

THIRD REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

Irish Education Inquiry.

Dated *Dublin*, 16th September 1826.

Presented by His Majesty's Command to both Houses of Parliament.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 November 1826.

THIRD REPORT

THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE

IRISH COMMISSIONERS OF THE

THE REPORT - - - - -	p. 1.
THE APPENDIX - - - - -	16.

Irish Education Inquiry.

Presented to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed.

of New York: 1885.

THIRD REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS

OF

IRISH EDUCATION INQUIRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

WE, the undersigned Commissioners nominated and appointed by a Commission under the Great Seal, bearing date the Fourteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, humbly beg leave further to report as follows :

THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL of Dublin was established in the year 1704, and was originally intended for the confinement and correction of vagrants as well as for the maintenance and education of deserted children. In consequence of an Act passed in the year 1776, it appears finally to have assumed the character which its name imports. The usual practice in the hospital has been, to receive foundling infants from all parts of Ireland, and to place them as speedily as possible under the care of nurses in the country, with whom they remain until they attain the age of seven or eight years. After this period, they are again brought back to the hospital, and are there maintained and instructed until they arrive at the age for apprenticeship.

Education of the
Lower Classes.

The objects of the Institution may therefore be considered as twofold—the preservation of the lives of foundlings, and their education in such a manner as to render them useful members of society. The difficulties which attend any undertaking of this kind will be found far greater than might be expected by those who have not had experience on the subject. It is evidently the design of Providence that the infancy of children should be superintended by their parents, and a great departure from this principle (however unavoidable it must be with respect to foundlings) will be attended by circumstances of an untoward and perplexing nature.

We make this observation not for the purpose of depreciating the utility of such an institution, but to impress the importance of confining its extent as much as possible within the limits of the necessity in which it originates; and that its operations should be as nearly as possible assimilated to that system for which the vices of society have rendered it, though sometimes, perhaps, a necessary, at best an imperfect substitute.

At no period since its commencement have the results realized in the Foundling Hospital of Dublin been fully satisfactory to those concerned in its management, though hopes have been at all times entertained, with greater or less confidence, that at some future time essential amelioration would be effected; considerable

improvements

improvements have from time to time been made, but never to such an extent as the benevolent views of the individuals who have laboured for their accomplishment may have led them to anticipate.

The year 1797 forms a remarkable æra in the history of this Institution. The abuses which at that time appeared to prevail in the management of some of its departments, became so great as forcibly to attract the attention of the Irish Parliament; its constitution was in consequence wholly changed; about two hundred persons of the first rank and character in the country had previously been governors and managers of the Institution; persons incapable of assenting for a moment to the existence of the abuses which prevailed, but who afforded in this instance, as in the history of other institutions, a strong proof, that the number and high station of the individuals to whom the management of a great public establishment is nominally committed, too often produce, from the division of responsibility, and the imposition of a duty which it is well understood they are none of them practically expected to perform, a greater licence for the malversation of inferior officers who are supposed to be under their control.

Amongst these abuses the most prominent was the mismanagement of the children in their earliest infancy; great negligence and inhumanity were found to mark the conduct of the women employed in carrying children to the hospital, from remote parts of the country; many died upon the road, others almost immediately after arriving within the walls of the Institution, and the neglect in the medical department of the hospital towards the children who survived the hardships of the journey, was a still more serious subject for reprehension.

After the lapse of time which has since taken place, we do not feel it necessary to recapitulate the painful detail of facts then brought to light, and which may be found in the Journals of the Irish House of Commons of the year 1797.

By an Act of the Irish Parliament, 38 Geo. 3, c. 35 (1798), which was passed in consequence of the investigation above alluded to, the whole management of the Institution was vested in nine governors, named in the Act, with a direction, that upon the death or resignation of a governor at any time thereafter, the remaining governors should elect and appoint his successor.

Such is the constitution of the establishment at the present time; and much credit is due to the successive governors for having seldom permitted a week to pass without assembling in the hospital for the execution of their arduous duties. The governors named in the Act applied themselves without delay to the improvement of every branch of the Institution, and they were zealously seconded by the voluntary services of a number of ladies, who formed themselves into a committee of superintendence for the regular visitation of the infant department and of the female school. It is highly gratifying to reflect, that during the twenty-eight years which have since elapsed, these exertions have not been discontinued, and that with very little intermission ladies have successively been found who have devoted a portion of their time to the execution of this important duty. To their attention the order and improvement which have ever since prevailed more or less in these departments must in a great degree be attributed.

One of the first acts of the new governors in 1798, was to provide a number of wet-nurses in the house for the infant children on their admission; and the system of artificial feeding, which had previously prevailed, was abandoned. To the care of these women the children are committed for the few days during which they remain in the hospital before they are conveyed to the nurses who are to take charge of them in the country. The nurses selected for the latter purpose usually reside in the counties contiguous to Dublin, principally in Wicklow, Kildare and Carlow. Prior to 1797, the sum of 2*l.* per annum was paid to a country nurse for undertaking this office. This allowance was in the year 1797 raised to 3*l.*, and a further bounty of 2*l.* was given to the nurse at the end of the first year, if she produced in good health the child that had been intrusted to her care.

