

Report of the Committee of the Institution for Idiot Children and Those of Weak Intellect, No. 35, Belvedere, Bath; with a list of subscriptions and donations, and an account of receipts and disbursements for the year ending March 25, 1850. Also a brief account of the progress of some of the inmates.

Contributors

Institution for Idiot Children (Bath, England)

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John C. Stewen 19

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
INSTITUTION FOR IDIOT CHILDREN

AND
THOSE OF WEAK INTELLECT,
No. 35, BELVEDERE, BATH;

WITH A
LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS,

AND AN ACCOUNT OF
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the Year ending March 25, 1850.

ALSO A
BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRESS OF SOME
OF THE INMATES.

BATH:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH HOLLWAY, 10, MILSOM STREET,
AND 9, JOHN STREET.

1850.

Visitors.

Rev. FOUNTAIN ELWIN || Rev. GEORGE GARDINER.

Committee.

The MARCHIONESS of THOMOND.

Mrs. COLE.

Mrs. HAYES.

Mrs. ELWIN.

Miss C. WHITE.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

Mrs. FINCH.

Miss RANKING.

Hon. Physician.

Hon. Surgeon.

~~Dr.~~ HODGES.

| R. N. STONE, Esq.

*Dr. Falconer*_____

Mr. HENRY MILSOM, Collector, 7, Duke Street.

REPORT.

THE Committee are thankful to report, at the close of the fourth year of the existence of this Institution, that no discouragement has arisen to their labours.

The advancement of the children in development of intellect, and the improvement in their general health and habits, continue equal to past years; whilst the benefit they experience from patient and gentle training is clearly manifested by the tone of contentment and happiness pervading their tempers, and conduct towards each other, as also towards their teachers.

One of the children died in consequence of the fever which prevailed in Bath during the late Autumn; the number now in the Institution amounts to 19.

The nature of this Institution demands a considerable expenditure,—a Matron, two resident Teachers, and three Servants being absolutely necessary, and the parents of the poorer class of chil-

dren being unable to contribute any thing towards the expences of the Institution.

The removal of the Establishment also to a larger and more commodious house, and the additional furniture, &c. required, compel the Committee urgently to solicit increased aid to their funds, (the present annual receipts barely meeting the annual expenditure), and to request the public to visit the Institution, and to make known, as extensively as possible, that it is open to all parts of the kingdom, and to every class of society.

The parlour boarders have separate apartments, teachers, &c. and their comfort is in every respect attended to. From the size of the present house, the Committee have accommodation for six parlour boarders, and should they obtain the full number, the present terms of £80 per annum will be reduced.

The unremitting attention of the Medical Gentlemen connected with the Institution again claims the grateful thanks of the Committee.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Board and Washing £12 per Annum.

Parlour Boarders:

Board, Washing, & Instruction ... £80 per Annum.

RULES.

All Applicants for admission to be under the age of 10.

Each Pupil to remain for a period of 5 years, except where, after a fair trial, the case shall be considered hopeless.

All Payments to be made quarterly in advance.

Applications for admission to be addressed to the Secretary, 35, Belvedere, Bath.

*Since printing it has been deemed
advisable to form an intermediate
class at £30 per annum. also
to raise the lower class to £15
& lower the p. boarders to £65
per annum.*

STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS for the Year ending March 25, 1850.

Receipts.				Disbursements.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and Donations	239 13 0	Balance due to Treasurer	...	...	55 11 0
Payments from Pupils	305 15 0	House Rent	...	...	35 0 0
Sale of "Christmas Conversations," by Lady Chas. Fitzroy	13 15 0	Board and Washing for Pupils	...	...	221 6 6
Sale of "The Taught of the Father," by Major Rowlandson	0 18 0	Salaries and Board of Matron, resident Teachers, &c.	...	...	117 11 0
Contribution Box	3 18 10	Servants' Wages and Board	...	...	52 17 0
Sale of Work	0 14 1	Furniture, House Linen, Carpenter, Glazier, Mason, &c.	...	...	44 11 3
Bazaar	130 7 6	Matron's Quarterly Accounts	...	...	20 16 9
				Washing House Linen, &c.	...	...	5 10 10
				Chemist	...	...	6 1 0
				Coal and Wood	...	...	15 2 0
				Soap and Candles	...	...	6 8 7
				Printing Reports and Advertising	...	...	6 11 0
				Sundries, from Pay book	...	...	12 4 4
				Removal of Furniture from Walcot Parade to Belvedere	...	...	2 0 0
				Hire of Room for Bazaar	...	...	4 18 6
				Collector	...	...	4 5 6
							610 15 5
				In hands of Treasurer	...	...	24 6 0
				In Savings Bank	...	...	60 0 0
							£695 1 5

