

PRISONS OF IRELAND.

SEVENTH
REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS GENERAL

ON THE

GENERAL STATE OF THE

PRISONS OF IRELAND:

1829.

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INSPECTORS GENERAL for 1829.

North District	- - -	Major PALMER.
South District	- - -	Major WOODWARD.
Dublin Prisons	- - -	<i>Jointly reported on.</i>

Office of Inspectors General of Prisons,
Dublin, 1st February 1829.

MY LORD,

IN transmitting to your Lordship our Seventh Report upon the Progress of Prison Discipline and state of the several Prisons in Ireland, we have the satisfaction to think that a considerable advance has been made in the system since the period of our last Report.

It will appear by the General Statement, that the important object of erecting county gaols and bridewells, affording the accommodation necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the Prison Act, is nearly brought to a close ; and that the general improvement in the interior regulation of these establishments has been found very satisfactory to us.

We have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servants,

James Palmer, } Inspectors General
B. B. Woodward, } of Prisons.

Right Hon. Lord F. Leveson Gower,
&c. &c. &c.

SEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS GENERAL OF PRISONS IN IRELAND.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE PROGRESS OF PRISON DISCIPLINE:

7 Geo. IV. c. 74, s. 55.

BOARDS OF SUPERINTENDENCE; BYE LAWS, &c.

HAVING, in our Reports of the two last years, expressed our sentiments upon the subject of "Boards of Superintendence," and ventured to offer to them our suggestions on the nature and duties of their important trust, it is unnecessary for us to repeat observations already submitted to their consideration. We are gratified in being able to state, that within the period which has elapsed since the publication of our Sixth Report, this object has made considerable progress. The several Boards of Superintendence, who have taken the lead in this important public service, and who began to act prior to that Report, have steadily persevered in the discharge of their duties; while in other counties the example has been followed. On the whole, we are encouraged to hope that this zeal will be daily extended, and that, in a very short time, we shall see the practical management of every county gaol in the hands of those who can alone give full effect to the liberal and humane provisions of the Laws relating to Prisons in Ireland.

We are so deeply impressed with the truth of this observation; it has been so clearly proved to us by experience, that upon the zeal of the local Boards will ultimately depend the success of Prison Discipline, that we have considered it an imperative duty to urge our views upon the Magistrates and others of whom they are composed. Aware of the respect due to a body of gentlemen of rank and influence in the country, principally selected on account of their known experience and talents for public business, and of the delicacy which should be observed in commenting upon the performance of a duty undertaken solely for the public good, and attended with a considerable sacrifice of time and attention, we can only be induced to address ourselves to them in the hope of being able to afford some aid to their labours, and have been encouraged freely to offer our opinions, by the liberal and kind manner in which our suggestions have been uniformly received.

The direction of the practical details of prison discipline, whether in the classification, the work, the hard labour, the instruction of the prisoners, or in whatever branch, ought not to be delegated to any local public officer, however distinguished may be his qualifications. No compensation can be offered for the want of the regular attendance and direct control of a Board of Superintendence. The respect which the prisoners feel towards the higher orders in their own counties; their power of appeal to their own magistrates, and confidence in their decisions, produce a ready submission to rule, which no other influence could command. To the effect of this principle is, in our mind, to be attributed the gratifying fact, that we have scarcely any instances of complaints being brought before the Judges or the Government by the inmates of our county gaols in which the Boards of Superintendence attend.

We are particularly anxious to impress upon the Boards of Superintendence the importance of carrying into effect the provisions of the Act, (section 4,) by which they are empowered to make "*Bye-laws*" for their respective gaols; an object which we are sorry to say has not been effected in many countries. Without a well-digested code of bye-laws, arranged under regular heads, it is impossible to carry on a good system of interior regulation in any extensive public establishment. Without rules

and regulations nothing is defined ; consequently, subjects of doubt, and differences of opinion, are perpetually arising in the details of duty, or, what is still worse, these details are left to the decision of a Governor, who, in proportion to his want of ability, will ever be found wilful, uncertain and arbitrary. The establishment of a code of bye-laws has the important effect of fixing a rule for every thing, while the sanctions which the Act requires, secure that the rules shall be legally and judiciously framed, each regulation being necessarily subjected to the approval of the Court of King's Bench ; and although a liberal discretion is properly allowed to the local Board, by whom the bye-laws are in the first instance framed, it cannot be supposed that any rule contrary to law, or to the soundest principles of prison discipline, can receive the final fiat of the court.

With a view to facilitate the formation of bye-laws, which require a full and comprehensive view of the principles of prison discipline in all its branches, we have framed a system of "Rules and Regulations for the Government of a County Gaol, prepared in conformity with the provisions of 7 Geo. IV. c. 74." These rules have been very maturely and carefully considered. They have received the approbation of their Lordships, the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, and have been submitted by us to the Boards of Superintendence of the several counties throughout Ireland. Since the circulation of these rules, we have the satisfaction to find, that, in some of our best regulated prisons, in which they were found applicable to local circumstances, they have been established without alteration. In other counties, differently circumstanced, they have been partially adopted and embodied in their bye-laws. In the circular communication with which we accompanied these rules, we have been careful to explain to the Boards of Superintendence that we do not dictate regulations, and that the result of our experience is thus offered to them for the purpose of assisting them in the formation of the county rules ; but we trust, that to whatever extent our rules may or may not be adopted, another year may not be permitted, by any county, to pass over, without their having carried into effect the provisions of the Act on this most essential point.

In the first chapter of the "Rules and Regulations" prepared by us, under the head of "*Boards of Superintendence*," we have submitted a plan for conducting the ordinary routine of business, and for the arrangement of the proper subjects of inquiry at each meeting of the Board. We attach much importance to a regulation of this nature, which should form part of every system of bye-laws, in order to secure that each meeting shall operate as a check upon the whole system ; that the established routine shall not be relaxed ; as well as that all books are kept according to order.

We are anxious to advert to one branch of prison discipline, included by the Prison Act in the charge committed to the Boards of Superintendence, and which has but recently become the subject of their attention : we allude to the management of the *county bridewells*. These prisons are, under the provisions of the Prison Act, required in all quarter sessions towns, and in such other towns as the Lord Lieutenant may appoint : and in order to show in how miserable a condition these places of confinement were found at the period of our appointment, we need only refer to former Reports. To remedy this serious public evil, successful efforts have been made ; and we are enabled to exhibit in this Report, under the head of "*Bridewells*," a gratifying contrast between the former and present state of these numerous places of confinement. To that head we refer the members of the Boards of Superintendence ; and as we have under that head pointed out some particulars connected with the superintendence of these prisons, we beg to call their attention thereto.

We cannot close these remarks, addressed to the most influential body connected with the Prison Department, without adverting to a topic which has given us much concern, and occasioned much difficulty in the work in which we have been employed. It has been our duty to endeavour, by every means within our power, to render the plans of our gaols, the establishment of officers, and the regulation of the interior of these establishments, effective according to those *liberal principles of prison discipline* which are to be found throughout the provisions of the Act "for *consolidating and amending the Laws relating to Prisons in Ireland*." In the discharge of this duty we have found a strong, although, happily, decreasing prejudice against those principles, as having a tendency, by rendering prisons too commodious and too comfortable, to encourage the commission of crime. This opinion has not been confined to the officers of some of our gaols, whose want of qualification to
conduct

conduct a well-regulated system, easily accounts for their interested opposition to its introduction, but has been expressed to us not only by magistrates and members of some Boards of Superintendence, but by other persons of rank and influence in their counties, who take no part in prison discipline. To remove this deeply erroneous and injurious prejudice, we offer the following considerations, which we trust will at once satisfy the minds of any persons of candour and intelligence who may have been led into the error to which we allude.

In examining this subject, we have two cases to consider; viz.

1st. The comparative attraction of a prison, and of the home of the prisoner.

2d. The comparative attraction of a prison possessing the advantages of modern improvement, and of an old gaol which does not possess those advantages.

1st. With respect to the first case, a comparison is made between the accommodation afforded to prisoners in gaol with that which the poor can command in their own houses. We begin by asserting, that the accommodation in prisons has no approach to luxury, but is confined to the necessities of life. The confined space of a prison yard, the stone floor and simple furniture of the day-room, the straw bed and blankets of the cell, the vegetable diet (bread or potatoes and milk), cannot be considered as any thing above the supply of the necessities of life to the inmates. The cottage, then, can be inferior to the gaol in accommodation only by the want of the necessities of life, or by presenting a state of absolute suffering. Surely, then, no reasonable man will say, that because the will of Providence may permit, by scarcity, want of employment, or other causes, that the poor of this country may occasionally undergo suffering and privation of the necessities of life, the places of public imprisonment under the authority of the State should be reduced to the same level; and that when the poor are visited with hunger, cold and nakedness, the prisoner should be deprived of food, fuel and covering. As justly might it be said that infection should be brought into a prison in a season of epidemic disease, as a leveller to the condition of the people at large. The lowest level, then, to which a just Government can reduce the accommodation of those who are in the custody of the law, is to that reasonable supply of the necessities of life, with the same description of food and other accommodation which the poor classes enjoy except in times of distress. It being conceded, then, that the necessities of life alone are afforded, and that they ought in justice to be afforded to the inmates of our gaols, we are next to show that they are not afforded without strict guards, without many enactments to prevent abuse, and without such conditions as secure the public against undue claims. Every prisoner receiving gaol allowances becomes thereby a "poor prisoner," under the Act, subject to all the regulations affecting that class. He is forbid to receive any food except the gaol allowances, even from his friends; and he is obliged by the Act (section 104,) to replace by his labour the cost of those allowances. In addition to these legislative drawbacks from a system of indulgence, he is, in common with every prisoner, subject to constant restraint and discipline; he is separated from his family; he is, while untried, much restricted in, and when tried, entirely precluded from, the visits of his friends; he is deprived of liberty; he is in a state of degradation and disgrace. The only substantial advantage, then, which his situation affords above that of a peasant at large, (and that common humanity must secure to him), is, that the same law which deprives him of his liberty protects him against that want to which others must necessarily be sometimes exposed.

2d. It appears from the foregoing observations, that it may so happen that, under circumstances of distress, a poor man may be induced to prefer the supplies of a gaol to the want he is doomed to suffer in his own home. The second question then arises; how far, or in what instances, the improvement in modern gaols is calculated to render them more attractive than prisons deficient in that improvement? This is, in fact, the practical part of the subject; the first evil, if admitted, being unavoidable.

