; indeed, the surgeon comes at present only on an order from the sheriff: but this evil, having been pointed out by me to the mayor, will be immediately, as he assures me, corrected. During 14 years that the gaoler has resided here no death has occurred. No case of malignant cholera was seen here. No extra allowance has been ordered for the sick during the last two years.

Salary.

The keeper has 12s. per week: this is obviously an insufficient sum to induce a competent individual to undertake the office. He receives coals and candles, and also demands 13s. 4d. from every debtor when he leaves the prison: this is a bad custom; but he does not detain them if they are unable to pay it.

Statistics of the Population.

From 1st January 1835 to 31st December 1835 the total number admitted was	43
Of these were debtors	4
Of the whole number were females	4
Sixteen was the greatest number at one time.	

The average number of persons confined here at one time is five or six. Most of them are to be strangers.

At the time of my visit (13th June 1836) I found no debtors, one untried woman, and three convicted males: in short, only four prisoners.

Bedding and Clothing.

The debtors pay 1s. 6d. a-week for the use of bedding; but if they are unable to do so they use the prison bedding. The prison beds are good; each has a flock bed, two blankets, a rug, and a pillow. The whole is clean; the blankets are usually washed once a month.

For the clothing, when a prisoner is destitute, the sheriff orders some necessary coarse articles. There is a store in the prison of one dozen shirts and of half a dozen shifts. The prisoners may have their clothes washed by their friends without, or they may wash them themselves. Half a pound of soap is allowed weekly to each prisoner, and also warm water to wash with.

Diet.

The untried prisoners and the debtors only are allowed to receive food from without. Beer is only permitted to be introduced for the use of the debtors; there is no order respecting the introduction of spirits for the use of the debtors. The debtors, if destitute, receive 6d. per day, or are supplied with the workhouse allowance for food which is sent in from the workhouse. The bread which is provided for the prisoners is furnished twice a-week from the workhouse. The weekly quantity of bread allotted to each prisoner consists of two loaves, each weighing three pounds two ounces, so that it amounts to six pounds four ounces per head weekly. On Monday no extra food is given; on Tuesday some meat and potatoes are sent in from the workhouse; on Wednesday, soup; on Thursday, meat and cheese; on Friday, meat and potatoes again; on Saturday, peas soup; on Sunday the prisoners receive no extra allowance. On Saturday they receive some extra bread in company with the peas soup. No salt is provided, but the gaoler gives some from his own stock; he also supplies them with warm water when they ask for it. No distinction is made between the diet of those who are sentenced to hard labour and that of the other prisoners. A peck of coals is allowed every two days in winter for the male felons' yard and the female yard.

Whipping and Punishment.

This is performed by the gaoler, among the numerous duties which devolve upon him here; and he receives no remuneration for it. The ordinary number of lashes is twelve, inflicted by a cat-of-nine-tails, and in the presence of the sheriff and the surgeon. There is no dark cell. When punishment is necessary, which is rare, the prisoner is locked up in a cell, but the shutter is not put up to darken it.

Rules.

There is a printed paper containing 13 rules, but these are much in need of revision and augmentation.

Progress of the Population.

The numbers have increased of late years, because the prisoners sentenced to hard labour are now detained here, instead of being sent, as formerly was the case, to the county gaol and house of correction at Dorchester.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Dorset.

Poole.
Town Gaol and
House of Correction.

COUNTY OF DEVON.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reportson
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

EXTRACT from the Treasurer's Account for the County of Devon, from Michaelmas Sessions 1834 to Michaelmas Sessions 1835.

Received from Fines levied for Assaults, &c., viz.:

		First Quarter.	£. s. d.
Stanborough and Coleridge division	Assault and trespass		4 12 0
Braunton division	Beer Act, &c.		1 10 0
Ermington and Plympton division	Destroying fish, and assaults		4 10 0
Castle of Exeter	Assaults, &c.		13 4 6
East Stonehouse	Beer Act, and assaults		1 10 6
Teignmouth	Excise Laws, &c.		1 18 0
Crediton division	Stealing apples, and assaults		1 6 0
Stoke Damerel	Assaults, and Beer Act		21 12 6
Southmolton division	Assaults, and defective weights		3 17 6
Ashburton	Misdemeanors and assaults		1 1 0
Widdicombe-in-the-Moor	Assaults		0 3 0
Woodbury division	Game Act, &c.		2 2 6
Stanborough and Coleridge division	Keeping disorderly house		1 0 0
		Second Quarter.	£. s. d.
Teignbridge division	Assaults and trespass		2 1 0
Great Torrington division	Game Act, &c.		4 17 0
Ermington and Plympton division	Assaults, &c.		4 6 0
Crediton division	Stealing turnips, &c.		0 8 0
Southmolton division	Game Act		6 17 6
Combmartin district, Braunton division.	Assaults		1 0 6
Braunton division	Beer Act, and poaching		1 2 6
Stoke Damerel	Assaults, and Beer Act		13 2 6
Crediton division	Trespass and assault		1 7 0
Woodbury division	Assaults		1 1 0
Southmolton division	Assaults, &c.		1 5 6
		Third Quarter.	£. s. d.
Stanborough and Coleridge division	Assaults, &c.		0 13 6
Great Torrington division	Driving without reins		2 2 6
Ermington and Plympton division	Assaults, &c.		10 9 0
Plymouth, without the borough	Assaults		3 18 0
Plymouth, within the borough	Beer Act, &c.		20 19 9
Newton Abbott	Assaults		0 12 6
Paignton division	Game Act		2 0 0
Braunton division	Assault		0 5 0
Braunton, Combmartin district	Beer Act, &c.		1 10 0
Cullompton division	Ill-using apprentice, &c.		6 0 0
Woodbury division	Assaults, &c.		3 10 0
		Fourth Quarter.	£. s. d.
Stanborough division	Assaults		2 0 6
Great Torrington division	Game Act		2 0 0
Crockernwell division	Game Act, &c.		0 18 9
Wonford division	Riding on waggon, &c.		2 17 5
Crockernwell division	Riding on waggon, and assaults		2 10 0
Wonford division	Evading toll, &c.		4 17 3
Crediton division	Assaults		0 16 0
Stoke Damerel	Assaults, and Beer Act		5 10 0
Ermington and Plympton division	Pigeon-stealing, &c.		3 16 0
Woodbury division	Assaults, &c.		2 2 6
Wonford division	Evading tolls, &c.		3 16 7
Crockernwell division	Excise Laws, &c.		1 7 3
Total			£180 8 6

		£. s. d.
Paid for conveying offenders of every description:		
From the southern division of the hundred of Roborough, by contractors		350 0 0
One not brought by the contractors		1 4 3
From other parts, between the limits of Roborough South and Exeter, brought by the contractors		18 0 0
Ditto conveying vagrants:		
From other parts of the county		
Ditto conveying Scotch and Irish paupers:		
From the hundred of Roborough		39 11 7½
From other parts of the county		0 18 9
Ditto conveying felons:		
From other parts of the county		
Ditto conveying offenders under the game-laws		
Ditto ditto under the bastardy-laws		
Ditto conveying other offenders:		
From other parts of the county (except Roborough)		
Ditto conveying convicts		
Ditto prosecuting vagrants at the county sessions, from other parts		

Paid for prosecuting felons at the county sessions:	£.	s.	d.
From the hundred of Roborough (except Plymouth)	436	7	3
From other parts of the county	833	5	10
Ditto prosecuting felons at the Plymouth sessions			
Ditto ditto at the assizes:			
From the hundred of Roborough	534	7	5
From other parts of the county	1456	7	4
Ditto prosecuting misdemeanants at the county sessions:			
From the hundred of Roborough	16	1	4
From other parts of the county	34	9	2
Ditto prosecuting misdemeanants at the Plymouth sessions			
Ditto ditto ditto at the assizes			
Ditto necessities for the gaol	1276	16	8½
Ditto ditto for the bridewell	1231	10	4½
Ditto ditto for the sheriff's ward	300	7	2
Paid officers' salaries, viz.:			
Chaplain	250	0	0
for assistant and clerk (three quarters)	60	0	0
Surveyor	300	0	0
Governor of the gaol and bridewell	500	0	0
Deputy-governor of the bridewell	100	0	0
Matron at ditto	60	0	0
Surgeon at the gaol and bridewell	100	0	0
Keeper of the ward	100	0	0
Turnkey at ditto	25	0	0
Clerk at the chapel ditto	4	0	0
Clerk at the gaol and bridewell	8	8	0
Paid clerk of the peace, viz.:			
54 prisoners tried and acquitted of felony, at £1. 6s. 8d. each	72	0	0
26 ditto discharged by proclamation, at 6s. 8d. each	8	13	4
35 ditto discharged by reason of no true bill, at 6s. 8d. each	11	13	4
140 conviction orders, at 17s. 4d. each	121	6	8
20 traverse and acquittal fees for misdemeanors, at £1. 1s. 4d. each	21	6	4
Recording and entering 22 transport orders for Secretary of State and gaoler	25	4	0

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Devon.

EXETER.

DEVON COUNTY GAOL AND BRIDEWELL.

THE whole building was first occupied in 1811.

The gaol and bridewell are two separate buildings, with separate entrances, but they are only divided by a wall, and they have a door which communicates with both edifices. There is a separate establishment of turnkeys for each, and a separate keeper has the more particular charge of each, although the governor, who resides in the gaol, superintends the whole. They have each a separate chapel, and separate accounts.

Few prisons are placed on so elevated and healthy a situation, and so entirely removed from the neighbourhood of other buildings. It is not inconveniently near to the city, and it is not at all overlooked. The most important improvement to be kept in view here is the enlargement of the accommodations of the bridewell, which is usually too full or overflowing; while the gaol, on the contrary, has more room than is ordinarily required. This extension of the bridewell may be accomplished by taking from the gaol one, two, or more of the yards contiguous to the bridewell, and appropriating them to the use of the inmates of the bridewell. There is no public kitchen either in the gaol or in the bridewell.

The cells are not heated in the winter. The accommodation of cells in the gaol is as follows:

On the male side of the prison, single cells 73	73	
Cells lately built, calculated for 3 each, 20	60	
		133
On the female side, including the bridewell females, 64	64	
Cells lately built, calculated for 2 each, 16	32	
		229
On the male side the dark cells for punishments	7	
On the female ditto ditto	5	
The condemned cells in the chapel are 3 for males and 3 for females	6	
Total		247

Size of the Cells.

Single cells (old building)	8 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 6 inches.
Treble and double cells (new building) 13	6 " by 9 " 6 "
Single cells (new building) 13	6 " by 6 " 6 "

Management.

The untried prisoners are placed together in their yards and day-rooms, but have separate cells at night. The convicted prisoners in the gaol are very few, and are treated in the same way. They take their meals in their day-rooms, and consequently have intercourse with each other, but are kept as silent as possible, and punished for talking when heard.

Exeter.
Devon County Gaol
and Bridewell.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Devon.
—
Exeter.
Devon County Gaol
and Bridewell.

No convicted prisoner is allowed to receive visits except by a written order from a magistrate. No letters are received until they have been imprisoned six months, except under special circumstances. The prisoners are in their day-rooms and airing-yards all the day.

Solitary confinement does not exist here in any notable degree. The untried are not locked up during the day-time, nor are the convicted smugglers, but all the inmates of the gaol have separate cells, and they are all ordered to observe silence, which appears to be moderately well enforced. There is ample room in the gaol for all its inmates: in general, there are more cells than inmates.

There is no clerk in this very extensive establishment, and I believe that the appointment of such an officer, if well chosen, would be an improvement.

Diet.

No food is allowed to be introduced from without excepting dried herbs.

Untried.—Males, 22oz. bread and 1½lb. potatoes daily; 1lb. of bacon per week.

Females, 16oz. bread and 1lb. potatoes daily; 1lb. of bacon per week.

Convicted.—Males, 16oz. bread and 1lb. potatoes daily; 1lb. of bacon per week.

Females, the same.

The prisoners wear their own clothing before trial; if worn out, it is supplied by the county. The bedding includes a bed stuffed with straw, a rug, and two blankets.

A small piece of soap is given weekly to each, about 1oz., and about ¼lb. of salt weekly.

When vagrants enter the prison a second time, the potatoes are withdrawn from the diet as well as the bacon, so that they receive only bread and water.

Offences and Punishments.

The most frequent offence committed here is the breach of silence, for which prisoners are confined in dark cells.

When whipping is inflicted, the usual number of lashes is from one to four dozen; the instruments are a military cat-of-nine-tails for adults, and a lighter cat for boys.

Labour.

As the majority of the prisoners here are untried, this is carried on on a very small scale. The employments for the females are washing, making and mending clothing and bedding, and the duties of wardswomen. The wardsmen cook in each day-room. The labour here is not productive.

Religious and Moral Instruction.

There are prayers every day and two sermons on Sundays. The chaplains instruct the juvenile prisoners, and supply books to the other prisoners, read prayers three times a-week at the infirmary, and visit the prisoners in solitary confinement twice a-week.

The juvenile prisoners only are instructed under the superintendence of the chaplain, that is to say, those who are under 15 years of age.

A chaplain and an assistant-chaplain are provided for the spiritual care of the county gaol and bridewell and the county debtors' gaol, all situated in Exeter. These gentlemen divide the performance of divine service between them, but the chaplain is charged with the particular care of the prisoners. The chaplain has only been in office a few months, and on entering upon his functions he found the assistant-chaplain already provided. The chaplain has no other duty except that which is connected with the prisons above named; the assistant-chaplain is engaged in a grammar-school. Schoolmasters for the prisoners in general are chosen usually from among the smugglers, who conduct themselves better than the other classes of prisoners. The magistrates supply freely those religious books which are ordered by the chaplain. For further information on the subject of religious and other instruction reference may be made to the notices of the bridewell and of the debtors' prison which follow presently. Altogether at the three prisons five full services are performed every Sunday, and twelve services on week-days.

A committee of ladies has been formed for the purpose of instructing the female prisoners. The number of its members is limited to 20, but they amount at present to 14 only. They visit the gaol and bridewell twice in the week; two ladies usually attend at the same time at each of these establishments and their stay is generally prolonged to two hours. They teach the female prisoners to read, and make them read the Bible aloud: sometimes they make a present of a Bible to a deserving individual.

There are two clerks attendant on the chapels who are not prisoners.

If a prison for females only should at a future period be built in the yard adjoining the bridewell, it would be very desirable to fit up a room in it as a chapel exclusively for the females. Then, in order that the labour of the chaplain or chaplains might not be unnecessarily increased, the bridewell men might come to attend service at the gaol chapel, instead of having a chapel belonging to the bridewell. By means of an iron bridge the bridewell men might easily enter the gaol chapel, without passing through the body of the gaol. The total number of services would thus not be augmented, while the sexes would be kept separate.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The infirmary contains three rooms for males and three for females in the gaol, which serve as a common infirmary for the bridewell also. One of the turnkeys assists as nurse, and his wife also is salaried as nurse.

The surgeon has been attached to the gaol and bridewell nearly 20 years. His salary has not been increased since his first appointment, although his labours have been augmented by

the greater number of prisoners, by the provisions of the Gaol Act, and by the influx of syphilitic soldiers. Trusses were formerly allowed for the prisoners whose case required them, but their supply is now discontinued. The surgeon or his senior pupil usually visits every day; he inserts his name in the journal as often as he attends. He is ready to attend, whenever he is sent for, by day or by night. He only enters into the register those cases which are so severe as to require to be placed in the infirmary, and has no record of the number of prisoners for whom an occasional medicine is prescribed. No particular diseases prevail here, nor has he ever observed any peculiar tendency to disease, except at a former period when the crowded condition of the bridewell cells induced a disposition to febricula, which, however, soon yielded to a separation of the prisoners and to the common remedies.

There is one insane person confined here at present. She is aged 24, indicted for arson at the Lent assizes 1835, and found insane by the jury. She has been in gaol ever since the 23d September 1834.

The cells of the gaol and bridewell are not warmed at present; but solitary confinement was practised during last winter at the bridewell, without any other apparent bad result except heavy complaints against the cold. The surgeon is of opinion that, if this system is persevered in, it will be necessary to warm the cells, or, at all events, to issue additional blankets. In former years he has been obliged to remove from temporary solitary confinement soldiers, pregnant women, and debilitated persons, who suffered from the cold, and whom he felt obliged to replace in the day-room for the sake of the fire-place.

The surgeon receives no extra allowance for midwifery cases. He believes that about a fourth part of his whole salary is absorbed by the medicines.

The infirmary cases during 1835 were 110

" " " 1834 " 88

The deaths in 1835 were 4

" " " 1834 " 4

One midwifery case occurred in the gaol in 1833, and another during the two previous years. One midwifery case occurred in the bridewell in 1835, but none in 1834.

SALARIES of the Officers of the Devon County Gaol and House of Correction, 4th July 1836.

Governor of gaol and house of correction	£500	0	0
Assistant, resident in the bridewell	100	0	0
Chaplain to both prisons and debtors' ward	250	0	0
Assistant to the gaol and bridewell	76	0	0
Surgeon to both prisons and debtors' ward	100	0	0
Matron to the females of both prisons	60	0	0
Two female turnkeys for both prisons, at £30 each	60	0	0
Female nurse in infirmary, assisted by her husband, who occasionally acts as a turnkey	20	0	0
Head-turnkey at the gaol, £1. 1s. a-week	54	15	0
Three under-turnkeys, at 14s. per week each	109	10	0
Head turnkey at the bridewell, £1. 1s. a-week	54	15	0
Two under-turnkeys ditto, at 14s. per week each	73	0	0
Clerk to the gaol chapel (not a prisoner)	8	0	0
Clerk to the bridewell chapel	4	0	0
Total	£1470	0	0

The surveyor receives £300 per annum for the whole county business, which, of course, includes the repairs of the gaol and bridewell.

All the officers in the house are allowed coals and candles without limit.

Registration and Accounts.

Magistrates' journal.
Chaplain's ditto.
Surgeon's ditto.
Governor's ditto and registry of crimes and punishments.
Accounts of articles supplied by tradesmen, &c.
Account of subsistence of soldiers confined by courts-martial.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I. RETURN of the Number of Prisoners admitted from Michaelmas Sessions 1834 to Michaelmas Sessions 1835.

	Males.	Females.
Debtors:		
Debts on contract	0	0
Forfeiture of recognisances, &c.	0	0
Offences against the Customs, Excise, and Revenue laws	0	0
Felons	235	72
Misdemeanors:		
Tried by a jury	16	8
Summary convictions	125	16
Under the game-laws:		
Tried by a jury	0	0
Summary convictions	17	0
Under the bastardy-laws	1	0
Under the Vagrant Act	0	0

SECOND REPORT OF INSPECTORS OF PRISONS.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Devon.

Exeter.
Devon County Gaol
and Bridewell.

Total Number of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year.

	Males.	Females.
In custody at the commencement of the year	88	18
Received from the custody of other keepers, and enumerated in their returns	0	0
Received under commitments, and who have not been in the custody of other keepers for the same offence	394	96
Total	482	114

Of the above prisoners there were 367 males and 88 females above 17 years of age, and 27 males and 8 females under 17 years of age.

II. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, July 1836.

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	0	0
Number of misdemeanants	25	7
Number of felons	35	13
Prisoners for trial	23	3
Prisoners under sentence	37	17
Total	60	20

III.

	Males.	Females.
Average number of prisoners daily	65	21
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	80	41
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	14	11

Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to be whipped privately	9
Ditto ditto publicly	0
Punishment for offences within the prison:	
Whipping	0
Irons	0
Refractory cells	77
Other punishment	0

IV. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before.

	Once.	Twice.	Three times.	Four times, or more.
To this prison	43	0	1	0
Other prisons—(not known).				

Nine males and three females were returned to this prison during the year.

V. Construction.

	Males.	Females.
Cells where only one prisoner sleeps	73	64
Cells where more than one prisoner can sleep	20	16
Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	133	96
Refractory cells:		0
Light		12
Dark		0
Apartments below ground		18
Wards or divisions in the prison		18
Day-rooms		0
Work-rooms		0
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels		2
Receiving-rooms or cells		18
Divisions in the chapel		3
Infirmary or rooms for the sick for the gaol and bridewell united—(males)		3
Ditto ditto (females)		1
Warm and cold baths, or bathing-tubs		2
Airing-yards		

VI. Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet for the year	360	10	3
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	46	1	9
Male and female clothing and bedding	127	11	0
Soap, candles, fuel, and carting the same	177	11	11
Stationery, books of accounts, and books of moral and religious instruction	32	10	1
Washing and cooking for the prisoners	16	0	0
Straw	11	11	0
Removing prisoners to take their trial at the sessions or assizes	2	13	0
Removing transported convicts	215	19	6
Paid for prisoners as per contract (if any)	0	0	0
Repairs in and about the prison—(both prisons by contract)	500	0	0
Sundries	30	11	6
Alterations and additions in and about the prison	68	14	8
Salaries of the officers of both prisons	1408	14	0
Total	£2637	18	5

VII. Fines :—

The fines paid by prisoners during the last year, and applicable to the county treasury, amounted to £1. 10s.

VIII. Progress of Population.

At present, July 6, 1836, there are	82	prisoners.
On the same day, 1835, there were	80	"
" 1834, "	99	"
" 1833, "	96	"
" 1832, "	62	"
" 1831, "	53	"
" 1830, "	118	"

With respect to the influence of the imprisonment on the future conduct of the prisoners it is impossible to form any correct estimate, as the prisoners confined here are mostly from distant parts of the county, or from a still greater distance.

IX. Educational Statistics.

Prisoners in the gaol on the 4th July 1836 :—

Number who can write good hands .	14
" " write imperfectly .	18
" " read, but not write .	31
" " neither write nor read .	17
Total in the gaol .	80

DEVON COUNTY BRIDEWELL.

Construction.

I have alluded, under the former article, to the insufficient number of cells in this building, and to one of the means of remedying the deficiency. A searching-room and a bath are much wanted.

If any alterations of an extensive kind should ever be ordered, the most useful would be to convert the stone-yard, which is enclosed with a wall, and totally apart, into the site of new cells for the women, with a separate chapel and infirmary for their use.