April 18, examined and found correct,

MARY ANNE WYLDE BROWNE.
JANE ELIZA FITZGERALD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

				DON.			SUB.		
				£	s	d.	£	s.	d
Acland Lady Palmer	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Ames Mrs.	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Anderdon Capt.	..	..	.....	6	1	0			
Anderdon Mrs. Wm.	..	..	.....	1	0	0	1	0	0
Aplin Mrs. E.	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Atherley Miss	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Austin Miss	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Ayrey Miss	..	..	.....	0	10	0	0	10	0
Aylwin R., Esq.	..	..	.....	2	2	0	1	1	0
Bannerman Sir Charles	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Bannerman Miss	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Batley Miss	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Bayley C. D., Esq.	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Baines Mrs.	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Bealey Dr.	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Berry Lady	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Blackwood H., Esq.	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Blair the Misses	..	..	.....				0	15	0
Boss Mrs.	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Boodle R., Esq.	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Bowles Miss	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Browne Mrs. Wogan	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Browne Mrs.	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Brodrick the Hon. and Rev. Wm.	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Brenchley Miss	..	..	.....	0	2	6			
Brickenden Mrs.	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Briggs Miss, by Lady Chas. Fitzroy	....			0	5	0			
Bullen Admiral	..	..	.....	0	5	0			
Borough Mrs. Burton	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Buckle Vice-Admiral	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Carried over				14	5	6	13	3	0

					DON.			SUB.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward					14	5	6	13	3	0
Butler Miss	..	..	..	.....	0	5	0			
Butts Miss	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Budgen Miss	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Burmingham G., Esq.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Burns George	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Burmester Miss	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Brymer Archdeacon	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Bowman Mrs. Alfred	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Cabanel D., Esq.	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Carpenter Mr. R. W.	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Campbell Lady	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Church Mrs.	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Chrishop Miss	..	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Clapham Mrs. Gen.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Clare W., Esq., by A. Lowe, Esq.	....				1	0	0			
Clarke Miss	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Cock the Rev. J., by Lady Chas. Fitzroy					0	10	0			
Cole Mrs., for 1848 and 1849	..	..	..	.....				2	0	0
Ditto	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Cole Miss, collected by	..	..	..	.....	0	5	0			
Coles W., Esq.	..	..	..	.....	2	0	0			
Collins Mrs.	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Collingridge J., Esq.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Coles Mrs.	..	..	..	.....	0	2	6			
Cuming Mrs.	..	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Cuming Miss	..	..	..	.....	0	10	0	0	10	0
Cumin Dr.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	6
Cole Miss	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Craven Miss	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Dawn Mrs.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Deacon Mrs. Chas., by Miss Rankin	....				0	5	0			
Deare J., Esq.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Delavaud Mrs.	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0	1	0	0
Denby Mrs.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Davenport Mrs.	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Dillwyn Mrs.	..	..	..	.....	0	5	0			
Dixon Messrs., by A. Lowe, Esq.	.....				0	10	0			
Dobbs Miss	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Dolbin Miss	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
Douglas Mrs.	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Carried over					25	18	0	30	18	6