It may be in the outset assumed, that no respectable or well-regulated man will voluntarily commit a crime in order to procure a committal to gaol. We may, then, for our present purpose, divide the inmates of a prison into two classes: the well-disposed, who are not to be supposed to be voluntary inmates, and the evil-

disposed, who may or may not be so. In the case of the former class, whether male or female, humanity and delicacy will point out that it is but just that they should not only receive reasonable support, but that they should be protected against bad or gross association and contamination of every kind. It is unnecessary then to urge this case. In reference to the evil-disposed, we have no hesitation in asserting that the liberal principles of the present law are, in their effect upon them, not only morally advantageous, but much calculated to add severity to the sentence to imprisonment. They are morally advantageous, as they substitute industry for idleness; instruction for ignorance; classification of crime for indiscriminate mixture of character; solitude and reflection at night for evil and gross communication; the reform of the young female criminal for the invariable corruption of that class. They also add severity to the sentence of imprisonment, and have a consequent tendency to discourage the commission of crime. This will be admitted by any person of intelligence who has witnessed the scenes exhibited in gaols prior and subsequent to the recent Acts of the Legislature. The gaols of old, with all their wants and their relaxation of discipline, held out to an evil-disposed criminal (and no other can be supposed to be a voluntary prisoner) every thing that was congenial to his licentious habits; crowding and filth; noise and disorder; the introduction of tobacco, spirits and money; the indulgence of his habitual sloth; gross and mischievous conversation by day and night; whilst the system under which he is placed in the modern establishments presents to such a character every thing that is formidable and revolting; constant inspection; strict cleanliness; moral restraint; obedience to rule from morning till night; privation of extra food, liquor, tobacco and every other sensual luxury; the school-room, the work-room, solitude and seclusion by night, and above all, the *tread-wheel*.

We assert with confidence that if the opposers of the modern system were permitted to strip our county gaols of all that they desire to remove, and to substitute any other treatment short of absolute cruelty, they would not deprive a licentious criminal of any one gratification, and would relieve him from many severe restraints. It may then be asserted, that if the criminal poor are induced by circumstances to prefer imprisonment to their lot out of gaol, that evil must be diminished in proportion to the advance of prison discipline under the existing laws.

We admit, indeed, that after a certain period of imprisonment under the influence of modern improvement, and after having imbibed the good lessons which are happily taught in our gaols, where habits of industry and order are acquired, and the tastes and feelings of the prisoners improved, the preference to modern gaols will be a necessary consequence, and must become very decided; but surely this fact affords one of the most unanswerable arguments in favour of a system uncongenial to vice and licentiousness, and congenial to reformed and virtuous habits, which punishes the bad, and protects the good.

COUNTY GAOLS.

THE arrangement of the county gaols in eight classes, as exhibited in our Sixth Report, remains nearly unaltered within the last year. The counties contained in our eighth class (see Sixth Report, page 7,) in which we had not as yet prevailed on the grand juries to present the necessary sum to erect a suitable county gaol, were at the period of that Report reduced to two in number; viz. the counties of Antrim and Mayo. In the former of these counties a very important proposition was made to the grand jury at the last assizes; viz. to remove the site of the county gaol from the town of Carrickfergus to that of Antrim. This proposal was accompanied by the exhibition of a plan for approval, prepared upon the radial principle, and with much care; and had the grand jury adopted that plan, the county would have possessed one of the most perfect county gaols in this kingdom. In consequence, however, of the objection made to the change of the county town, the great and important object of building an efficient county gaol has been at least postponed, and the county is, for the present, left to struggle with the difficulties so often pointed out, and which arise from the total want of principle in the plan and of sufficiency in the accommodations of the present gaol of Carrickfergus. It is not within our province to offer any opinion upon the point at issue with respect to the most proper site for the county gaol; but we trust that in the difference of opinion which exists upon that subject, the grand object urged

urged by us in the discharge of our duty may not be lost. It is unnecessary for us here to repeat the observations made in the Special Reports of the last and present years upon the gaol at Carrickfergus, but we still adhere to our opinion as to the indispensable necessity of building a new gaol, which is rendered the more urgent in this county, from the extraordinary fact that the want of a sufficient county gaol for the county of Antrim prevents the possibility of carrying into effect the provisions of the Prison Act in three important public establishments; viz. in the gaols of the county at large, of the county of the town of Carrickfergus, and the important bridewell of Belfast, an institution which is as defective in accommodation for the numbers unavoidably committed thereto, as it is in many respects useful, and particularly so in carrying on with effect and profit a system of hard labour which could not be attempted in the county gaol.

In the county of Mayo the necessity of building an entirely new gaol has been again urged from the high authority of the Bench at the last assizes, but the measure again postponed. Our Special Reports upon the gaols of this county will show the ground upon which we have so long endeavoured to accomplish this important object. We have the satisfaction to think, however, that the period of success is not now far off. The gentlemen of the county were induced to defer the presentment at the summer assizes, in consequence, as we are informed, of a doubt with respect to the comparative advantages of erecting a new gaol, or of adding to the present building; and there seems to be every probability that the decisive measure of building upon a new site will be resorted to at the spring assizes of the present year.

We are much concerned to be obliged still to continue the county of Armagh in our seventh class, nothing having been done with respect to the addition to the gaol of that county. It is to be hoped, however, that the subject may be resumed at the spring assizes.

In the case of the two county gaols which we have first noticed*, we have had every opportunity of judging of them in the most favourable manner, as they are severally conducted by officers zealous and efficient in the discharge of their duty, and every advantage taken of the accommodation that the present buildings afford. The demerits of the buildings consequently do not appear greater than they really are; on the contrary, the attention paid to cleanliness and discipline (so far as it can be introduced) in some degree counteracts the evil. This fact affords an additional encouragement to each of these counties to erect a suitable prison, in order to relieve good officers from the almost insuperable difficulties under which they labour in preserving decency and order, the only objects which can be attempted in the present buildings.

The new works which we noted in the detailed state of the last year (Sixth Report, page 7.) are in satisfactory progress. The following is the present state of the new buildings, which are all planned upon the radial principle; viz.

					When likely to be Occupied.
Class 1.—County of Down	-	-	-	Roofed in	- 1829
King's County	-	-	-	Partly roofed	- 1829
County of Kildare	-	-	-	Commenced	- 1830
County of Meath	-	-	-	Outside wall built	1832
Queen's County	-	-	-	One story built	- 1829
Class 4.—County of Cavan	-	-	-	Occupied.	
County of Carlow	-	-	-	Just commenced	- 1830
County of Waterford House of Correction				Completed.	
County of Wexford House of Correction				Completed.	

It has been very satisfactory to us on our† eighth annual inspection of the county gaols of Ireland, to find, that although improvement has been steadily advancing since the year 1821, we have in no one year seen a more decided progress made in building convenient gaols, than from the period of our last to that of our present Report; but commodious and well-planned prisons, without watchful superintendence, regularity of system, permanent employment, and well-qualified officers

* Antrim and Mayo.

† The First Report was made in 1822, after the second inspection.

officers to carry that system into effect, will produce but little practical advantages. We are happy, however, to observe on our tour a very striking improvement in the interior management and government of the gaols: in the order of the cells, day-rooms, and messes; the comparative effectiveness of the tread-wheel labour; the establishment of the prescribed books and forms of business; the increase of employment of the poor prisoners under the 104th section, 7 Geo. 4, c. 74; and, above all, in the instruction of the prisoners of all classes. Much, however, is still to be done.

For our further remarks on the County Gaols, we refer to the heads of, "Officers of Gaols," "Female Class," "Work and Labour," "Schools," &c. &c.

DISTRICT BRIDEWELLS.

UPON the subject of these Prisons we have nothing to add to the observations made in our former Reports under this head.

The gaols at Baltinglass and Parsonstown continue to be the only bridewells of this class which have been appointed within the kingdom, and we have no doubt that the discipline of such prisons will produce beneficial effects. To form this conclusion, we need only state the fact, that tread-wheels have been established at both of these towns, which enable the magistrates at quarter-sessions to enforce their sentences by this most effectual instrument of hard labour, and to bring the example of such punishments within the view of the population of the immediate neighbourhoods.

We have, in our Report for the year 1827, recapitulated the sections of the Prison Act which peculiarly relate to district bridewells, and have pointed out particularly the cases which could not legally be detained in prisons of this class. We therefore refer to that Report, pages 8 and 9.

SMALLER BRIDEWELLS.

THE following is the comparative state of Bridewells in the last and present years. From this satisfactory view of the progress of building, it will appear that this important object is nearly completed.

				Number of Bridewells,	
				1828.	1829.
1st Class:	Containing sufficient accommodation,				
	are furnished, and in operation -			34	53
2d	- New buildings, roofed in - -			18	2
3d	- New buildings, commenced - -			3	14
4th	- New buildings, money presented -			27	20
5th	- Insufficient prisons, no steps taken -			10	3
Total - -				92	92

The three insufficient prisons contained in the 5th class are those of *Lisburn*, *Newtown-Hamilton* (abolished), and *Clogher*.

In reference to the Report made in 1827 upon the Prisons in Ireland, by Mrs. Elizabeth Fry and Mr. Gurney, we explained in our last Report that the appearance of the bridewells throughout the northern and southern districts had naturally led those benevolent visitors to our gaols to a conclusion much less favourable than the statement therein made by us. They saw the prisons as *then* occupied, having only on paper a sketch of progressive or intended improvements, and they reported them (as they appeared) in a very defective state. The new buildings were unoccupied, and it being thought inexpedient to interfere with the temporary use of the old prisons in those towns in which the new prisons were in progress until the prisoners could be removed from the one to the other, the old and condemned prisons consequently then formed the subject of their report. Since that period the greater proportion of the new bridewells have been brought into use; viz. in the county of Limerick,

Limerick, six new buildings ; in the county of Clare, four ; in the county of Cork, thirteen. These, with many detached bridewells throughout both districts, have been taken up, furnished and occupied, and now show to an inspector a system strictly in conformity with the provisions of the Act under which they are regulated ; and present, we trust, a gratifying contrast with the state of things as they appeared to our kind visitors in their tour of the last year.

The system pursued in the county of Cork, (the most extensive in the kingdom) as it respects this description of prison, is so complete, and affords so admirable an example for imitation, that it may be profitable to the general cause of prison discipline to give some account of their plan.