Number of sleeping-cells*, &c.—

	Males.	Females.
Cells where only one prisoner sleeps and works .	0	0
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps and works .	0	0
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only .	9	0
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps .	61	0
Refractory cells—		
Light .	1	
Dark .	0	
Apartments below ground .	0	
Wards or divisions in the prison .	8	
Day-rooms .	8	
Work-rooms .	5	
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels .		4†
Receiving-rooms or cells .		0
Divisions in the chapel .		6

It will be seen that there are no dark cells here; it would be desirable to have two or three such in situations remote from communication with the other prisoners. The cells are all of the same size, 9 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches.

Management.

The keeper of the bridewell has been fixed there 13 years; he was formerly assistant-keeper at the Whitecross-street prison. Considering the importance and responsibility of his station, I cannot help noticing that his salary is too disproportionately small at £100 per annum, when compared with the salary of £500 per annum enjoyed by the governor.

Silence was enforced here to a certain extent about three years ago, and the confinement of the prisoners in separate cells was first enjoined in June 1835. The meals are taken by each prisoner in his cell.

The cells are unfortunately not sufficiently numerous, and they are, what is still worse, because perhaps more difficult to correct, extremely small. At present many of the male convicts sleep three in one small cell. But there is abundance of ground belonging to the bridewell which may be available for future additions.

The four tread-wheels, placed in distinct yards, are not at present sufficiently watched. It is impossible that two turnkeys can suffice for the purpose of enforcing silence at all these wheels. Another turnkey is very necessary, and would render this bridewell more complete. During the day the prisoners are separated in their sleeping cells, except when at labour and at chapel, and they are prevented from intercourse by being inspected when at work, as far as the number of officers permits.

One prisoner in each ward acts as cook, and keeps up a fire during three hours daily for this purpose; the others do not use the day-room. The cells are not warmed in winter,

* Females sleep in the gaol.
3.

† No divisions on the wheels.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
Devon County Gaol
and Bridewell.

Devon
County Bridewell.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
Devon County
Bridewell.

which is a pressing want, and, if the cells are not warmed artificially during the winter, it will be proper to order an additional blanket for every prisoner separately confined.

Diet.

Male felons and misdemeanors	22oz. bread daily,	10lbs. potatoes,	1lb. bacon, weekly.
Female ditto	ditto	1lb. ditto ditto,	7lbs. ditto, 1lb. ditto ditto.
Ditto vagrants		1lb. ditto ditto,	7lbs. ditto weekly.
Male ditto		22oz. ditto ditto,	7lbs. ditto ditto.

All wear their own clothing, with the exception of the felons and male vagrants, who are clothed in county dresses. A bed stuffed with straw, a rug, and two blankets.

The vagrants were deprived of the bacon above two years ago, and this act has thinned their numbers here.

Cost of prison diet per day per head 3½d.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

Information on these points will be seen under the same head of the Devon County Gaol. The insane prisoners at present confined here are—

A man, aged 61, committed	Jan. 19, 1819
" " 48, "	Aug. 11, "
" " 52, "	Dec. 22, 1828
" " 67, "	" 15, 1832

There is a separate ward and yard set apart here for the reception of lunatics. A prisoner is placed also there to take care of them.

Adjoining the prison, behind and above it, and detached, is the public reservoir, which supplies the whole city with water from the river. The surgeon strongly recommends that the waste water of this reservoir should be conducted into a main in the prison, and should be allowed to run off among the sewers of the prison, by which means the health of the prison would be promoted, and the bad smell often occurring in the summer would be obviated; whereas at present it passes outside the wall of the prison into a ditch, and is totally lost.

Registration and Accounts.

Magistrate's journal.
Chaplain's ditto.
Surgeon's ditto.
Matron's ditto.
Governor's ditto, and Registry of Crimes and Punishments.

Labour.

During the months of May, June, July, and August, the tread-mill is at work nine hours in the day, which is the greatest amount of labour. During March, April, September, and October, it is employed eight hours in the day. During January, February, November, and December, seven hours is the limit of labour daily.

During the 1st period	The number of feet in ascent daily is	16,200
	And revolutions of the wheels daily are	1,080
During the 2d period	Feet in ascent daily	14,400
	Revolutions of the wheels daily	960
During the 3d period	Feet in ascent daily	12,600
	Revolutions of the wheels daily	840

The wheels will hold at one time 18 prisoners. The height of each step is 7½ inches, and the ordinary velocity of the wheels per minute is two rounds. The ordinary proportion of prisoners to the total number employed on the wheels is three-fourths. The application of the tread-mill power is to grinding corn. There are no compartments on the wheels, and it would be advantageous to supply them.

Besides a tread-mill, there is also a crank, which is out of repair, and is not used.

The other employments are, for the men, the duty of wardsmen and picking oakum; and for the women, the duty of wardswomen also, and picking oakum, washing for the whole prison, making and mending the clothing and the bedding. The labour is not at all productive; there are no profits.

All the prisoners are employed, the four insane ones excepted. The prisoners seem to consider labour as a punishment.

Punishments.

The most common offence committed in the bridewell is the violation of silence, and it is punished by confinement in a refractory cell. When whipping is ordered the number of lashes varies from one to four dozen.

Fees.

None whatever are permitted to be demanded nor to be received from any person on any pretext.

Estimate of the Results of the present System.

The vagrants have much diminished in number since November 1833, at which time the bacon was withdrawn from their dietary. The number of vagrants in July 1833 amounted to 39; in July 1836 it was only 26; and in the month of May 1836 it was so low as 14.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I. Educational Statistics.

Of the prisoners in the bridewell, 4th July 1836, in number 150—

Those who write good hands are	30
Ditto write imperfectly	35
Ditto read and not write	49
Ditto neither read nor write	36
Total	150

II. Progress of the Population:—

The number of prisoners in the bridewell, July 6, 1831, was	157
Ditto Ditto	1832 137
Ditto Ditto	1833 141
Ditto Ditto	1834 119
Ditto Ditto	1835 103
Ditto Ditto	1836 133

III. The Number and Description of Prisoners confined in the course of the Year, from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835:—

	Males.	Females.
Felons	89	26
Misdemeanors—		
Tried by a jury	23	3
Summary convictions	208	32
Under the Game Laws—Tried by a jury	0	0
Ditto Summary convictions	28	0
Under the Bastardy Laws	26	0
Under the Vagrant Act	210	50
In custody at the commencement of the year	75	25

Total Number of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year:—

	Males.	Females.
Above 17 years of age	543	88
Under 17 ditto	41	23
Total	584	111

IV.

	Males.	Females.
Average number of prisoners daily	103	21
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	130	29
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	45	11

Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to be whipped	18
Ditto ditto privately	0

Employment—	
Hard labour	691
Not being hard labour	0
Not employed (insane men)	4
Punishment for offences within the prison—	
Whipping	0
Irons	0
Refractory cells	44
Other punishment	13

V. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, July 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of misdemeanors	86	16
Number of felons	33	15
Total	102	48

VI. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before:—

To this prison—	
Once	58
Twice	25
Three times	10
Four times or more	11
Returned to this prison during the year (males)	15
Ditto ditto (females)	7

VII. Expenditure:—

Soap, candles, fuel, and carting the same	£111	3	9½
Stationery, books of accounts, and books of moral and religious instruction	8	10	11
Washing and cooking for the prisoners	16	8	6
Allowed prisoners for work done for the prison	2	8	7
Straw	15	15	0
Prison diet for the year	514	6	11
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	74	5	10
Male and female clothing	207	14	7
Repairs in and about the prison—(by contract—see Gaol)			
Sundries	13	15	11½
Alterations and additions in and about the prison	59	19	5½
Total expenses of the prison for the year	£1042	9	6½
	E	2	

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
Devon County
Bridewell.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
City Gaol and
Bridewell.

CITY OF EXETER.

AN ABSTRACT of the Account of the Treasurer of the County Rates of the City and County of the City of Exeter, for one Year, ending at Easter Sessions, 4th April 1836:—

Dr.		The County Rates in account with the Treasurer.		Cr.
To paid balance due to the treasurer on the last year's account	£7 14 5½	By amount of three rates, ordered at Easter Sessions 1835	£442 0 7½	
Ditto prison-keeper, three-quarters of a year's salary to Michaelmas 1835, at £70 per year	52 10 0	By fines for assaults and deficient weights and measures	85 10 6	
Ditto the task-master or turnkey ditto, at £30	22 10 0			
Ditto the matron ditto, at £20	15 0 0			
Ditto the coroner for inquisitions and expenses, to Michaelmas Sessions 1835	53 0 6			
Expenses of prosecuting felons and misdemeanors to ditto	150 17 1			
Ditto removing convicts	104 10 0			
Ditto prison-keeper, for fees to Michaelmas 1835	13 13 4			
Ditto county allowance to poor debtors	8 3 0			
Ditto relief to prisoners on their discharge	0 8 0			
Ditto high-constable for receipt stamps	1 6 0			
Ditto taxes on prison-house	3 0 0			
Ditto advertising the last year's account, and stationery for the last three years, and sundries	6 6 0			
Ditto clerk of the peace's fees, from Easter 1833 to Michaelmas 1834, inclusive	66 14 10			
Ditto treasurer's salary to Easter Sessions 1836	20 0 0			
Ditto balance in the hands of the treasurer	1 17 10½			
Total	£527 11 1½	Total	£527 11 1½	

City Gaol and
Bridewell.

EXETER CITY GAOL AND BRIDEWELL.

Construction.

I shall dwell the less minutely on the defects of this prison, because the new town-council are very desirous of immediately correcting them, and are, I believe, engaged in that work. The cells for the females are more numerous than is necessary; at all events, in the extremely crowded state of the male wards, it is very desirable that a certain portion of the female cells should be appropriated to the males. There are other means of permanently enlarging the male part of the prison, which I have suggested to the magistrates.

	Male.	Female.
Number of sleeping cells, &c.—		
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	10	10
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps	4	4
Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	0	0
Refractory cells—		
Light		8
Dark		0
Apartment below ground		0
Wards or divisions in the prison		7
Day-rooms		7
Work-room		1
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels		2
Receiving-rooms or cells		0
Divisions in the chapel		6
Warm and cold baths, or bathing-tubs		one bathing-tub.
Airing yards		6

The cells are not heated in the winter. Some of them are extremely close and ill ventilated in consequence of very large screens placed in front of the windows. The walls which divide the yards are so low that the prisoners can easily see others in the different yards when standing at the door of their ward. This evil is, I have no doubt, by this time corrected. The boundary wall is not high enough, and a chevaux-de-frise is wanting. Three successful escapes have occurred during the last 15 years.

Management.

I cannot speak with satisfaction of the system which has hitherto prevailed here; but I believe that a better one is by this time introduced. At the time of my visit the male wards were excessively crowded. In two cells which I desired to be unlocked at night I found in each six men sleeping; there was no room to step between the beds, some of which were on the ground. In one of these cells, in the place of pots, I found only one pail for the natural wants of all the six prisoners. Both the cells were very hot and fetid.

The untried and the convicted associate freely together in their respective day-rooms and yards.

It will be very necessary to have another turnkey, and to issue new rules. Silence was not enjoined before the period of my visit.

Labour.

A tread-wheel is in operation here, but the labour is not productive. They beat straw to keep the wheel at work, not having a supply of hemp. There is no crank machine. Seven hours in summer, six in winter, are the hours for those that work at the tread-wheel. There is no other regular labour except the tread-wheel for male prisoners. Female prisoners are employed in washing and mending for the male prisoners, in knitting, &c. The labour is considered as a punishment.

There are no compartments on the wheels. They are employed every month in the year. The height of each step is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The ordinary velocity of the wheels per minute is 24 times. The power is applied to beat hemp or straw.

Diet.

There are 34 twopenny loaves a-week distributed to the debtors from different donations; some besides are allowed from the county 6d. per day.

For those prisoners not engaged in hard labour the allowance is 22oz. of white bread per day and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of potatoes; 22oz. of white bread, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of potatoes, and 1lb. of mutton per week, to those that are at hard labour only.

There are some gaol-dresses, lent only to those who ask for them: the supply is scanty. The bedding consists of three blankets, one coverlet, and a mattress filled with straw.

Coals, salt, soap, and hand-towels are supplied at the gaolers' orders.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain keeps a journal, and also a list of all who are present at church and absent. He delivers the sacrament about four times yearly; rarely more than five or six prisoners communicate. The supply of books is moderate: the chaplain has represented the want to the new town-council. He is chaplain to the workhouse. There is every Sunday one service with a sermon. Service also is performed on Wednesdays and Fridays; also on Christmas-day. The chaplain instructs the juvenile offenders in reading generally, as well as in the church catechism. The keeper is now instructing three juvenile offenders in writing. The chaplain has at present a class of four. He thinks that the want of separation is an obstacle to religious improvement. The recommitments are usually prostitutes and breakers of the peace.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon visits the prison three days a-week, and at all other times when required. There is no infirmary, which is a defect which I have recommended to the correction of the magistrates. There has been no death in the prison during the last year. The most frequent disorders are itch and venereal complaints. There is no insane prisoner here at present.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I. Number and Description of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year:—

	Males.	Females.
Felons	31	16
Misdemeanors—		
Tried by a Jury	7	1
Summary convictions	102	48
Under the Bastardy Laws	1	0
Under the Vagrant Act	40	6
Debtors	50	2

Total Number of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year:—

	Males.	Females.
In custody at the commencement of the year	24	10
Received under commitments, and who have not been in the custody of other keepers for the same offence	181	71
	Males.	Females.
Above 17 years of age	206	67
Under 17 years of age	25	6
Total	231	73

II. Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the date of this Return, July 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	5	1
Number of misdemeanors	14	2
Number of felons	14	5
Prisoners for trial	0	0
Prisoners under sentence	28	7
Total	36	8

III.

	Males.	Females.
Average number of prisoners daily	30	10
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	40	19
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	9	6

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
City Gaol and
Bridewell.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.
City Gaol and
Bridewell.

Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to be whipped—		
Privately	.	1
Publicly	.	0
Punishment for offences within the prison—		
Refractory cells	.	5
Hard-labour sentences	.	120

IV. Salaries.

Keeper	.	£105	0	0
Chaplain	.	60	0	0
Surgeon	.	30	10	0

This sum was paid last year as the amount for the surgeon's charge for attendance and medicines. It would be preferable, however, to assign to the medical officer a fixed annual stipend, which should include not only all the medicine requisite, but also regular visits on certain days and in every case of need.

Matron	.	£20	0	0
One male turnkey	.	30	0	0

V. Progress of the Population.

There were in 1835, July 3, 38 prisoners here.

" 1834, July 4, 37 "

" 1833, July 3, 40 "

And at present, in 1836, July 4, 50 (including debtors in each year).

VI. Expenditure.

The cost of the daily diet of the prisoners sentenced to hard labour is $4\frac{1}{2}d.$; that of the other prisoners is $3\frac{1}{2}d.$

Cost of the Conveyance of Prisoners.

One shilling a-mile per head is the price of the contract entered into by the town-council with the gaoler; the gaoler usually accompanies the prisoners.

Memorandum on the projected House of Refuge for Industrious Prisoners, on the expiration of their terms of confinement.

It has been for some time in contemplation, on the part of the county magistrates and of other benevolent individuals, to found an institution of this kind in the neighbourhood of Exeter. If I am rightly informed, a house has been already taken, which is destined for the reception of females on quitting the prisons, and subscriptions have been raised for its maintenance. This noble project must have the best wishes of all who take an interest in the relief of the suffering, or in the amendment of the corrupt. Here, as everywhere else, there is a great difficulty in procuring employment for the prisoners newly restored to liberty. There is a considerable demand for servants, but the tradespeople will not take prisoners in that capacity, and most other occupations are overstocked. At the bridewell the keeper has found reason to be very well satisfied with the conduct of two women, whom he successively took into his family as servants on the close of their imprisonment. One had been in his service two months at the time of my visit, and was behaving well; the other lived twelve months in his family and then married.

Devon County
Debtors' Prison, or
Sheriff's Ward.

DEVON COUNTY DEBTORS' PRISON (at EXETER), or SHERIFF'S WARD.

Construction.

This is a spacious and solid building, greatly superior to the debtors' prisons found in most other places.

Sleeping Cells—	Males.	Females.
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	15	2
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps	23	3

The prison is not secure, but it is remarkably dry and healthy. There is a small fireplace in each cell.

A prisoner escaped in March 1834, and the keeper affirms that he was obliged to pay between £200 and £300 on his account.

Diet.

The prisoners, in regard to diet, provide for themselves; or, if destitute, they receive $6d.$ a day from the county.

Religious and other Instruction.

Divine service is performed here every Sunday, and there is a salaried chaplain; but the attendance on the part of the debtors is voluntary. The chaplain would be glad to confer on religious subjects with the debtors, but during his short period of office he has met with no encouragement on the part of the debtors. Whenever his aid is desired he prays with those who are sick.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon of the county gaol also attends the sheriff's ward for the same salary. He goes there only when sent for. The master-debtors employ their own doctor. The indispositions in this place are principally owing to drinking. The situation is rather low. There was no death last year, and about 10 cases of illness out of 161 prisoners. There is no infirmary.

General Remarks.

Number of debtors confined in the course of the year, from February 16th 1835 to February 16th 1836, males 150, females 11.

The average number of inmates at one time is 44 or 45.

July 5, 1836. Number of debtors now in custody :—Male debtors, 38
Female do. 5

—
43

Scale of Charges.

The first-class debtors, in a part of the prison distinct from the common debtors, pay for separate rooms, neatly furnished, 10s. 6d. per week.

Second class.—Separate rooms, with good feather bed and furniture, 5s. per week.

Third class.—Two beds in one room, furnished as above, 2s. 6d.

Fourth class.—Two beds in one room, and two debtors in each bed, furnished as above, 1s. 3d.

Fifth class.—Straw bed and furniture similar to the felons' prison, 6d.

The repairs of the prison are maintained at the expense of the county; the supposed average is about £25 per year.

The county also pays the expense of one turnkey at £25 per annum; and also provides a chaplain at £50 per annum, a clerk at £5 per annum, and a surgeon.

The privies are good, and water is abundant; and the whole house is neatly kept up, which is not always easy with debtors.

The matron has no salary; which she certainly ought to receive, because she superintends the female prisoners, and is often obliged to act as nurse.

The gaoler receives £30 a-year from the sheriff, which he pays to the porter at the lodge—an officer who is absolutely necessary. His own salary is accordingly reduced to £100 a-year; compensation for the old gate-fees now abolished.

Number of Weekly Debtors, from 16th February 1835 to 16th February 1836 :—

February 14	52	August 15	40
21	54	22	43
28	55	29	42
March 7	53	September 5	41
14	41	12	42
21	42	19	40
28	40	26	40
April 4	41	October 3	43
11	42	10	44
18	42	17	46
25	41	24	47
May 2	47	31	47
9	47	November 7	46
16	48	14	44
23	49	21	44
30	50	28	38
June 6	51	December 5	41
13	54	12	45
20	55	19	46
27	57	26	46
July 4	55	January 2	47
11	56	9	46
18	55	16	49
25	54	23	43
August 1	37	30	47
8	40	February 6	47

There is only one debtor now in custody the second time.

If this gaol continues there should be a chevaux-de-frize on the boundary wall; it is not sufficiently secure at present to guarantee the keeper.

The only allowance made to the keeper is rushlights for the sick and candles for the chapel. He receives no fee from debtors, except what is allowed by the Act, as 1s. 6d. on bringing them up, and 3d. for the copy of the warrant for those who take the benefit of the Insolvent Act. About 10 are now sleeping two in a bed among the men. This practice should be stopped; and a gate should be placed to protect the entrance of the female yard. The number at present is less than usual.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Exeter.

Devon County
Debtors' Prison, or
Sheriff's Ward.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Plymouth.
Common Gaol.

PLYMOUTH.

COMMON GAOL.

THE sessions room and its offices form a part of this building.

There is no possibility of enlarging the present building, so as to make it under any circumstances a proper prison. It stands in the middle of the street, surrounded by houses.

The prison is said to be capable of containing at one time so many as 46; that is to say, 46 human beings might, with the greatest inconvenience and impropriety, be compressed within those walls. It might contain fourteen persons in separate cells, supposing that the day-rooms were disused as such, and were converted into separate cells. There are only two yards, one for males and one for females. The male yard has not been used at all for some weeks, in consequence of repairs which are proceeding. The cells are very few in number. The walls are filthy in some parts; some of the doors are imperfect, with large holes in them; several of the windows are without glass, and all is in more or less disorder. The yards are extremely small, and are closely encircled all around by the main building.

Wards or divisions in the prison	5
Day-rooms	5
Work-rooms	0
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels	0
Receiving-rooms or cells	0
Divisions in the chapel	0
Infirmaries or rooms for the sick (male and female)	0
Warm and cold baths, or bathing-tubs	0
Airing-yards	2

On this contracted space exists also a watchhouse for the constables, and for night disorderly charges.

2 of the sleeping-cells are 10 feet long 11 feet wide.
2 others are 10 " 10 "

Management.

In point of dirt and neglect this prison will yield to few, but it is due to the new town-council to state that they appear fully to perceive its faults, and to be hastening to remedy them. There is said to be some difficulty respecting the payment of rates on the part of the inhabitants of Devonport, which acts as an obstacle to expenditure. The mayor appears at present to be the only visiting magistrate. Classification, or silence, or separate confinement, are impracticable here at present. Two men have hitherto often slept together in the same bed, and the women sleep two in a bed. But the mayor has lately most judiciously ordered separate bedsteads to be made. The gaol is governed by the two serjeants-at-mace, who act as keepers in alternate weeks, and by one turnkey, who assists them.

This gaol does not receive the prisoners from Devonport; they are sent to Exeter.

Diet.

Each prisoner receives daily 2lbs. of bread.

On Tuesdays, 1 quart of milk broth.

Thursdays, 1 quart of pea-soup.

Saturdays, ditto.

Sunday, a portion of meat and potatoes from the workhouse (perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of meat).

Every one may receive food from his friends, unless he is sentenced to solitary confinement or to bread and water. Debtors may now have a pint of ale once a-day; no other liquors are allowed. The keepers are not allowed to sell anything to prisoners.

No clothing is allowed unless when the prisoner is destitute. The bedding consists of a straw mattress, two blankets, and a rug.

Transport of Prisoners.

During the last two years a contract has been made to carry all prisoners committed from Plymouth, and Devonport, and Stonehouse, to Exeter, at £350 per annum: it is an arrangement made by the county. This sum has hitherto been paid by the county, but in future will be paid by the borough.