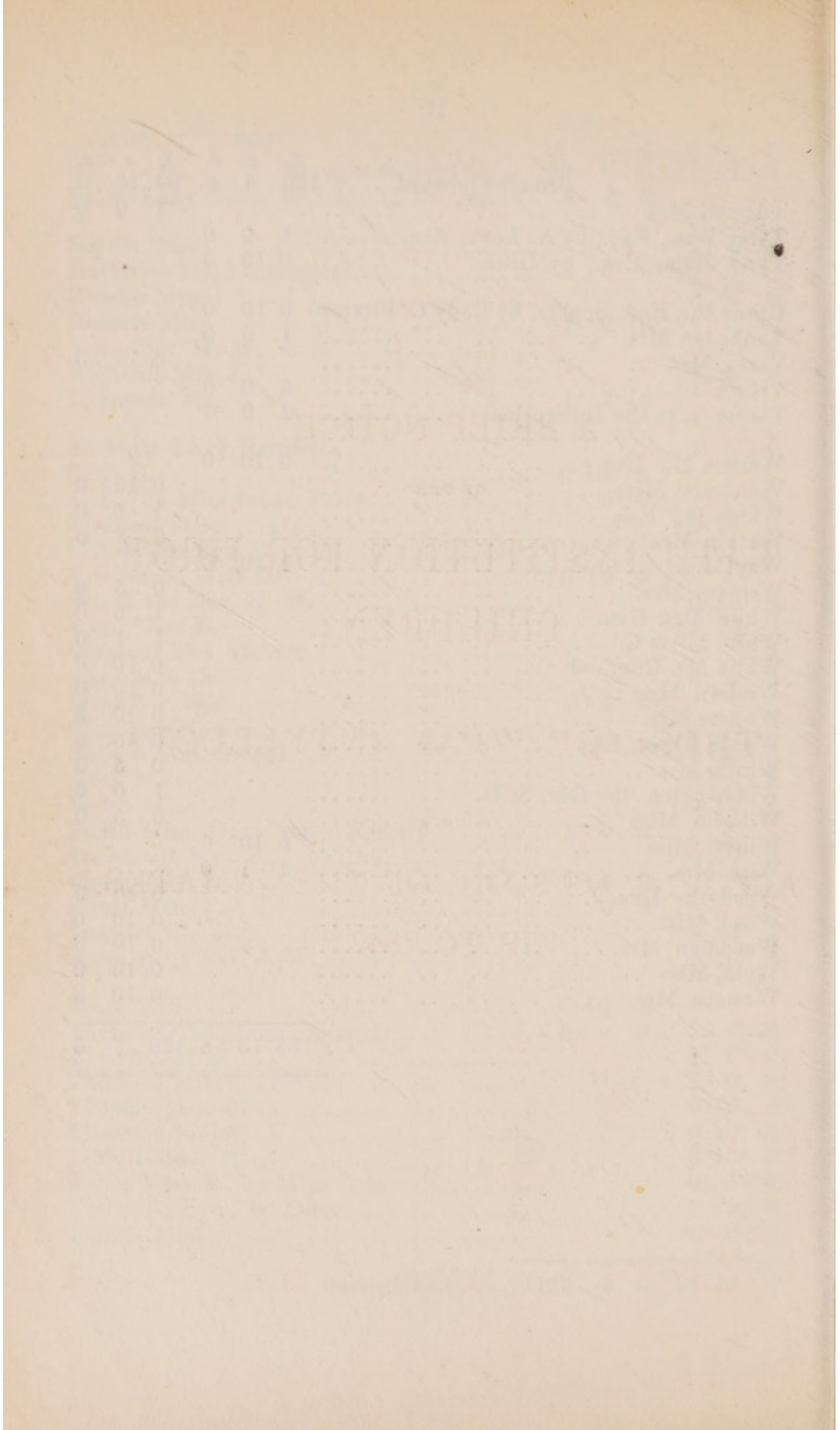
					DON.			SUB.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward					25	18	0	30	18	6
Dunlop D. M., Esq.	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Dyer Mr.	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Eckersall Miss	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Eckersall Miss C.	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Ellis A. J., Esq.	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Elton Miss	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Elwin the Rev. F.	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Ernst Mrs.	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Ewart Mrs. Col.	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
E. G. W.	..	..	..	..	2	0	0			
Fitzgerald Miss	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Fitzgerald Miss H.	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Fitzpatrick Mrs.	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Foskett Mrs.	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Foskett Miss	..	..	..	..	5	0	0	1	0	0
Field the Rev. John	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Freeman Miss	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Fryer Mrs.	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Friend a	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Friend a	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Friend a, by Mrs. Clementson	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Friend a, by Mrs. Rathbone	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Friend a, by Rev. P. Hall	..	..	..	..	2	0	0			
Friend a, by the Marchioness of Thomond,	..	..	..	..	5	0	0			
Friend a	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Friends, by Miss H. Cole	..	..	..	..	0	8	6			
Finch Mrs.	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Friend a	..	..	..	..	0	7	0			
Granville the Dowager Lady	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Goldsworthy Mrs.	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Gardiner the Rev. George	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Gibbons Mrs.	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Grove —, Esq.	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Grevile Miss	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Gould Mrs., by Mrs. Delavaud	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Greg Miss Sarah	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
G. H. H., by A. Lowe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
G. H.	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Carried over					47	3	6	45	15	6