This county contains fourteen prisons, exclusive of the county and city gaols of Cork, and of the marshalseas of the corporate towns of Youghal and Kinsale. Until the year 1824, the subject of prison discipline, so far as it was entertained by the grand juries of this or any other county, was solely confined to the concerns of the county gaol. The bridewells were placed under no control ; supplied with no provisions for the wants of the prisoners ; were in many cases miserable black-holes ; and in all cases deficient in every means of carrying into effect the provisions of the law. Such were the bridewells of the county of Cork. In that year the subject was taken up by the county in the most effectual manner, and since that period new bridewells have been built in thirteen situations, and in most instances new court-houses have also been erected within the same walls. These buildings are of the most substantial and creditable kind, affording, together with good apartments for the keepers, every accommodation in yards, day-rooms and cells, which the Prison Act requires. They have been completely supplied with furniture and bedding of the best description, laid in by the Board of Superintendence at Cork, and issued to the different stations according to their regulated schedule, including furniture for day-rooms, with all necessary utensils for serving the food of the prisoners, according to the dietary and forms established in the county gaol. The care of the Board extends to every part of the discipline and regulation of these prisons, which are brought under their consideration at every meeting. They are visited every year more than once by an officer appointed by them, and reported on by him.

A most valuable object has been established in this county, by custom ; viz. that the high sheriff of the county acts, *ex officio*, as chairman of the Board of Superintendence, and submits to their approval the appointment of the officers of the several prisons within the county ; the ultimate effect of which will be to secure that in these important public establishments qualified officers will replace those ignorant and inefficient keepers, who have been found by us an almost insurmountable bar to their improvement. Such were the great majority of the persons placed in charge of the bridewells, appointed from personal considerations, and without any view to the public service. As yet, even in this county the system is clogged with some cases of this kind, in which we have, however, concurred with the Board in submitting to a temporary inconvenience rather than to recommend their removal. But on the whole, the manner of keeping these prisons is much improved, and in many instances quite satisfactory.

In order to secure an uniformity in the course of duty, the Board at Cork have established "County Rules and Regulations for Bridewells," (a copy of which we subjoined in our Appendix of last year,) which insure uniformity of system, and contain many very necessary guards which could not be included in an Act of Parliament, or in the "General Rules and Regulations of the Court of King's Bench."

In addition to the quarterly returns made to our office, the Board require a copy to be furnished to them, which affords to them an opportunity, by inquiry from the prisoners who have been transmitted from the several bridewells, to ascertain whether the supplies which are charged against the public have been actually received by them. A quarterly return book also remains in each prison, for the inspection of the local magistracy.

Prior to the placing any keeper in charge of a county bridewell, he is ordered to repair to the house of correction at Cork, in which he is employed as a turnkey, his qualifications proved, and his knowledge of his duty certified by the governor, prior to his being permitted to enter upon the duties of the bridewell to which he is appointed.

We are most anxious to urge upon the Boards of Superintendence of the several counties the great importance of extending their care to this class of the prisons of the county, the whole of which are committed to them by the same clause in the Prison Act under which their authority in the county gaol is established; and we do not hesitate to say, that until this step is taken, it will be impossible to enforce the provisions of the Act in those prisons, or to guard against abuses.

The appointment of a Special Board near to each bridewell has been tried, and has completely failed in its effects; it is likewise contrary to law. The control, if it is to be effective, must rest where the law has placed it, with the General Board assembled in the county town. If it be not there placed, the discipline of the bridewells will give way. We can speak from experience, that in cases where the keeper of a bridewell feels himself only subjected to immediately local control, the influence and authority of our office is practically disregarded, and our inspection of little use; while our Report carries every weight, and has every good effect in those counties in which we are enabled at once to appeal to the Board in the county town, which it is our invariable practice in such counties to do.

We are unwilling to close this Report without referring to the statement of the cost of the support, &c. &c. of the prisoners in the bridewells of the several counties throughout Ireland, contained in our Appendix, which we are anxious to do, in order to show what we have always asserted and are prepared to prove, that the change which has taken place in those prisons has been a measure of economy rather than of increased expense. (See Appendix, and also our Sixth Report, page 10.)

MANOR PRISONS.

THE prisons attached to local jurisdictions will no longer form a distinct head in our Report. The state in which those prisons were found, connected with the peculiar circumstances of the case, presented an evil incapable of correction. The only measure then which could be resorted to with effect was that of abolishing them under certain regulations. This object having been effected by the "Act for consolidating and amending the Laws relating to Prisons in Ireland," the evil no longer exists, and the prisoners committed by these authorities are transmitted at once to the county gaols. Some few corporate towns and others have availed themselves of the provisions of the 97th section, and the prisons retained under that section now afford sufficient accommodation for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

NO change of importance has taken place in this department since the period of our last Report. The principal establishments in Ireland for the care of the lunatic poor are :—

The House of Industry	-	-	Dublin.	
Richmond Asylum	-	-	Dublin.	
Lunatic Asylum	-	-	Cork.	
District Asylum	-	-	Limerick.	
D ^o	-	-	Armagh.	
D ^o	-	-	Londonderry.	} These asylums are not yet finished.
D ^o	-	-	Belfast.	

These extensive establishments are all conducted in the best manner, and provide for the wants of the towns and districts to which they belong. They however leave a considerable part of the kingdom wholly unprovided for; viz. the whole of the provinces of Connaught and Leinster (with the exception of the city of Dublin) and the counties of Tipperary and Waterford in Munster.* In our last Report we urged the necessity of decisive measures upon this subject, and of the general adoption of the system of *district asylums*; as whatever arrangement may be made for

* Since this Report was made, a proclamation has issued for the establishment of two district asylums; viz. one at Carlow, for the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Wexford and Kildare; and one in Maryborough, to include the King's and Queen's Counties, and the counties of Meath and Westmeath.

for the reception of lunatics, either in county houses of industry or other small and economical institutions, they fail in the great objects which the district asylums embrace. The advantages of such places of confinement cannot extend beyond safe keeping and humane treatment, and cannot aim at the recovery of the patients, being devoid of any provision for that purpose; of moral and religious instruction, employment, classification, moral government; exclusive attention of nurses and others skilled in the peculiar treatment of the insane; and separation from all injurious association. (See our Sixth Report, page 12.)

We are, however, sorry to add, as the result of our observation on our late tour, that we found the general state of the lesser asylums very unsatisfactory, and the condition of the patients such as to call loudly for a change of system. We have been much distressed to see the manner in which they are managed in houses of industry and other small asylums in some of the counties in which district asylums are not formed. (See our Reports on Kilkenny, Mayo and others.)

In justice to some of these institutions we are obliged to state that there are considerable shades of difference. We could particularize a few in which much care is taken to preserve cleanliness, and to ventilate the wards. On the whole, however, we found the condition of the patients, in the majority of them, very deplorable. When the insane patients are mixed with the sane paupers, it presents a most revolting scene, and the association is equally injurious to both. When the institution affords the means of separating these classes, there is still a mixture of the most delicate cases of temporary lunacy with incurable maniacs and idiotism in all its forms. In all such places the patients are under the care of persons not trained to that duty, and in some cases of the most objectionable keepers. On the whole, we cannot hesitate to enter our protest against the continuance of this system, and to urge the indispensable necessity of extending the provisions of the Act for establishing district lunatic asylums throughout Ireland to every part of the kingdom.

We pointed out in our Report of the last year that some time must elapse before a just estimate of the value of district asylums can be formed. The only institutions of this class as yet in operation, viz. those at Armagh and Limerick, are still labouring under the disadvantages of an arrear of old and confirmed cases of insanity that were offered for admission on their first opening. After a certain lapse of time these cases will be cleared away, and the asylums will become more effectual for the reception of all the new and more easily curable cases. In support of this view we inserted in our Sixth Report (page 12) a quotation from the first year's Report of Mr. Jackson of Armagh, and we now avail ourselves of the experience of a gentleman of the same name (Mr. Jackson, the governor of the district asylum at Limerick), from whose last Report to the local Board of Directors within the last year, we subjoin the following extract:

"The necessity," says Mr. Jackson, "of prompt measures on the first indications of lunacy, cannot be too strongly inculcated. Nor can the absurd practice adopted by some persons of keeping their insane friends at home, in order, through a mistaken affection, to try their own methods of cure, be too much deprecated; as by such conduct several individuals who, had they been taken in time, would have been restored to, and perhaps have become valuable members of, society, are now lost to it for ever; an observation in which I am borne out by my own experience, all the recent cases admitted into this asylum having been discharged cured, with but one or two exceptions.

"The first patients admitted here were mostly cases of long standing from the different asylums of the district, and who by years of suffering, and the indolent manner in which they were allowed to pass their time, had fallen so low in the scale of mental estimation, as to be scarcely a degree removed from idiotism. These, although no reasonable hope can be entertained of their recovery, yet, deprived as they probably are for ever, of reason, have a strong claim on our sympathy and commiseration. Hence it becomes the duty of those to whose care they are committed, to endeavour to lighten the evil which they cannot remove, and to contribute as much as possible to their happiness in that state of existence to which the dispensation of an All-wise Providence has consigned them.

"Although the building is well constructed and perfect in all its parts, yet the classification of patients is still incomplete for want of sufficient accommodation,

“ as I am necessitated to associate patients deemed incurable with those of a different description ; a circumstance which tends considerably to retard the improvement of the latter, who consider themselves as degraded by such fellowship. Their minds being by this feeling kept in a continual state of irritation, their progress towards perfect recovery is necessarily impeded.”

Mr. Jackson, in the same Report, recommends a measure which we have ventured to suggest in our Sixth and other Reports ; viz. that to the district asylums should be attached a place of reception for idiots and epileptic cases. To prove the advantages which would result from the adoption of this measure, we submit the following considerations :

1st. These miserable cases are in many instances now provided for at the public expense, and are in many respects most injurious to houses of industry and to our county gaols. If these should be attached to the district asylums, the cost would certainly not be greater, and probably much less than at present.

2d. The patients would be much better provided for.

3d. The measure would remove a nuisance from the public which is much complained of in the counties who contribute to a district asylum.

4th. It would be much more satisfactory than the present system to the friends of such persons who (as Mr. Jackson states) “ complain of admittance “ being refused in the asylum, and often prefer the danger of keeping them at “ home rather than send them to the miserable places now provided for their “ confinement.”

5th. In the event of a case received as curable, and which may afterwards become a case of incurable idiotism, the patient would be removed to the proper class, and not (as Mr. Jackson expresses it) retard the improvement of the class of curable patients with whom he is now unavoidably associated.

On the whole, we conceive this suggestion as deserving of serious consideration, as an amendment to the benevolent system of district asylums.