Offences and Punishments.

The usual offences are fighting and riots, arising from crowded cells.

They are punished by ironing, locking up in cells, keeping on bread and water, and denying to them the visits of friends.

Letters and Visits.

The following is the rule for all: When a letter comes it is taken to the mayor; if he thinks proper he reads it, and directs it to be given to the prisoner or not. All letters going out are read by the keeper: if he finds anything wrong, he communicates it to the mayor; but that has not happened in ten years.

Visits to all before trial are forbidden. After conviction the prisoner may see any one from 12 to 1.

Salaries.

The serjeants-at-mace are keepers alternately. Each serjeant-at-mace receives £30 annually for all his duties. The senior receives £2.10s. additional, as being crier of the court. They have a few perquisites, but none connected with the prison; not even coals or candles.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I. Number of Prisoners confined in the Year 1835 :—

	Males.	Females.
Debtors	12	0
Felons	31	16
Tried by a jury	17	3
In custody at the commencement of the year	23	0
Summary convictions		
Under the Vagrant Act	29	
Total number of prisoners (both male and female), 185.	54	

The greatest number of prisoners at one time during the year has been 27. From Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834, the total number committed was only 99.

II. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, July 1836 :—

Number of debtors	3
Number of misdemeanors	2
Number of felons	1
Of whom under sentence	1
Total	6

III. Progress of the Population :—

Comparative numbers in the gaol on July 11, 1833	7
Ditto Ditto July 11, 1834	4
Ditto Ditto July 11, 1835	10
Ditto Ditto July 11, 1836	6

All these numbers were taken just after the sessions.

Comparative numbers in the gaol on Jan. 1, 1833	24
Ditto Ditto Jan. 1, 1834	17
Ditto Ditto Jan. 1, 1835	17
Ditto Ditto Jan. 1, 1836	7
Comparative numbers in the gaol at Michaelmas 1833	12
Ditto Ditto Michaelmas 1834	27

IV. The Number of Prisoners sentenced to Transportation from the Gaol at Plymouth, from January 1829 to December 1835 :—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.
1829	5	1	0
1830	7	1	2
1831	1	0	0
1832	11	1	0
1833	4	0	1
1834	8	2	3
1835	9	2	2
Total	45	7	8

V. Recommittals

Were, during the course of the year, from Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834, once, 9; twice, 1; three times, 1; four times or more, 2.

VI. Expenses.

The total expenses, including all the diet, bedding, clothing, soap, and straw, on an average of three years, are about £100 per annum. The extra allowances, made by order of the surgeon, from September 29, 1834, to December 25, 1835, amounted to only 9s. 9d. The Town Council pays 10s. 6d. for the gross hundred-weight of bread, second quality.

Religious and other Instruction.

There is no chapel. A large room is used for that purpose when dissenting ministers volunteer their services; it is at present in contemplation to place the debtors in this room. The want of a regular chaplain is not the least blemish in this most defective establishment. There are a few religious books. No instruction is provided for the prisoners.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

There is no room set apart for the sick. In the year from March 1833 to March 1834, 26 was the total number of sick, and 7 the greatest number of sick at one time of cholera. There has been no death during the last ten years.

The surgeon has hitherto been changed every year with the new mayor, or generally so; thus his experience in the habits of prisoners is, or may be, thrown aside almost as soon as it is formed. It is most desirable that in future a permanent surgeon should remain in office, subjected to certain regulations, but not annually removable. I only saw one prisoner who appeared to be suffering from bodily disease, and, as to the state of mind, all appeared sufficiently cheerful. The surgeon is said to come every morning in general, or whenever sent for. Perhaps once a week a person requires aid.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Devon.
—
Plymouth.
Common Gaol.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Devon.

Okehampton.
Borough Gaol.

OKEHAMPTON.

BOROUGH GAOL.

This miscalled building is a wretched house, containing, in the keeper's part, a kitchen, a workshop, and a single bed-room, in which he and his wife, his five children, and a girl are sleeping in company. For the prisoners there are two cells: one opens from the workshop, and below this is the other miserable cell, unfit for use, surrounded by bare walls, and without a bed. There is one small yard for the prisoners.

The keeper is serjeant-at-mace, and receives as such £3. 13s. 6d. annually, a cloak, and a hat. He also receives a shilling per night when a deserter is lodged here; but he has no coals nor candles, nor any perquisite whatever. His wife has never been ordered to act as matron.

No prisoner was here at the time of my visit.

In 1830 there were 3 prisoners admitted.

" 1831 there was only 1.

" 1833 there were none.

" 1834 " 5 (all men).

" 1835 " none.

" 1836 (up to July) none.

All who are placed in the lower cell must pass through the keeper's kitchen in order to enter it, and those who are transferred to the upper room must reach it by the keeper's own staircase.

Three years ago a prisoner remained here three months; the keeper has also had one for two months.

The keeper receives three-pence daily from the assistant overseer for the diet of each prisoner. He buys what the prisoners may desire. There is a little dirty bedding: if the keeper cleans it he receives no recompense. This building, in short, is a common dilapidated cottage by the road-side, totally unfit, in its present state, even for a lock-up house. The very small number of prisoners has rendered its defects probably less conspicuous and notorious. In consequence of its being a very small and inconvenient old building, it can only be used, even if much improved, as a lock-up house. The corporation have, since my visit, thought proper to order a small sum of money to be applied in making it clean and more convenient for the gaoler. The present site is very much too confined to make any additions, or for the erection of a new one, with such accommodations as would be required to put in force the rules and regulations that ought to be observed in gaols.

GREAT TORRINGTON.

OLD BOROUGH GAOL OR BRIDEWELL.

Great Torrington.
Old Borough Gaol
or Bridewell.

Connected with the old workhouse is a small bridewell, which was formerly used when the sessions existed here, but is not employed as such at present.

It has five cells, a yard, and a privy. It would make a good lock-up house, as the present single room under the town hall is totally unfit for the purpose. The master of the workhouse resides on the spot. The bedding in the cells is good.

BARNSTAPLE.

TOWN GAOL, HOUSE OF CORRECTION, AND DEBTORS' PRISON.

Construction.

Barnstaple.
Town Gaol, House
of Correction,
and Debtors' Prison.

This building is solid, compact, and sufficiently extensive for the population of the town. It was finished in 1829, and cost £1600. The ground belonged to the corporation. It stands in a square, with houses on each side; but the prisoners are not overlooked. There is no boundary wall. Several escapes took place before this new gaol was built, but none have occurred since. Eight rooms appropriated to the use of the prisoners here have a fire-place in each. There are three yards; one belongs to the gaoler's own residence, but is also used by the debtors; one is for the men, and the other for the women; but when no female prisoner is confined here this yard is also used by the men. Each yard has a pump and a privy; but the pump in one yard does not act at present. The windows are in good order. There are two work rooms. The cells are large and well ventilated, and light enough to work in; some prisoners, indeed, do work in their cells. The debtors have a day-room and a bed-room: in the bed-room there is a double bed. There are 14 cells for other prisoners, and four rooms destined for day-rooms; but two of these are the work-rooms above named, and the other two are not used at present. There is one cell used as a dark cell, by putting up a shutter.

Management.

This prison is under the jurisdiction of the mayor and town council. Although the care of it devolves upon one individual only, yet he maintains a moderately good discipline.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Devon.

Barnstaple.
Town Gaol, House
of Correction,
and Debtors' Prison.

No nothing is allowed, but if a prisoner is destitute the keeper applies to the magistrates. The bedding consists of two rugs and a bed stuffed with straw : a few years ago only straw was provided.

Consists in beating and picking oakum: the profit of picking oakum is one halfpenny per pound; the prisoner receives a fourth part or more, when he leaves the prison; the rest goes to the keeper. The prisoners also clean their cells, and both men and women wash for themselves. The labour is regarded as a real punishment by the prisoners.

Only one prisoner has been punished during the last eight years; he was handcuffed for three or four hours. No man has been whipped here privately for twenty years past. When boys are whipped they receive two dozen lashes.

There is only kept here by the gaoler a single register of entries. The visiting magistrates also keep a journal.

During 20 years the keeper has never known more than 13 prisoners at once. The greatest number here at once during the first seven months of 1836 has been 13. There is an increase in the number of prisoners in consequence of Newport and another parish being added to Barnstaple. Since January 1, 1836, up to July 23 of the same year, 56 prisoners have been admitted.

On July 23, 1836, I found one debtor, three untried prisoners, and two convicted ones. There was no female.

Salary.

The keeper receives £30 per annum. He is the only salaried officer, and I am of opinion that the remuneration which he obtains is too small; however decently the present officer may perform his functions, the stipend is not a sufficient inducement to fix an able and intelligent individual in the prime of life in such a situation, under ordinary circumstances. His wife, who acts as matron, has no salary.

There is no chapel; one of the large day-rooms would make a good chapel. There is no chaplain. I have suggested the importance of such an officer, but the Town Council has answered me in the subjoined Report.

At the time of my visit it was uncertain who the surgeon was. The surgeon who last paid a visit came through the intervention of an order from the wardens of the poor. It is highly essential that a professional gentleman should be appointed who would visit on fixed days, and hold himself prepared to attend whenever the gaoler requested his aid. A life may be lost, or endangered, during the time of seeking out a functionary who is to supply an order for merely casual assistance. During the twenty years of the keeper's residence there has not been one death in the prison. There is a sick-room for the men, and another sick-room for the female prisoners. There is no insane prisoner in confinement.

The cost of diet is about 3*d.* a day per head.

General Suggestions.

I made several recommendations to the Town Council respecting the appointment of a chaplain and of a surgeon; to keep a prison register, with columns, marking the name, age, offence, day of entry and of discharge, and other particulars; to issue a fixed allowance of soap and salt for each prisoner; that the present mode of supply of coals be altered, as the keeper receives only 1d. a day for this purpose; and also to make an entirely separate ward

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Devon.
—
Barnstaple.
Town Gaol, House
of Correction,
and Debtors' Prison.

and yard for females, and a few other points of less importance. Some of these proposals have been adopted in accordance with the Report of a committee appointed by the Town Council of the borough. The Report has been received and adopted by the Council.

Extract from the Report of the Leasing Committee, presented at a meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of Barnstaple, held on the 5th day of October, 1836.

YOUR Committee being deputed to visit the Town Prison with the Magistrates, have taken into their consideration the recommendations of Dr. Bisset Hawkins, Inspector of Prisons; and do report as follows:—

1st. They beg to recommend that a register be kept of all the prisoners who may from time to time be incarcerated therein, with columns marking the name, age, offence, date of entry, discharge, and any other remark.

2nd. That an allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. soap and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salt be allowed to each prisoner per week.

3rd. That the same system be continued with respect to coals as heretofore.

4th. The Committee are unanimously of opinion, that dividing the yard by a wall would tend to confine the air and render it injurious to the health of the inmates; but they have suggested to the gaoler some alterations, by placing the female prisoners in other cells, in order to check the communication as much as possible with the male prisoners, until a spot of ground can be obtained to be added to the prison for that purpose.

5th. They beg to recommend that the window in the sitting-room of the debtors' ward be removed to the opposite side, near the door leading from the passage, and that the door be placed further in the passage, which will cut off the communication at present existing with the felons' yard.

6th. That three iron bedsteads, with a straw mattress, a pair of blankets, and a rug for each bedstead, be ordered for the debtors' ward.

7th. Your Committee have also seriously considered the recommendation of raising the gaoler's salary, in order to confine his attendance to the prison duties, and the appointment of a matron; as the present gaoler is married, his wife will act as the matron, and attend on the female prisoners, we are therefore of opinion that the present salary and perquisites are fully adequate to the services of both.

8th. That it would be desirable if divine service was read every Sunday in the prison; but, as it frequently occurs that there are not more than two or three prisoners at one period, the Committee do not feel themselves justified in recommending the appointment of a chaplain, thereby incurring an additional impost on the town.

9th. That whenever a surgeon be required for the prisoners, the Committee recommend that the surgeon for the time being contracting with the board of Guardians be called in, and paid for at per case as he receives from the parish of Barnstaple.

When the guardians of the poor law union appoint a chaplain it is probable that his services will be engaged for the gaol.

The county magistrates appear to have it in contemplation to ask for some more extensive accommodation in the gaol for the county prisoners, which will, perhaps, lead to an enlargement of the premises, and to an improved arrangement for the female prisoners.

BIDEFORD.

TOWN GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

Bideford.
Town Gaol and
House of Correction.

This prison forms part of the workhouse. It is, in every respect, unfit for a gaol, but it might be used in its present state as a lock-up house. It is moderately secure, moderately clean, not very well ventilated, nor very dry. There are no day-rooms here. There are three gaol cells and three bridewell cells. There are no cells specially set apart for females, nor any for debtors. None of the cells have fire-places. There is a very small yard for the prisoners to take exercise in. At the time of my visit, in July, 1836, I found two prisoners, both males; one sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and one to two months. The keeper has once, during six years, had six prisoners here at once; generally he has only two or three, and sometimes none at all.

The prisoners admitted in 1835 were 11 men and boys, 5 women and girls; total 16. Several of the boys and girls were apprentices running away from their employers. In 1834, 18. In 1833, 12.

Management.

This gaol is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor of Bideford. The inmates take very little exercise; they go out in the morning to wash, and to the necessary. They are sometimes asked if they wish to go out, but are said often to refuse.

There is no association, neither among the untried nor among the convicted. Silence is enforced, as far as it is in the power of a single individual to compel it, and this individual also engaged as master of the workhouse. There is an entire separation; every prisoner is locked up in a separate cell, whether untried or convicted. All take their meals in their several cells. The separate confinement has been adopted during six years; it proves formidable; there are few recommitments, except of runaway boys and girls. Visits can only be made by order of the magistrate, a regulation which extends to all the prisoners. The keeper reads all letters before they are delivered. No rule exists as to the attendance on female prisoners by one of their own sex, but the keeper's wife generally acts the part of matron, without any salary. There is a great want here of precise rules. Too much is left to the discretion of the keeper. There are no debtors here at present.

Salary.

Keeper
He is also master of the workhouse, of which building the prison forms an independent part. For this he receives a separate salary. £10

Accounts.

The only register preserved here is a memorandum book, which is voluntarily kept up by the keeper.

Diet.

The keeper is allowed by the town 2s. 6d. per head weekly for each prisoner; he gives the prisoners warm food twice a-day, meat usually three times a-week, broth sometimes. There is no fixed scale for the allowance of bread; cheese is sometimes distributed. Food can only be admitted from without by leave of the magistrates. They have never any fermented liquors. There is no allowance of clothing. The bedding comprises two blankets, a rug, and a straw mattress. Soap and salt are considered to be included under the 2s. 6d.

Labour.

The hard labour here consists in picking oakum. Four shillings per hundred-weight is the profit, but old cordage is not so easily procured now as formerly, and the keeper cannot obtain a sufficient quantity for the purposes of the establishment. At the present moment, indeed, there is none in the house. It will be perceived that this sort of labour is not very productive; but all the profit which accrues is devoted to the maintenance of the prisoners. The hours of labour are from seven o'clock in the morning till six in the evening in summer, and from eight in the morning until four in winter. No prisoner is allowed to work at any trade. The untried are only employed when they desire it. Labour is not usually regarded as a punishment; it is often sought after.

Religious and other Instruction.

There is no chapel, and at the time of my visit there was no chaplain. I have made a recommendation on this head, as well as on other features of the establishment, to the mayor, and I believe that there exists every disposition on the part of the authorities to improve their prison.

Care of the Sick, Diseases, and Mortality.

The surgeon attached to the workhouse visits here when his attendance is required. There is no infirmary provided for the sick. According to the statement of the keeper, no prisoner has been ill during eight years. Within that period a female prisoner has once lain in here. During the same time no death has occurred. There is no insane prisoner in confinement here.

Prison Offences

Are punished by a reduction of diet, occasionally down to bread and water. No whipping is inflicted here. There has been no attempt at suicide during six years.

Recommendations to Pardon.

One or two have been so recommended, on the ground of good conduct, during the last six years.

COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

EXTRACT from the Annual Account of the Expenditure of the County of Cornwall:—

An Account of the Expenditure of the county of Cornwall as far as relates to the support of the gaols, the expenses of conveying prisoners, and the sum given to prisoners on leaving prison, from Easter Sessions 1835, inclusive, to Easter Sessions 1836, exclusive:—

Expenses of gaols	£2343 13 1
Conveying prisoners	320 19 9
Sum given to prisoners on discharge	34 12 0

BODMIN.

COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

THIS prison lies near a public road, but it is not overlooked. An important change has been accomplished here by the exertions of the present keeper: every prisoner has a separate cell to sleep in. These cells are, however, too small for separate confinement during the day, nor are they sufficiently well lighted and ventilated for that purpose. This was foreseen; but it was justly deemed essential to separate the prisoners at night, although more could not be conveniently accomplished at the time.

Bodmin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons,
County of Devon.

Bideford.
Town Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.		Sleeping cells, &c.—	Males.	Females.
SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.		Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	136	30*
		Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps (debtors)	10	1
		Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	176	33 or 34
Reports on Separate Prisons.		Refractory cells—		
		Light	3	
County of Cornwall.		Dark	2	
		Apartment below ground	0	
Bodmin. County Gaol and House of Correction.		Wards or divisions in the prison	15	
		Day-rooms	16	
		Work-rooms	0	
		Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels	1	
		Receiving-rooms or cells—1 room and 6 cells	7	
		Divisions in the chapel	11	
		Infirmary or rooms for the sick	3	3
		Warm and cold-baths, or bathing-tubs	1	
		Airing-yards	15	

The cells are almost all about $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ high.

In the gaol the female cells are at present in a state of disorder: the magistrates had resolved to convert this part into single sleeping cells, as is the case for the males; but this was suspended from an idea of some further alterations which might be contemplated by the Legislature in prison discipline. The number of female inmates is usually small.

Some additional means of ventilation may be advantageously adopted here; all of which I have pointed out on the spot. There are no measures in existence for warming the cells in winter.

Management.

Every prisoner now sleeps in a separate cell, excepting the debtors. Silence is enjoined upon all the prisoners, both the tried and the untried. The day-rooms are still in use; there is a fire kept up in them in winter, but no cooking is allowed in any of them. The untried prisoners are not locked up during the day, excepting as a punishment. The prisoners sentenced to hard labour remain in their day-rooms when not engaged in work.

The untried prisoners have no other occupation than the cleaning of their own cells, day-rooms, and courts. They associate in their day-rooms, but they are narrowly watched, and kept in their airing-yards as much as possible, where they are not permitted to associate.

The convicted prisoners are separated by day according to classes, and by night in separate cells.

Intercourse must, from the construction of the day-rooms, take place at meals to a greater extent than at other times, as the turnkeys are present at locking and unlocking, washing, and at chapel, when all intercourse is prevented. The prisoners take their meals in their respective day-rooms.

They are not allowed to receive visits or letters oftener than once in three months after conviction.

The number of prisoners assembled on Sunday for instruction averages between 20 and 30, who are under the superintendence of a schoolmaster and a turnkey. When taking air and when at labour they are under the superintendence of a turnkey; but, at their meals, they are not under any constant superintendence beyond that of the turnkey walking backwards and forwards in the passages.

There are fire-places in each day-room. The fires are put out every evening before the prisoners go to their respective sleeping cells.

Each ward has a towel, combs, and a brush. Every week a piece of soap is distributed to each ward, varying in size according to the number of inmates. Every morning the prisoners are mustered before labour for the purpose of washing. The whole prison is remarkably neat, clean, and well arranged, as far as the nature of the building permits.

Diet.

There is a common kitchen in which only one prisoner is suffered to remain. The soup named in the Dietary is made of one ox's head to 40 persons, or else 10 lbs. of shin are used instead. Supply of salt is unlimited. Only debtors and the untried may receive food from without.

Dietary allowed the male prisoners in Bodmin gaol and bridewell:—

		Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.
Sunday . .	Bread $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Gruel 1 pint	Soup 1 pint	Gruel 1 pint.
Monday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Ditto
Tuesday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto
Wednesday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Ditto
Thursday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto
Friday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Ditto
Saturday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto

When potatoes cannot be procured, soup will be substituted.

N.B.—Vagrants, if committed for one month or any less period, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bread only per day; if for more than one month, and not exceeding two months, the allowance of gruel for breakfast and supper after the first month; if for three months, or any longer period, the full

* The females sleep at present in the House of Correction.

allowance after the second month; but without any extra food for hand-mill, tread-wheel, or other labour.

Dietary allowed the female prisoners in Bodmin gaol and bridewell:—

		Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.
Sunday . .	Bread 1 lb.	Gruel 1 pint	Soup 1 pint	Gruel 1 pint.
Monday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes 1 lb.	Ditto
Tuesday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto
Wednesday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes 1 lb.	Ditto
Thursday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto
Friday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Potatoes 1 lb.	Ditto
Saturday . .	Ditto	Ditto	Soup 1 pint	Ditto

When potatoes cannot be procured, soup will be substituted.

N.B.—Vagrants, if committed for one month, or any less period, 1 lb. of bread only per day; if for more than one month, and not exceeding two months, the allowance of gruel for breakfast and supper after the first month; if for three months, or any longer period, the full allowance after the second month.

Prisoners convicted of felony are entirely clothed in a county dress; other prisoners are allowed shirts, shifts, and such other clothing as they absolutely require.

Each prisoner is allowed a straw mattress with three blankets.

The convicts' dress is not parti-coloured. The prison dress for men is a jacket, waistcoat, trousers, shirt, shoes and stockings, and handkerchief for the neck. For the females it is a jacket, grey serge petticoat, shoes, and shifts.

Labour.

Labour is generally regarded as a punishment, particularly by the idle; but the industrious prisoner views moderate labour as an alleviation of his imprisonment.

There are two tread-wheels, both connected with the same shaft. The tread-mill is employed during every month of the year, from 7 to 10 hours, according to the length of the days. The wheels will hold 26 prisoners at one time: each step is 7 inches in height. The ordinary velocity of the wheels per minute is from 48 to 60. The proportion of prisoners to the total number thus employed is about two-thirds. There is no application of the power.