						DON.			SUB.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward						47	3	6	45	15	6
Hayes the Rev. H.	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Hayes Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Hayes the Rev. Charles	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Hayes Mrs. Thos.	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Hall the Rev. P.	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Haig Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	0	1	0	0
Harford Miss F.	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0			
Hargood Lady	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Hancock Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Hale Major	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hale Mrs. John	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hall Miss	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Henderson Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Herrick Miss	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hellicar the Misses	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Herriott Miss	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hewitt Capt.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Heywood Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Hogg the Rev. J. R.	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	0			
Holford Robert, Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hooper Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Hollway Mr. Joseph	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0	0	10	0
Houlton Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Howse the Misses	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Hudleston Mrs. R.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Hudleston Wm., Esq.	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Hunt Thos., Esq.	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Hunter Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Humphreys Mrs. F. H.	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Ingram Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Innes Major-Gen.	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Joseph Capt.	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Johnson Mr.	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Kaye Capt.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Keith the Ladies	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Kelson Miss A.	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Knipe the Rev. R.	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Landon Mrs.	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0	3	0	0
Lawrence Sir Henry	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Lawrence Lady	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Carried over						72	15	6	64	11	6

						DON.			SUB.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward						72	15	6	64	11	6
Lawrence Major .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Lawrence Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Lawrence R. C., Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Lavie Mr. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	0			
Lee Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Longley the Misses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Lowe Mr. A., sen. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Lyon Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Lyte Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Lady a, by Miss Ranking .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Lady a .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Maltby Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ditto, 2nd donation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Mc. Cale Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Mair Miss, by Mrs. Finch .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Mair Miss E., by Ditto .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0			
Meyrick Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Middleton the Dowager Viscountess .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Middleton Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0			
Miles Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Miller Mr. A., by A. Lowe, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Monk Mrs., by Lady Chas. Fitzroy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Monckton Miss L. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				1	1	0
Murchison Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Murchison Miss M. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Murchison K., Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0	1	1	0
Nicholson Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Noel Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Obins the Rev. A. E. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				1	0	0
Ormond Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0			
Ottley Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	5	0
Parry Miss Jones .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Parkinson Felix, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Peel Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0	1	1	0
Pollard Mrs. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0			
Powys Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Powlett Lady Wm. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Prime Miss .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..				0	10	0
Carried over						99	5	6	77	19	6

						DON.			SUB.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward						99	5	6	77	19	6
Puller Lady Giles, by Lady C. Fitzroy ..						3	0	0			
Rainie Miss									1	0	0
Rathbone Mrs., Liverpool						6	0	0			
Rhodes Miss									0	5	0
Roberts Miss						1	0	0			
Ross Capt. W. W.									0	10	0
Richards Mrs. J.									0	5	0
Reynolds Mr.						1	1	0			
St. Maur Lady Henrietta									1	0	0
S. C. G.						0	10	0			
S. L., by Miss Jones Parry						1	0	0			
Sandford Miss									0	10	0
Saltmarshe Mrs. C.									1	1	0
Saltmarshe Miss D.						0	10	6			
Scarth the Rev. H. M.									0	10	0
Scott Miss E.									0	10	0
Seymour Mrs. Hobart									1	1	0
Shaw Mrs. Col.									0	5	0
Short Mr. Wm.						0	2	6			
Skelton Mrs. Gen.									0	10	0
Skelton Mrs. George									0	10	0
Slack Miss									0	10	0
Smith Miss									0	10	0
Smith Miss, Gunfreston Rectory						1	0	0			
Stainforth Mrs. F.									0	10	0
Strong Mrs. J.						0	5	0			
Strutt Miss						1	0	0			
Stothert R., Esq.									0	5	0
Sproule the Rev. J. W.									0	10	0
Teale Mrs.						0	10	0			
Thomond the Marchioness of						5	0	0	1	0	0
Thomson Mrs.									1	0	0
Thomson Miss									1	0	0
Thomas Mrs. B.									0	10	0
Thornton Major									0	10	0
Tickell Mrs.									0	10	0
Toller Miss R., by Miss Cole									0	5	0
Toller T., Esq., by Ditto									1	0	0
Tufnell Miss									1	0	0
Carried over						120	4	6	94	16	6

						DON.			SUB.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward						120	4	6	94	16	6
Tugwell Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Tyrer Wm., Esq., by A. Lowe, Esq.	..	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Tyrer John, Esq., by Ditto	..	..	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Upton the Hon. Sophia, by Lady C. Fitzroy						0	10	0			
Vanhagen Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....	1	0	0			
Vezey Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Visitor a	..	..	..	..	.....	5	0	0			
Visitor a, to the Institution	..	..	..	..	.....	2	0	0			
Walters H., Esq.						0	10	0			
Watchurst Miss	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Warde G., Esq.	..	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Watson Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Way Miss	..	..	..	..	.....	1	10	0			
Wemyss Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
White Mrs. Gen.	..	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
White Miss C.	..	..	..	..	.....				1	1	0
White Mr. Edmund	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Western Miss C. J.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Whitter Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Wintle Thos., Esq.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Wintle Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Widdrington the Rev. S. H.	..	..	..	..	.....				1	0	0
Wilsonn Miss	..	..	..	..	.....				0	5	0
Wilson Miss	..	..	..	..	.....	0	10	0			
Wise Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....	1	1	0			
Wood the Rev. J.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Wood Miss	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Woodman Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Wolff Miss	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
Western Mrs.	..	..	..	..	.....				0	10	0
						£133 15 6			106 7 6		