The nurses are paid at the hospital every summer, and they are obliged, when they receive their money, to bring the children with them as their title for payment. The nurse, on such occasions, is not aware whether the child will be taken from her, or whether she will be allowed to carry it back with her to the country for another year. The affection which the nurses almost invariably conceive for
the

the children, and the reciprocal attachment of the children towards them, appear to be in many cases as strong as if a natural relationship really existed; and this circumstance affords undoubted proof of the kind treatment which the children in general receive. The scenes of deep distress which take place when the period arrives for the ultimate separation of the nurse from the child, are described as most trying to the best feelings of those who witness them; and it is a well established fact, that when the critical age of seven or eight years is approaching, at which the children are usually taken into the hospital, the nurses very frequently forego the remuneration to which they are entitled for the past year, and abstain ever after from producing the children, rather than incur the risk of being deprived of them. Other causes may sometimes operate to occasion this detention, or prevent the return of children to the hospital; but it cannot be doubted that in the great majority of instances it is to be accounted for in the way now stated.

Education of the
Lower Classes.

The Reverend Mr. Daly, the rector of Powerscourt, in the county of Wicklow, informs us, that not fewer than a hundred of these nurses reside in his parish. He says, "I can state that all the women in my parish who have infants to nurse, if they were sure that the children would be taken from them, would not go up for their salary; they would lose their three or four pounds to keep the children; but they take them up, the salary being a great object to them, in the hope that they may get the salary and the child; and they have often said, 'We will not take them another year—we will keep them.' There are a great number in my parish, which they have kept back and not brought up, who are now living along with the families who reared them." He has heard the women say, "When that child is five years old, I will not take it up to the hospital, I will lose the money." He adds, that the "unhappiest scenes he has ever witnessed were those of separating the children from the nurses, who had taken care of them for eight or nine years." He further informs us, that "these children are almost always called by the names of the other children of the family, and not by the foundling names; that they are not the objects of reproach or obloquy in the neighbourhood before they have been returned into the hospital, but that they are most dreadfully so when they come back again to be apprenticed. While they are called by the name of the people in the house, nobody knows whether they are their children or not; but when they come down with a blue coat and red cape from the hospital, they are looked at," he says, "in a very reproachful way."

During the period which has elapsed since the introduction of the reformed system into the Foundling Hospital, namely, from the 25th June 1796 to the 5th January 1826, the total number of children admitted has been - - - 52,150

As far as can be ascertained from the Returns made to us, these children have been disposed of in the following manner, viz.

Died in the hospital whilst infants - - - - -	14,613
Returned as dead whilst at nurse in the country - - - - -	25,859
Died in the Infirmary, after returning from nurse - - - - -	730
Died in the country, grown children sent there for health - - - - -	322
	<hr/> 41,524
Eloped from the hospital - - - - -	413
Delivered up to parents whilst infants - - - - -	1,093
Ditto from the grown department - - - - -	34
Apprenticed to trades - - - - -	5,466
Ditto to schoolmasters - - - - -	204
Transferred to charter schools - - - - -	526
	<hr/> 49,260
Remaining in the hospital and at nurse 5th January 1826 - - - - -	6,339
	<hr/> 55,599
Deduct the number of children in the hospital and at nurse 25th June 1796 - - - - -	3,410
	<hr/> 52,189

From this statement it appears that out of 52,150 children admitted, 41,524 are returned as dead in the books of the hospital, leaving only 10,626 surviving: and from this latter number are to be deducted upwards of 1,500 delivered up to parents or eloped, the mortality amongst whom there are no means for calculating. Of the total number of deaths, no less than 25,859 children are stated to have died whilst in the country.

It is obvious from the very nature of a Foundling Hospital, that the loss of life amongst the infants committed to its charge must, under any possible system of management, be greater than amongst an equal number of children not removed from the custody of their parents. Newly-born infants, transmitted perhaps from remote parts of Ireland, and intrusted during their journey to the hands of strangers, who are not in a situation to perform the offices of wet-nurses, are exposed to so many difficulties, that it may perhaps excite surprise that they so frequently survive their first passage to the hospital. And it is not to be doubted that such injuries are often sustained from exposure to cold and neglect, as lay the foundation of future diseases, which no subsequent care can fully counteract.

But although it is evident that the loss of infant life in an institution of this nature, must greatly exceed the common calculations exhibited in the tables of mortality, yet in this case the proportion is so much greater, that we are clearly of opinion there is a mistake of some magnitude in the account, which may be sufficiently explained by the fact, that a number of the children officially set down as having died in the country, have really been retained by their nurses, and many of them grown up to maturity, and taken their station in society without the knowledge or assistance of the governors of the hospital.