There are two apartments, containing each a crank. Each crank will employ three men at one time. The ordinary velocity of the cranks per minute varies from 40 to 50. The power is applied to grinding corn for the prison and for the County Lunatic Asylum. A certain quantity of corn is put into the mill to be ground within a certain time; if it is ground before the expiration of that time the prisoners derive the benefit. The mill grinds in 10 hours 15 imperial bushels of corn, which, divided among the 12 men who are employed (6 on and 6 as relays), will yield a bushel and a quarter of corn as the daily amount of labour performed by each prisoner who works at the crank.

The other employments are sawing and breaking stones, carpentering, painting, shoemaking, tailoring, &c., for the males, and washing, ironing, needlework, &c., for the females.

It is not productive, except for county purposes, as far as regards the hand-mill grinding corn for the prison and County Asylum, and the labour of shoemakers, &c., for the use of the prison.

Care of the Sick, Disease, Mortality.

The surgeon usually attends daily, and whenever he is sent for. He also inspects the general state of health every Sunday. He sees every prisoner on his first admission. There is a male infirmary, containing 3 rooms, and a female infirmary comprehending 2 large rooms, 2 good cells, and a yard. There have been 2 deaths during the last year, from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835; 6 cases of illness severe enough for the infirmary, and 159 slight cases; 165 in all out of 455 prisoners. The greatest number of prisoners unwell at the same time during the year was 6.

The surgeon of this gaol has been attached to it for nearly 30 years. During the late governor's time the prisoners were much more unhealthy, and there were considerably more deaths than there have been since. At that time there were only two day-rooms, one in the gaol and the other in the bridewell, where the prisoners on each side were congregated together. The sleeping-rooms, which were originally intended for one, were always occupied by either three or five. There was a reservoir in the middle of each court-yard for the whole of the filth and deposits of the prison, which was removed about every six weeks by hand. The effluvia from this produced typhus, diarrhoea, and dysentery, which carried off from six to eight yearly. The alterations that have been made by the present governor have entirely prevented (to use the surgeon's own words) a recurrence of these diseases—a circumstance which the surgeon attributes to the cleanliness, to the regular dietary, and to the daily removal of all filth from every part of the prison by drains and a regular supply of water. There has not been a single death from any infectious disorder since the appointment of the present governor, and those few deaths which have occurred have been from diseases with which the prisoners were affected on being committed.

I have purposely preserved the surgeon's own statement on this head. The following is a list of diseases in the gaol of Bodmin in the county of Cornwall, from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Cornwall.

Bodmin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Cornwall.
—
Bodmin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

Psora or Itch (principally vagrants)	29
Venereal	9
Fever	6
Dyspepsia	10
Pneumonia	53
Asthma	5
Diarrhoea	18
Rheumatism	5
Scrofula	14
Abscess	7
Ulcers	20
Ophthalmia	11
Total	187

There were many slight cases not entered, as they were able to follow their occupations. The proportion of cases, slight and severe, which occurred in the course of the year, from Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834, was 144 out of 738 prisoners admitted.

There is one insane prisoner at present here—a man aged 45, in custody one month, sent in for breach of peace and want of sureties. He was taken to sessions agreeably to commitment, and was directed by the court to be examined by two surgeons. They pronounced him insane.

The shoemaker of the prison, who acts also as a turnkey, superintends the infirmary, and prevents the patients from making any great noise and from bad conversation.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain comes daily at 9 o'clock in the morning; he reads prayers; generally visits the wards afterwards, and converses, reads, or prays with the prisoners. He always has an interview with every prisoner shortly after his admission. He performs divine service, and delivers a sermon, twice on Sundays. He keeps a journal, which includes observations upon the character of the prisoners. A schoolmaster, who is not a prisoner, instructs the prisoners in reading on Sundays. On the week days a prisoner sometimes gives lessons in reading. The establishment is extremely well provided with religious works, which are supplied by the county on the order of the chaplain. The only other office which the chaplain has to perform elsewhere is divine service in the afternoon every Sunday at the County Lunatic Asylum, after the completion of his duties at the gaol.

Salaries.

Keeper, £400, with coals and candles.

Chaplain, £200. This sum includes the duties performed at the County Lunatic Asylum of Cornwall, situated a quarter of a mile from the gaol.

Surgeon and Medicines, £80.

Matron, £18, coals and candles.

Schoolmaster, £4, for attendance on Sundays only; not a prisoner.

Four Male Turnkeys, £155. The head Turnkey receives £50 per annum; all the rest have £35 per annum. All reside in the prison, and may have their families with them. They are all allowed coals and candles.

Female Turnkeys, £18.

Male Taskmaster or Shoemaker, £35.

Miller, £35.

Porter, £35.

A watchman or patrol is ordered, and his salary is fixed at 14s. a week, but he is not yet chosen.

Accounts.

Book of Daily Number of Prisoners.

Book of Corn ground for the Lunatic Asylum.

Chaplain's, Surgeon's, Visiting Magistrates', and Keeper's Journals.

Three Registers, of Debtors' Ward, of Gaol, and of House of Correction.

Register of Prisoners received from Local Jurisdictions, with Costs of Maintenance.

Book of Flour issued and of Bread baked for the Prison.

Book of all Clothing brought in by the Prisoners.

Book of Gaol Expenditure.

Day-book for the entry of Prisoners Received and Discharged.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I. Prisoners confined during the year from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835:—

	Males.	Females.
Debtors on contract	48	1
Felons	110	25
Misdemeanors:—		
Tried by a jury	25	6
Summary convictions	222	21
Under the Game Laws—Summary convictions	7	0
Under the Bastardy Laws	21	1
Under the Vagrant Act	69	7

Total Number of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year:—

In custody at the commencement of the year	Males.	Females.
Received under commitments, and who have not been in the custody of other keepers for the same offence	98	16
	409	46
Total	507	62
Above 17 years of age	Males.	Females.
Under 17 years of age	468	56
	39	6

II. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before:—

	Once.	Twice.	Three times.	Four times or more.
To this prison	72	28	6	5
Other prisons	1	0	0	0

102 males and 9 females returned to this prison during the year.

III.

Average number of prisoners daily	Males.	Females.
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	104	13
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	120	16
Number of persons sentenced by courts of justice to be whipped:—		
Privately		
Publicly	13	
Labour:—	2	
Hard labour		
Employment, not being hard labour	274	
Not employed	126	
	169	

IV. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, July 18, 1836:—

Number of debtors	Males.	Females.
Number of misdemeanors	18	1
Number of felons	66	13
Prisoners for trial	17	8
Prisoners under sentence	7	0
	0	0
Total	108	22

V. Expenditure.

The cost of the prison diet per day for each inmate is 3½d.

	Spring.	Easter.	Midsummer.	Michaelmas.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Prison diet for the year	171 10 5	143 17 6	118 10 10	184 13 11	618 12 8
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon.	7 3 0	8 16 8	3 6 7	3 12 4	22 18 7
Male and female clothing	14 2 1	11 13 11	7 3 10	32 15 3	65 15 1
Furniture and bedding	0 0 0	0 0 0	11 6 0	0 0 0	11 6 0
Soap, candles, fuel, and carting the same	43 18 8	15 12 2	83 8 2	8 9 6	151 8 6
Stationery, books of accounts, and books of moral and religious instruction	4 8 8	7 15 9	4 11 5	8 14 6	25 10 4
Straw	0 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	0 0 0	4 4 0
Removing prisoners to take their trial at the sessions or assizes	3 7 0	36 1 0	31 19 5	6 11 0	77 18 5
Removing transported convicts	11 18 6	12 1 0	39 3 2	42 1 3	105 3 11
Repairs in and about the prison	115 13 3	86 18 2	98 2 4	111 11 1	412 4 10
Sundries	30 14 0	26 6 4	28 6 7	41 7 5	126 14 4
Total expenses of the prison for the year					£1621 16 8*

VI. Progress of the Population.

On July 18, 1836, the prison contained	131	including debtors.
" 1835	130	"
" 1834	116	"
" 1833	151	"
" 1832	149	"
" 1831	119	"
" 1830	185	"

About two or three years ago the diet of vagrants was reduced; only bread and water are allowed them for the first month; this has thinned their numbers.

VII. Number of punishments for prison offences from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835:—

Irons	
Solitary confinement	2
Other punishments, as a double turn at the tread-wheel or a reduction of diet	32
The majority of which the keeper believes would not have occurred had he been able to separate the prisoners.	291

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Cornwall.
Bodmin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Cornwall.
Bodmin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

Among other suggestions which I have made I have recommended the disuse of the punishment called putting on the bars, which, however, was very seldom used, and was, I believe, not a particularly severe one. The arms were extended and the wrists handcuffed to the bars. It will be no longer practised here.

VIII. Statistics of Religion, Matrimony, Celibacy, and Education.
Extracted from the Registers of Bodmin Gaol and House of Correction this 18th July 1836:—

Total in custody	130
Religion—	118
Established Church	7
Methodists	5
Roman Catholics	63
Married	67
Single	
Instruction—	70
Read and write	25
Read only	35
Neither read nor write	

N.B. The 5 Roman Catholics are all foreigners; viz., 2 Frenchmen, 1 German, 1 Norwegian, and 1 Maltese.

Very few miners come here; at present there are only nine. The smugglers are the best conducted of all the prisoners. The smugglers once defended the turnkeys in a sort of riot, as has lately been the case also at Exeter. During eight years there have been five escapes, all successful; one was of a woman: she escaped through the roof, which was only a few feet above the floor. Four other prisoners have so far escaped as to reach the outside of the prison, but they were retaken.

IX. The Proportion of Cells to the Number and Description of Prisoners in the House of Correction and Gaol, on the 18th of July 1836:—

In the house of correction the number of sleeping-cells is, for the males 75, occupied by at present 61, of whom 3 are in the infirmary; for the females 30, occupied by at present 21. In addition to these are one female debtor in the old sheriff's ward, one male prisoner, under civil process, in the infirmary (put there as an unoccupied place), and one child.

In the gaol the following is the number of sleeping-cells in proportion to the inmates:—For debtors (male) 10 cells, occupied by 17; male cells, 55, occupied by 29. In regard to the female cells in the gaol, information will be found under the head of Construction. At the time stated there were only two female prisoners belonging to the gaol, and those two were transferred to the house of correction for the reason assigned.

FALMOUTH.

TOWN GAOL.

Construction.

Falmouth.
Town Gaol.

The ground on which this very circumscribed prison is built belongs to the corporation. It cost somewhat more than £500 in its erection, and was opened in 1831. It is not secure: the outer wall is very low, and is not surmounted by chevaux-de-frise. It can accommodate two women and five men in separate cells; the total number of cells is seven. The prison could contain perhaps fourteen prisoners at once, but they would be crowded improperly in that case. There are three wards or divisions, with two yards. There are no day-rooms, chapel, infirmary, nor bath. There are no fire-places in the criminal cells.

Management.

It is under the jurisdiction of the mayor and town-council. There is one keeper. The association of the prisoners is unrestricted. The meals are taken in the cells. There exist here no written nor printed rules on any subject of discipline, but some are promised soon by the town-clerk. The gaoler's wife waits upon the females, but she has never received any orders to do so from the magistrates, nor has she any salary. No debtors have been received here; they go to the county gaol at Bodmin. The whole establishment, in its present state, would form a good lock-up house, but is not adapted to the purposes of a gaol. Only one register is preserved in the prison, and that is a most meagre one.

Diet.

All (debtors included) receive from the workhouse 1lb. of bread daily; potatoes are sent on most days. Sometimes fish on Mondays; generally a stew on Tuesdays; generally pea-soup on Wednesdays; generally broth on Thursdays; generally liver-gravy on Fridays. There is always rice-milk on Saturdays, and always broth and potatoes on Sundays. All this comes from the kitchen of the workhouse. No food is admitted from without except by order of the mayor. The diet requires a more strict definition.

There is no store nor fixed allowance of clothing and of bedding. If any such articles are needed, the keeper sends to the workhouse for a supply.

Labour.

The prisoners are occasionally employed in picking oakum. They also clean their cells.

Religious and other Instruction.

There is no provision whatever on this head. A bible and a testament are now in the prison: they were both given by a Presbyterian minister.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon attached to the workhouse comes only when he is sent for. The surgeon is paid for the medicines which he sends into the prison. There were some cases of malignant cholera in the prison, but no death from that disease. From May 3, 1836, to July 14 of the same year, only one case of illness has occurred. There has been no death during the last eight months. No register exists in the prison as to the deaths or state of health at a previous period.

Salary.

In this ill-regulated prison even the keeper has no salary, but the town pays him 2s. 6d. per head for every prisoner who enters the gaol. This account has now not been settled for the last eight months. He receives besides coals and candles. He is serjeant-at-mace also, but receives no salary for that office. He is town-crier, for which he receives some fees occasionally from the public, and is also public bill-sticker, by which likewise he gains some occasional fees from the public. I have suggested in the proper quarter the propriety of adopting a better system in this and other respects, which will, I believe, take place.

Punishments.

There has been no whipping since the present gaoler (who is a new comer) has been here, nor for the last eight months.

Expenditure.

The prisoners sometimes are made by the magistrates to pay the prison fee of 2s. 6d. if they have any money. A mutinous crew is sometimes sent in a mass to this prison; in such cases the captain or his agent have paid the half-crown above alluded to, and have defrayed the maintenance of the prisoners; but this has been done as a favour, on the ground that it was hard that the town should be so encumbered.

Statistics of the Population.

The greatest number of prisoners who have been here at one time during the last eight months was four, males and six females. From July Sessions 1834 to July Sessions 1835 the number of committals to this prison appears to have been 99. Since 2d November 1835, to 28th of June 1836, 63 males, 9 females. The total number of prisoners in the house at the date of this Report was two males, both committed for misdemeanors.

The ACCOUNT of the Treasurer for the town of Falmouth as relates to Prisoners.

1834, July 11.	£.	s.	d.	1834.	£.	s.	d.
To balance due to the Treasurer, carried to the account of Michaelmas sessions	12	4	10	By balance from last account	2	15	6
				To the gaoler, paid for 4 sheaves of reed, at 5d.	0	1	8
				Ditto 6 brooms, at 3d.	0	1	6
				Ditto 4 bundles of straw, at 6d.	0	2	0
				Ditto for washing bed and bedding	0	3	0
				Ditto 1 lb. chloride of lime	0	0	8
				<small>These were required in consequence of the cholera, being at Falmouth.</small>			
				Paid to gaoler a quarter's salary to this time	0	10	6
				<small>This item was allowed the gaoler for extra services.</small>			
				Ditto J. H. Lake half-year's interest, due 11th June last	7	0	0
				Ditto to gaoler for 12 prisoners, at 2s. 6d., 483 to 495 inclusive	1	10	0
	£12	4	10		£12	4	10
October.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
To balance due to the Treasurer, carried to the next account	17	15	0	By balance from last account	12	4	10
				Gaoler paid as follows:—			
				4 brooms, at 3½d.	0	1	2
				2 sheaves of reed, at 6d.	0	1	0
				Oil, &c., for a prisoner who was ill, by direction of the surgeon	0	1	0
				Tea, &c., for a prisoner taken ill in the night	0	0	6
				Night-pan for the prison	0	1	2
				Repairing 3 utensils	0	0	3
				2 combs	0	0	7
				Expenses and loss of time of 2 constables, one night and part of a day, searching for a man who had escaped from prison	0	10	0
				Paid gaoler one quarter's salary	0	10	6
				Ditto one year's salary to Treasurer, due Easter last	4	4	0
	£17	15	0		£17	15	0

III.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

Reports on Separate Prisons.

County of Cornwall.

Falmouth. Town Gaol.

III.			1835, January.			£. s. d.		
SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.			To Gaol and Marshalsea rate made last sessions . . .			50 0 0		
Reports on Separate Prisons.								
County of Cornwall.								
Falmouth.								
Town Gaol.								
			£50 0 0					

shed. As the cells are so few in number, it sometimes happens that a male prisoner must be placed in the female ward, even at the same time that a female is in confinement; but when this happens the keeper locks him up in his cell. There is a tread-mill yard, with a small tread-wheel. There is no chapel, no infirmary, no bath; nor are there any rules for the discipline of the prison: but I have pointed out those and other defects to the authorities, and I believe that some of them will be soon corrected. Hitherto very little inspection appears to have been exercised, but the keeper appears to do the best that can be accomplished with his limited means. It is impossible to enforce silence, or to maintain any regular system at present, because the keeper lives in the workhouse, several yards from the prison, and is of course often engaged there. The tread-mill labour is not productive. Those who cannot go on the wheel are made to sit down and break stones. The prisoners also clean their cells. The punishments used here are the dark cell and a reduced diet. Three dozen lashes is the highest number inflicted in case of whipping.

The gaoler is master of the workhouse, which contains 17 men and 33 females at present. There is no turnkey, but one is greatly needed. Nor is there a matron; but the keeper's wife voluntarily performs that office; she has had no orders to that effect, and has no salary. The gaoler has £10 a-year for the gaol, and £30 per annum for the workhouse, with coals, candles, and provisions.

The keeper has a register and book of accounts. Although the prison is not very secure, there have been only two escapes during his residence: they were successful.

During the nine years that the keeper has resided here the greatest number of prisoners which he has known at one time has been 24. At present (July 16, 1836) there are 16 prisoners, 13 of whom are smugglers (almost all Frenchmen), one is a debtor, and one a female.

The number admitted during 1834 was 31, of whom five were females. During 1833 the number admitted was 33.

There is no chaplain, but the curate comes occasionally. The corporation has not given any religious books, but two or three have been presented by individuals.

The surgeon attached to the workhouse attends here, but receives no allowance beyond the £20 per annum from the workhouse. There has been one death only during nine years; that was of an insane prisoner. No epidemic cholera occurred here; nor can the keeper recollect distinctly any cases of severe sickness during his time. One prisoner, at present here for trial for an assault, is reputed insane.

There is ground adjoining the prison on which a new ward and yard, a chapel, and infirmary might be built. It is probable that the new town-council will soon place the establishment on a better footing.

The diet for the prison and workhouse is, for each person, 1lb. of bread a-day. On Sunday they have six ounces of beef boiled, free from bone, with as much vegetables as they like; they have also tea. On Monday broth made from the meat of the preceding day, with vegetables in it, and some extra bread. Tuesday they have potatoes stewed with pork. On Wednesday fish and potatoes are provided. Thursday bullock's liver and sheep's pluck, with pork fat, is made into a mess, with as much potatoes as they like. (The daily allowance of potatoes is 1½lb. for each person, but, as some of the old people do not eat their portion, there is consequently a surplus.) On Friday, in the winter, they have pea-soup; in the summer, either broth or stewed potatoes. On Saturday they have fish and potatoes. There is no rule fixed as to receiving food from without. Sometimes a magistrate forbids it, sometimes another permits it. The diet is in need of retrenchment, and more precise and simple arrangement.

Debtors and smugglers are allowed cider or ale, in a small quantity, not exceeding a quart, but usually they have only a pint.

The washing is done in the workhouse. All have an allowance of soap, and in the winter coals are also allowed.

The prison is on the whole in neat condition, but it requires whitewashing. It is well ventilated, and all the cells have a fire-place.

	£.	s.	d.
The average cost of the prison per quarter is . . .	14	10	0½
The cost per head per week during 1835 was . . .	0	2	0½
" " " " 1834 . . .	0	1	10

In the last-mentioned year provisions were cheaper.

LOSTWITHIEL.

STANNARY PRISON.

The deputy keeper was appointed in 1833, and has apartments in this ancient mansion free of expense.

The deputy keeper has no salary, no coals nor candles, and no perquisites.

In March 1833 three men were placed here on a charge respecting the dues of the Duchy of Cornwall. They were detained a fortnight.

There is a court-yard, and abundance of accommodation. Some of the cells are in a dilapidated state, and are not used. Those which were used on the occasion referred to are in a tolerable condition.

The prisoners who can support themselves provide their own diet; those who cannot receive sixpence a-day. There is no register kept here, and the present keeper has known no prisoners except the three above mentioned; any one, indeed, who was reluctant to stay would

III. SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

Reports on Separate Prisons.

County of Cornwall.

Penzance.
Town Gaol and
Bridewell.

Lostwithiel.
Stannary Prison.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.
*County of Cornwall.*Lostwithiel.
Lock-up House.

find no great difficulty in quitting the place, which has none of the characteristics of a prison. This prison is a portion of an old castle.

LOCK-UP HOUSE.

Prisoners are immediately taken to Bodmin gaol from hence; they only remain here a few hours in general.

During the last six or seven months only two persons have been confined here: one a deserter, for two or three days, the other for a shorter time.

This is under the town-hall. The constable keeps the key. He was absent when I called, but his son conducted me to the cells. The inner one is without any communication with the air, except through a grating in the door which divides it from the outer cell towards the street. This outer cell has a grating in the door, which serves as a window. A prisoner detained in either cell may easily communicate with persons in the street. Straw is scattered on the floor of both cells. There is no privy. The constable supplies the meals for those who are detained here.

The cells are dark and ill-ventilated; and it would be desirable to have a lock-up house more removed from the power of communicating with persons outside. Some kind of privy is an indispensable addition to the present building.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.

CITY GAOL.

*Construction.**County of Somerset.*
Bath.
City Gaol.

This gaol is totally unfit for its destination, and especially so in proportion to the population of the city. The want of a new gaol is felt, in addition to other reasons, from the number of cases for trial which this prison cannot accommodate, and which, therefore, must be sent to Shepton Mallet.

	Males.	Females.
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	2	2
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps	3	1
Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	30	10
Refractory cells—		
Dark	1	
Wards or Divisions in the prison	4	
Day-rooms	3	
Work-rooms	1	
Airing-yards	3	

There is no infirmary and no bath. There is no proper separation between the female and the male debtors; the female debtors must pass through the part appropriated to the male debtors, in order to arrive at their yard. The male debtors can communicate with the street on one side, and with the criminal yards on the other. There are many defects, into which it is the less necessary to enter, because the building itself will probably be hereafter diverted to some other purpose, and a prison more worthy of the city in which it stands will probably be constructed in a less public situation.

Management.

It is under the control of the mayor, bailiff, and gaol committee, selected from the town-council. The debtors are from the Court of Requests and from the Court of Record. The other prisoners usually placed here are for breaches of the peace, want of bail, fines, and those committed to Shepton Mallet, waiting to be forwarded thither. One prisoner has been here two years; the term of stay is usually from one week to three months. There are no untried prisoners here. The magistrates meet every day. Silence is not observed; singing is restrained. The prisoners take their meals in the day-rooms, and their association is almost unlimited in their respective yards and day-rooms. The females are exclusively attended by one of their own sex, except at locking-up and unlocking. Tobacco is allowed.