OFFICERS OF GAOLS.

THE Gaols of this kingdom continue to derive most important advantage from the labours of the local inspectors. The duties prescribed for these officers in the sections of the Prison Act give a very inadequate idea of the place which they practically fill in our system of prison discipline. The local inspectors form the link between the controlling power of the magistracy (represented by the Boards of Superintendence) and the resident governors of county gaols, the consequence of which is, that, in many cases, they substantially perform the duties of either or of both. In some cases the Boards of Superintendence very rarely, and in some others never, attend. In the counties in which this duty is neglected much of the responsibility properly belonging to the Board is thrown upon the local inspector, as being the officer who is placed at the head of the institution. He becomes the confidential agent to whom the grand jury commit the substantial control, and on whose judgment, humanity and discretion, they are obliged to rely for the regulation of those points of ordinary occurrence which almost daily call for the interference of an authority independent of and superior to the resident officers of a county gaol, and in such counties the local inspector becomes a substitute for the Board. In other counties in which the Board of Superintendence may be more effective, the governor is too often a person unqualified by his education or habits to take the place next in authority to them ; the want in such cases is necessarily supplied by the local inspector, who acts in all the higher branches of the office as the moral governor of the gaol, and becomes the executive agent of the Board to give effect to their orders, and to conduct the whole routine of duty. In such counties the local inspector is a substitute for an efficient governor. On the whole, we cannot but attribute to the local inspectors a very principal share in the striking change which has undoubtedly been effected in the gaols of Ireland, and are happy to have an opportunity of bearing our testimony to the value of their co-operation with the Grand Juries, Boards of Superintendence, and ourselves, in our respective endeavours to introduce improvement and uniformity of system into our county gaols.

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The salaries allotted to the local inspectors and governors respectively, in the different county gaols, seem to have been fixed according to the comparative importance of the duties of their offices, as detailed in the Prison Act, and by no means according to the comparative value of the actual services performed. To this, as it regards the office of governor, we by no means object in *theory*; as we consider that the duties of that important office require qualifications which imply respectable salaries, and we are anxious to see it suitably filled. We cannot, however, but think that the remuneration to local inspectors, for present services, is in general very inadequate. While the emoluments of governors (including house and allowances) may be rated at from 200*l.* to 700*l.* per annum, those of local inspectors do not average 80*l.*

We are very happy to observe, that on our last tour we were much struck with the improved manner in which the duties of the office of *governor* appeared to be in general executed. Some recent appointments have done much credit to the counties in which they have taken place, and have confirmed the opinion which we have steadily maintained, by producing the most effectual reform in the gaols. One instance has been so conspicuous that we consider it as an act of justice to point it out. We allude to the late appointment of a governor to the gaol of Ennis, in the county of Clare, whose talents and zeal have encouraged the Board of Superintendence to exertions which they had before found to be fruitless; but which, with the co-operation of the present governor, have produced their full effect, and now exhibit in that prison an example of discipline which in almost every respect fulfils the intention of the Legislature, and which we have pointed out to the imitation of other county gaols.

We think it right to notice a practice which prevails in the majority of our county gaols, and which very materially interrupts the attention of the governor, which ought to be devoted to the business of the county gaol: it ought to be undivided, as he is supposed to be the main-spring of every part of the routine. We allude to the frequent absence of the governor at the quarter sessions of the county, as well as in accompanying debtors to Dublin, or persons under sentence of transportation on their route to the hulks or convict depots. This interruption is so much felt in one county, in which the quarter sessions towns are very numerous, that the Board of Superintendence are obliged to accommodate their bye-laws to this difficulty, and to transfer many of the duties of governor to the deputy governor of the gaol. We should wish to see some arrangement made on this subject, that the responsibility of the sheriff should cease on the receipt of the governor of the next county town, or of the officer of police. While the law remains as it is, we strongly recommend a system adopted by the governors of some gaols. These officers consider themselves and their securities as responsible to the sheriff for the safe transmission of prisoners; but by no means deem it expedient, on such occasions, to risk the safe keeping and discipline of the county gaol by absenting themselves. They are therefore in the habit of entrusting the escort duty to their under officers.

The general arrangements with respect to *turnkeys* are much improved within the last year. We are, however, induced to transcribe from our Sixth Report, a few practical rules, which, if followed, will not fail to place the system upon a good footing.

1st. One turnkey to each thirty male prisoners is requisite to the efficient execution of the duty.

2d. Turnkeys should be invariably lodged in the prison, and as near to their particular class as can be contrived.

3d. They should be clothed in uniform, receiving from the county a suit of clothes in each year.

4th. They should receive a salary not exceeding 40*l.* nor less than 30*l.* a-year, exclusive of all gaol allowances.

5th. Should they receive no gaol allowances, (which we recommend,) 10*l.* a-year should be added to their salary.

6th. They should be paid by the grand jury, and not by the governor. The latter practice opens a door to corrupt appointments, and is in many ways most injurious to prison discipline.

C 2

7th. Each

7th. Each turnkey should be appointed to a separate part of the prison; the duties never to be mixed. This system secures efficiency in all.

8th. They are all to be considered equal in rank and authority, their duties being similar but distinct. Should any clerk be employed, his office to be separate.

9th. No person should be appointed to act as under-gaoler, with an authority between that of the governor and turnkeys, in any gaol in which less than four turnkeys (exclusive of such under-gaoler) are employed.

10th. They should hold no other office whatever, nor carry on any trade.

We refer to the head of "Schools," for an observation respecting turnkeys in the gaol of the county of Cork.

The *keepers of bridewells* are certainly improved since the period of our last Report; they are, however, still, in a great proportion of cases, very deficient in the qualifications necessary for a due discharge of the duties of their office. We cannot but feel that upon this subject a great personal responsibility rests upon us, and consequently we feel it incumbent upon us to leave no means within our power untried to raise the standard with regard to the officers placed in charge of these prisons. The present keepers are doubtless a class of persons as decent as could be supposed to inhabit the old bridewells. There is, however, now nearly an end to such places of confinement, and we must attribute very much to our exertions with the grand juries of the several counties, that they have presented large sums of the public money for the erection of such prisons as are now happily substituted; and we do not hesitate to say, that the expenditure of these large sums will in the end prove to be but a waste of the public money, unless the system of discipline introduced into the new bridewells shall render them available for the objects intended, and justify that expenditure. What those objects are, what are the nature of the duties to be performed by the keeper of a bridewell, are brought before the eye of every one by the "Rules and Regulations of the Court of King's Bench," and "Extracts from the Prison Act," which are posted in every prison of this class. No high sheriff or other person who can command or influence the appointment of an officer of this class can be ignorant of them; and it is obvious to common sense not only that an illiterate or immoral man is an unfit instrument to carry them into effect, but that the duties require a knowledge of business, which is not easily found among the candidates for such an office. In some counties it would be found conducive to the good keeping of the bridewells to add a general superintendence of those prisons to the duties of the governor of the county gaol; to commit to him the power of appointment or dismissal of officers, and to empower him, in case of neglect or deficiency on the part of any keeper of a bridewell, to exchange his duty with a turnkey of the county gaol, until the neglect should be punished or the deficiency corrected. The nomination of the under officers is in England almost universally delegated by the high sheriff to his governor of the county gaol, if found worthy of his confidence.

We cannot conclude our observations upon officers of bridewells, without again expressing our sense of the obligations due to the parochial clergy by whom the duty of local inspector (which the law has imposed upon them without remuneration) has been executed. The cordial and disinterested spirit in which the task has been undertaken cannot be more clearly proved than by the steady zeal with which they have persevered for a number of years, and as the great majority of the new bridewells are now completed, and the system in full operation in them, we anticipate increased benefit from their future benevolent labours; and we cannot but consider it a respect due to the clergy, that the lay authorities should lighten the burden imposed upon them by the appointment of efficient keepers, as we have actually known instances in which the clergyman of a parish has been obliged to fill up the returns in his own hand-writing, in consequence of the incapacity of the illiterate keeper placed under his inspection; a difficulty which it is not more illegal than unseemly to throw upon him.

FEMALE CLASS.

ON this interesting branch of Prison Discipline we are induced to place a high value, being aware of the influence of the female character in the lower ranks of society, and encouraged by the success which has heretofore attended every exertion to

to promote moral and religious improvement, industry and order in this class. It is an observation not originating with us, but supported by our experience, that females are uniformly found to be more susceptible than the male prisoners of those impressions which it is hoped, by such means, to communicate to their minds; they have likewise a peculiar advantage in the attendance of committees formed from the higher classes of their own sex, which are every year spreading more and more as a national system for the furtherance of their benevolent object. "The Hibernian Ladies' Society for promoting the Improvement of Female Prisoners," formed in the year 1827, under the auspices of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, of London, have now furnished their Second Report. It contains much interesting matter, and we here present extracts therefrom, as well as from their observations upon particular prisons.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT.

"IN presenting their Second Report to the subscribers and friends of the 'Hibernian Ladies' Society for promoting the Improvement of Female Prisoners,' your committee feel constrained to express their sense of gratitude for the blessing which has so far prospered their earnest though feeble efforts to promote a cause, which experience convinces them assuredly will (if steadily persevered in) produce the object for which they are united.

"It is truly gratifying to have the following statements to present to the public notice. The plain facts they contain, it is hoped, will encourage all those engaged in this cause to continue to labour patiently.

" Richmond Bridewell.

"THE Committee of the Richmond bridewell report, with great satisfaction, the good order and progressive improvement of the whole establishment.

" Newgate.

"IT is gratifying to state, that several convicts, who were totally ignorant, have made a considerable progress in spelling and reading, and some of them in writing. The committee are very regular in their attendance at this prison.

" Kilmainham.

"GENERALLY speaking, the female prisoners have conducted themselves well, and have made, whilst in prison, some advance in reading and spelling; and it is gratifying to mention the case of one woman who has conducted herself for a considerable time, since her removal from gaol, very much to the satisfaction of the committee.

" Armagh.

"THE Report from this prison is very agreeable. The committee consist of twelve ladies, one of whom visits the prison each day. They invariably find the female prisoners attentive and respectful, and anxious for instruction. Many old women who, when they entered the prison, merely knew their letters, on leaving it were able to read.

" Belfast.

"ON their first visit the committee found much to approve and nothing to change in the discipline. They are encouraged to visit during the school-hours by the matron, a judicious, steady person, who is herself encouraged by their assistance. The prisoners receive the visitors with the appearance of satisfaction, which is evinced by their quietness and attention.