According to the rules of the Institution, the children are set down as dead when three years have elapsed without their nurses having produced them at the hospital; so that it by no means follows that many of the children may not be actually in existence, although reported officially as dead. A certificate of the death of a child dying in the country, signed by the clergyman of the parish, is given to the nurse, and is produced by her as a document, by means of which she obtains payment for the portion of her salary due for the time the child lived. For the 25,859 children returned as having died in the country, only 16,237 of these certificates have been received at the hospital, leaving 9,622 to be accounted for without any proof of their death. It will be found from the examination of the registrar, that, in his opinion, there are many cases in which the death of a child has actually taken place, although the dead certificate (as it is called) has not been produced, because the portion of salary accrued has been too small to induce the nurse to take the trouble of applying for it; and, till within the last eight or ten years, it was usual, on delivering a child to nurse, to pay one month's wages in advance, so that for all children dying within the first month, there would be nothing due; and, in his opinion, a large proportion of the children would die within that early period. We doubt, however, whether this opinion of the registrar, in the extent to which he would apply it, be well founded. It would fix upon the system of the Institution such a waste and destruction of infant life, that after the most attentive consideration of the views which he has suggested, we incline to believe, that in a majority of cases the children thus officially considered at the hospital as dead, are in reality in existence; having survived the usual age of drafting, and having been retained by their nurses for the reasons before stated, or passed from their families to other situations, without again returning to the hospital.

By Dr. Price's Tables it would appear, that of 52,000 children born under ordinary circumstances, the number who would attain the age of eight years is about 20,176. This proportion, however, should be considerably diminished as applying to the present case, in consideration of the circumstances in which children are brought to the hospital. It appears, as above stated, that 10,626, out of 52,150, are considered as surviving; if we add to this amount the major part of the 9,622 who are returned as having died in the country, but of whose deaths no certificate has been produced, and who, for the reasons above stated, may be supposed still to exist, there will be no cause to impute to this Institution an excessive mortality.

It is clear from the tables supplied by the registrar, that the number of children returned from the country nurses to the hospital, in the space of thirty years, from

1796 to 1826, amounts only to 8,666, of whom only 5,670 were apprenticed within the same period, and 526 transferred to charter schools. And if it has happened, as we are inclined to believe, that a majority of the 9,622 children, of whose death no certificates have been received, are in reality still in existence, it would seem to follow that the numbers which have thus been absorbed into the mass of the population, and have taken their places in society in a manner different from, and often it must be supposed, contrary to that intended by the governors of the Institution, cannot have fallen much short of the number of children upon whom the objects of the system have been fully realized.

Education of the
Lower Classes.

We thought it desirable to ascertain the feelings of the children themselves as to the treatment which they experienced from their nurses, and we have given in the Appendix the examinations of several boys and girls upon the subject; the mere reading of this evidence will but imperfectly represent the affection tenderness and animation with which the children expressed their feelings.

It would be doing great injustice to these children to attribute the dislike which they invariably conceive for the Foundling Hospital to the confinement or restraints which the system imposes. Their dislike results undoubtedly in a still greater degree from their being, when transferred to its walls for ever, separated from those persons who had become the objects of their affections, and towards whom their attachment is so strong, that even for years after their admission they eagerly avail themselves of every possible opportunity of escape for the purpose of returning to them.

The foundlings being regarded as children of the state are, (when received into the hospital for instruction) educated in the religion of the established church. It is obviously, therefore, important, with a view to this object, that the nurses to whose care they are committed in the country should be members of that communion.

Until within the last two years, however, too little attention seems to have been paid to this circumstance. The governors appear to have considered that the severance of the child from the nurse at the age of seven or eight years, would be sufficient to efface any peculiar religious impressions which might have been conveyed to it in infancy. It happened for several years that the officer of the hospital whose peculiar duty it was to select these nurses, was himself a zealous Roman Catholic, and took the greatest pains that as many Roman Catholic and as few Protestant nurses as possible should be employed. The governors appear of late to have been impressed with the importance of a change of management in this particular, and accordingly in the month of June 1824, they determined "That all the children above the age of four years who were then with Roman Catholic nurses should be transferred to Protestant nurses." In the year and a half that has since elapsed (ended 5th January 1826) we find that no fewer than 2,150 children have been thus transferred and placed in the counties contiguous to Dublin, with Protestant nurses, selected and recommended by clergymen of the established church.

The particulars of this transfer, the parishes in which the children were placed, and the numbers transferred upon each day during the period, will be found in the Appendix, as also the circular letter addressed upon the occasion, by the governors of the hospital to the clergy.

The officers of the Institution, whom we examined upon the subject, have assured us, and we have no reason to doubt the fact, that there will be no difficulty in providing in the first instance a sufficient number of Protestant nurses for all the infants now sent into the country to be nursed. And as the average number annually admitted into the hospital under the present regulations is less than 500, we do not apprehend that the governors will for the future experience any difficulty in selecting proper nurses. If they should be able to do so, the inconvenience which at present arises from the transferring children from Roman Catholic to Protestant nurses, will be avoided; and as it is impossible to expect the same affection and care towards the foundling from a woman to whom a child of four or five years of age has been transferred, as if she had reared it from its infancy, it is very desirable to prevent the necessity of such a change.

The Foundling Hospital is fitted up for the accommodation of about 1,200 children, who have been returned from their nurses, exclusive of the infants who are lodged there on their first admission, previous to their being sent to the country. As these latter remain only for a few days, their number is always inconsiderable.

When the hospital is once full, it is evident that the number which can be received within its walls in any year from the country nurses, must depend upon the vacancies created by deaths, elopements and return to parents, or by apprenticeships, or other modes adopted for disposing of the children.