Expenditure.

Prison diet for the year	£65 12 2½
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	3 6 0
Allowed prisoners for work done for the prison	4 3 9
Straw	3 12 6
Sundries	22 10 1

Total expenses of the prison for the year £99 4 6½

The court allows 10s. for conveying a single prisoner to Shepton Mallet, and 8s. per head, if there are more than one. The distance is about eighteen miles. The gaoler does not convey them himself; a particular individual is employed for the purpose. According to the statement of the gaoler, about 200 prisoners are sent annually to Shepton Mallet.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain attends once a-week on the Sunday. He keeps a journal of attendance.

He is curate of the abbey church of Bath. The prisoners are moderately well supplied with religious books by the town-council. It is almost unnecessary to mention that the prisoners receive no instruction in reading.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The greatest number of sick at one time, during the year, from April 7, 1835, to April 7, 1836, has been two. No death occurred during the year; and, indeed, during fourteen years, only two deaths appear to have happened here. There is no infirmary, but a cell, containing a fire-place, is sometimes used as a substitute. The prisoners seem to enjoy good health. A surgeon is attached, who keeps a journal. During the year, from June 1835 to June 1836, only two prisoners received an extra diet in consideration of illness.

Diet.

All the prisoners may receive food from without. One pound and a half of bread is the daily allowance. No other food is provided for the prisoners; no salt is allowed by the town, but the gaoler gives some to the poorer debtors: some of this last description suffer much. A benefaction is sometimes made from without. No clothing is allowed. The bedding provided for all consists of three blankets, a rug, and a mattress. Coals are supplied during the winter; the gaoler orders them when they are wanted, but fires are not kept up in the summer, except in the debtors' rooms.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

I. Prisoners confined in the course of the Year, from the 7th of April 1835 to the 7th of April 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Debtors on contract	109	11
Summary convictions	20	9
Total	129	20

II. Prisoners confined here at the time of my visit:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	16	1
Number of misdemeanors	3	1

III. The average number of prisoners daily is about 15, and the greatest number of prisoners confined here at the same time in the course of the year has not reached 30.

Effect of Imprisonment here upon the neighbouring Population.

No dread appears to be entertained of entering this place, as may readily be conceived from the relaxed state of its discipline. A female begged the magistrates to send her hither for three months, in preference to the poor-house.

Labour.

There is no hard labour here. The prisoners all clean their own cells: sometimes they work at their own trade. Occasionally they whitewash the house, and are paid a small sum for so doing.

Letters.

No rule exists here respecting letters, except that the gaoler reads all that come in and go out, excepting the debtors'.

Punishments.

The dark cell for an hour or two is the ordinary infliction. No whipping takes place here, except that a child is sometimes whipped in the presence of his father.

Accounts.

Visiting Magistrates' Book, Chaplain's Book, Surgeon's Book, Felons' Book, and Day Book.

Salaries.

Keeper, £120. He receives coals, and is besides a sheriff's officer for the city; but he salaries a turnkey from his own sum.

Chaplain, £30. It was £52 per annum under the old corporation, and has been only lately reduced.

Surgeon (including medicines), £20.

One male turnkey is appointed by the gaoler, and is paid by him. The wife of the turnkey is fed by the keeper, and assists her husband. The keeper pays the turnkey 6s. a week, feeds him as well as his wife, and finds them lodging within the house.

Rules respecting Visits and Liquors.

By order of the mayor and justices of this city no person can be admitted to visit any prisoner (debtors excepted) unless by an order from the mayor or one of the justices, and admittance in such case to be limited to the regular visiting hours, which are from 8 till 9 o'clock in the morning, 12 till 1 and 2 till 4 in the afternoon, with the exception of the hours from 1 till 2 on Sunday, instead of 12 till 1.

Strong beer as well as spirits are forbidden to be taken into this gaol.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Somerset.

Bath.
City Gaol.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.*County of Stafford.*Walsall.
Common Gaol.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WALSALL.

COMMON GAOL.

This prison, up to the middle of the year 1836, was one of the least worthy in England to be called by that name. The new town-council are, however, fully sensible of its defects, and have occupied themselves in considering the means of remedying a state of things so discreditable to the community. In future there will probably either be no gaol at Walsall, or a new one will be built. It is situated under the town-hall, and is below the surface of the ground. It is entered through an inn, by passing through the house, or otherwise through the yard of the inn. As the gate of the inn is usually open, any passenger may walk into the yard and hold a conversation with the prisoners, which happened on my first visit. No keeper resided on the spot; and anything which might pass within would be out of reach of his knowledge, excepting at the time of his visits. The space occupied by the whole is extremely small; the cells are few, dark, damp, and ill-ventilated, unfit even to receive night charges. The gaoler is also inspector of the new police. As gaoler he receives a salary of £12. 10s. per annum; as inspector of police he obtains £75 yearly, and a suit of clothes. There is no matron; nor has any stipulation been made with him that his wife or any other female should act in that capacity.

There are two very contracted yards and two day-rooms. For the males there are four cells, and one or two cells for the females. There is no pump. The whole is in the worst order.

The greatest number of prisoners here at one time during the last year was 17.

On the 1st of January 1836 there was 1 prisoner

"	February	"	"	1
"	March	"	"	2
"	April	"	"	2

The last female prisoner was one in January of this year, who remained two days.

At the time of my first visit (April 1836) I found only one male prisoner.

The diet is a loaf of bread daily, weighing 1½lb.

I found no books. A dissenting minister sometimes comes by leave of the magistrates. When medical aid is required a surgeon is sent for.

The keeper states that when he is absent a policeman is left in charge of the place, but such was not the case at the time of my first visit.

WARWICKSHIRE.

COVENTRY.

CITY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

*Salaries.**County of Warwick.*Coventry.
City Gaol and
House of Correction.

KEEPER, £200. He receives coals and candles, but no other emolument whatever. When he conveys convicts, he is allowed 10s. per day for personal expenses: he used to receive a guinea, but the fares and coachmen are now paid by the city.

Chaplain, £75. He formerly received £100 annually.

Surgeon, £35; for which sum he also finds medicines. He formerly received £50 annually.

Matron, £20 (is the wife of the keeper).

Two turnkeys receive each £40.

Construction.

This new prison was opened in 1830. It is secure, not overlooked, dry, and moderately well ventilated. The only mode of heating yet practised is by coal fires in the day-rooms: there are also two cells containing fire-places. There are 85 or 86 cells, including debtors' rooms, but not including day-rooms: there are consequently sufficient accommodations for far more than the usual number of inmates. The greatest number of prisoners existing at one time during the last year was 82, but such a circumstance is rare: I have hence been induced to suggest the adoption of separate confinement in this prison, provided that some means are taken to warm the cells, and that proper regulations are framed. All the yards are paved, and each yard has a water-closet and supply of water. In every yard there is a wash-house, for washing the face and hands, cups, plates, &c.: this is a useful appendage to a prison-yard, if only one prisoner is suffered to enter at the same time. There are no dark cells, properly so called. Some of the debtors' cells look upon the felons' yard, and they can thus easily communicate together. This is a fault common, indeed, to most of the cells—that the inmate can look down upon the yards. The cells, in general, are sufficiently well lighted, and well enough ventilated; but some have an iron screen, which diminishes these two advantages, and particularly the former one.

The number of day-rooms is 9; of cells, 86,—of which are set apart 16 for male debtors and 2 for female debtors.

Number of prisoners the prison is capable of containing in separate sleeping cells	85
Number of prisoners the prison is capable of containing where more than one prisoner sleeps in one cell	168
Solitary cells	8

Since 1830 there have never been more than 82 prisoners at one time, but never as many prisoners as cells.

Management.

There are a few printed rules, but new and better and more copious ones are very necessary. Members of the town-council meet to visit the prison on the first Tuesday in every month. Silence is observed in some degree. Wardsmen are chosen from among the prisoners. The use of tobacco is still allowed, but I believe that my representation to the magistrates on that head will soon check that indulgence. All the prisoners associate in their respective yards and day-rooms. No separate confinement has as yet been attempted here. An inconvenience results from the scanty accommodation for women. Of the five women now in the prison, four are sleeping two in one bed; one of these four women is subject to epileptic fits. The practice is most improper. All the men are sleeping separately. The debtors here, as often elsewhere, are found troublesome. One turnkey sleeps in the prison alternately. Both the turnkeys are married: they attend upon the female prisoners, as well as does the matron; but this part of their function should be immediately separated, and transferred solely to the matron. The women sometimes perform a little household work for the keeper, but he has a private servant. There is a fire-place in every day-room, and coals are allowed for the day-rooms throughout the whole year. The prisoners keep the coals themselves. There has been no alarm from fire in the prison during the last nineteen years.

This prison is, in most respects, superior to the generality of borough prisons: it is neat and clean, and generally well maintained.

Diet.

No wine nor spirits are permitted to enter for the use of any prisoner. For the prisoners who are at hard labour 2 lbs. of bread is daily allowed. I have recommended an improvement of this diet. The untried and the debtors receive 1½ lb. of bread daily. Warm water they can readily obtain. All may receive food from without, and a majority of the whole number are thus supplied. The surgeon may order meat and extraordinary articles when he thinks proper. In my opinion this diet requires some addition, as of vegetables and gruel. The prisoners who received no contributions from without made heavy complaints to me. One young woman has been receiving for several weeks a quarter of a pound of meat daily, by order of the surgeon, on account of her suffering in health: two men have also lately received an increase of diet on the same account by the direction of the same officer.

Bedding.

There is no fixed scale of bedding, but it is provided for all, including the debtors.

Clothing.

If a prisoner is destitute a dress is furnished, consisting of trousers, shirts, stockings, shoes. A few articles of dress are sometimes allowed to the women. They have combs and towels, and a barber comes on regular days. Soap and salt are allowed to the prisoners.

Accounts.

There are a magistrate's, chaplain's, surgeon's book, gaoler's book for felonies and misdemeanors, and another gaoler's debtors'-book. There are no tradesmen's books.

Suicide.

During nineteen years only one instance of suicide has occurred here; this was in the year 1834.

Punishments.

During the last year three individuals have been whipped for offences committed within the prison, and one has been placed in solitary confinement. About twenty-four is the ordinary number of lashes, and the surgeon is always present.

Letters and Visits.

All letters are read first by the governor: no other permission is necessary. All friends are admitted from 9 till 10, 12 to 1, and from 3 to 4 in winter, and from 4 to 5 in summer. This permission is not in writing, it is only old custom. This freedom extends to all prisoners after they are fully committed. The visit lasts a few minutes—turnkey is present.

Statistics of the Population.

The number of prisoners confined in the course of the last year was 280. The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the prison amounted to 58. The number of prisoners at Michaelmas 1835 was 50. The number of prisoners at Michaelmas 1836 was 33; of these 33, 3 were male debtors, 9 were male misdemeanants, 17 were male felons, and 4 were female felons. Of the 30 misdemeanants and felons 23 have been tried, and 7 are untried. Of all the 33, 30 are above 17 years of age, and 3 are below 17 years of age.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Warwick.

Coventry.
City Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Warwick.
Coventry.
City Gaol and
House of Correction.

Prisoners confined at the time of my second visit, Oct. 25, 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Debt	2	0
Untried	12	5
Convicted	14	0
Total	28	5

Total number confined, 33.

The ordinary number of prisoners confined here at once appears to fluctuate between 30 and 60; the gaoler believes that there is a diminution within the last two years.
Number of prisoners who have been committed before during the last year:—

Once	4
Twice	4
Three times	2
Four and more	4

There are several recommittals among the prisoners at the time of my second visit in October 1836.

Expenditure.

From Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836:—

Prison diet	£155	3	3
Clothing	24	3	4
Bedding	7	4	0
Fuel	41	14	4
Soap	6	10	6
Candles and oil	16	5	10
Scouring blankets and rugs	6	3	9
Stationery, printing, &c.	15	7	6
Books, Bibles, &c.	8	3	6
Furniture	8	16	6
Removing convicts	31	14	6
Salaries	410	0	0
Sundries	16	18	0
	£748	4	11

The loaf of bread of 4lbs. has lately cost by contract 4d. and 4½d.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon comes every other day, and whenever he is sent for. During the year, from June 27, 1835, to June 27, 1836, he visited 178 times, had occasion to order no extra allowances, and numbered only one death among the prisoners: the deceased was a debtor. There is no insane prisoner in confinement. There is a room with a fire-place for the sick males, and a female debtors' room (also containing a fire-place) is occasionally used as an apartment for a sick female prisoner. I have recommended that this female debtors' room should be set apart and fitted up as a permanent infirmary for the female prisoners. There is another room appropriated for the female debtors, capable of accommodating three beds, and also having a fire-place.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain reads prayers every day, twice on a Sunday, and on that day delivers a sermon. He converses with the prisoners frequently. He keeps a separate journal, and has no other professional avocations. No provision is made for instructing the prisoners in reading, but there is a supply of religious works. If the debtors do not go to chapel their allowance of bread is stopped.

Labour.

There is a tread-mill here, which holds six or eight; only six conveniently at once. It has no compartments: only a wardman is present at the work. A turnkey ought to be constantly in attendance; the presence of a wardman is a most feeble check. The hours of labour are from 7 till 9 morning, 10 till 11 ditto, 1 to 4 afternoon. The wardman receives half a pound of meat daily, and has no labour. Beans and oats are ground by the tread-mill; the profits are £5 or £6 annually. The other modes of labour are raising water, whitewashing, and washing the clothes. One prisoner, sentenced to hard labour, cleans each yard.

Statistics of Labour during the last Year.

Prisoners employed:—	
Hard labour	16
Employment, not being hard labour	17
Prisoners not employed	17

A committee has lately been appointed on the subject of the county-rate, and it has made the following report, which is subjoined, and which I have only thought it necessary to abridge where it touches upon some points not immediately connected with the management of the prison:—

REPORT.

The county-rate committee have agreed upon the following Report, which they submit to the council for consideration and approval, at the quarterly meeting holden on the 11th day of October next.

Treasurers.—The late treasurers delivered in their book of accounts, and the balance of £8. 10s. 7d., due from them to the county, was paid over to the present treasurer; the charge therein of £15 for half a year's salary requires comment, that it may not become a precedent of paying for nothing done.

Remarks.—It is the opinion of your committee that, as the treasurer's account was kept by them in the shape and form of a banker's common pass-book (as between themselves, being bankers, and their customers), the salary of £30 a-year for such services was not only extravagantly high, but altogether unnecessary.

Your committee recommend that the accounts of the present treasurer be kept under separate heads of charge, with a quarterly balance-sheet attached to the same, showing the sum total of the several receipts and payments, and that a salary of £10 per annum be paid to him as treasurer.

Chaplain.—The diary of the chaplain sets forth that divine service is performed twice on a Sunday, and one sermon preached; that prayers are read to the prisoners daily—salary. £75.

Remarks.—It appears to your committee that the salary allowed to the chaplain bears no proportion with the salaries paid by the rectors and vicars of small parishes to their curates; nor do your committee see any reasonable cause for paying chaplains of small gaols a greater salary than they would receive as curates of small parishes. The personal labour of visiting the sick, and administering spiritual comfort to the inmates of a gaol, must be much less fatiguing and hazardous than in a parish: the former is under one roof, the inmates together, ventilation strictly attended to, medical aid constantly at hand, whilst in parishes the sick are scattered, their habitations frequently in a state of wretchedness, and disease and want oftentimes associated therein.

Your committee do therefore recommend that the salary of the chaplain of the gaol and bridewell be £50 a-year.

Surgeon.—The diary of the surgeon shows that he visits the sick when necessary and the prisoners occasionally; his salary, including medicines, £35 per annum.

Remarks.—Your committee have made inquiries what salary is usually given to the profession for their attendance on rural parochial sick and finding them with medicines; it appears not to exceed 2s. per head per annum, and that the most eminent in the profession are satisfied with the remuneration.

Your committee also made inquiry what was the charge made by the Self-supporting Dispensary for attendance and medicine for the workmen engaged in public works or benefit clubs, including accidents; the average rate does not exceed 3s. per head per annum.

Your committee cannot therefore recommend that a larger salary than £15 per annum should be paid to the surgeon of the gaol and bridewell for his attendance and medicines to the prisoners.

Gaoler.—The diary of the gaoler shows the present number of prisoners to be 37; the average of the last three months, 40. The food of the prisoners is bread only; 2 lbs. a-day for those ordered to labour, and 1½ lb. for those who do not labour, except when the surgeon thinks it necessary to order other food.

The friends of the prisoners have the privilege to bring food to them, and this custom is pretty generally acted upon, but not abused.

Bread.—The contract for bread is with Mr. * * *, to the 15th of December, at 5½d. the 4lb. loaf.

Coal.—The contract for coal is with Mr. * * *, to the 15th of December, at 12s. per ton for Baddesley coals delivered at the gaol.

Gaoler's Salary.—The gaoler's salary is £200 per annum, with coals and candles, and the house free from rent, rates, and taxes.

Remarks.—Your committee consider the salary might be reduced to £120 per annum, and still have the same services, the same kindness to the prisoners, and the same securities for the efficient performance of the duties as they find to be the case at the present time, and they recommend the reduction accordingly.

Matron.—The matron attends the female prisoners; her salary is £20 per annum.

Turnkeys.—The turnkeys are two, their joint salary £80 per annum, and coals and candles.

Remarks.—Your committee are of opinion that one turnkey (an able-bodied person) would enable the gaoler to enforce the necessary discipline of the gaol, and to compel the prisoners to a due observance of the regulations; and, in case anything refractory should occur amongst them, the gaoler can call to his assistance any part or the whole of the police, which would effectually subdue any disturbance.

Your committee therefore recommend that one turnkey be employed, and his salary be £50 per annum.

High Constable.—The high constable is an efficient officer, with a thorough knowledge of his duties, and firm and moderate in the execution of them; his salary is £60 per annum.

Your committee have examined the following bills, amounting to £323. 16s. 11½d., and recommend they should be paid.

Salaries.

1. Mr. * * *, quarter of a year's salary as gaoler, due 24th June 1836	£50	0	0
1. Two turnkeys, quarter of a year's salary, due 24th June 1836	20	0	0
1. Matron, quarter of a year's salary, due 24th June 1836	5	0	0
2. Mr. * * *, half a year's salary, due 2d August 1836, as chaplain to the gaol and house of correction	37	10	0
3. Mr. * * *, quarter of a year's salary as surgeon, due 24th June 1836	8	15	0
4. Mr. * * *, quarter of a year's salary as chief constable, due 1st July 1836	15	0	0
	H	2	

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Warwick.

Coventry.
City Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Warwick.
—
Coventry.
City Gaol and
House of Correction.

Bills.

6. Mr. * * *, bill for extra food to prisoners, and for sundries, to 24th June 1836	3 14 6
7. Mr. * * *, contract for bread, from 17th March to 13th August 1836	45 15 9½
8. Mr. * * *, contract for coals, from 17th March to 13th August 1836	19 6 5
9. Mr. * * *, bill for soap, from 11th January to 24th June 1836	3 0 6
10. Mr. * * *, bill for meat, from 27th March to 24th June 1836	3 7 1
11. Mr. * * *, bill for oil, &c., from 11th April to 24th June 1836	2 6 4
12. Mr. * * *, bill for brooms, &c., from 1st January to 24th June 1836	4 3 10
13. Mr. * * *, bill for scouring rugs and blankets, from 1st January to 24th June 1836	6 3 9
14. Mr. * * *, for two great-coats for convicts	2 4 0
15. Mr. * * *, shaving prisoners from 8th April to 24th June 1836	0 15 0
16. Mr. * * *, for mending prisoners' shoes, from 29th March to 24th June 1836	4 3 6
17. Gas Company, contract and balance of account, to 24th June 1836	13 15 4
18. Mrs. * * *, bill for linen, from 7th May to 24th June 1836	1 2 0
19. Mr. * * *, bill for straw, from 16th January to 24th June 1836	7 4 0
20. Mrs. * * *, executors, bill for work at gaol in 1828, 1829, and 1830	7 17 3
21. Mr. * * *, for whitesmith's work, from January to August 1836	3 15 10
22. To two persons attending Insolvent Debtors' Court, April and August 1836	0 14 0

20th September 1836.

Balance with Treasurer	£1078 3 4	
County-rate unpaid, Foleshill	170 2 0	
Ditto ditto Keresley	32 16 6	
Ditto ditto Wyken	30 12 6	
	<hr/>	1311 14 4
Bills for payment	323 16 11½	
Gaol debt to be now paid	£400 0 0	
Interest now to be paid	105 2 6	
	<hr/>	505 2 6
		<hr/>
		828 19 5½
Balance due to county		<hr/>
		£482 14 10½

Your committee beg to state that the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury have paid their proportionate share of the costs of prosecutions at assizes and sessions, and the whole expense of the conveyance of transports to the county of Warwick, but they have not paid those for Coventry, amounting to about £100.

Your committee advise that a direct application be made to their Lordships under seal.

Your committee recommend that a rate should be made of 1d. in the pound to meet the expenses of the current quarter, viz., the redemption of £400 of the gaol debt, the payment of salaries, prosecutions, incidental expenses, and the interest then becoming due on the gaol debt.

Your committee beg to remind you that the accommodation afforded to the public applying for justice at St. Mary's Hall is insufficient; and your committee suggest that, whatever alterations you may deem it necessary to make to remove the present inconvenience, the same should be perfected before the winter sets in.

Your committee beg to call your attention to the provisions of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, viz., the 6th and 7th Will. IV. c. 105, wherein is set forth "That county justices may contract with the council of any borough in which there is a sufficient gaol for the committal of county prisoners to such borough gaol; and where there is a separate court of quarter-sessions in the borough, the offenders committed from the county parishes may be tried at the said sessions."

Your committee recommend that, as the gaol and house of correction in Coventry has sufficient room to receive forty more prisoners than are at present confined therein, you do propose to the Warwickshire magistrates to make a contract with them for the reception of any number of county prisoners not exceeding forty, and that your charge for the safe custody and maintenance of each prisoner be 1s. for each night kept in custody.

Coventry, 20th September 1836.