" Carlow.

"THE Committee receive every encouragement and assistance from the local inspector, governor and matron, as well as from the conduct of the prisoners, whose disposition to industry, good order and subordination, is quite satisfactory.

" Carrickfergus.

"PREVIOUS to Mrs. Fry's visit, the necessary application was made to the inspector and other officers of the gaol, for their countenance and support, which were cheerfully given. The prisoners are regular in their attendance, anxious for instruction, and manifest the greatest thankfulness for it. The matron is admirably qualified for her office, and anxious to render every assistance in her power to promote the improvement of the prisoners.

" Cork City.

" SINCE Mrs. Fry's visit, the committee have proceeded almost entirely in the line of discipline recommended by her, from which, united with the kind and constant co-operation of the inspector, they have already gratefully to acknowledge some beneficial results; but they feel diffident in referring to permanent improvement. Those who have been sent to the Dépôt, and the few admitted to the Refuge, have given much satisfaction; one in particular, who has been recommended as a servant in a family, has manifested, by an uniform and steady conduct, a practical hatred of her former course, and an earnest desire to walk in the paths of peace.

" Cork County.

" THE Committee are much encouraged to persevere in their visits. Many of the women when discharged from prison, indicate the permanency of their improvement by soliciting admission into the Cork Refuge for Destitute Females. For four years previous to the formation of the present committee, an individual endeavoured to establish some order amongst the female prisoners in this gaol, but in vain. Though for nearly three succeeding years the exertions of an able matron and sub-matron, with those of the ladies, were exercised for their improvement, success was gradual, but partial, until the last six months. Such a statement suggests the necessity of patient and persevering exertion for prison improvement, under great and protracted difficulties, by its affording a prospect of final success.

" Drogheda.

" UNDER the sanction of the sheriff, a committee of ladies has been formed lately for this prison. They visit three days in the week, and are encouraged by the prisoners, who express their thankfulness for the attention shown them.

" Dundalk.

" THERE has been a very efficient ladies' association formed for visiting the female prisoners since the year 1821, and their visits have been most useful. Many of the unfortunate inmates have learned to read, who did not know the alphabet when they were committed. The regularity and good discipline of the female ward have been noticed by every person who visits this prison.

" Enniskillen.

" A FEW ladies continue to visit this prison. Some of the prisoners, who were almost totally ignorant of their letters, could read very tolerably before they were discharged. A few were taught to plait straw by the matron's daughters, and others learned to knit stockings.

" Limerick County.

" VISITORS have received the most cordial encouragement from the governor and other officers in this prison. They had but few regulations to adopt, owing to the excellent system in practice there.

" Londonderry.

" THE Committee for visiting this prison have obtained the sanction and encouragement of the local authorities. The female prisoners are constantly under the care of a matron and female turnkey, who instruct them in spelling, reading and needle-work. A female prisoner who received instruction with avidity, said to one of the committee, that she would never regret the period of her imprisonment, as she has now the comfort of knowing how to read. Several others who, when committed, were totally ignorant of letters and work, have acquired a competent knowledge of both. A liberated prisoner who learned to knit, has punctually performed the work supplied to her by one of the ladies of the committee.

" Omagh.

" THE Committee are zealous and attentive in their visits and instruction to the female prisoners; but they regret extremely they have not the assistance of a matron in this prison.

" Roscommon.

" A COMMITTEE of three ladies visit this prison twice in the week. They act according to Mrs. Fry's hints, and are always well received. The women are instructed in reading and work. One woman (past sixty) who did not know a letter, is now able to read well, and several others have made a great proficiency.

" Waterford

" Waterford County.

" THE Report from this prison is satisfactory; the ladies continue to visit.
 " Their proceedings were approved of by the authorities, who received the testimony
 " of the gaoler, that his labour was lessened one-half by the peaceable demeanour
 " of the prisoners since the ladies had begun to attend."

We copied in our last Report a long extract from the account given by Mr. Gurney and Mrs. Fry in the Report made by them to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, on the Irish gaols, in which they describe the origin and progress of the present " Ladies' Society in London." To this account was added a statement of the establishment and first proceedings of the " Hibernian Ladies' Society," with the result of their first inspection of the labours of the local societies formed in different counties throughout Ireland; and surely no person who can feel for the best interests, not only of a numerous class of the most unhappy description of females, but for the general interests of society, can read this Report without joining these individuals, who have led the way in this interesting work, in their " earnest desire that similar institutions may be formed without delay, in connexion with all the remaining county gaols and other principal prisons in Ireland, and that the great work of reformation from *vice* to *virtue*, from *idleness* to *industry*, and from *profaneness* to *practical religion*, may go rapidly forward; and that the ladies who engage in these associations may persevere in maintaining that zeal, diligence, impartiality and unanimity, which can alone be the means, under the blessing of Providence, of crowning their labours with success."

It has been observed by Mrs. Fry in her excellent treatise on the subject of visiting prisons, that it is very desirable that females should as much as possible be confined in buildings wholly separated and distinct from the gaols of the male prisoners. We have been long persuaded of the justice of this principle, and have kept it in view. We have been enabled, in the city of Waterford, to effect an arrangement by which a well-planned and distinct building has been allotted to the exclusive confinement of the female classes by presentment of the grand jury at the last assizes. We have effected the same object in the county gaols at Londonderry, Omagh, Ennis, Mullingar, Cork County and Lifford, and are anxious to extend the system as much as opportunity will permit. From separate female prisons the following obvious advantages arise:

- 1st. Better means of inspection are afforded in the rooms of the matron and female assistants.
- 2d. More complete separation is secured from the male side of a prison, and more exclusive attendance by female officers.
- 3d. The convenience of ladies who are disposed to visit the females, and may object to enter a common county gaol, is materially promoted.
- 4th. Sufficient female classification is provided, which can be effected in few county gaols in which a separate building is not appointed for that sex.

These several points we consider as being of material importance, particularly the more extended classification of the females. That evil communication corrupts the characters who are the least depraved, has been always acknowledged; but we are happy from experience to put forward the converse of this maxim; viz. that good association has done much in the instruction and improvement of the most ignorant females, through the medium of their fellow-prisoners who are more advanced.

In a tabular sheet in our Appendix, the work of the different gaols is exhibited at one view. This statement shows the comparative progress and fruits of female industry in the several counties. On this subject we hope to see a great advance beyond the present state of things. It has been, however, gratifying to us on our last tour to observe, that there does not appear to be that deficiency in the employment and work of the female prisoners, of which we have had so much reason to complain with respect to the male prisoners.

We shall close this head with inserting two of the rules contained in the " Rules and Regulations for the Government of a County Gaol," prepared by us, page 26, the observance of which we particularly recommend in gaols which do not afford accommodation for more than two female classes.

- 1st. In the classification of the females, the principle of separation is to be established, not so much according to the offences for which they are respectively committed, as according to their general conduct, character and degree of criminality.

2d. The higher class or classes may be employed in the lighter and most eligible or profitable species of work; the lower in washing, or other more laborious employment. The clothing of the classes may be different; that of the higher classes being of a somewhat better description. In the lower class are always to be placed vagrants, women of immodest character, and also women who have children in gaol, unless a separate room can be allotted to them.

MALE SCHOOLS AND LABOUR.

SCHOOLS.

THERE are now but one or two remaining instances in which schools have not been established upon the male side of our county gaols. They are, however, in many counties, not carried on with sufficient diligence to render them of much advantage to the prisoners. In those prisons in which the other modes of employing the inmates are well provided, and in which the work-room exhibits a scene of industry, it may be judicious to limit the instruction to two hours each day, or even one hour to each class; but where there is a deficiency of other occupation, the hours which would otherwise be employed in industry, should be added to the ordinary hours of school. We find, however, in almost every county gaol, instances of satisfactory progress, which tend to confirm our opinion, that the introduction of schools has been attended with the most beneficial results, and has proved to be one of the best fruits of that enlightened policy which has governed the provisions of the modern Acts of Parliament for the regulation of prisons and prison discipline in Ireland.

In several of the county gaols the prisoners have been lately taught to read in the Irish language and character; and we have found that such a mode of instruction has been well received, and that the prisoners in those prisons in which the system has been introduced, appear to be peculiarly interested and anxious to learn.

In arranging the reading classes in gaols, a great difficulty arises, and particularly in those in which it is desirable that the school hours should be increased, in enabling the master to afford sufficient time without interfering with the classification of the prisoners. To obviate this difficulty, the Board of Superintendence in one county have for some years placed the instruction in the hands of the prison officers, and imposed the duty of schoolmaster upon the turnkey of each class. In the selection of these officers the Board find no difficulty in procuring candidates who possess the necessary qualifications for that purpose. The classes thus severally form not only separate but rival schools. These teachers have been found efficient, and the system has tended to improve the discipline, rather than to interfere with the other duties of the class, by creating a closer bond of connexion between the officer and the prisoners placed under his immediate care.

WORK AND LABOUR.

THE application of the tread-wheel as the mode of carrying into effect the sentence to hard labour, has been more general and more effective within the last year; the system is carried on with more perseverance and the principle better understood. Very little progress has been made in applying the power of the wheel to any profitable object, or indeed to anything more than the supply of water to the gaol. This has arisen from the general difficulty of introducing any manufacture or productive means of employing the prisoners; and the same difficulty which retards productive employment generally, will naturally retard the accomplishment of the same end through the medium of this machine, the power of which it is lamentable to see expended upon a trifling return, or wholly wasted in unprofitable labour applied to no object. We have in all our Reports urged upon the local authorities in each county that it is an object worthy their most serious consideration to endeavour to overcome the difficulty under which prison discipline labours by the want of means of employment. The want of employment is a national evil affecting the population at large, and considerable difficulty must doubtless attend the subject. This consideration should, however, in our opinion, stimulate the exertions of those to whom the care of prisons is entrusted; while, on the contrary, it has been used as an argument against the expediency of introducing labour into the gaols. Wherever we have had an opportunity, we have opposed this principle, both in our Reports and in our communications with the magistracy, not only by contending that the Prison Act leaves no discretionary power in the hands of the Boards of Superintendence or governors of gaols (who are "required" by the 104th section 7 Geo. IV. c. 74, to keep the poor prisoners to work), but that the introduction

duction of such work, so far from being detrimental, is in every way advantageous to the public. This view we consider is made clear by the following considerations, which we before enumerated in our Sixth Report:—

1st.—The purchase of materials for the work in our gaols is a positive advantage to the public.