It is equally evident that the average number of children at nurse in the country, who attain in each year the age at which, under the present system, they ought to be returned into the hospital, must bear some regular proportion to the annual number of infants committed in each year to the care of these nurses. This average may be easily ascertained; and unless in each year care is taken to provide a corresponding number of vacancies in the hospital, an inconvenient accumulation of the children at nurse in the country must necessarily ensue. The Commissioners of Education, appointed under the 46th of the late King, in their Report upon the Foundling Hospital, dated 7th of April 1810, pointed out for the notice of the governors a rule for ascertaining this proportion, which it is much to be regretted has at no period been sufficiently attended to. The Commissioners observe as follows:—"In the course of the year 1803, on examining the tables of mortality kept since the commencement of the measures of reform in 1797, it was computed that about one in five, or thereabouts, of the whole number received at the gate would be alive (and to be drafted into the house) at the age of ten years; * this would give an annual average of about 400 to be drafted, the average of admissions being about 2,000: but unless the children already in the schools were turned out without any or little education, and apprenticed to such persons as might offer to take them without discrimination or selection, not more than half this number could be actually received, consequently half of the children of ten years of age must have remained with their nurses, and in the following year all the children who would then have attained that age. Thus, in the course of a few years, the funds, extent of accommodation, and other circumstances of the Institution remaining the same, the period of drafting must have been so postponed, as completely to have prevented the education of great numbers, and many must have become adults in the country without having participated of any portion of instruction from the Institution."

The means most relied upon for securing the proper number of vacancies in the hospital, has generally been by apprenticing the children; but we find that the numbers annually apprenticed for several years prior to the year ending 5th January 1820, fell very short, indeed, of the proportion which was required to make room in the hospital, "for the children of a proper age to be drafted from the country."

In the year 1817, 2,210 infants were admitted, whilst, instead of one-fifth of that number, only 74 were apprenticed. In 1818, 1,598 were admitted, and 93 only apprenticed. In the former of those years, 237 were drafted into the hospital; in the latter, only 34.

It is evident that in the operations of these and the preceding years, the foundations were laid of that vast accumulation of children in the country, which at length, about the year 1820, produced so much embarrassment as to lead to one of the most remarkable changes of system that has occurred in the management of the Institution. The number of children annually sent to nurse for several years previous to this time, was between 1,500 and 2,000, and the total number then in the country at nurse amounted to 8,740; the pressing urgency of the case

* "The number of children who actually attain the age of ten years is greater than in this proportion; but some are returned to their parents every year, and some are withheld by their nurses; sometimes in consequence of a strong attachment to them having been formed, and sometimes in consequence of their having become useful; these two causes reduce the number to be annually drafted, so as to render the foregoing computation to be not very far from the truth: absolute precision is manifestly unattainable."

appears to have then forced the governors to determine on adopting some decisive correction of their system, by such regulations as should necessarily diminish the number of admissions into the hospital. Education of the Lower Classes.

With this view they determined to receive children transmitted from the country only during the summer months, the admissions from the city of Dublin being permitted to continue as heretofore, during the whole year. A bill was also brought into Parliament and passed into an Act in the year 1822 (3 Geo. 4, c. 35), providing that no child should be admitted except upon the payment of 5*l.* on the delivery of the child, to be levied off the inhabitants of the parish from which the child should come. And it has been subsequently provided by another Act of Parliament, (6 Geo. 4, c. 102,) that the parishes might levy the sums requisite for the maintenance of the child, until transmitted to the hospital, and for the expense of the transmission; the practical effects of this measure were immediately felt; the number of infants admitted fell at once from nearly 2,000 to less than 500, and in the succeeding years, the numbers have been as follow:—

						Children admitted.
Year ending 5th January 1823	-	-	-	-	-	419
1824	-	-	-	-	-	486
1825	-	-	-	-	-	511
1826	-	-	-	-	-	450

We have endeavoured, as far as possible, to ascertain what has become of the residue of children, amounting on an average to about 1,500, who if this check had not been resorted to would, judging by experience of former years, have been presented for admission to the hospital; we could not help in some degree apprehending that an increase of infanticide might have been the consequence, but the inquiries which we have made upon that subject have not afforded any grounds for supposing that such has been the result, and in the absence of any positive information upon the point, we can only state that we see no reason for thinking that the experiment has produced any mischievous or injurious effects

While the admissions were thus limited, great exertions were at the same time made by the governors to increase the number of apprenticeships, and the principle of giving apprentice fees was adopted. As a further relief, 500 children were transferred to the charter schools in the Autumn of 1824; and we learn from one of the governors that it had even been suggested to the Board, to send a number of children to America, a proposition which we mention only for the purpose of conveying an idea of the difficulties and embarrassment which the accumulation of children at that time occasioned.

It has resulted from these combined causes, viz. the limitation of admissions on one hand, and the increased number of children apprenticed on the other, that the period is not far distant when the number of children connected with the Foundling Hospital will be reduced within very manageable limits, and the question in what manner they may be maintained and educated with most advantage to themselves and the public, becomes the only remaining subject of consideration.

The system of assembling children in large numbers in public boarding schools, where they may be submitted to a strict discipline, and afterwards sent forth into society, is in the eyes of many persons attended with peculiar advantages. It has been supposed to lead to habits of steadiness and morality, and to superadd to the advantages of literary instruction a strong sense of religious obligation.