It appears to me that the removal of one of the two turnkeys, which is recommended in this Report, would produce the worst possible effects on the discipline and good order of the gaol: I trust that it will not take place. The above Report of the County-rate Committee, made in September last, was subsequently confirmed by the council, except with regard to the surgeon's salary, wherein they resolved no abatement ought to be made. At present nothing further has been done (14th January 1837). If confinement in separate cells is to be practised here, or if each prisoner is to sleep in a separate cell, then it will be highly inexpedient to enter into contract for so many as 40 county prisoners; 20 should in such case be the utmost number.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

ABSTRACT of Accounts of the Treasurer, from the 25th March 1835 to the 25th March 1836.

Dr.		Cr.	
To balance due to the county on last account	£273 3 7	By paid coroners' bills	£100 10 0
To received county-rates—		Ditto governor of county gaol, for maintenance and disbursements of prisoners	786 2 3½
Easter 1835	£1348 12 6	Ditto master of house of correction for ditto	398 5 11
Trinity	1348 12 6	Ditto printing, stationery, and advertising	55 8 1
Michaelmas	1011 9 4½	Ditto repairs of county bridges	265 12 9
Epiphany 1836	1348 12 6	Ditto conveyance of felons, vagrants, &c.	143 2 0
	5057 6 10½	Ditto prosecution of 29 felons, &c., at the assizes	£531 11 3
To corporation of Cardiff, fourth payment of £200 on account of £2000 purchase-money for gaol at Cardiff	£200 0 0	Ditto 47 ditto at quarter-sessions	500 10 1
One year's interest of £1400, at 4 per cent	56 0 0	Ditto burial of corpses found on the sea-shore	1032 1 4
To received fines payable to the county	256 0 0	Ditto payments to poor prisoners confined in King's Bench, Marshalsea, and Fleet Prisons	7 10 0
To paymaster of civil services—one-half of the expense of criminal prosecutions at the summer assize, and July and October sessions, 1835, and the whole expense for the conveyance of convicts to the depôts for six months ending 31st December last	214 13 0	Ditto 18th and 19th instalments of £325 each, and interest to Exchequer Bill Loan Office on further account of £13,000 borrowed by the county—	6 0 0
	349 9 2	Principal	£650 0 0
		Interest	329 1 3
			979 1 3
		Ditto allowance on payments to Exchequer Office	3 13 5
		Ditto fees payable to marshal and crier at the assizes	6 12 0
		Ditto clerk of peace's bill for sundries	62 11 7
		Ditto myself, bills for ditto	9 18 7
		Ditto to * * *, for standard measures, &c.	42 14 0
		Ditto to * * *, for preparing stamps, &c., for marking weights and measures	6 11 6
		Ditto allowance to late master of house of correction	20 0 0
		Ditto clerks to magistrates for certificates of fines returned to quarter-sessions	2 5 0
		Ditto myself, postages, &c.	0 12 0½
		<i>Salaries.</i>	
		Gaol—Governor and turnkeys	£438 0 0
		Surgeon	40 0 0
		Chaplain	40 0 0
			518 0 0
		House of Correction—Master and turnkeys	171 4 0
		Surgeon	40 0 0
		Chaplain	30 0 0
			241 4 0
		Clerk of the peace	145 0 0
		Treasurer	60 0 0
		County surveyor	30 0 0
		By balance due to the county	1227 16 10½
	£6150 12 7½		£6150 12 7½

SWANSEA.

DEBTORS' GAOL (*for the Liberty of Gower*).

This is a part of the old castle. It belongs to the Duke of Beaufort, whose steward appoints the keeper. He receives £10 per annum from the steward, and is anxious to correct an impression that he receives £15, as is stated in the Municipal Report. He has apartments free from rent and taxes; but he receives no coals nor candles, and his emoluments are certainly too small, if it is supposed necessary that a gaoler shall be a person of intelligence, of good character, and of decent manners.

Swansea.
Debtors' Gaol.*Statistics of the Population.*

No. of debtors confined in each year	1834.	1835.	1836.
The greatest number at one time	7	4	6
	3	2	3

On the 29th July 1836 I found only one debtor, a female, who had been confined here during six weeks. She made no complaints, excepting of her own poverty. She had made application for some relief, having no allowance made to her.

There are four cells, with a yard of not unsuitable dimensions. There is a pump, but it was out of order, and a privy. The cells are generally large and lofty; each one has a fire-place; but they are not clean nor well maintained. An individual who left about two years ago remained here 12½ years. The prisoners find their own bedding and clothing, and even their own bedsteads; nor is any other allowance of any kind made to them. Their friends may visit them three times a-day. There has been no escape during 18 years. The keeper's own apartments are in bad repair.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Glamorgan.

Swansea.
Debtors' Gaol.*Lock-up Cells.*

In the old castle, and adjoining the debtors' gaol, are two cells, one of which is used for men and one for women. These are both in a dirty state, and even the straw was filthy. A sort of privy was in each, *i. e.*, a board with a hole, but no front to it. In the station-house of the new police is a better cell for night charges, into which they usually put the younger offenders and girls. But a new police station-house is (I believe) about to be built, in which there will be some new cells; and it will be far more convenient if all the lock-up cells are attached to the station-house, so as to be immediately adjoining and under the care of the new police.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR THE COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

*Construction.*House of Correction
for the County of
Glamorgan.

This prison is not highly finished; it was built by contract, and cost about £7000. In front of the windows are bars of cast iron, which are not very strong; and the wooden railings in front of the yards are quite unsuited to a house of correction. A chevaux-de-frise on the walls of the yards, and on the outer wall, would be a useful addition.

Refractory cells—	0
Light	4
Dark	0
Apartments below ground	8
Wards or divisions in the prison	5
Day-rooms	0
Work-rooms	2
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels	0
Receiving-rooms or cells	2
Divisions in the chapel	2
Infirmaries or rooms for the sick (1 male—1 female)	2
Warm and cold baths, or bathing-tubs (bathing-tubs)	8
Airing-yards	

There are five fire-places in five day-rooms, and one in each of the two infirmaries, one in the wash-house, and one in the kitchen.

The windows are clumsily constructed; many have not been opened nor shut for some weeks; and, in fact, the whole building requires survey and repair. It is not very dry, nor very well ventilated, nor is it secure. There is no provision for heating the cells in winter. A receiving-room is wanted, and I have suggested a situation in which it might be conveniently placed.

Management.

Prisoners are sent hither or to Cardiff, according as the next assizes are to be held at one place or at the other. The prisoners from the town of Swansea are placed here as well as the county ones. The prison is clean; but, considered as a county prison, it is defective in several respects, and the only remedy is to be found in a more suitable expenditure. I have recommended, among other things, that tobacco be forbidden, and silence enjoined.

The classification of the prisoners is attended to. They are secured in separate cells at night, but there is ample opportunity for communication by day. The three meals are taken at the hours of nine, one, and six o'clock, in the different day-rooms. There is too much laxity as to visits and letters. A magistrate's order must be obtained previous to the admission of visitors, and all letters are received without restriction, subject only to examination. The female prisoners are exclusively attended by the matron.

There is a bad custom here of taking the prisoners out into the neighbourhood, sometimes a quarter, or even half a mile off, to collect rain water for washing. Another turnkey is necessary here, and more particularly if silence should be enjoined.

No debtors are here, but there are untried prisoners, although it is called only a house of correction.

During the whole of the year 1836 there has been not more than one prisoner in a cell. There have always been more cells than prisoners during this year.

No one has slept two in a bed since the time of the crowd which came from Merthyr Tydvil a few years ago.

Cells—30 regular sleeping ones; 16 day-cells (of the same size, and, in fact, might be used as sleeping cells).

Fire—During seven years the gaoler has been here (it has only been built seven) there has been no alarm of fire.

Suicides—There has been no attempt at suicide during the same period.

Escapes—One was not re-taken; two others escaped, one of whom, a female, returned, the other was re-taken.

The dark cell is the usual punishment. When whipping is ordered, three dozen lashes are usually inflicted. The instrument is a small cat-o'-nine-tails. The surgeon is always present during the infliction. There has been twice only used here, I believe, a mode of punishment for very desperate characters, which I have recommended to be disused,—the culprit is fastened to an iron post by handcuffs.

The following is the rule respecting visits:—

"No person shall be allowed to visit the prison, except between the hours of 9 and 11 in the morning, and 1 and 3 in the afternoon, unless in cases of particular necessity. No stranger shall on Sundays, or during Divine service on any other day, be admitted within the walls of the prison, excepting on occasions of great urgency; but no such visitor, or any other person, except justices of the peace and officers of the prison, shall be permitted to go within the wards of the prison without a

written order from a justice of the peace for the county; and no person shall be allowed to hold converse with any prisoner except in the presence of the governor or turnkey."

Labour.

There is one tread-mill, divided into two parts; one hitherto used for males, one for females: a wall separates the wheel into two parts. The women ought not to be put on.

The tread-mill is employed during every month of the year. The number of working hours in the day is ten in summer and six in winter. The tread-mill will hold at one time ten prisoners, five on each division; the height of each step is eight inches; the ordinary velocity of the wheel is forty-eight steps in a minute. The ordinary proportion of prisoners to the total number employed at the tread-mill is half on and half off. The tread-mill power is not applied to any purpose.

The other labour consists in washing, cooking, whitewashing, mending, cleansing the yards. None of the labour is productive.

The untried are employed sometimes in cleaning and whitewashing the prison. Labour is usually regarded by all parties as a heavy punishment.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain performs Divine service on Sundays once (in English); prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays. He occasionally visits, when a prisoner requests to see him, or in case of illness, or when confined in a dark cell. Religious books are supplied very scantily here. The chaplain fills also the office of lecturer of St. John's in the town.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

For the visits of the surgeon there are no regular days; he usually calls three times a-week. There are two large rooms set aside and used as infirmaries—one for the male and another for the female prisoners.

The following have been the principal cases of disease which have occurred in the last year:—Asthma, 1; gonorrhœa, 1; colds, 2; boil, 1; ulcer on thigh, 1; constipation, 2; diarrhœa, 1; ulcer on leg, 1; epilepsy, 1; syphilis, 1; porrigo, 1. The malignant cholera occurred in a severe form in six cases, but no one died of it in the prison.

During the year which has elapsed, from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835, there has been no death in the prison. There have been altogether 39 cases of slight indisposition; but no one has been removed into the infirmary on account of the severity of his case. The greatest number of individuals unwell at the same time has been 6. Thus we have 39 cases of slight indisposition out of 131 prisoners admitted; in the greater part of these 39 cases, indeed, only Epsom salts or aperient pills were deemed necessary to be prescribed.

There is no lunatic in confinement here at present.

On comparing the above statement with the Return annually transmitted to the Secretary of State, I find a variation with respect to the article of death; in the Return alluded to, one death is reported to have occurred in the prison between Michaelmas 1834 and Michaelmas 1835.

Registration and Accounts.

Food-book; diary; governor's account-book; Michaelmas return-book; receiving-book; and the journals of the magistrates, chaplain, surgeon, and governor.

Diet.

For the untried there is a permission to buy certain articles thus conferred. A proper person, appointed by the visiting justices, goes round the prison twice a-week, and writes opposite the name of each such prisoner the articles he may wish to purchase. This list is submitted to the governor, who puts his pen through such as he may deem improper, and afterwards orders the other articles of tradesmen nominated by the visiting justices, and of no other person on any account whatever. The prisoners receive them at cost price, and may satisfy themselves of the weight and quantity by means of the scales and measures, to which they are ordered at all times to have access.

One pound and a half of bread made of second flour, one pound of potatoes, and a quarter of a pound of oatmeal are daily allowed, and four ounces of salt weekly; care is to be taken by the governor that such food be of the proper quality and weight. Prisoners at hard labour have a pint of soup each in addition to the above.

Scales and legal weights and measures are ordered to be provided for the use of the prison, and to be kept in proper order, and to be open to the use of the prisoners at all reasonable times.

No prisoner who is confined under the sentence of any court, nor any prisoners confined in pursuance of any conviction before a justice, can receive any food, clothing, or necessaries, other than the county allowance, except under special circumstances, to be judged of by one or more of the visiting justices.

No spirituous liquors or beer of any kind are admitted for the use of any of the prisoners, under any pretence whatever, unless by a written order of the surgeon, specifying the quantity, and for whose use.

The bedding consists of two blankets and a rug, with an additional blanket in winter. The untried are clothed, if destitute, but in a plain dress.

Salaries.

Keeper, £100; chaplain, £40; surgeons and medicines, £30 (the prescriptions are made up by a chemist, who sends in his bill); matron, £18; male turnkey, 18s. per week.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Glamorgan.

Swansea.
House of Correction
for the County of
Glamorgan.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.County of Gla-
morgan.Swansea.
House of Correction
for the County of
Glamorgan.

A person or persons employed as assistants during the assizes or sessions have received £6. 1s. 6d.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

I.

At the Glamorganshire Spring Assize, 1st March 1836, there were—

Prisoners for trial	10
Prisoners under sentence	10
Retained until the next quarter-sessions	1

Total 21

At the Glamorganshire Summer Assize, 12th July 1836, there were—

Prisoners for trial	7
Prisoners under sentence	31

Total 38

II. Prisoners confined during the Year, from Michaelmas Sessions 1834 to Michaelmas Sessions 1835:—

	Males.	Females.
Felons	34	9
Above 17 years of age	95	28
Under 17 years of age	7	1
Total	102	29

III. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, 29th July 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of misdemeanants	5	1
Ditto felons	4	3
Prisoners for trial	0	0
Ditto under sentence	9	4

IV. The general number of prisoners confined here at once fluctuates from 15 to 20.

V. Employment and Punishment:—

Employment—Hard labour	40
Ditto, not being hard labour	73
Not employed	18
Punishment for offences within the prison—	
Whipping	0
Irons	0
Refractory cells	13

VI. Progress of the Population:—

On 1st July 1835 there were 22 in the house.

Ditto 1834	ditto 24	ditto.
Ditto 1833	ditto 28	ditto.
Ditto 1832	ditto 35	ditto.
Ditto 1831	ditto 38	ditto.

In August of that year 57 were here at one time, owing to riots at Merthyr Tydvil.

On 1st of July in 1836 there were 16 only.

On 29th ditto ditto 13 only.

VII. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before:—

Once	28
Twice	6
Three times	4
Four times or more	4

VIII. Expenditure:—

Allowed prisoners for work done for the prison	£1 12 3
Straw	3 8 0
Removing prisoners to take their trial at the sessions or assizes	33 2 0
Prison diet for the year	102 10 2½
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	17 18 1½
Soap, candles, fuel, and carting the same	25 18 3½
Stationery, books of accounts, and books of moral and religious instruction	5 1 7
Total	£682 7 6½

The weekly cost of the diet of each prisoner per head is 2s. 0½d; the extra weekly cost of the pint of soup given to the prisoners engaged in hard labour is 2½d.; the daily diet of each prisoner costs 3½d. The cost of the bedding and dress for the prisoners is stated at about £2. 10s. per head.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT of the county of Denbigh upon Prisoners, for the year commencing Epiphany Quarter 1835, and ending at the close of Michaelmas Quarter 1836:—

Apprehending, Conveying, and Prosecuting Offenders:—	
Conveying convicts to Woolwich for transportation	£26 6 9
Apprehending and conveying prisoners to gaol	58 13 11
Prosecuting felons, &c., at the assizes	393 8 3
Ditto at the quarter-sessions	211 8 11
Total	£689 17 10

Gaol:—	
Gaoler, a year's salary	£67 8 0
Ditto, allowance for materials to clean the gaol	1 12 0
Late gaoler, half-year's superannuation allowance	10 4 0
Turnkey, a year's salary	42 16 0
Chaplain, ditto	52 18 0
Apothecary, ditto	52 18 0
Smith, ditto	2 6 0
Matron of the female prison, ditto	45 8 0
Ditto, allowance for materials to clean the prison	0 12 0
Maintenance of prisoners in the gaol and female prison	152 5 4
Clothing for the prisoners, and sundry other articles for the use of the gaol and female prison	
To * * *, a year's salary for lighting	51 1 2
To * * *, a year's salary for whitewashing	5 7 0
Repairs of the gaol and female prison	5 7 0
	12 9 11
Total	£502 12 5

Houses of Correction:—	
Master of Wrexham, 1½ year's salary	£15 0 0
Ditto for maintenance of prisoners	20 18 2
Master of Denbigh, a year's salary	10 18 0
Ditto for maintenance of prisoners	3 17 3
Repairs at Denbigh house of correction	4 7 0
Keeper of Llanwrst lock-up house, a year's salary	6 8 0
Repairs at ditto	1 6 6
Keeper of Abergelle, ditto, two years' salary	8 2 0
Repairs at Llanrhaidr Mochnant lock-up house	0 7 9
Building a new lock-up house at Llangollen	150 2 0
Keeper of ditto, a quarter's salary	1 12 0
Total	£222 18 8

LLANGOLLEN.

LOCK-UP HOUSE.

The last keeper was appointed in August 1835, and died in October 1836. His salary was £6 a-year; but he happened also to be in the receipt of a pension, having formerly served in the Coldstream Guards; he enjoyed no other perquisite, except rooms for himself and his family. He was constable of Llangollen, and for the hundred of Chirk. If any disturbance took place, he was the person sent for to settle matters. It was his business to take prisoners before the magistrates, and also to conduct them, when necessary, to the county gaol at Ruthin; a task which he performed on foot, and for which he received a small remuneration. During the period of the late keeper's residence, no prisoner stopped here more than one night. If a prisoner wanted any food, it was usually procured for him with his own money; but, if destitute, the keeper and his wife have sometimes given a little food from their own store. During the late keeper's short term there were never two prisoners here at once. The total number of prisoners admitted here, during the last twelve months, appears to have been about 20.

This house stands by itself; and, compared with the generality of lock-up houses, is neat, secure, and solid: it was built about three years ago. It contains two cells for the use of prisoners, and a small yard. The bedding provided for the prisoners consisted of a straw mattress, four blankets, and two rugs. There is only one privy for the use of the prisoners and the keeper's family. The keeper's bed-room appears to be damp: a spring runs beneath it, which opens in front of the house, and is used by the keeper and by the neighbours. The magistrates and the vestry hold their meetings here in a separate apartment with a private entrance. If I am to believe the statement of the keeper's widow, she and her husband, on the occasion of such meetings, have furnished the coals from their own stock, and have been obliged to borrow the necessary chairs from their neighbours.

Llangollen.
Lock-up House.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Denbigh.

Ruthin.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion.

RUTHIN.

COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

Many of the cells are too dark for the purpose of working in them. A few of the larger cells have fire-places. There are no special dark cells provided for the men, but two are used which are a little darker than the rest. There are good baths, and good windows throughout. This prison stands on the outskirts of the town, by the road-side; but it does not communicate with the street, except by some of the windows of the male debtors, whom I have advised to be removed from the front.

	Male.	Female.
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	12	2
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps	3	4
Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	60	15
Refractory cells for the women		2
Apartments below ground		0
Wards or divisions in the prison		4
Day-rooms		8
Work-rooms		1
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels		0
Receiving-rooms or cells		0
Divisions in the chapel		7
Infirmaries or rooms for the sick—(Male)		2
Ditto ditto (Female)		0
Warm and cold baths or bathing-tubs		4
Airing-yards		8

The cells for females are eight. The day-rooms for females are four; and there are only four women now in the prison.

There is no infirmary for sick females, nor any public kitchen, but the female wards have ample room for these and other alterations. There are at present three entrances to the prison; one at one extremity for the matron and females, another central one, and a third one at the other extremity. It would probably conduce to good discipline, as well as to the mystery which ought to surround a gaol, and which is destroyed by facility of entrance, that the central entrance alone should remain, and that the two others should be dispensed with, or at least one of them.

Diet.

This is at present arranged on a most faulty plan, and I have recommended its alteration, and the adoption of a fixed diet instead.

Each prisoner receives 2s. 6d. per week, which they lay out with a shopkeeper who comes to the prison.

The clothing is a shirt, jacket, trousers, and clogs.

The bedding is a straw bed, two or three blankets, and a rug.

Soap is allowed; about 12lbs. is used quarterly. Combs and a towel are also supplied in each ward, and a razor is given to each ward every Saturday.

Management.

Some of the male prisoners sleep two in one bed; the number of cells for the male prisoners is not sufficient in general to provide a separate cell for each. In the female part, on the contrary, there is abundance of room, and some apartments of which no use is made. The male debtors have ample accommodation also. On one of my visits I found 20 male prisoners, who were placed in 14 cells. The want of a lock-up house for the town of Ruthin is a source of disturbance here, because disorderly night charges are brought at all hours of the night to the gaol, which is already too small for its own male prisoners. I have recommended that silence should be enjoined, and that another turnkey should be engaged, in order to strengthen the general discipline of the prison; that tobacco should be prohibited, and letters and visits properly restricted; and some other improvements, on which it does not appear necessary to enter here at length. Crime appears to be on the increase in this neighbourhood, and the discipline of this gaol has also been in a very relaxed state, insomuch so, that people would sometimes commit an offence in winter, in order to obtain comfortable quarters here. On my first visit I had recommended the disuse of tobacco, and restrictions on letters and visits. These suggestions were immediately adopted, and the gaoler assured me, on my second visit, that this strictness had already done some good, and was regarded in the neighbourhood as a great privation, in short, a heavy drawback on the former agreeableness of the gaol. The whole prison is commendably clean.

The keeper has been here nearly two years, during which time there has been one escape—a female. She was not retaken. There have been, during eight years, two escapes altogether. The first, a man, was retaken. There has been no alarm of fire during the last eight years; nor during the same time more than one attempt at suicide; and this one was unsuccessful.

Offences and Punishments.

The chief offences are refractory conduct and refusing to work on the tread-mill, for which they receive solitary confinement.

In whipping, the number of lashes is said (perhaps erroneously) to depend on the discretion of the surgeon, in whose presence the flogging is inflicted; a whip similar to that made use of in the army is employed.

Labour.

