Avon and the Evolution of Mental Health Care

Peter Carpenter

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Key areas

- Bath and the Care of Innocents and Idiots
- St Peters Asylum
- Madhouses and Mason Cox’s Asylum
- The Burdens – Inebriacy, mental deficiency and Neurology
- Glenside, Donal Early and ITO
- Glenside Museum
Bath Magdalen

- Leper hospital
  - 1190 – decays
  - 1350’s
- 1486 restored - almshouse
- Reformation did not close
- Master told had to admit people
- 1662 - Innocents
The Hospital in 1829 – master’s house on left [probably old leper hospital], idiot hospital to right of church
The current old hospital

And the plaque found inside from its repair in 1761
Anno Salutis MDCLXI
haud multo post Inaugurationem
GEORGII Tertii,
auspicatissimi Regis;
HOC MOROTROPIUM.
quod ante ducentos et septuaginta anno
JOHANNES CANTLOW, Prior Bathoniensis
fundavit
Vetustate pene collapsum
Æædficavit
DEUL TAYLOR Bathoniæ Rector,
et hujus Hospitii Magister.
SOME ACCOUNT
OF
CRETINISM,
AND
THE INSTITUTION FOR ITS CURE, ON
THE ABENDBERG,
NEAR INTERLACEN, IN SWITZERLAND.

BY
WILLIAM TWINING, M.D
LATE OF BALLIO COLLEGE, OXFORD.

LONDON,
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.
Miss Charlotte White Co Foudress with sister Harriet of The Bath Idiot and Imbecile Institution and daughter of an East India Army man
The First site
The second site
39 Belvedere
Victim of Landslide
That stole its Playground.
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, 1830.

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

BATH:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH HOLMWAY, 10, MILSON STREET,
AND H. JOHN STREET,
1830.
Rockhall School – the successor
Downside Lodge – home for 4 – 6 Idiots
from 1861 - 1919
St Peters Hospital
St Peter’s Hospital

• Bristol Poor Act 1696 merged parishes for operating a poorhouse
• 1698 The old Mint bought and St Peter’s Hospital opened.
• First Physician Thomas Dover
  – 1700 300 inmates with one Lunatic Ward
• Designated County Lunatic Asylum 1823
• 1829 Three lunatic wards
  – 600 in place – 58 girls sleep in 10 beds
• James Cowles Prichard 1811 – 1832
  – ‘A place fitter for beasts than for humans’
The part of the Bristol Workhouse called St. Peter’s Hospital, set apart for the Pauper Lunatics of the city, is without any day-room, eating-room, or kitchen, for the Females, distinct from their sleeping apartments; and the only place in which they (40 in number) can take exercise is a small passage or paved yard at one end of the Hospital. It is part of the road for carts to the Workhouse, and measures about 37 feet by 18, and is, from its pavement and extent utterly unfit for an airing-ground. The accommodations for the men are somewhat better, but they have only part of a paved yard, very little larger that that appropriated to the Females. … There are small wooden closets, or Pens, for confining the violent and refractory Patients. Those for the men were 7 feet long by 3 feet 3 inches broad, and about 9 feet high, and were warmed by pipes, and had a hole in the door, and also a hole in the ceiling for ventilation. The Pens for the Women were smaller and were not warmed, and were ill ventilated. The walls of each were of wood, but were not padded. Formerly, Patients were occasionally kept in those Pens during both day and night, but the Pens are now very rarely used … In addition to the jacket and leg-locks, a sort of open mask of leather passing round the face, and also round the forehead to the back of the head, and fastened by leather straps, was at one time placed over the heads of such Patients as were in the habit of biting; but this mask (as the Commissioners understand) has been for some time discontinued.

1844
Stapleton Institution

- Ex Napoleonic POW - used for overflow
The Lunatic Pauper Palace
1861
After 1700 growth of care

- John Wesley - The Primitive Physick 1747

152. Raging Madness.

473. Apply to the head, cloths dipt in cold water.
474. Or set the patient with his head under a great water fall, as long as his strength will bear.
Or pour water on his head out of a tea-kettle.
475. Or let him eat nothing but apples for a month.
476. Or nothing but bread and milk. Tried.

† It is a sure rule, that all madmen are cowards, and may be conquered by binding only, without beating.—Dr Mead. He also observes, that blistering the head does more harm than good. Keep the head close shaved, and frequently wash it with Vinegar.
Madhouse trade

- Fishponds – Mason’s Madhouse 1740
  - 1768 Mason’s purpose built Fishponds house - Lunatic Asylum  200
  - *Practical Observations on Insanity*  1804
The big Madhouses

1806 Edward Long Fox – Brislington House
The big Madhouses

1832 Edwin Fydell Fox - 1832 Northwood Asylum
The big Madhouses

1840’s - Longwood House, Long Ashton
– Dr Langworthy
Madhouse Trade

- Fishponds
  - Upper Fishponds House [Beechwood House]
    - 1830’s – 50’s [extension of Fishponds]
  - Ridgeway House 1819 – 1850’s
    - Previously at Cleve Hill House in 1790’s

- St Georges
  - Whitehall House Female asylum [1824 – 50’s]
  - Summerhill Asylum [1840’s]
Burdens

- Harold Nelson Burden 1860-1930
- Bankrupt 1886
- Missionary 1888
  - Married Katherine Garton
- Church Temperence Soc 1895
Inebriate reformatories

- Royal Victoria Homes  Horfield 1896
- Breentry 1899
- 660 beds in England

Collapsed 1910
Mental Deficiency

- Royal Commission on Care and Control of the Feeble Minded
- Creates 1900 beds for MD by 1919
- By 1956
- 3300 beds in Avon
Gladys Rosa Burden

- Burden Neurological Hospital
  - Grey Walter – tortoises; EEG; ECT
Industrial Therapy Organisation

- Donal Early - at Glenside
  - John Turley – Ballpoint pen assembly 1957
  - After a year a third of patients involved
  - Expansion and sustained

- The expansion of rehabilitation and move to the Fishponds landladies.
Glenside Museum

- Donal Early 1990’s
- Denis Reed 1950’s
- Beaufort Hospital
  - Stanley Spencer

- Collection of everything
- Petrol pump to 50’s Dictating machines