By others it has been considered that the extinction of almost all the natural affections by which children might, under more favourable circumstances, be actuated, the confining them within an institution in which their daily experience must be totally at variance with the real scenes which await them upon being sent forth into the world; the supplying them without exertion, and almost without a thought upon their part, with whatever they can want; and the removing all incitements to exertion, and all occupation, farther than such as mere school instruction may supply, have a tendency to induce habits of indolence, apathy and discontent, precisely the reverse of those qualifications of which in after-life a child without a parent will stand most in need.

It seems obvious that such a system of training for the lower orders cannot be judged of by any analogy to its effects upon the education of the upper ranks of society.

In a public school chosen by the parents, from which the child may at their pleasure be withdrawn, and from whence at stated periods of the year it may be brought to its paternal home, with full opportunities for observation, intercourse, and inquiry, and for the renewal of its social affections, the state of things is essentially different from the case of a great boarding school, the inmates of which have no parents, no homes, no persons to inquire after them, and whom the master is secure of retaining, whatever his own conduct may be. A distinction still more important is, that the children in the former case, when ultimately taken away from the school, are received into their own families, but when taken from the latter, they are cast helpless upon the world.

On this subject the evidence of the Reverend Mr. Carlile, which will be found at length in the Appendix, deserves particular attention. It was a part of the duty of this gentleman, for a series of years, to superintend a school intended chiefly for Presbyterian children of the lower orders, in which the usual principle was adhered to, of receiving orphans or children whose parents were in such distress as to be wholly unable to take charge of them. The children in this institution appear to have been very carefully and anxiously superintended, and to have had every chance of succeeding in after-life, which such institutions can afford.

We learn, however, from Mr. Carlile, that the success has not corresponded with his hopes; that the children in general have not turned out so well as might have been expected in theory, by removing them from intercourse with the world. A large proportion have run away from the school, and a considerable number of those apprenticed deserted their services. Of fifty-seven children who had passed through the school previous to the year 1822, three had died, four had been withdrawn by their relations, eighteen had eloped from the school, and thirty-two had been apprenticed by the governors. But of those thirty-two, no less than sixteen had run away from their masters. Mr. Carlile adds, "that from what he had seen of the dispositions and habits of the children who had left the school, he conceives that they were much more likely to prove burdensome to their parents or relations than to assist them. That they acquire habits of idleness which they seldom conquer; that they have nothing to do but to be taught to read and write, and such other matters as may be done about the school; that they have not those habits of industry that are likely to fit them for life; that when they go out into the world, they are usually disgusted with common drudgery; that after they have been for some time in the school, the prospects of their future life get much higher than they were when they entered it." He mentioned an instance that had occurred immediately previous to his examination, "of a girl being greatly shocked at the idea of being bound apprentice to a ladies shoemaker, although at the time she came into the school she would have been delighted to have been taken into any kitchen, or received by such a person to assist in the common work of the family for her food." And he adds, "That such instances were perpetually occurring; that these views make them dissatisfied with their apprenticeships, and form one great cause for their leaving them; that there is the strongest tendency in the children to be ashamed of the circumstances of their education; that in some few cases he has found them in after-life disposed to recognize him again, but from the way they talk of it they show they consider it an effort; they say, 'we are not at all ashamed of it.' He states, with respect to the amount of religious impression which he has been able to make upon the children, "that they have very readily received scriptural instruction; that they may be made to answer admirably; that he has frequently rivetted their attention to such subjects; that when he comes to the point of practical effect upon them he has observed such effect, but in very few instances." On the whole, Mr. Carlile greatly prefers the instruction which may be had in Sunday and day schools. With respect to this point, he makes an observation, important as affecting female education. The subject of female profligacy is one upon which he observes, "It is peculiarly difficult, almost impossible for the conductors of a boarding school to touch; the consequence is, the child goes into the world totally unprepared to guard against temptation. The mistress (he says,) may, but very few mistresses (he apprehends) do touch upon it;

“ it; and if they do, it would have comparatively very little effect: whereas, a child living with its parents, and probably hearing reference made to a woman that has lost her character, and witnessing the horror with which another speaks of that vice, is more impressed with the danger of it, and made better to understand the effect that such a fall would have upon her future life than she would be by any thing that could be said in a school. And I believe, (he says,) that it will be found that that description of vice carries off a very large proportion of the girls that go out of these schools; they are not warned against it; it is a matter upon which a clergyman can say little or nothing. The mother and father could say with effect what nobody else could, and I have reason to believe, (he adds,) it would be found on inquiry, that what I have stated respecting the after-lives of girls reared in charity schools is the fact.”

The apprehensions expressed by Mr. Carlile as to the ultimate fate of the girls educated in charity boarding schools in general, are shared in at least an equal degree by the Reverend Mr. Daly, whose parish of Powerscourt, as one of the great resorts of foundling children, has given him much opportunity of observation. He says, “ That he has remarked that no children turn out so ill as the children that have been sent from the Foundling Hospital: by turning out ill, he means, that most of the females that he has known have turned out profligate; that they have not a fair chance of being settled in life as married women; that those girls are often destroyed in the places they are sent to; there is no one to call their masters to account for it.”