There are three tread-wheels here. The power of the tread-mill is applied to pump water for the use of the prison. It is used during the whole year—during the summer eight hours daily, and during the winter six hours. The wheels will hold 16 prisoners at one time. The height of each step is six inches. The ordinary velocity of the wheels per minute is twice round. The average number of prisoners daily employed on the wheels is nine. Two of the three wheels are in daily operation; sometimes all the three are employed. The number of feet in ascent per day is stated to be 72,000. The daily revolutions of the wheels are estimated at 840. The amount of labour is recorded by machinery invented by the turnkey, which rings a bell every ten minutes, and marks the time. The tread-wheel, which goes round twice every minute, moves two teeth of the rack-wheel, until it has gone round, at which time it raises the handle of the bell, which rings. A change then takes place; at the same time a crank from the handle of the bell moves the wheel every ten minutes, which is shown upon the face of the timekeeper by the finger; the time-keeper goes round every four hours. The wheel and the springs are inside of the face of the timekeeper.

The cost of the apparatus is about £4; and I purposely mention the name of the maker: it was invented by Abel Roberts, turnkey, Ruthin gaol.

A change must take place every ten minutes, by which one prisoner steps off the wheel, and another, having had rest, steps on.

The gaoler or turnkey must regulate the valve by the number of prisoners at work, and not allow more than two prisoners of each wheel to rest at one time.

Religious and other Instruction.

Divine service is performed every Sunday, a portion in English and another in Welsh, with a sermon in English or Welsh. Other occasional duties are performed as they are incidentally required. There is no instruction in reading, excepting only occasional voluntary efforts on the part of the keeper. Religious books are well supplied. The chaplain keeps a journal. He is rector of the parish of Efenectyd, about a mile and a half distant from the precincts of the prison. He comes to the prison sometimes on week-days, but not often. He generally delivers the Sacrament once or twice a-year: when he last officiated no prisoner attended, but only the officers of the prison. He is allowed to purchase whatever tracts he may deem suitable for the use of the prisoners from the depository of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Although, with respect to the language in which Divine service is performed, the above is the ordinary routine, yet the chaplain regulates the language, delivering it either in Welsh or English, according to the fatherland of the prisoners who happen to be in confinement.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon visits three times a-week, or more frequently. He (or his partner) comes whenever he is sent for. There has been no epidemic fever here for 20 years. Sometimes a low fever case has occurred. Itch is not frequent. Catarrhs and venereal complaints are common.

There are two sick rooms for the men, extremely well arranged as an infirmary; but no sick room at present specially set apart for the women; one adjoining the male infirmary, originally intended for females, appears not to have been used for that purpose.

During the last five years there has been only one death. There are no particular diseases frequent here. There has been no death during the last year. The proportion of sick to the total number of prisoners admitted during the last year has been about one-fifth. The average duration of each case is represented by the surgeon as ranging about a month.

The total number of prisoners whose cases were sufficiently severe to require removal into the infirmary amounted to only three during the year from August 6th, 1835, to August 6th, 1836. The cases of slight indisposition during that period were forty-five. The greatest number of persons sick at one time was two. There is no insane person in confinement.

Salaries.

	£.	s.	d.
Keeper (with no coals nor candles)	67	0	0
Chaplain	52	10	0
Surgeon (finds medicines)	52	10	0
Matron	15	0	0
1 male turnkey (no coals nor candles)	40	0	0

Accounts.

1, Prisoners' Register and Debtors' Register; 2, Magistrates'; 3, Chaplain's; 4, Surgeon's; 5, Gaoler's Report-Book of Conduct of Prisoners; 6, Magistrates' Order-Book; 7, Inventory of Gaol Property; 8, Check-Book on the Shopkeeper who supplies the prisoners with food.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of Denbigh.

Ruthin.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of Denbigh.
—
Ruthin.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I.

The number of prisoners admitted in the year 1827 was	82
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1828 " 89
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1829 " 79
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1830 " 94
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1831 " 93
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1832 " 129
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1833 " 127
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1834 " 150
" " " " " " " " " " " "	1835 " 139

It will be observed that there is, on the whole, a progressive increase, and this increase is, I believe, not only in the number but in the gravity of offences. It is affirmed, however, that the strangers now at the gaol are, to the Welsh, as two to one, in proportion.

II. Number and Description of Prisoners confined during the Year from August 6th, 1835, to August 6th, 1836.

	Males.	Females.
Debtors—		
Debts on contract	13	2
Forfeiture of recognisances, &c.	1	1
Offences against the customs, excise, and revenue laws	2	0
Felons	49	5
Misdemeanors—		
Tried by a jury	59	5
Summary convictions	38	0
Under the game-laws—		
Summary convictions	8	0
Under the bastardy laws	2	0
Under the Vagrant Act	2	0
Total Number of Prisoners confined in the Prison in the course of the Year:—		
In custody at the commencement of the year	27	2
	Males.	Females.
Above 17 years of age	129	0
Under 17 years of age	4	0
Total	125	8

III. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, August 6th, 1836.

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	4	0
Number of misdemeanors	9	0
Number of felons	3	1
	Males.	Females.
Prisoners for trial	10	3
Prisoners under sentence	12	1
Total	22	4

Number of Prisoners who have been committed before:—

To this prison	Once.
One male was returned to this prison during the year.	1

IV. Miscellaneous.

	Males.	Females.
Average number of prisoners daily	27	2
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	33	3
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	0	0

Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to be whipped privately	5
Ditto ditto publicly	0

Punishment for offences within the prison—

Whipping	0
Irons	0
Refractory cells	13
Other punishment	0
Cases of reformation in the course of the year	6
Number of passes granted in the course of the year	1

V. Expenditure.

The cost of the diet of each prisoner per day is 4½d.	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet for the year	151	17	4
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	1	0	0
Male and female clothing	23	1	9
Soap, candles, fuel, and carting the same	10	8	0
Stationery, books of accounts, and books of moral and religious instruction	2	10	0
Straw	2	0	0
Removing prisoners to take their trial at the sessions or assizes	5	10	0
Removing transported convicts	26	2	9
Repairs in and about the prison	12	9	11

Total expenses of the prison for the year £491 19 9

WREXHAM.

BOROUGH GAOL AND LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This is a small building; it contains four cells only and one day-room for male prisoners, and one cell only for the women. The women's cell (or room) serves both for a sleeping apartment and for a day-room: it contains two double beds and a fireplace. The beds also in the male ward are some of them formed to hold two persons. There is a small yard and a privy for the male ward, and also for the females another small yard and privy. There are no rules here, neither printed nor in manuscript. The following list will explain the population during the year 1835.

Number of Prisoners confined in Wrexham Bridewell during the Year 1835:—

	Males.	Females.
January	11	0
February	6	0
March	14	0
April	6	1
May	6	0
June	17	1
July	11	0
August	6	0
September	6	1
October	3	4
November	9	2
December	4	0
Total during the year	99	9

Number of Prisoners confined in the Year 1836.

	Males.	Females.
January	4	0
February	3	1
March	7	0
April	5	0
May	4	0
June	11	3
July	2	0
Total	36	4

The greatest number of prisoners here at one time during the year 1835 was at Whitsuntide, when so many as 14 were here together. But this was owing to a fight; it is a very unusual event. The greatest number of prisoners here at one time during the year 1832 was nine. When I visited it in August 1836, there was no prisoner of either sex. Debtors are not received here; they go to Ruthin. No prisoner remained longer than two weeks during the year 1835.

The salary of the keeper is £12; but he is also superintendent of police, for which office he receives £1 per week. He has no perquisites as gaoler except the apartments. There is no matron and no turnkey. The keeper is allowed 2s. 6d. per head for the diet of each prisoner per week. He distributes to each a portion of this sum daily, until the whole half-crown is exhausted. They may buy what they please, and may also receive food from their friends without.

The keeper is also allowed by the county 2s. 6d. a-quarter for straw, and 3s. a-quarter for washing the blankets, and also 2s. a-quarter for mops and brooms. There is no allowance of soap, nor is there any stock of clothing. I found a few old blankets. The keeper conveys the prisoners to Ruthin gaol, and receives £1. 1s. for taking each prisoner. In his absence his wife has charge of the house, and he finds a man to sleep in the prison during that period. During 19 years there has been only one escape; the fugitive fell into a neighbouring coal-pit, and died there. During the same period there has been one suicide—a prisoner hung himself with his blanket. No other death save this has happened here for 19 years. There is no chapel, nor chaplain, nor surgeon, nor infirmary. I saw no books. Considered as a lock-up house for a detention of two or three days, this place is suitable enough, but it is quite unfit for a prison, and has a neglected aspect.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

Account of the Disbursements of the County of Merioneth upon Prisoners for the Year ending April 9th, 1835:—

Repairs of the gaol, county-hall, and houses of correction	£82 17 6
Maintenance of prisoners	60 13 7
Apprehending and conveying of ditto	33 16 11
Prosecutions of felons	189 6 3
Bala	2 1 0
Exhibition money to the Marshalsea and Fleet Prisons	4 0 0
Constables, special	3 12 0

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Denbigh.

Wrexham.
Borough Gaol and
Lock-up House.

County of
Merioneth.

III. SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT. Reports on Separate Prisons. County of Merioneth.	Clerks of petty sessions for county business	.	.	.	12	10	0
	Clerk of assize	.	.	.	6	6	4
	Clerk of the peace	.	.	.	163	9	6
	Lock-up houses	.	.	.	134	13	10
	Assistant in the gaol	.	.	.	26	0	0
	Bailiffs attending sessions	.	.	.	1	0	0
	Surgeon of the gaol	.	.	.	10	0	0
	Keepers of houses of correction	.	.	.	20	0	0
	Gaoler	.	.	.	45	0	0
	Late Gaoler	.	.	.	20	0	0

DOLGELLEY.

COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR MERIONETHSHIRE.

Construction.

Dolgelley.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion for
Merionethshire.

This gaol stands particularly well, on a very elevated situation, apart from the high road, to which the ascent is steep and tiresome, so that few persons will be tempted to seek it as an agreeable lounge. There are no buildings near it: it is not at all overlooked; few prisons in short have been so judiciously placed, but on this feature alone can any approbation be bestowed. A great deal of room is lost throughout the gaol; there are large passages which might be converted into cells; and there are also some cells which appear never to have been used, or which are not used at present, as two solitary cells, for instance, and two cells belonging to the yard in which the stones are broken. The privy in the male criminals' yard has no door to it. The great want throughout is of separate cells: there are several rooms which may be converted into such by a little arrangement and strengthening. There are three cells for the debtors, three cells for male prisoners, and two cells for female prisoners. Of the three day-rooms, one belongs to the debtors, one to the females, and one to the male prisoners, consequently the untried and the convicted are mixed together. There are four yards for exercise. There is no infirmary, no proper bath, no dark cell, nor any pump, but there is a trough to collect water from the hills. The chapel has five divisions. The boundary wall is very favourable for escape, but I do not find that escapes are frequent. It would not be difficult to increase the number of cells; the day-room for the females might form one or two new cells, and still enough space would be left for a small day-room, if it were thought necessary to continue that appendage.

Management.

The keeper is the only resident officer. If a good system is ever introduced here, it must be by the assistance of a permanent turnkey. In one male prisoner's cell I found one double bed, in which two prisoners sleep. No rule as yet exists as to the female prisoners being attended exclusively by one of their own sex; it is true that the gaoler's wife does perform that office, but voluntarily, without appointment, without salary. The untried and the convicted associate freely with each other, all together, in the day-room and yard. Silence is not yet introduced. Four prisoners sometimes sleep in one cell, but not often. The prisoners eat together in the day-room. As to visits and letters there is no rule, except that visits can only be made by leave from a visiting magistrate. Debtors may receive their friends without any rule by day-time. There is no regular turnkey; but when the prisoners are numerous an assistant is allowed. During six years there has been one escape, but the prisoner was retaken in two or three days. Within the above period there has been no instance of suicide, and no alarm from fire. Three fires are usually kept up in the day-rooms during the winter, and the prisoners then cook their own food. In summer the gaoler boils for them, and supplies warm water.

Diet.

I have recommended that the present allowance of money should be exchanged for a regular fixed diet, to be prepared in the prison. As it is, 2s. 6d. weekly is allotted to all prisoners, including debtors, if destitute. They buy whatever they please, but not more than a pint of beer daily may be bought by felons, nor more than a quart by debtors. No spirits may be purchased; tobacco, however, may be bought: all may receive food from their friends without.

The clothing is a great coat, waistcoat, trousers, clogs when necessary, nothing else. No soap nor salt are allowed; the county supplies no towels, but the gaoler furnishes some. Some wash for themselves; others have their things washed by their friends.

Labour.

If any women happen to be confined here they are compelled to knit and to make bonnets. There are no fixed hours for labour. The hard labour consists in breaking stones; there is no other occupation for the men except cleaning the premises, and doing trifling jobs for the prison. The prisoners perform no work for the gaoler himself, according to his own statement. The labour is not productive; instead of profit, a loss is incurred by it to the county. It is not profitable, because it costs 7d. to cut the stones from the rock, and 2d. for wheeling them to the prison per load, and when broken the stones only sell at 6d. per load: 10d. per load is paid to the prisoners for their labour, so that 1s. 1d. is lost per load.

Recommitments and Effects of Imprisonment.

Recommitments are rare, and the imprisonment is said to be formidable; strangers are fre-

quently admitted, but the prisoners are all Welsh at present. Three out of the six inmates are not, however, natives of Merionethshire. The discipline is relaxed, and yet, in relation to the simple habits of the neighbouring peasantry, and to the remoteness of the situation, it may operate as a greater preventive than might at first sight be anticipated.

Religious and other Instruction.

A curtain should be put up in front of the females in the chapel. Divine service and a sermon are delivered once every Sunday, usually in Welsh, except when some Englishmen are here. No other service is performed in the week. The chaplain never comes in the week to visit or instruct; the chaplain's curate comes instead of him on the alternate Sundays. The chaplain is rector of the parish. A journal-book is provided, but I find it apparently blank since the year 1829, as far as regards the portion allotted to the chaplain. Religious books are supplied.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The surgeon only comes when he is sent for. When he has occasion to order extra provision for a prisoner, the order must be sanctioned by one or two visiting magistrates before it can be carried into effect. The disorders are chiefly rheumatic cases and itch: venereal cases are rare here, and scarcely any fever occurs. No death has happened since 1813, when the prison was first inhabited. The surgeon, in 1835, paid about 17 visits. From the commencement of 1836 up to September 8th he had not had occasion to come above six or seven times. The gaoler sometimes goes to the surgeon to fetch a medicine in trifling cases of indisposition.

Prison Offences and Punishment.

The prisoners committed here usually behave very well. Quarreling, sometimes stealing from each other, sometimes bad language, are the chief offences. Whipping has only been inflicted once in six years—20 lashes was the number. The instrument is not now in the house. The surgeon and under-sheriff were present. According to the statement of the gaoler, he makes use of no punishment more severe than reproof.

Inspection.

The visits of magistrates appear to be rare. I find only one entry from the beginning of this year (1836) to this 8th of September 1836.

In 1835 two visits are entered.

In 1834 six visits are entered; but they come also sometimes without entering their name, and the inmates are often very few.

Registration and Accounts.

1. A book, which serves as journal for magistrates, chaplain, and surgeon.
2. Gaoler's weekly journal.
3. Gaoler's private journal, for his own use.
4. Register of commitments.

Salaries.

Keeper £60 0 0

N.B. £4. 10s. is allowed annually to him for coals—
nothing else whatever. He has no other business
nor trade.

Chaplain 30 0 0

Surgeon (including medicines) 10 0 0

The chaplain's salary has been gradually raised, but not the surgeon's.

When an assistant is occasionally employed to aid the gaoler, he receives 10s. per week.

No fees are obtained from the prisoners.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

I.

The number of prisoners committed for trial in this county is happily most scanty. At the last summer assizes, held at Dolgelley, there were only two prisoners for trial; and at the last spring assizes, held at Bala, there were only five prisoners for trial. There has been no execution here since the year 1813, when two men were hung. The total commitments to this prison during the year 1835 were 19, of which one only was a female. There were, besides this woman, nine debtors, two misdemeanors, one bastardy case, one case of horse-stealing, one of administering unlawful medicine, and four more cases of felony.

From the 1st January 1836 to 8th September, only 14 have been committed, of whom one was a woman.

II. Number of prisoners confined at the date of this Report, Sept. 7, 1836, was six, among whom there was no female.

II. Progress of the Population.

In 1834 were committed 37 prisoners.

1833	"	39	"
1832	"	18	"
1831	"	30	"
1830	"	37	"
1829	"	18	"

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of
Merioneth.

Dolgelley.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion for
Merionethshire.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of
Merioneth.

Dolgelley.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion for
Merionethshire.

Conveyance of Convicts to Woolwich.

When there is only one convict sentenced to transportation the gaoler takes him unattended, but when there is more than one he is accompanied by an assistant. He receives £12 for conveying one convict, £26 for three, and £4 for the assistant, when it is necessary to have one. While the gaoler is absent from Dolgelley on this business a constable, or some other person, remains in the prison. The gaoler's father always lives in the prison.

General Suggestions.

I have recommended a few alterations which would tend to raise this gaol a little nearer to the standard of a county prison; among them I may notice briefly the following:—

The boundary wall to be raised in some parts, and revolving chevaux-de-frise to be fixed on it.

A matron to be appointed and regulated.

Separate beds for all.

The separate cells not now used to be prepared for the reception of prisoners.

A sick room for males and for females.

A bath, instead of a trough, in the open yard

A dark cell for refractory prisoners of both sexes.

A turnkey to be added to the establishment.

Silence to be enjoined.

Tobacco to be forbidden.

Visits and letters to be regulated accurately.

A regular diet, instead of the 2s. 6d. per week now allowed.

An allowance of soap.

CORWEN.

THE BRIDEWELL.

Corwen.
The Bridewell.

The bridewell, as it is called, is a small house, inhabited by the keeper, who is a shoemaker, his family, and the very few prisoners who are usually to be found here. The keeper receives only £10 per annum, but, acting also as the constable of Corwen, he sometimes gains a trifle in that capacity. A load of coals is now and then sent in by the county for the use of prisoners, if there happen to be any. The county allows 2s. 6d. for the weekly maintenance of each prisoner; but, as the profit of their labour goes to the county, they are often able to raise the requisite sum by their own toil; if not, the county supplies the deficiency. The keeper dresses their dinner, and provides warm water for them. In September 1836 I found two male prisoners here. One had been confined four weeks, and the other so long as fifteen weeks; one was a bastardy case, the other was a poacher. During the whole time which they had passed here together they had slept in one bed, in a small cell. Their labour consists in breaking stones, which they perform in a small yard at the back of the house. There are four cells appropriated to the use of the prisoners, two on the ground floor and two above. The greatest number of prisoners that the present keeper has ever had under his charge at the same time has been four; and the longest period during which he has detained any prisoner has been about 18 months; in 1834 one was kept here three months. In the year 1835 there was no prisoner at all. From the 1st of January 1836 to the 9th of September of the same year three prisoners have been admitted. During 16 years one prisoner escaped, and was not retaken; but all other attempts have been unsuccessful. During the above term of years the keeper has known no attempt to commit suicide.

The keeper makes a singular statement, to the effect that convicted prisoners have formerly been sent hither from Dolgelley, because there were at that time no means of finding labour for them at the county gaol of Dolgelley.

The cost of bringing 12 loads of stones to the prison, for the purpose of being broken, is 6s.; 1s. a-week is allowed to the keeper for assisting the stones in and out, and this shilling is only paid to him when the labour is actually in operation. The Inspector of Roads gives 1s. 6d. for a square yard of the stones when broken.

The prisoners are locked up at eight o'clock, both in winter and summer. In winter they are allowed to sit occasionally, after it is dark, in a front room, which looks upon the road.

The county finds no clothes, except such as are used to work in. At present there is only bedding enough in the house for one prisoner; and this is offered as an explanation of the fact which I have stated above of the two prisoners sleeping together. More bedding is said to be ordered, and the keeper has engaged not to suffer the same practice to occur again. The bedding is washed by the keeper's daughter, at the expense of the family. No soap is allowed for any purpose; nor is there any compensation nor provision made for pots, pans, or brushes.

There is ample room for criticism here, but the state of crime is so different in North Wales from that which exists in other parts of England, and the habits of the lower orders so different, that it would be unfair to apply the same standard to all. The prisoners who are placed here ought only to be such as are confined previously to commitment, and those remanded for further examination; it certainly ought not to serve as a house of correction, and, indeed, is only an indifferent lock-up house, placed under the care of a shoemaker, without rules, or the means of enforcing them; and conducted altogether with excessive parsimony and neglect of all fitness.

B A L A.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND LOCK-UP HOUSE.

THIS ought to be nothing more than a lock-up house, although it is sometimes used as a bridewell. It is a small building, forming a part of the Guildhall; and every feature betrays parsimony and neglect, but not on the part of the keeper. It is insecure, out of repair, and slovenly; it has no pump; there are no rules, neither printed nor manuscript.

The salary of the gaoler is £10 a-year: he is allowed two loads of coals a-year; he lives on the spot, and has been here three years. There are no prisoners at present.

From 6th December 1834 to March 1836, inclusive, fourteen prisoners have been admitted in all; of them, only one was a woman.

The greatest number of prisoners who have been here together at one time, during the three last years, has been only four at the time of the assizes.

The prisoner who made the longest stay remained ten weeks; another passed two months here; sometimes a fortnight is the length of stay, sometimes two or three days. Serious charges are only kept here two or three days, and are then sent to the county gaol at Dolgelley.

An allowance of 2s. 6d. per week is made by the county to each prisoner: they spend this as they please, but not in beer; tobacco may be purchased. Those who break stones must support themselves by their own labour.

The gaoler is a constable, and must go into the town if his presence is demanded; in which case his wife alone remains in charge of the prison.

The bedding allowed is a mattress and two blankets. No clothes are allowed, except two shirts—no shifts. Only one prisoner has escaped during the last three years.

No soap nor salt are allowed. The gaoler's wife washes for the prison, and receives no remuneration, finding even her own soap; the gaoler also supplies salt to the prisoners from his own store. All the cooking and boiling of water is also performed by the gaoler's wife in her own kitchen, providing herself with pots and pans and cups. The gaoler conveys prisoners to Dolgelley unattended: he often walks thither with them. It would be difficult to find a prison maintained at a smaller cost than this, or with less attention to what is usually deemed essential. On the ground floor is the gaoler's kitchen; behind it is a very small yard, 4 yards long, 3½ wide, in which stones are broken by the prisoners sentenced to hard labour. When broken, they are brought out into the street through the gaoler's kitchen. There are two privies in this yard. There are two cells on the ground floor; and above is a room with two double beds, in which men sometimes sleep two together. There is a separate cell for disorderly night charges. If a female comes, she is put into a cell on the first floor, looking down upon the yard. It is scarcely necessary to state that there is no chapel, no chaplain, no surgeon; nor are there any books provided by the county.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

DISBURSEMENTS of the County of Montgomery, for the year ending the day preceding January Quarter-sessions 1836, upon Prisoners:—

County of
Montgomery.