A BRIEF NOTICE
OF THE
BATH INSTITUTION FOR IDIOT
CHILDREN
AND
THOSE OF WEAK INTELLECT;
WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE INMATES,
UP TO 1849.

A BRIEF NOTICE, &c.

A BRIEF NOTICE

BATH INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN
CHILDREN

THOSE OF WEAK INTELLIGENCE

ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE INMATES

UP TO 1810

THE INMATES OF THE BATH INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN
UP TO 1810

A BRIEF NOTICE, &c.

AT a time when the Education of Children of deficient intelligence is beginning to attract general attention, it is thought that a short account of the Bath Institution for Idiot Children may not be without interest, more especially as it is believed to be the first Institution of the kind which has been established in England, where the endeavour is made simply with a view to the benefit of the children, and not in the desire or expectation of making money by them. In Switzerland, France, and other parts of the Continent, Institutions for this object have been for some years successfully carried on. The zealous efforts of Dr. Guggenbühl, and other earnest minded laborers in a heretofore neglected field, are, it is hoped, too generally known and appreciated to require notice in this place. The indifference hitherto shown to the subject in this country is matter of deep regret; happily public attention is now being directed to the cause, which will, it is hoped, meet with that sympathy and assistance it so fully deserves.

The Institution more immediately under notice was commenced in April, 1846, with three pupils.

The immediate cause of the experiment being tried was the knowledge that this class of children was frequently subject to the grossest ill-usage and neglect. In the case of one of the three pupils first admitted, it was proved that her parents had not only shown a total indifference to her training and conduct, but that, finding her troublesome, they often beat her violently, and then, to avoid the fruits of the excitement their own injudicious treatment had caused, fastened her with a rope to the shutter, while they pursued their own employments; thus leaving her to the unchecked influence of the angry and revengeful feelings which they had themselves roused, and which are often so strong where the intellect is weak. It is evident that endless trouble alone could result from such a course of proceeding. In the case of another Idiot child, it was known that her friends had employment away from home, and were consequently absent the whole of the day. To ensure her safety during their absence the poor girl was shut up in a room, entirely alone, without one object of interest or occupation to break the monotony of her existence. Few *sound* minds could hold out against such a mode of life; what then could be expected from an enfeebled one, but that the spark of intelligence originally possessed should fade and die? To redeem such cases from total mental darkness was deemed an object worthy of trial. That the very parents of such children have often neither time nor inclination to give them the attention they require, forms a strong plea for the establishment of Institutions where they will receive the amount of watchful care which their situation demands. Hitherto, ex-

cepting those cases received for profit, the Workhouse or Lunatic Asylum has alone afforded a refuge for these unfortunates,—both manifestly improper abodes for those who are capable of instruction. The idea of educating these children met at first with little encouragement; many, indeed, were quite opposed to the plan, it being generally supposed that no real benefit would result from the attempt. Little assistance was therefore to be expected where such was the opinion. Other difficulties were to be overcome. The want of sufficient funds was a check daily felt; and the ignorant indifference of too many parents in the lower ranks of life, with the physical infirmity of most of the children, were no slight impediments to encounter. Another serious obstacle was the difficulty of finding Teachers competent to control and guide such children. The inconvenience arising from this cause can hardly be estimated by those who have not had personal experience of the class of mind to be worked upon. In many cases the child of weak intellect has been entirely neglected; in others harshly or violently used; in others, again, with in truth, yet greater cruelty, so weakly indulged that every propensity is unresistingly yielded to, and the faint gleams of reason and conscience all but extinguished. Keeping this in view the advancement of the children of this Institution may be considered very satisfactory; the three years during which it has been in operation have witnessed much improvement in character and conduct. The inmates now number 19, in charge of whom are a Matron, Resident Governess, and three Daily Teachers, besides servants. The bodily health of

many of the children has altered for the better since their admission, and it has only been found necessary to dismiss two cases as incapable of improvement. The children are instructed, as their capabilities permit, in reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography; and their acquaintance with external objects extended and improved. Religious knowledge and moral culture are directly or indirectly kept in view in every pursuit. Control of temper, obedience, order, and kindness to each other, are steadily inculcated; and sufficient progress has been made in these respects to justify much hope for their future conduct. The children show considerable affection for their teachers, and are in general happy and contented. Corporal punishment is not permitted in the Establishment, but strict obedience is endeavoured to be enforced by means of moral influence. A brief notice of two or three cases may be desirable, as shewing the working of the system.