Mr. Beasley, who was lately chaplain of the Asylum in Leeson-street for the reception of unfortunate females, seems to have taken the same view. He expresses himself as follows:—“ There is a very large proportion, I think, of our inmates, certainly, I must say a large proportion, come from parochial schools and the Foundling Hospital. When I say a large proportion, I would not be understood to say that the proportion is large according to the numbers that leave those schools, but the numbers that come to us from those schools, I think, quite embrace between a third and a fourth; but whether that is an overwhelming majority, considering the numbers that leave those schools, or not, I do not know.”

Mr. Beasley adds, “ When I was a minister of a parish within fourteen miles of Dublin, so great was the evil which I saw arising from the children from the Foundling Hospital, I never gave but a single note to bring a child from it.”

Mr. James Digges La Touche says, “ That the strong impression upon his mind for a long time has been, that there was something exceedingly futile in the expectation of good from boarding schools, where the children are received early, and shut out from all intercourse with society, and then just at the most dangerous age cast upon the ocean of life, without any friend and without any experience. A shipwreck,” he conceives, “ must too often follow; it is a wonder it is ever avoided. It strikes me,” he says, “ that a child educated in a cabin really enters life, as far as circumstances are concerned, with more advantages than a child educated in a boarding-school.” He considered them when coming forth as “ overgrown children, totally unacquainted with the world, and totally unfit to deal with others.”

The experience of Mr. Paulus Emilius Singer, a governor of the Lock Hospital, and also of an asylum for females rescued from the paths of vice, has enabled him to give us important information upon this subject. We learn from him that the Lock Hospital contains about 150 patients; it is always full; from 7 to 800 appear to pass through it within the year. Of the number in the Lock Hospital there were, at the period of our examination, six foundling girls, and one from a Roman Catholic establishment on George's-Hill, and one from the Arklow Charter School. Mr. Singer thinks the proportion of 8 out of 150 may be about a fair average proportion. That as to the Penitentiary, the total number that have passed through it since its institution had been 284; that of this number thirty-eight had passed through different charity boarding-schools; that the age at which the girls who have been educated in those charity schools, and who have become addicted to vicious pursuits, was, on the average, from fifteen to sixteen years. He says, that from the very moment he saw persons of such

a description so circumstanced, he endeavoured to ascertain the cause why persons who had got this education should turn out so badly afterwards: the reason, in his opinion, is, that these girls are removed, in the first place, from their natural protectors, whoever they may be, whether parents or other relations; they are taken into the school, and placed among strangers; the consequence of which is, that the natural feeling or tie that first bound them is broken, and, being unfitted for the situations they go to, from the education received, they become the victims of the first temptation that falls in their way. Upon being asked from what class of schools the greater number of thirty-eight in the Penitentiary had come, he says, "Certainly from the Foundling Hospital."

We can hardly imagine any large boarding school in which such consequences can be averted, except one in which the managers of the school should possess the means, and feel the inclination, to continue their assistance and protection to the young persons after entering into life. It will appear from our Report to be presented on the Female Orphan House, that such prospects have been realized with the best success, in the instance of that establishment, under the care of Mrs. La Touche. But, while we admire the singular benevolence and perseverance which distinguish the management of the asylum last mentioned, we have to express our conviction, that it would be in vain to reckon generally and constantly upon exertions of a similar nature in the direction of such Institutions.

In considering the fate of the children who had been educated within the walls of the Foundling Hospital, it was impossible for us not to contrast it with the probable condition of those who, having been retained in the hands of their nurses, had been disposed of by a course so different from that to which they were destined by the rules of the Institution.

These children have taken their respective places in society amongst the peasantry of the country, without being exposed to any particular observation, and without affording reason to conclude that the result has been in any material degree either more or less beneficial to themselves than if they had been the children of the families to whose care they were committed.

In the words of Mr. Daly, who speaks from abundant opportunities of observation, they have received "the same protection that the children of the nurses received, and the same care, and they have turned out in life just the same."

It could not, however, fail to occur to our notice, how much the education and ultimate destination of these children might have been improved had they been originally committed to the care of a description of persons somewhat superior to those in whose hands they were actually placed; and if the obligation had been distinctly imposed on such persons, of sending them to good daily and Sunday schools in the vicinity of their homes, and if it were a matter of well-understood duty upon the part of the clergymen in whose parishes they should reside, to superintend their religious instruction, to act as constant inspectors upon the conduct of their nurses, and to hold all necessary communication with the governors of the Foundling Hospital in respect to them; we think it cannot be doubted that the education, literary, moral and religious, of a child so circumstanced, until the age of apprenticeship, would be superior to any thing which the practice of the Foundling Hospital has as yet realized; nor is there any reason to suppose that it would be more difficult to apprentice children from such situations than it is from the hospital in Dublin. In the former situation the child has been exposed to no obloquy, but in the latter his arrival as an apprentice from the hospital has marked him out as an unfortunate object of contempt and persecution.

Upon this point we have been struck with the evidence of Mr. Kinahan, who gives a portion of his time gratuitously, as secretary of the Mendicity Asylum in Dublin. He informs us, that in that last refuge of the wretchedness of the metropolis, "those who have been educated in the Foundling Hospital conceal it, because it would be thrown out against them afterwards by their fellow mendicants as a circumstance of degradation; for (he adds) even these poor people have their feelings."

However

However unreasonable this feeling may be, there can be no doubt that it exists in a peculiar degree throughout Ireland.