2d.—The man now in gaol is soon to be at large; and query, will it be most for the advantage of the public that he should go out accustomed to industry and skilled in the means of earning his bread, or that he should return as a marauder and burden on society, and be re-committed to live at the public expense?

3d.—Two-thirds of the profits of prison work are applied to the general funds of the gaol, for the purpose of *lessening the charge on the public* for the maintenance of the poor prisoners.

4th.—The remaining third of the profits is reserved for the prisoner, to be given at the time of discharge, and thus prevents him when he is enlarged, and before he has arranged his plans, from being hurried by distress into evil courses.

5th.—We think it may also be assumed as a principle, that whatever tends to extend and open the field of industry, even if it could be proved that its present effect was in some degree injurious (which we do not admit), is ultimately advantageous to the public.

The breaking of stones is the principal work which has advanced since the period of our last Report, and we are gratified to find that it is carried on with spirit in many counties, and likely to become productive. The want of employment, however, still presents in our county gaols in general, the great remaining defect, and is a subject to which the serious attention of the local authorities ought to be directed. Without industry improvement must stop very short of that perfection which the law contemplates, and they to whom the management of our gaols is committed, may rest assured that every attempt to produce moral reformation and diminution of crime through the agency of prison discipline, without a steady and general system of employment will end in disappointment.

In support of this opinion (nearly similar to that which we made in our Sixth Report) we subjoin the following extract from the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Criminal Committals and Convictions, made in 1827, and quoted by the "Association for the Improvement of Prisons in Ireland." That Report states, "With regard to prison discipline, your Committee will make at present but two short remarks: the one is, that little good seems to be effected by confinement unless accompanied by bodily labour; the other, that the construction and regulation of the tread-mill, the prison diet, and the hours to be employed in hard labour, ought to be made as nearly as possible uniform in every gaol in the kingdom."

It is gratifying to us to be thus fortified in our general view of the importance of prison labour, and particularly so to think that the desideratum respecting uniformity of practice in labour, diet, the construction and regulation of the tread-wheel,* &c. alluded to in the second remark, has been so nearly accomplished in this portion of the United Empire.

PRISON DRESSES.

THIS subject should not properly form a distinct head in our General Report, did we not find that the issue of prison clothing is a point in which our gaols in general are deficient; we therefore resume it. We have nothing new to add to the following extract from our Sixth Report; and we trust that the grand juries may take up this subject during the present year.

"As we are of opinion that a mistaken view of the Prison Act is very generally taken with respect to prison dresses, we are induced to offer some explanation on the subject, this being the only one of the allowances provided by the Legislature with which prisoners are not strictly supplied. In a very few of our gaols is a general system of prison clothing extended beyond the female class. In the great majority of prisons, the view taken of the 76th section of the
"Prison

* See 7 Geo. IV. c. 74, Schedules A. and F.; and *Regulations for the Tread-wheel*, given in the Appendix to our Fifth Report.

" Prison Act is, that the grand jury are thereby required to present money to supply prison dresses to such prisoners '*as shall stand in need of such assistance*;' and the construction put upon these words is, that if a prisoner be in absolute want of any one of the articles of clothing specified in the schedule (section 78,) it is incumbent upon the grand jury to supply that article, and to meet this supply the local inspector is provided with a certain number of the different articles of clothing.

" In several of the gaols we are concerned to state that the prisoners are not supplied in any way, and consequently are in many instances in a very objectionable state of nakedness, and particularly in want of shoes, an article peculiarly necessary to persons who live comparatively without exercise, and who stand upon flagged floors. The most common course, however, which is taken is the *middle course*, of supplying occasional articles, and to that system, therefore, we shall apply our observations.

" The words '*as shall stand in need of such assistance*,' are certainly to be found in the section alluded to; but it will be seen by reference to that section that these words do not relate exclusively to 'prison dresses,' but apply equally to 'food,' 'bedding,' &c. These words, then, are to be construed as words defining what is denominated in the 82d section, 'a poor prisoner within the meaning of this Act,' who, as such, is subject to 'all rules and regulations hereinafter provided in that behalf.' As *poor prisoners*, then, standing in need of and receiving public support, they are made liable to work, (section 104,) and as poor prisoners they are, on the other hand, entitled to the various supplies to be provided for those who stand in need of them, and which are detailed without distinction in the 76th section; viz. *food, fuel, prison dresses, &c. &c.*; the words, 'such as stand in need thereof,' being the general terms descriptive of a poor prisoner under the Act, and having equal reference to all manner of supplies mentioned in the preceding part of the section.

" It appears to us, on this construction of the Act, that poor prisoners are entitled to prison dresses. We conceive that if the system is well managed, the compliance with the Act will be attended with very little expense additional to that which will attend the *middle course*, if all deficient articles, including *shoes*, are strictly supplied; and it is clear that the additional expense will be repaid ten-fold by the increased degree of order, cleanliness and discipline arising from the issue of an uniform dress.

" The law thus acted upon will appear to be founded upon true principles of justice. We suppose the case of a prisoner confined for a considerable length of time and ultimately acquitted; at the time of his committal he possessed a good suit of clothes; during his confinement his family are deprived of their means of support, and at the end of that period he is discharged, sent out of gaol in rags, and obliged to purchase a new suit of clothes before he is placed in the same circumstances in which he stood at the time of his committal; this surely is not just. Or, suppose the clothing of the gaol is issued to a prisoner after his own clothing is worn out, instead of being issued on his committal; in such a case he is on his discharge placed in the painful situation of being obliged to return home with the stigma of a prison dress; this is equally a hardship. We have taken our examples from the class of persons not convicted, as we find the clothing more particularly withheld from the untried. All these inconveniences are completely avoided by adhering to the spirit, and what we conceive to be the fair construction of the law.

" When a prisoner is, on committal, placed on the list of those entitled to receive public allowances, his private clothing should at once be taken from him, washed (if necessary,) labelled, and placed in store, to be returned on his discharge, and a suit of prison clothing should be issued, consisting of the articles enumerated in the 78th section of the Act. This system we conceive essential to the perfect regulation of a prison, and to the correct fulfilment of the provisions of the Act, and we are particularly anxious to forward it, as the want of a regular supply of dresses is the most striking defect still remaining in our good county gaols. It is the only subject upon which (with very few exceptions) we are addressed by the prisoners in the language of complaint, and upon this subject the complaints have been very frequent, and in many instances very well founded."

APPENDIX.

Form of REPORT of the Inspector General, made on his Inspection of the Gaol,
prior to 1st February 182 .

Enactments of 7 Geo. IV. c. 74, s. 55.

[N. B. The Sections of the Act form the Queries to be reported upon.—Opposite to each is left a blank space, headed “How carried into effect.”]

Sect.

Form of
Report.

2.—Grand jury to appoint a Board of Superintendence, of not less than eight and not more than twelve persons, one half of whom to be justices of the peace, three of whom (one being a justice of the peace) to form a quorum. Grand jury empowered to present to the Board of Superintendence the monies to be raised under this Act, and to advance any reasonable sums to defray the expenses of the gaol.

3.—Powers of Board of Superintendence to visit all gaols, to examine into their state, and into the conduct of the officers.

4.—The Board to make bye-laws for the gaol, to be carried into effect by the local inspector, and to be binding upon all magistrates and upon sheriffs.

5.—Limits and defines the powers of justices of the peace, not being members of the Board of Superintendence; abuses to be reported by them to the Board.

6.—Accommodation of a county gaol. Males and females to be completely separated.

Class 1.—Debtors and contempts on civil process.

2.—Felons convicted.

3.—Misdemeanants, ditto.

4.—Felons untried.

5.—Misdemeanants, ditto, and want of sureties.

6.—King's evidence.

Separate infirmaries for two sexes.

Baths or bathing-tubs in places best adapted for the use of the different classes.

Separate common halls, yards, and privies for the different classes, with a supply of good water.

Separate cells for prisoners, and some cells to be provided with three beds or more.

Two male prisoners only, never to be lodged together.

Rooms for labour and industry.

Cells for solitary confinement.

One or more chapels, with separate divisions for males and females, and for different classes.

57.—Gaolers to transmit yearly returns according to the Schedule (E.)

59.—Inspectors-general empowered to examine persons on oath respecting the discipline of gaols, and to report to the Lord Lieutenant, &c.

62.—Book of observations and visits of officers to be kept in the gaol.

65 & 6.—Duties of local inspector, &c.

67.—Returns to be made by clerks of the peace and crown to the local inspector, and annual returns of that officer to the inspectors-general.

68.—Grand jury to appoint a chaplain of the Established Church, and, if required by the court, a Protestant dissenting minister, and a clergyman of the Roman-catholic church, as chaplains to the gaol, to be approved by the court of assize, and preference to be given to parochial clergy.

69.—Duty of Chaplains :

To read prayers on Sundays.

To visit the prison twice in every week, and to exhort every prisoner.

To attend malefactors condemned to death.

To inspect provisions by alternate weeks on the days appointed.

To keep a journal, to be produced when required, to the Board of Superintendence.

70 & 71.—Regulates salaries of chaplains, which are to be equal in amount.

72.—Regulates the qualifications and appointment of physician or surgeon.

To visit each prison twice in every week or oftener if necessary.

To keep a journal, &c.

Sustenance ordered by physician, to be procured under order of the Board of Superintendence.

72 & 74.—Apothecaries to supply medicines and other articles necessary for the sick.

No apothecary providing medicines, shall be physician or surgeon to the gaol.

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76.—Regulates

Form of
Report.

Sect.