J. D. was 10 at the time of his admission, the child of healthy parents and not deficient from birth; but when two years of age he had a stroke of paralysis, which deprived him of the power of speech and almost entirely of the use of the left side. From that time he gave proofs of the imbecility which caused him to be brought to the Institution. He was then helpless as an infant, could scarcely feed himself, and any attempt at exertion, either mental or physical, was generally followed by tears and other signs of distress. By degrees a more healthy tone was instilled, and he was induced to take an interest in various occupations. For some months his progress was very

slow, but he has since fully responded to the exertions made for his improvement. His steady attention, and the lively interest he takes in his employments, prove the increased activity of mental power. Some attempt had been previously made to instruct him, but without success; his present progress is therefore the more deserving of notice. Judicious treatment has so far developed his powers of mind, as to render him capable of receiving ideas which would have been supposed far above his comprehension; and his spontaneous remarks sometimes surprise even his teachers. He has been nearly three years in the Institution, and has acquired a very fair comprehension of all ordinary subjects, can write a good hand, read with facility and pleasure, and is receiving instruction in arithmetic. Though his bodily health is much improved, the weakness of his left side precludes his performing any manual labour, for which he has otherwise quite sufficient capacity. He had been subject to fits in his infancy, and it was stated by his parents that any sudden fright or shock would cause an attack of that kind. It is satisfactory to be able to mention that he has not had any fit since his admission. It is confidently hoped that by remaining a few years longer under training at the Institution he will hereafter prove a help and not a burden to his friends.

M. N. was 14 at the time of her admission. She was born blind and became idiotic in consequence of fits, to which she was subject from her infancy. Being an orphan and dependent on the care of a poor relation, little pains had been taken to rouse her mind, or even to find her employment. Her

only amusements were walking up and down the room uttering incoherent sentences, or twisting a small stick between her fingers, with which she would be satisfied for hours. Her age and want of sight presented peculiar difficulties, for her sense of touch never having been exercised it was now nearly lost; the usual mode therefore of conveying to the Blind ideas of common objects was impracticable. However it was soon found that her mind could be reached by other means, and though incapable of much actual employment, her intellectual progress was clear and decided. Whereas on her admission she would reply in the most senseless manner to the simplest question, after having been some time under instruction she would converse so rationally as to cause some doubt as to her original deficiency in the minds of those not accustomed to constant intercourse with her. Her clear conception of the leading truths of Christianity was fully evinced by her conduct and conversation, as can be satisfactorily attested by those in the habit of associating with her. After a residence of two years and eight months it was found necessary to remove her from the Institution on account of the increased violence of her fits. She manifested great reluctance to quitting the house, and expressed much attachment to her teachers and attendants. The day before her departure she sent for one of the former to express her sorrow at leaving, and her conviction—an idea which never left her—that she should die soon after her return home, voluntarily adding a hope that she should meet her teacher in Heaven, naming at the same time the only true ground of acceptance with God. There is every

reason to hope that the labour bestowed on this poor girl has not been in vain.

E. P. was 10 years of age when admitted, idiotic from birth. His appearance and bearing gave evidence of great mental deficiency. He showed much reluctance to be instructed, and his memory was so little retentive that it required much persevering effort before any real progress was made. An additional impediment was found in the difficulty of controlling his attention. He did not seem to have any power over the organ of sight, nor sufficient mental capacity to fix his thoughts on any given subject, however simple. This, of course, much retarded his progress. Three times did he appear to be improving in reading and writing, and as often was he obliged to be put back to the very rudiments of these acquirements; the power he had for a time possessed appeared suddenly to leave him. But by the exercise of patience and ingenuity he was again led on to some degree of proficiency, and he has now been able to write two letters to his mother, who had formerly assured his teachers that any attempt to teach him writing would fail, as she had herself used every endeavour to instruct him without success. He has now been two years in the Institution, and his mind has opened to the reception of much general knowledge, and there is no doubt but that he will be capable of being instructed in some trade. A remarkable improvement has taken place in this child's disposition, which, from being extremely selfish and unyielding, has become gentle, liberal, and considerate; he shows much kindness to his younger schoolfellows, whom he will at all times assist and protect as far as lays in his power.