Education of the
Lower Classes.

A foundling apprenticed directly from the house of his adopted parent, would, we think, be much more likely to succeed in his new situation, than one from the Foundling Hospital. A boy attending a day school in the country is engaged in the scenes of real life, but a child locked up in the Foundling Hospital knows nothing but what is artificial; the former has acquired some experience, the latter is without any; the former would still have the advantage of a home, and of a friend to observe the conduct of his new master, and to afford him protection in case of ultimate need; but according to the present system, the apprentice from the Foundling Hospital placed in the hands of a stranger, unrestrained by the observation of any protector; a circumstance which in the case of females peculiarly helps to account for the disastrous consequences which so frequently ensue. The child who retains a connection with the protectors of his infancy will feel under a restraint, from his own sense of the value of character; from which we fear that a young man or woman removed for ever from all such connections too often feel themselves absolved.

It appears from the experiment already made, that clergymen have been found cheerfully to undertake the superintendence of the Protestant nurses to whom the children have been recently transferred; and there can be no doubt that they would be equally disposed to continue their superintendence, if the children were left with these nurses till a more advanced age, and would willingly co-operate in a system in which it should be their province to take care that the children should be put to good day and Sunday schools, and have particular attention paid to their religious instruction.

We are not prepared to suggest the course of discontinuing altogether the practice of educating a portion of the children within the walls of the hospital, but we have no difficulty in offering it as our earnest recommendation, that the governors should give a fair and full trial to the experiment which we suggest, of permitting such children as have been placed in the hands of careful Protestant nurses, under the superintendence of clergymen willing to discharge that important duty, and with good day schools in their neighbourhood, so to continue, until the time arrives when they may be apprenticed or otherwise disposed of from those situations, without bringing them back into the hospital; the experience of a few years cannot fail to lead to a just estimate of the relative advantages possessed by the two systems.

The saving of expense which would result from this plan, though considerable, would, in our opinion, be found the least of its recommendations. During the trial of this experiment the Foundling Hospital would still continue open, as at present, for the admission of children; their distribution in the country, and their readmission in any cases, when from particular local causes such a course may be necessary.

In this recommendation it is obvious that no new principle is adopted or assumed. All that is proposed is to carry into effect, under an improved system of regulations, that operation which has already extensively taken place, from the powerful influence of parental affection and other natural causes.

It would of course be necessary, in order to give full effect to the intended plan, that the governors should maintain a constant and efficient correspondence with each clergyman, on the subject of the foundlings in his parish; as to the nurses, who would be required, there is every reason to suppose that the three or four counties in the vicinity of Dublin would afford the necessary supply.

Upon the present internal management of the hospital, a few observations will be sufficient. The constant attendance of the governors, and of the committee of ladies, has at all times operated as a powerful corrective of that relaxation in the performance of official duty, to which all large public institutions are exposed. The cleanliness, order and regularity of the establishment are highly creditable to the managers.

The literary instruction of the children in the schools, would admit of considerable improvement ; the new methods in the art of teaching, though not altogether neglected, do not appear to have been as advantageously applied as might have been expected.

We beg, however, particularly to mention, as an exception to this observation, the preparatory school for very young female infants, containing, at the time of our visit, about 200 children, who are brought in at an earlier age than usual from their nurses ; these children are made the objects of the most assiduous and peculiar care of some ladies, who give their time to the management of the school. This portion of the establishment owes its foundation to Mrs. Magee, whose loss the Institution has lately had to lament, and from whose active superintendence not only this school, but every department of the hospital, derived the most important benefits.

An establishment has lately been formed in the Foundling Hospital, which requires to be particularly noticed ; we allude to a school founded and maintained by the Association for discountenancing Vice, for the purpose of training schoolmasters ; it has been too recently established to have as yet produced much practical effect ; the intention is to receive thirty candidate masters, and to maintain them for four months within the walls of the hospital, under the superintendence of a resident clergyman of the established church, and to provide a model school formed of some of the boys of the Foundling Hospital, by the instruction of whom the candidate masters may acquire practical knowledge of the improved modes of teaching ; a portion of the time of these teachers will thus be occupied in giving instruction in the model school, while a greater portion of it will be employed in receiving instruction from the superintendent. The persons received are intended for country schoolmasters or parish clerks ; in every instance they are to be recommended by a clergyman of the established church, who is to point out the particular place for which the candidate is destined ; one or two members of the Association for discountenancing Vice, are to undertake in rotation the particular inspection of this school ; as yet, it appears to be by no means advanced to that degree of perfection which it is expected hereafter to reach, having at the time of our examination, been confined, in fact, to about fifteen masters, and about 100 pupils, and no definite course of instruction having as yet been adopted ; there can, however, be no doubt of the importance of the object, and that the plan may to a considerable extent be made to answer the expectations of the society which has undertaken it. Ninety persons may, according to the rotation prescribed, complete their instruction in this department within the year.

With respect to the food and lodging of the children in the Foundling Hospital, the regulations of the Institution have made very adequate provision ; but we are obliged to observe, that a severe ophthalmia almost annually recurring, and extending itself at times to a most alarming degree, seems to indicate that it is referable to some permanent cause, which medical science might be able to discover and remove.