Felons, vagrants, &c.—

Apprehending, maintaining, and conveying to gaol, and other expenses, certified by examining magistrates, not included in prosecution bills . . . £79 1 0

Prosecutions.—At the assizes, 9 prosecutions . . . £165 4 1
At the sessions, 16 ditto . . . 177 9 11

342 14 0
38 0 0

Conveying convicts for transportation . . .

Gaol and house of correction—

Officers.—Gaoler and matron, a year's salary to last Michaelmas sessions 1835 . . . 100 0 0

Turnkey, the like . . . 31 10 0

Chaplain, the like . . . 40 0 0

Surgeon, the like . . . 21 0 0

Clerk of visiting justices, amount of his bill for the year 1834 . . . 9 11 8

202 1 8

Superannuated officers—

Retired gaoler, a year's annuity to July sessions 1835 . . . 20 0 0

Ditto matron, a year's annuity to Michaelmas sessions 1835 . . . 10 0 0

30 0 0

Maintenance of prisoners, on account of allowance in lieu of diet . . . 170 0 0

Clothing of prisoners . . . 47 4 0

Repairs and alterations.—On account of removing materials from the old gaol, and building the new stables and house for prisoners' caravan . . . 100 0 0

Repairs and whitewashing . . . 16 3 9

116 3 9

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
—
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
—
County of
Montgomery.

Tradesmen's bills for coal, oil, soap, and other articles supplied for the use of the prisoners	47	4	8
Caravan to convey prisoners to and from the assizes and quarter-sessions	35	0	0
Tread-mill—balance of account for	15	4	0
Under-sheriff's fees on discharge of prisoners for debt	5	8	0
Books and printing	5	18	5
Incidentals	20	15	7

MONTGOMERY.

COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Construction.

Montgomery.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion.

Wards or divisions in the prison	6
Day-rooms	8
Work-rooms	0
Tread-wheel houses, or divisions upon the tread-wheels	2
Receiving-rooms or cells	1
Divisions in the chapel	11
Infirmaries, or rooms for the sick—(Male)	1
Ditto ditto (Female)	0
Warm and cold baths, or bathing-tubs	0
Airing-yards	6

Number of sleeping cells—	Male.	Female.
Cells where one prisoner sleeps only	20	2
Cells where more than one prisoner sleeps	1	0
Prisoners the prison is capable of containing in all cases	93	14

This gaol was opened about four years ago. The whole expense of the building is said to have amounted to £13,000. It is solid, stands well, and is moderately dry; there is no boundary wall; and a public path runs in front of the gaol, which it would be very desirable, if possible, to remove to a greater distance. Things are not thrown over to the prisoners, as is the case in some other gaols similarly circumstanced; but this is owing to the scanty population and simple habits of the neighbourhood. The yards are not paved; there is a good supply of water, and a privy in each. The gaol is in general well ventilated, and it is not overlooked in any part, as there are no adjoining houses. The privies are moderately clean. There is no laundry, no prison kitchen. The day-rooms are glazed, but not the cells; the cells have shutters to put up at night. The females are not well arranged here: there is only one yard and one privy for all the women, whether debtors, untried, or convicted prisoners. The chapel requires some easy alterations: the women can be seen by the men, and a curtain ought to be placed in front of their division of the chapel; the preacher and gaoler might be advantageously raised on a higher floor in order to see what is going on around.

Management.

Silence is not as yet enforced here; and the intercourse in the different yards is unlimited during the day-time; at night the greater part of the prisoners are locked up in separate cells. The prisoners take their meals in their respective day-rooms. At present all the men are sleeping in separate cells, but I found four women sleeping in one cell on a large guard-room bedstead; two of the women were sleeping under one covering, and two under separate coverings. The reason assigned for such a mixture of the four in one room was that the women asked for it; and, indeed, the same answer is not unfrequently given in gaols where the discipline is rather relaxed; but I have earnestly recommended the magistrates not in future to allow any two to sleep together, and to place all of both sexes, at night, in separate cells, as far as possible. The prisoners do not work in the keeper's garden and ground. The magistrates have made new rules, but they have not yet carried them into effect, as they have not been sent back from the Home Office.

The conduct of the prisoners appears to be generally good. Prison offences are very rare; and, when they do occur, are punished by solitary confinement, which is considered by the prisoners themselves as the most severe punishment. Only two acts of disobedience, however, are represented to have happened here in the course of two years. There has been no whipping inflicted here for three years and a half, nor is there any instrument for whipping at present in the gaol. No fees are demanded from prisoners.

There has been no alarm from fire since the prison was built.

Labour.

There are two tread-mills; there is no other labour, except washing and cleaning yards, and repairing blankets and sheets. Each prisoner washes for himself or herself. A quarter of a pound of soap is allowed to the untried weekly; half a quarter to the convicted.

Hard labour	82
Not employed	42

The number of working hours per day is six. The wheels will hold at one time eight prisoners. The height of each step is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the ordinary velocity of the wheels per minute is seven revolutions. The number of feet in ascent performed daily is 37,800. The wheels make 2520 revolutions daily. The power is applied to raise water.

It must be remarked that, although six hours per day have been the ordinary rate of labour, two hours have lately been deducted from the six, in consequence of an apprehension that the present reduced scale of diet would render the prisoners too weak to undergo the longer period of toil.

Labour is here regarded generally as a punishment.

Diet.

The diet was very recently furnished by an allowance in money: that is happily now abandoned, and the prisoners receive daily 1½lb. of bread—no salt, and nothing else whatever. I have recommended that this diet should be increased by the daily addition of vegetables and gruel.

The debtors may receive three pints of ale daily, if they can afford to buy it.

The prisoner receives for clothing a cap, jacket, trousers, a shirt, if he has none, socks when they have none, and wooden clogs; but there is no fixed scale of clothing, nor of bedding.

Conveyance of Prisoners to Welshpool.

The assizes are always held at Welshpool, and the gaoler accompanies the prisoners thither. They are carried in an omnibus made for the purpose, and the bill is paid to the person who finds the horses. The prisoners usually return the same day. The gaoler is allowed nothing at present for his own expenses. The quarter-sessions are held at Montgomery.

Religious and other Instruction.

The chaplain reads the second lesson in Welsh, but all the rest in English. He performs full service once every Sunday, visits the prison occasionally, and converses with the prisoners, in their day-room. He keeps a journal, but not a character-book.

There is a good supply of books. The chaplain suggests to the magistrates when there is a necessity for more books.

He is curate to the parish of Cherbury.

The chaplain has been never asked to administer the sacrament by any prisoner, although he has often exhorted the prisoners to attend it. There is no provision made for instructing the prisoners to read.

Care of the Sick, Disease and Mortality.

The surgeon attends once a-week, according to the rules of the prison; he has been attached to the establishment during 14 years, and keeps a journal. The poor debtors are visited by him gratuitously. He has only twice during the whole term received any remuneration from a debtor. There is an infirmary appropriated for the male prisoners, but it is not fitted up as such: and this measure ought to be adopted without delay, although it may be true that such an apartment is seldom demanded in this prison. For the females there is at present no infirmary whatever; this deficiency may be easily remedied. The principal disorders are constipation, influenza sometimes, bowel complaints, itch, and venereal diseases. There was no malignant cholera here, notwithstanding that some cases appeared in the town. No death occurred here during the year 1835, nor has any taken place from the 1st of January till the 1st of October 1836. No epidemic disorder, with the exception of an occasional influenza, has been seen here during 14 years. The number of sick amounted in the year 1834 to 48; in the year 1835 the number was only 33; and from the 1st of January to the 1st of October 1836 there have been 27 on the sick list. There is no insane prisoner at present in confinement. There was one insane prisoner here about 16 years ago; but it is believed that there has been no more than one insane person confined here during the space of 18 years. From Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836 the number of sick is reported by the keeper as 37, and the greatest number of prisoners sick at one time as five. He also reports one death to have happened during the same period, which does not accord with the previous account which I obtained from the surgeon. Admitting, however, that one death may have occurred in the gaol during twelve months, amongst 124 prisoners, the circumstance detracts nothing from the favourable state of health in this gaol. According to the return from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835, the greatest number sick at one time was two, and one death occurred, out of 119 prisoners admitted.

Salaries.

Keeper £100. He enjoys no perquisites whatever, and this sum includes the remuneration for the matron, who is his wife. The matron states that she does not understand that she receives any salary, and this is a point which it would be better to define explicitly. The gaoler has lost the advantage of conveying convicts sentenced to transportation, which he formerly possessed, and which he considered to form a portion of his income.

Chaplain £40.

Surgeon £21. He finds medicines, and attends midwifery cases, if any such occur in the prison, for this sum.

One male turnkey £31. 10s. He receives no perquisite whatever.

Registration and Accounts.

I found here no printed book of accounts of any kind. There are magistrates', surgeon's, and chaplain's books, a book of criminals, of debtors, and a check-book for the diet.

A printed register, divided into columns, should be immediately procured, and regularly filled up by the keeper.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of
Montgomery.

Montgomery.
County Gaol and
House of Correction.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.Reports on
Separate Prisons.*County of
Montgomery.*Montgomery.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

I. Total Number of Prisoners confined in the course of the Year, from Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836.

	Males.	Females.
Debtors	12	3
Offences against the Customs, Excise, and Revenue Laws	2	0
Felons	28	7
Misdemeanors—		
Tried by a jury	18	2
Summary convictions	22	2
Under the Game Laws—Summary convictions	1	0
Under the Bastardy Laws	4	1
Under the Vagrant Act	17	1
In custody at the commencement of the year	22	2
Received under commitments, and who have not been in the custody of other keepers for the same offence	86	14
Total	108	16
	Males.	Females.
Above 17 years of age	104	14
Under 17 years of age	4	2

II. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison on the Date of this Return, October 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	4	0
Number of misdemeanors	7	0
Number of felons	3	2
Prisoners for trial	3	2
Prisoners under sentence	8	1
Total	22	3

III. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before:—

To this prison (once)	.	.	.	.	.	3	
Other prisons	.	.	.	.	.	0	
							Males. Females.
Returned to this prison during the year	.	.	.	.	.	2	0

IV.

	Males.	Females.
Average number of prisoners daily	16	2
The greatest number of prisoners at one time in the course of the year	24	3
Number of prisoners sentenced by courts of justice to solitary confinement	2	0
Punishment for offences within the prison—		
Irons		5

V. Cases of Pardon.

Three prisoners have been recommended for pardon during the last six years, on the ground of good conduct in prison.

VI. Diminished Population during the three last Years.

Committed to Montgomery Prison from Michaelmas 1833 to Michaelmas 1834	149
Ditto from Michaelmas 1834 to Michaelmas 1835	119
Ditto from Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836	100

VII. Religious and Moral Statistics.

Of 25 now in the prison 10 only are married; 10 males are Church of England men, and of these 10, 6 are married; the other 12 males and 3 females belong to different religious sects, and only 4 of these last are married.

VIII. Recommitments.

The recommitments are at present very few. At the time of my visit, out of 25 prisoners then confined here, only one had been committed before.

WELSHPOOL.

Welshpool.

Up to the present time (October 7, 1836) a lock-up house has existed here, consisting of two cells, adjoining the Record Office, on the ground floor, and with doors opening to the street. They are lighted and ventilated indifferently by an aperture protected by a grating, admitting of conversation with passengers, and even of the introduction of some articles through the gratings. In each cell is a wooden bedstead with straw and a rug. No keeper resided on the spot.

Recently four new cells have been built under the Assize Hall, and these are henceforth to be appropriated to the double purpose of a lock-up house for the town, and as a temporary residence for the prisoners brought from Montgomery county gaol to be tried at the county assizes, which are always held at Welshpool.

By an arrangement made with a neighbouring proprietor, the old lock-up house is to be made over to him, and he is to give in exchange a house adjoining the Assize Hall and the new cells; and in this house it is intended that the police serjeant shall reside. This will be an advantage, because the police serjeant will have the charge of these cells, as he formerly had of the old lock-up house. He supplies the prisoners with necessaries, and sends in his account to the magistrates. Prisoners have only usually remained in the old lock-up house a few hours, or at most a few days.

The new cells have a very small yard, in which is a privy. There is no pump in the yard, but there is one in the court of the adjoining house, which is to be the residence of the police serjeant. The cells are protected from the neighbouring houses by a double wall. At present they are not very well lighted, and not well ventilated, and, indeed, felt damp at the wet season at which I visited them. But they have only been finished six months, and a member of the town-council, who accompanied me, assured me that at other times he has found them dry. There are iron bedsteads ready, but at present no bedding, which is, however, shortly expected. A small corridor divides two cells on one side from two on the other. Women, if any come here, are to be placed on one side of this passage, and the men on the other. I recommended immediate measures to be adopted for drying the cells, and that they should come into actual use as soon as bedding arrived.

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.
Reports on
Separate Prisons.
County of
Montgomery.
Welshpool.

FLINTSHIRE.

Extract from the Treasurer's Account for the county of Flint from Epiphany Quarter to Michaelmas Quarter 1835, both inclusive, relating to the Disbursements upon Prisoners.

County of Flint.

Apprehending, conveying, and prosecuting offenders.

Constables apprehending and conveying	£71	6	5
Prosecutions at assizes	61	14	7
Ditto at sessions	94	1	0
Magistrates' clerks	29	6	11

Gaol Expenses.

Surgeon, one year's salary	30	5	6
Chaplain ditto	51	2	0
Gaoler ditto and extra allowance	136	2	0
Repairs of lead pipes	0	5	0
To Mr. * *, for alterations	241	2	0
Clothing, maintaining, and employing prisoners	184	17	0
Conveying prisoners for trial	7	11	6
Constables assisting gaoler at assizes and sessions	1	3	6
Reservoir keeper, year's salary	2	2	0

Houses of Correction.

Master of Overton, year's salary	16	2	0
Ditto of Mold, ditto	5	5	6
Ditto of Holywell, allowances	2	1	0
Maintenance at Overton	14	17	4
Ditto at Mold	4	18	11
Ditto at Holywell	0	8	6
Surgeon's attendance at Holywell and Overton	3	1	6
Repairs at Overton	0	7	0
Ditto at Mold	1	18	4
Expenses of funeral of a prisoner at Overton	1	16	0

FLINT.

COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR THE COUNTY OF FLINT.

Construction.

This prison is secure, dry, and well ventilated. The single cells are sufficiently large for separate confinement, provided that a proper quantity of out-door exercise is allowed, and suitable rules adopted. The female debtors, having no separate accommodation, are placed in the same ward with the male debtors, and have no separate yard nor privy. The day-rooms might easily be converted into separate cells.

Flint.
County Gaol and
House of Correction
for the
County of Flint.

Day-rooms	6
Divisions in the chapel	3
Infirmaries or rooms for the sick	0
Warm and cold baths or bathing-tubs	1
Airing-yards	6
Refractory cells—	
Dark	1

III.
SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Flint.

Flint.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion for the
County of Flint.

Apartments below ground	0
The number of cells appropriated for debtors is	5
For male prisoners	8
For female prisoners	2

There is a fire-place in each day-room, and one also in every debtor's room. Water is well supplied in every yard, and the privies are neat. A revolving chevaux-de-frise, placed all around, would be an expensive, but not a useless addition.

Management.

The day-rooms still continue in use here, but silence is enforced in a moderate degree. A few improvements may readily be accomplished; one is to set aside two rooms for the sick, one for males, and the other for females; another is to supply an additional privy in a yard in which there is at present none, so that the prisoners must be conducted out of their own yard to the next one for this purpose. The custom of suffering prisoners to work in the garden, and to carry stones outside, appears to me a mischievous one—it is true that a turnkey is present. I state my objection on this head reluctantly, because the chaplain, who is a most judicious and zealous functionary, sees strong reasons in favour of the practice. There has been no attempt at suicide known here during the twelve years that the chaplain has officiated. There has been no escape during the four years of the keeper's residence; one prisoner escaped in the last 12 years, but he was retaken. During four years there has been no alarm from fire. For every ward 100 lbs. of coals are provided weekly in the autumn, and 150 lbs. weekly in the winter. A most satisfactory diminution of the number of inmates has taken place, in consequence of increased strictness as to diet and discipline; this is conspicuous as to recommitments. The usual offences committed within the walls of the prison are swearing, and violations of silence, but offences are said to be rare, and are punished by solitary cells. The female prisoners are exclusively attended by the matron. Convicted prisoners are not permitted to receive visits nor letters from their friends during the first six months of their imprisonment, unless under peculiar and pressing circumstances. This recommendation of the Lords' Committee has been adopted with the best effects. The whole prison is neat. There has been no whipping here for four years.

Diet.

One pound and a half of bread is allowed daily to each prisoner; one pound and a half of potatoes enters also into the daily allowance, and the prisoners receive a quart of gruel morning and evening, obtained from three ounces of oatmeal. Salt is distributed without limit. If the debtor is destitute, he receives the value of the above scale of food in money. The untried are permitted to receive food from their friends without, but no ale nor spirits may enter, except only two pints of beer daily for a debtor. Comb, towel, and soap are allowed. Clothing consists for the men of a cap, jacket, trousers, clogs, a shirt changed once a-week, and stockings changed once a-week, or more frequently. The clothing for the women comprises shift, gown, stockings, and clogs. The bedding is composed of two blankets, a rug, and straw. The Chaplain thinks that the health of the prisoners has been better since the adoption of the present scale of diet.

Labour.

Breaking stones forms the more severe description of labour; the other employments are washing for the women, mending shoes and clothes, and the general cleaning of the prison. The hours allotted for labour are six daily in winter and nine in summer. The profits received from labour in the last year amounted to between £10 and £15, the whole of which sum went to the county.

Religious and other Instruction.

There is one service performed on Sunday, and one sermon is delivered: the service is rarely in the Welsh language, usually in English. Service is also performed on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Chaplain also attends on other days as occasion may require. When he comes to the gaol he takes an opportunity of conferring privately with the prisoners. He keeps no journal of the character of the prisoners, but a separate book is preserved to register his own attendance. There is no instruction in reading provided for the prisoners, but they are very well supplied with religious books. The debtors do not attend the chapel with regularity.

Recommendations for Pardon.

One prisoner was so recommended in the year 1832, on the ground of good conduct.

Care of the Sick, Disease, and Mortality.

The number of cases of illness during the year 1835 was twenty-two. They consisted principally of stomach complaints and cutaneous eruptions, of scrofula, venereal disease, ophthalmia, gout, coughs, constipated bowels, and ulcerated leg. The above forms a fair annual average of the number of sick. The surgeon has attended the gaol above twenty-four years, and during that period no malignant or epidemic disease has prevailed in it, only occasionally a solitary case of mild fever. There have been only five deaths during his entire attendance, one from small-pox, three in worn-out subjects from stomach disease, ulcerated bladder, enlarged prostate, and hydrothorax, and one woman in child-bed.

Salaries.

Keeper, £130 (out of this sum the keeper provides also a turnkey, but no extra allowance

is made to either party in any shape); chaplain, £50; surgeon, £30 (for this sum he furnishes also all the medicines which may be required); matron, £20.

STATISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

I. Prisoners confined in the course of the Year 1835:—

	Males.	Females.
Debtors	14	1
Under the Game Laws—		
Tried by a jury and summary convictions	16	0
Under the Bastardy Laws	2	0
Under the Vagrant Act	18	0
Felons	13	0
Total	75	6

II. The Number and Description of Prisoners in the Prison at the Date of this Return, 10th September 1836:—

	Males.	Females.
Number of debtors	1	0
Number of misdemeanors	7	0
Number of felons	4	2
Prisoners for trial	1	0
Prisoners under sentence	10	2
Total	12	2

III. Progress of the Population:—

Total number of prisoners confined in 1832	74
" " 1833	98
" " 1834	82

IV. Expenditure.

Some of the prison expenses during the year 1835:—

Prison diet for the year	£121	3	4½
Extra allowances by order of the surgeon	0	0	0
Male and female clothing	1	18	9

The weekly cost of the diet of each prisoner is about 3s.

V. Registration and Accounts.

The following books are kept in the prison:—The chaplain's, surgeon's, and visiting magistrates'; the prison register, gaoler's private journal, and baker's book.

SHROPSHIRE.

OSWESTRY.

BOROUGH GAOL, OR LOCK-UP HOUSE.

Although formerly used as a borough gaol, this small building appears destined in future to serve a more appropriate purpose, that of a lock-up house, under the control of the county magistrates. Prisoners were formerly detained here so long as eleven weeks, five weeks, or a month. It is not secure. The keeper receives the humble salary of 8s. weekly. He has been here about six years. His wife is not called matron, nor paid as such. He has no allowance of coals nor candles; in the winter, when a prisoner happens to be here, 1s. a-week is given for coals.

There are two yards; each yard contains two cells, and each yard has also a privy. The gaoler's apartment is in the centre. There is no pump. For the diet of each prisoner 4d. a-day is allowed. The gaoler buys what they desire. The allowance was formerly 5d. daily. No soap is provided for the prisoners; nor are any brushes nor mops furnished. For the washing of the bedding 8s. is annually given to the gaoler's wife. One prisoner was here on the day of my visit. During the year 1834, 24 prisoners were admitted here from the county, and 14 from the town. During the first seven months of the year 1836 no prisoner was admitted here; only some disorderly night charges occurred. There are two registers, one for the town, the other for the county. There are two sets of bedding. There is no chaplain nor surgeon, and no chapel. There has been no death for six years; three escapes have been made during that time.

III.

SOUTHERN
AND WESTERN
DISTRICT.

Reports on
Separate Prisons.

County of Flint.

Flint.
County Gaol and
House of Correc-
tion for the
County of Flint:

County of Salop.

Oswestry.
Borough Gaol, or
Lock-up House.

ERRATUM:

In the Report for 1836 (page 34), under the head of "Leicester County Gaol," instead of *one* male turnkey, *three* ought to have been enumerated, at salaries of £52 per annum each.