S. M., deficient from birth, 9 years old when admitted; perfectly ignorant and untrained, but gentle and tractable. She had not received any instruction, and required much stimulating before she would take an interest in any employment. She has been one year in the Institution. Her sluggishness has been in a great measure overcome and her progress is now most satisfactory. Her attention has been much directed to needle-work and household employments, in both of which she promises to excel. From having been allowed much license at home there was some difficulty in bringing her into habits of obedience; but she is now so steady and orderly as to cause little trouble, and even to encourage a hope that if spared she will prove a useful servant in the Establishment.

Enough has been said to show the practicability of improving the deficient intellect, and ameliorating the condition of a class which may justly be deemed the most heavily afflicted of any of our fellow creatures. The necessity for Establishments similar to the one now under consideration, is sufficiently shown by the fact that this class numbers upwards of 4000 in the work-houses alone of England and Wales. It has been further ascertained that, in the estimates of pauper Lunatics, in many cases those returned as insane have been deficient from birth, as will be proved by the following extract from a report of the Lancaster Lunatic Asylum, written by one whose words on this subject are justly entitled to every consideration, and to whose untiring zeal and energy the cause is so much indebted.* “When increased provision for the

* Late Superintendent of the Lancaster County Asylum, now a Commissioner in Lunacy.

insane poor in this county was contemplated, it was thought desirable to direct the attention of the magistrates to the important fact, that a large proportion of paupers returned as insane in the county of Lancaster are congenital idiots or imbeciles. For, at the same time that the propriety of mixing such parties with those attacked with insanity appears very questionable, there can be no doubt of the advantages to be derived from judicious and systematic training, when applied early in life and conducted by competent persons, in Institutions specially adapted to the purpose. Entertaining a deep sense of the importance of this matter, both in an economical and moral point of view, every effort has been made to collect as many facts as possible, bearing on the subject, so as to give a just idea of the extent of the evil, as well as of the necessity for a speedy remedy." From former enquiries it appeared that out of the 688 paupers returned as lunatics, 185 had been attacked with insanity, and 503 had been deficient from birth. Enquiring further into the age of those receiving parochial relief, it was proved, "as might naturally have been anticipated, that a great many of those born mentally imperfect amongst the lower classes, are not brought into the returns until they have reached that period of life, when, with an ordinary amount of faculty, they would have been able to maintain themselves. Whatever may be the circumstances which lead to this, the fact is certain, that the large body of idiotic paupers do not attract notice until they have passed the period of youth. They are brought forward and cast on the public as a permanent charge, when little hope is left of

remedying their defects, and rendering them capable of contributing to their own support. If, to the returns already made of those idiots who receive parochial relief, we were able to add the number of very young idiotic pauper children for whom assistance has not yet been sought, and if also we were able to ascertain the actual number belonging to that class of the poor placed just above pauperism, we should have a more correct idea of the extent to which such mental imperfections prevail among the lower grades of society." These facts have recently been brought before the public in the "Retreat of the Abendberg"; but it is thought they cannot be too much dwelt upon, as stronger evidence of the necessity for separate Establishments for Idiot Children can hardly be adduced. If these things be so, can we be justified in neglecting claims so urgent, so imperative? The success of the Bath Institution will afford encouragement to others to commence the same work elsewhere, and surely none can be considered more necessary—more charitable. The progress of such an Institution must unavoidably be very gradual; that even a measure of success has been already granted, is, to those concerned, subject of thankfulness. The experience of the past affords strong hope for the future, if only means be supplied to carry out the plans now in contemplation. These are, in the first place, to secure a large and more commodious dwelling; and, secondly, thoroughly to instruct the Inmates, according to their capacity, in various trades and employments, by which they may be able hereafter to support, or assist to support, themselves. For it must be remembered this Institution is strictly for education

and training, and not intended to be an asylum or permanent abode. And now that the necessity for the undertaking and its feasibility have, it is believed, been sufficiently shown to interest, not the feelings only, but the judgement of the benevolent, it is hoped that the requisite aid will not be wanting. Without a free and liberal support the operations of the Institution will be materially weakened, and its amount of usefulness sensibly diminished. Many words are not needed when facts speak for themselves. In most cases these afflicted children are sunk in the depths of a mere animal existence; and let it ever be borne in mind that a degraded mental, must invariably be more or less a degraded moral condition. In pleading claims like those we now advocate too urgent language can hardly be used. We ask the means of restoring to society, to self respect, to a knowledge of their duties and of their Creator, a mass of debased fellow-creatures,—those who otherwise must inevitably grow up in ignorance, sin, and misery. Is it too much to ask for aid in such a cause? In strong and confident hope of increased liberality towards this Institution, it is now commended to the cordial sympathy and support of a Christian public.