- 76.—Regulates presentments for fuel, prison dresses, and beds, &c.
Money presented for these purposes, to be paid to contractors.
- 78.—Articles of bedding and prison dresses.
- 79.—Contractors to account on oath.
- 80.—Contracts to be made with the clerk of the peace.
- 81.—Penalty on grand juror or inspector being concerned in contracts.
- 82.—Poor prisoners not to receive any provisions in addition to the allowance of the gaol.
- 83.—Debtors confined for a sum under 10*l.* to receive an allowance from their creditors of 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, by order of the court.
- 84.—Inspectors-general to prepare dietary tables, to be approved by the court of King's Bench, to be hung up in a conspicuous part of the common hall.
- 85.—Form of dietary account, schedule (A.)
- 87.—Inspectors-general to supply deficient bedding, dresses, &c. for the fixed establishment of each gaol, according to the forms in schedule (B.) and (C.)
Collectors of excise to advance the cost of purchasing the same.
- 88.—Grand juries to appoint matrons.
Matrons to receive a salary approved by the court of assize.
- 89.—Authorizes the appropriation of part of the gaol as an house of correction.
Exempt from the responsibility of the sheriff.
A governor to be appointed by the grand jury.
- 96.—Persons committed by local jurisdictions, to be confined in county gaol.
- 99.—Regulates the payment of expense of male prisoners by the local jurisdiction.
- 100.—Persons committed within a county of a city or town, to be confined in the county gaol by order of the Lord Lieutenant.
- 104.—Poor prisoners to be kept to such work as shall be appointed by the grand jury or Board of Superintendence.
- 105.—Prisoners before trial, and not being poor prisoners, may be employed, with their own consent, and to receive such allowance as the Board of Superintendence may appoint.
Such employment not to interfere with classification.
- 106.—Regulates the providing teachers, books, materials, tools, &c.
- 107.—Poor prisoners to receive one-third of their profit, if any arise.—This clause does not extend to persons sentenced to hard labour.
- 108.—Keeper's return of hard labour, according to schedule (F.) to be made at every assizes.
- 109.—Twenty-four rules for the regulation of county gaols.
Local inspector to report, on oath, on the state of the prison, to the judge at every assizes, inserting a copy of these rules, and his special report on the execution of each. (Rules 14 and 24.)
- 110.—Penalty on conveying spirituous liquors into prisons.
- 111.—Allowance made to defray the expenses to their places of abode or of honest employment of discharged prisoners, not having the means to pay for the same.
- 112.—Court of King's Bench empowered to make rules and regulations, whether temporary or permanent.
Also by a summary order to dismiss officers guilty of misconduct or disobedience to the same.
Officers so dismissed, not re-eligible to other offices.
- 113.—Officers to attend and answer all inquiries of the Board of Superintendence.
- 117.—Regulates the issue of clothing to convicts sentenced to transportation.
- 137.—Notice of abolition of fees to be posted in every gaol.

Here follow the general observations, which are a copy of the Report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, pursuant to 7th Geo. IV. c. 74, s. 55.

SPECIAL REPORT UPON THE STATE OF EACH GAOL.

DUBLIN DISTRICT.

*Kilmainham Gaol.*Dublin
District.

WE have for some years now annually reported to the grand jury of the county of Dublin the necessity of providing employment for the prisoners, in order to give that character and efficiency to this gaol, which alone can make its internal regulations beneficial to its inmates, and the prison an example to others. The latter has been an interesting object to us, as almost all the county governors of gaols in Ireland are, in the course of their duty, once or twice in the year at this prison, and would probably return with a conviction of the advantages of adopting whatever was practised here, or, on the other hand, of thinking what was neglected in Kilmainham might with safety be omitted in the country. We are now enabled to state, that many gaols in Ireland have established a system of permanent work for all pauper prisoners, by breaking stones for the streets and high roads, and some with considerable profit; we would, therefore, again urge the consideration of the subject. It is possible that the Paving Board would purchase all the broken stones for the neighbouring streets, and that if all the minor difficulties which may be urged, were removed by the authority of the grand jury and the Board of Superintendence, this plan might become profitable, as it certainly would be creditable to the county.

With the exception of this important defect, Kilmainham gaol is conducted, as far as the building will admit, on sound principles of classification and discipline, much to the credit of the governor and resident officers. The whole prison is kept remarkably clean, and the inmates are orderly and submissive. There has been a good male school established for some years, which occupies most of the prisoners for a part of the day, and the female classes are instructed in reading, needle-work and washing, under the care of a matron, aided by a visiting committee of ladies. The good effects here will greatly depend on the qualifications and energy of the matron, who is at present assisted by her two daughters.

The tread-wheel labour is regularly enforced according to the regulations, and has produced the desired effect of being a punishment and terror to the vagrant classes. The hospital department is also kept very clean, and the patients attended to regularly by the surgeon.

It is our duty again to report on the wants in this gaol, which can alone be provided for by the grand jury.

1st.—The number of single cells are not sufficient for the average number of prisoners; there are only 66. It would require 34 more to give each a cell, which is of admitted importance in prison discipline.

2d.—The day-rooms are too small, and there are no work-rooms. One day-room is wanted in N° 6 class.

3d.—A steam apparatus for cooking should be put up, as generally the potato diet is more economical than bread.

4th.—A separate hospital, unconnected with the gaol building, should be erected according to law.

5th.—A few solitary cells should be built.

6th.—A general gaol dress should be provided for, which has been done in some gaols, and has proved beneficial and not expensive.

7th.—The advantage of inspection by the governor is totally lost in this prison, from the original bad architecture; and however difficult the remedy may be, it is our duty to bring it before the grand jury. Perhaps, (as more accommodation of cells, &c. &c. are required) that in building an addition of a house of correction, much of this evil might be obviated.

The stated attendance of the Board of Superintendence has been of great use in this prison, and the local inspector continues to take a zealous interest in the welfare and discipline of the establishment.

CITY OF DUBLIN GAOLS.

REPORT of the Inspector-General, made on his inspection of the Gaols, prior to 1st February 1829:—7th Geo. IV. c. 74, s. 55.

Dublin
District.

THE classification of the gaols of the metropolis being regulated by special clauses in the Prison Act, which empower the Lord Lieutenant, with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, to determine the class of prisoners to be confined therein respectively, the state of each separate gaol must in a great measure depend upon the adequacy of the gross accommodation to the objects to be embraced within the whole. In taking, then, a general view of the present state or probable progress of prison discipline in Dublin, we find the gaol of Newgate standing (as we have so often reported) in the foreground, with such defects as preclude the possibility of placing the system upon any thing like a satisfactory footing. The want of room in that prison occasions a pressure upon the accommodation in the other gaols, and leads as well to overcrowd them as to embarrass general arrangement. Thus are the evils of this bad gaol not confined within its own walls, but injurious in many ways to the whole system of the Dublin prisons.

These evils cannot be remedied until a new prison shall be provided for the confinement of the greater proportion of the prisoners now committed to Newgate. The city requires a new gaol for the accommodation of at least 400 prisoners, so constructed as to afford the means of effecting the most minute classification, of carrying into execution the sentences to hard labour, and of securing the constant employment of the pauper prisoners, under the 104th section of the Act. It will be very desirable, in the arrangement of any new prison, to keep in view the late statutes, which add the sentence of solitary confinement to that of imprisonment, at the discretion of the court from which the sentences proceed, and in no case will the adoption of that system be attended with more advantage than in the gaol of a metropolis. The principle upon which the classification of county gaols is regulated by the Prison Act, although excellent for general purposes, by no means meets the case of a large city. The distinction of felon and misdemeanant, subdivided according to the different shades of crime and punishment, assuming the individual degrees of moral guilt to correspond with that classification, however sound in its general application, will be found most fallacious as applied to the inmates of a metropolitan prison. There are in a large city a number of idle young persons of both sexes, particularly females, who, without being detected in the commission of great crimes, or subjected to heavy sentences, are the subjects of perpetual re-committals for short periods of imprisonment, generally on failure of procuring bail for their good behaviour. These misdemeanants are the most thoroughly corrupted, depraved and unruly inmates of the gaol; yet, in respect to the legal classification, they are placed among the lighter shades of guilt. Such prisoners are now crowded together; their corruption increasing every hour by the effects of gross association and a state of total idleness, in a prison in which there can be no stand made against the growth of crime, through the medium of industry or moral discipline. This state of things renders it most expedient, that in any new arrangement means should be provided for affording a fair experiment of the effects of minute classification, industry, separation from evil contact by night, and, to cases sentenced thereto, of total solitude.

It is impossible to anticipate what the precise nature of the arrangement may be, but as a rough outline of classification for the city of Dublin, we should say, that the number of females confined are now so great, that it would at least be worthy of consideration, whether it may not be advantageous to establish a distinct system of female discipline, carried on according to the full extent of the scale of classification prescribed by the Prison Act for county gaols, but which can seldom be applied except on the male side. For this purpose the Richmond bridewell would afford suitable accommodation. We should then propose to allot Newgate for the prisoners for trial, and to place the whole of the tried male prisoners in the new prison. By such a distribution the Penitentiary at Smithfield would be discontinued, and we are persuaded, that on a balance of expenses to be deducted and added, by the establishment of a good system in Dublin, it would be found that the change from the present miserable state of things would not induce an additional expense of any importance.

We have entered at large into the defects of Newgate in our former Reports, and particularly our Sixth Report, (printed) page 21, and shall confine the following report on that prison to the present state of numbers and discipline.

Newgate.

I FOUND the gaol of Newgate in the same state in which I had inspected it in the last year. Considering the extremely crowded state of the prison, it is creditable to the officers to have so far succeeded in counteracting the pernicious effects of the want of room, by cleanliness, ventilation, and the use of lime-washing, as to avoid all the offensive effects of close and confined space. The rooms were perfectly free from dirt or bad air, and the prison healthy. The appearance of the prisoners was as usual most distressing. The want of clothing, (which is, under present circumstances, an unavoidable infraction of the law) gives an appearance of misery, while the effects of idleness and profligate association give an air of depravity in the countenance and deportment of the prisoners, that is not only distressing to see, but must be most destructive in its effects. Notwithstanding I found no complaints, and every comfort afforded which the officers can legally supply.

The

The accommodation and numbers confined, were, on the day of inspection, as follows:—

Number of Class.	Number of Cells.	Number of Day Rooms.	Dimensions of Yard.	Name of Class.	Number Confined.
1.	None	3	20 ft. long, 17 ft. bd.	Untried - -	58
1.	-	-	-	Tried - - -	21
2.	24	1	55 ft. long, 32 ft. bd.	Tried - - -	43
2.	-	-	-	Transports - -	5
3.	12	1	55 ft. long, 28 ft. bd.	Tried - - -	44
State side	11	1	55 ft. long, 36 ft. bd.	Tried - - -	8
	-	4	-	Debtors - -	6—185
					<hr/>
Female yard	16	3	55 ft. long, 17 ft. bd.	Untried - -	36
				Tried - - -	42
				Transports - -	26—104
					<hr/>
				Total, January 2d - -	289
				Discharged, same day - -	35
					<hr/>
				Total, January 1st - -	324

Richmond Bridewell.

THIS Prison continues to hold its place as one of the most effective and creditable places of confinement in either district. The labour of those sentenced to the tread-wheel is steadily carried on, and all the other prisoners regularly kept to work; no one individual appearing on the daily state as *unemployed*.