A FURTHER NOTICE OF THE CONDUCT OF SOME OF THE INMATES, TO 1850.

*Case of J. D., continued from page 21 of
"Brief Notice."*

As one of the many proofs that religion has access to the hearts of those deficient in intellect, one morning after Scripture reading and prayer, the subject having been "Sin, its origin, punishment, and remedy," J. D. was observed to be in tears, and not returning with the class to his place; the teacher's repeated injunctions to him were answered only by sobs, when being asked if he were ill, he replied "No;" was he sullen? "No." He then took his pencil and wrote on the large slate (used by those who are dumb to express their thoughts), "Sin against God," and placing his hand with fervour on his heart, looking upwards with tears streaming down his cheeks, he again wrote "The heart is desperately wicked, and deceitful above all things, who knows it?" He appears to entertain increasing respect for divine things. On another occasion he wrote an expressive prayer, that God would put his Holy Spirit into his heart and make it live there. At Christmas he expressed a wish to write to his sister, recently married, which he did as follows: "I hope to go home at Christ-

mas for 5 days, I hope you come home too, and no more die to home. I am glad you have ring, I love your husband he read Bible, and pray God.

“Your affectionate,

“J. D.”

*Case of E. P., continued from page 23 of
“Brief Notice.”*

E. P. has made great progress, especially in religion, and in the control of his temper. He would occasionally manifest great sullenness of temper, but when left alone, in a little time would kneel down and pray; after which he returned to his place in an obedient and good tempered spirit: he would frequently write on the slate his recollections of the Bible lesson. In the autumn, this child was attacked with cholera, and for 18 hours was in great danger: throughout his sufferings he was patient and grateful, and when reminded of his Saviour's sufferings seemed to offer up prayer. His parents considered him so much improved, that the term of 3 years for which they agreed to place him at the Institution having expired, they took him home. The day previous to his leaving he wrote on the slate, “Go home to-morrow, and no more read Bible with Miss G. about Jesus crucified, and wicked Judas, but read Bible at home and pray God Holy Spirit teach.”

On being allowed one day to teach another boy who usually laughed during prayers, he ruled the slate, and set as a copy, “Alfred bad boy, loves serpent, no pray God.”

*Case of S. M., continued from page 24 of
"Brief Notice."*

This child continued to improve, and her inattention to the Scripture lesson, and unwillingness to reply when questioned on the subject, was entirely surmounted, and she would often ask to have the Bible read to her. Not being in good health, she was frequently sent to bed with the younger children, and has been repeatedly known to slip out of the bedroom, and wait until the elder children were assembled for prayers, when she would quietly take her place, and when asked why she was there, would say, "Wanted to come to pray." She was removed by her parents' desire in October, and soon after that time she died. During her last illness she appeared frequently to be praying, and when visited by her teacher and asked if she thought she should get better, she said, "No; die, and go to Heaven to Jesus." She died with her hands clasped, as if in prayer.

H. B., aged 8 at the time of his admission, was violent and unmanageable to a great degree, subject to fits of rage, during which he would throw himself on the floor, kicking and screaming until exhausted. In walking through the streets, he was with difficulty restrained from rushing into the shops, and seizing every thing he saw in them, and has frequently attracted the notice of those passing by. He could only articulate a few broken sentences; nor could he give an answer to a question.

He is now able to read and write fairly, can repeat many texts of Scripture, hymns, &c., and is perfectly orderly when walking, asking questions as to what he sees passing around him. His temper is equally improved.

G. C. was 9 at the time of her admission. She was so unruly at home, as to be generally tied to the table, which she would drag about the room. She is now perfectly under controul; reads, writes, and works at her needle: assists also in household work, washing and dressing the younger children. Being left one evening at the table after tea with the other children, she was overheard questioning them about their respective homes, asking if their parents read the Bible and prayed to God. On another occasion, having been reproved for laughing with A. J. during Scripture lesson, after school she was observed to go into the back room, kneel down, and seemingly to pray for about five minutes; she then returned, and taking A. J. by the hand, made him kneel down, and spell with his fingers (being dumb) a simple prayer that God would forgive them their naughty tempers and laughing at Scripture lesson, and that he would send them his Holy Spirit to make them good. This child is able to write texts of Scripture from memory.