The following is the detail, as appeared on the day of inspection:—

Confined male prisoners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147
Weaving, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
Other trades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Gardening	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
On the tread-wheel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
In household employment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Sick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
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On the female side the system is carried on in the most satisfactory manner; the women being employed and instructed under the care of very efficient officers, and with the advantage of the superintendence of a committee of ladies, whose benevolent services have been particularly beneficial in this institution.

The employment of the females was as follows:—

Confined female prisoners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Weaving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Plain and other work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
House work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Sick in hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
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The nurses and females with children are placed in a separate room, to prevent their interruption of the employment of the other classes, and the state of this class is orderly and creditable. The work-rooms, dining-halls, dormitories and cells of the whole of the female side of the prison, are in the highest order; the dress uniform, and the distinctive marks of the classes give an appearance of system which is very gratifying.

This prison is obviously capable of being much improved, by building additional cells, &c. and the crowded state of the male side is objectionable. This we have noticed in our General Remarks, and the subject will come under consideration as soon as the question respecting Newgate is disposed of.

Gross amount of work in Richmond bridewell last year	-	£.851.	5.	8.
Nett profit credited to city	-	-	330.	17. 10.

Smithfield Penitentiary.

THIS Prison is improved since my last Report upon it, in the general cleanliness and order of the house, and in the appearance of the boys. On the female side the women are employed principally in knitting. The laundry is well established, and in it are washed the bedding of the gaols of the whole city. This plan the local inspector represents as having been very advantageous in enabling him to observe great cleanliness in the bedding of the crowded gaol at Newgate. Weaving and picking wool are the principal occupations of the boys, who are regularly kept at school during a part of the day, and much attention paid to their instruction. The accommodation on the female side has not enabled the committee

Dublin
District.

of ladies allotted to this prison to persevere with any effect in their attendance on that class, and they have discontinued their visits.

Gross amount of work for last year	-	-	-	£. 258. 13. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Nett profit	-	-	-	138. 0. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sheriff's Prison.

THIS prison is in a much more clean and well ordered state than when last reported on. The pauper class is wholly removed; the prison is not crowded; and there were no complaints made by the prisoners confined. The rules and regulations established by the Court of King's Bench in 1810 are still in force. The rents much exceed those established in the Four Courts Marshalsea, to which prison, however, the debtors confined in the Sheriff's prison have the option of removing by writ of habeas corpus.

City Marshalsea.

THIS Prison was in a less miserable state than when inspected in the last year, because less crowded, and there is an appearance of decided improvement in the management of the Marshalsea, into which we are persuaded that spirits were most improperly introduced before the appointment of the present keeper. The Marshalsea, however, remains a decided stain upon the prison system of this country, and is left without any provision for the wants of the poor debtors, or for the reasonable repairs of the building.

Four Courts Marshalsea.

WE have been disappointed in finding that the work ordered to be done in the pauper yard, and now executed, has not so effectually remedied the dampness of that yard as to enable the marshal to place the pauper prisoners therein. This circumstance has prevented the complete establishment of the proposed system of classification, and the evil consequences of the mixture of prisoners, which becomes still unavoidable, are very injurious to discipline. The confined limits of the common-hall yard have been corrected by opening a communication with the racket court, which is now removed to the lower yard.

The accommodation was as follows, on the day of inspection:—

- 1st Class.—37 Gentlemen and respectable persons paying rent for their accommodation, for whom 28 rooms are available; viz. 9 double rooms and 19 single rooms.
- 2d Class.—18 Common-hall prisoners.
- 3d Class.—27 Paupers, for whom 5 rooms are available, and afford sufficient accommodation.
- 4th Class.—4 Respectable females, to whom one room is allotted.
- 5th Class.—4 Pauper females, to whom one room is allotted.

The rent account is by no means satisfactory; on the contrary, a great increase of non-payment appears. Accurate tables have been prepared for keeping the accounts, which can be of no use if the debtors are permitted to run into arrear.

Many complaints were made of the want of repair, of painting, and of certain utensils necessary to enable the prisoners to keep the rooms in a state of cleanliness, which we consider as grounded; and we have stated to the local inspector our opinion, that the repairs should be made and the utensils provided.

We are of opinion, as stated in our last Report, that if some prospect does not open of the diminution of the number of persons confined for debt, the present building will be found quite inadequate for such accommodation as to provide for the numbers, and for a system of order and regularity proportioned to that which other prisons afford, and we should repeat the suggestion submitted in our last Report, that “measures should be taken to purchase a sufficient quantity of ground on the east side of Marshalsea-lane, which is now to be let for building, and which it is most important to secure, as the appropriation of that site to any other purpose would preclude the possibility of adding to the present Marshalsea, and at some future period probably involve the unavoidable necessity and great expense of building upon a new site.”

Saint Sepulchre's Manor Court.

WE are concerned to observe, that notwithstanding the observations made in our last Report, and at a period when almost all other gaols exhibit a scene of cleanliness and order, this prison remains in a most filthy and discreditable state. We are, however, gratified to find, that by the measures adopted by the seneschal of the manor, pauper prisoners are wholly excluded. The state of this prison proves, in the strongest manner, the wisdom of the Legislature in the enactment of those clauses in the Prison Act, by which manor prisons are abolished, the prison of St. Sepulchre being one of the few which are continued under the 97th section of the Act.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Richmond Lunatic Asylum.

SINCE our last Report, this institution has been made available for an additional number of cases, on account of the pressing public call for the admission of new patients, by making use of some of the day-rooms as dormitories; a circumstance highly creditable to the governors of the institution, but which, if persisted in or pursued further, must tend to

to crowding and disorder in the establishment, and consequently to lower its character as an asylum for the treatment of the insane with a view to cure, as ample accommodation for classification and employment are admitted to be absolutely necessary for this purpose.

Under these circumstances, it would be unfair to compare this institution in all its branches with the provincial asylums lately established in Armagh and Limerick, especially as the Richmond, independent of its own crowded state, labours under the great disadvantage of being burthened, to nearly one-half its extent, with incurable cases, on account of the want of accommodation in the wards of the House of Industry to receive those cases as formerly, and consequently many new cases are shut out which would afford reasonable hope of cure, and the disease possibly becomes aggravated for want of care, thus increasing the number of incurable lunatics.

The only remedy that can be suggested is, additional buildings in the House of Industry, or in the Richmond Asylum, for which there is sufficient room; and we would beg to submit the favourable consideration of the subject to Government.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, several interesting cases of cure have occurred within the last year, and many of the patients have been employed in garden-work, weaving, spinning, and knitting stockings. An improvement has also been made in ventilating some of the cells.

A progressive improvement has taken place in the asylum, and the general appearance was clean and orderly, considering the crowded state and the number of incurable cases. Mr. Grace, the resident governor, is attentive and anxious for the welfare of the institution. The patients are humanely treated; there does not appear to be any undue restraint or severity; and the medical department is attended to by the officers attached to the institution with care and assiduity.

The following statement was made by Mr. Grace on the day of inspection:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining in the asylum, 5th January 1828 - - -	121	161	282
Admitted to 5th January 1829 - - - - -	87	92	179
	208	253	461
In the same period were discharged:			
Recovered - - - - -	41	44	85
Relieved and on trial - - - - -	19	10	29
Taken by friends, unrelieved - - - - -	1	1	2
Transferred to House of Industry, as incurable	11	5	16
Died - - - - -	12	12	24
Remaining in the asylum, 5th January 1829 - - -	124	181	305
	208	253	461

Lunatic Department, House of Industry.

THE character which this establishment has for some years merited for order, cleanliness and good regulations, is by no means diminished since last inspection, and it only requires the eye of an occasional observer to mark the care that is taken of this class of our helpless fellow-creatures.

When we consider the crowded state of this department of the House of Industry, in large dormitories, not originally erected for the purpose, the consequent want of classification, and that out of 453 inmates, all are either epileptic or idiotic cases, or supposed incurable lunatics, transferred from the Richmond asylum, we are astonished at the remarkable neatness and order of the whole establishment, the regularity of the meals, the systematic employment of most of them, and the trifling quantity of restraint found necessary to retain the whole in perfect order. It reflects the highest credit on the governor of the House of Industry, and on the zeal, intelligence and qualification of Mr. and Mrs. Cluffe, the superintendents of this department.

Any person taking an interest in, or having the charge of a lunatic establishment, must receive great satisfaction and information from a visit to this institution.

The harmless and idiotic patients are lodged in large wards, and the violent occupy some cells erected for the purpose; and they are removed to and from these, according to the nature of the case. There are 15 sleeping-rooms, 60 feet by 20, containing 358 beds, and there are 95 cells in a distinct part of the establishment.

The females are employed in making and repairing clothing and bedding for about 2,000 persons in the House of Industry; and the males chiefly in gardening and various works about the institution.

A separate dining-hall, with a bath-room and scullery, has been added this year for the use of the lunatics.

Dublin
District.

The following was the state of the house on the day of inspection:—

	Incurable Lunatics.	Epileptics.	Idiotics.	Total.	Servants.
In Male Wards - -	81	33	36	150	14
In Female Wards - -	140	30	38	208	21
In Male Cells - -	17	10	6	33	6
In Female Cells - -	45	87	3	62	7
	283	87	83	453	48

Private Lunatic Asylums at Finglass.

THERE are three private asylums kept near Dublin, at Finglass, under the care of Dr. Harty, Dr. Jackson, and Mr. Gregory. We have always found them such as the respectability and character of these gentlemen would secure; not only free from abuse and ill-treatment to the inmates, but marked attention to their comforts in every respect.

Donnybrook Asylum.

THIS Asylum is established by the Society of Friends out of their own funds, and receives eighteen patients. At present but eight men and eight women are in the house. The patients pay for their support according to their ability. When applications from the Society do not fill the asylum, the governors are permitted to receive five patients not belonging to it. The system continues to be admirably conducted; the treatment of the patients humane and kind, and the establishment in a most creditable state of cleanliness and order.

St. Patrick's Hospital for Lunatics and Idiots.

(Founded by Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's.)

THE Governors, incorporated by charter, are composed of many of the highest official characters for the time being, with some members elected. Under such guardianship, the interests of the institution are certain of being well attended to. The patients are accommodated with good apartments, and with yards for air and exercise. The present governor, Mr. Campbell, is an officer well qualified for his situation.

Hulk Essex, at Kingstown.

I FOUND this hulk in very good order; but 81 convicts were in custody, the greater proportion of whom I found either at work or employed in the school. The ship was healthy and clean; no person in irons; and no complaints made by any of the convicts. On the whole, the general appearance of the hulk was creditable to the officers on board.