We have observed in the School for the Orphans of Soldiers, such good effects produced in the appearance and health of the children, from the adoption of a system of gymnastic exercises, that we cannot but express our opinion that it would be a decided improvement in the management of the Foundling Hospital, if some plan of the same nature should also be introduced into that establishment.

The management of the official departments of the hospital appears to us to admit of one decisive improvement, by the appointment of a general superintendent of the whole, constantly resident within its walls, whose authority should be paramount to that of all the other officers engaged in the Institution (respecting whom it should be his particular duty to report weekly to the governors), and who should be made thoroughly responsible for the conduct of the whole establishment. At present the several officers, the chaplain, the registrar, the physician, the housekeeper, the masters and mistresses, though all admitting their subjection to the governors, are in practice independent of each other ; and whatever may be wrong in any of their departments, it is not sufficiently the business of any person to inquire into, or report, for the information of the Board. This alteration was suggested

suggested by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, and we are fully persuaded that its adoption would lead to considerable improvement. Education of the
Lower Classes.

We have subjoined tables of the income and expenditure of the Foundling Hospital since the year 1796, the period of its present reformed management. Its income arises, partly from the rent of a small estate, producing about 100*l.* per annum, from the sums received with children on admission, and which appear to vary from about 2,200*l.* to 2,500*l.* but chiefly from parliamentary grants, the amount of the last of which was 37,350*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Irish currency.

We have only to add, that the adoption of the experiment suggested in this Report, will, in our opinion, necessarily lead to a considerable reduction of the expenditure of the Institution, as well as to the more extensive and important objects which it seeks to attain.

T. FRANKLAND LEWIS, (L. S.)

J. LESLIE FOSTER, (L. S.)

W. GRANT, (L. S.)

J. GLASSFORD, (L. S.)

A. R. BLAKE, (L. S.)

Dublin,
16th September 1826.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.—EXAMINATION of Mr. Thomas Finlay, 30 Oct. 1824	p. 18
No. 2.—Further Examination of Ditto, 19 Nov. 1824	p. 19
No. 3.—Further Examination of Ditto, 19 Dec. 1825	p. 23
No. 4.—Further Examination of Ditto, 21 Jan. 1826	p. 28
No. 5. Extracts from the Examination of his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, 17 Dec. 1824	p. 32
No. 6.—Extracts from the Examination of Mrs. Magee, 29 Dec. 1824	p. 41
No. 7.—Examination of the Honourable and Reverend John Pomeroy, 26 Nov. 1824	p. 48
No. 8.—Extracts from the further Examination of Ditto, 19 Dec. 1825	p. 57
No. 9.—Examination of the Reverend Henry Murray, 22 Nov. 1824	p. 59
No. 10.—Examination of John Creighton, Esq. 22 Nov. 1824	p. 71
No. 11.—Further Examination of Ditto, 24 Nov. 1824	p. 77
No. 12.—Examination of Mrs. Winifred Innes, 10 Dec. 1824	p. 78
No. 13.—Examination of Mrs. Margaret Ross, 10 Dec. 1824	p. 82

EXAMINATIONS of 19 Girls from the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL; viz.

No. 14.—Mary Birch, 10 Dec. 1824	p. 87
No. 15.—Sarah Roach	p. 88
No. 16.—Ann Burgh	p. 89
No. 17.—Jane Coghlan	p. 90
No. 18.—Esther Wade	p. 92
No. 19.—Anne Creane	p. 93
No. 20.—Eliza Stroaker	p. 94
No. 21.—Margaret Nelson, 13 Dec. 1824	p. 96
No. 22.—Mary Everett	p. 97
No. 23.—Jane Maxwell	p. 98
No. 24.—Eliza Clayton	p. 99
No. 25.—Bridget Hayward	p. 100
No. 26.—Rebecca Palmer	p. 102
No. 27.—Mary Harison	p. 103
No. 28.—Bridget Gale	p. 104
No. 29.—Mary Hogarty, 18 Dec. 1824	p. 105
No. 30.—Anne Calvert	p. 106
No. 31.—Mary Rider	p. 107
No. 32.—Ann Bryan	p. 108

EXAMINATIONS of 12 Boys from the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL; viz.

No. 33.—Thomas Grant, 13 Dec. 1824	p. 108
No. 34.—Richard Holmes	p. 109
No. 35.—James Sweeney	p. 110
No. 36.—Patrick Henley	p. 111
No. 37.—William Brady	p. 112
No. 38.—Thomas Rose	p. 113
No. 39.—John Jameson	p. 114
No. 40.—Joseph Stammers	p. 115
No. 41.—John Roberts, 18 Dec. 1824	ibid.
No. 42.—James Pennyfeather	p. 116
No. 43.—Thomas Garder	p. 117
No. 44.—Aaron Ruff	ibid.

- No. 45.—Examination of the Reverend James Aickin, 20 Dec. 1825 - - - p. 118
- No. 46.—Examination of the Reverend Thomas Percival Magee, 21 Dec. 1825 - - - p. 123
- No. 47.—Extracts from the Examination of the Reverend Robert Daly, 15 Dec. 1824 - - - p. 126
- No. 48.—Extracts from the Examination of the Rev. James Carlile, 25 Nov. 1824 - - - p. 131
- No. 49.—Extracts from the Examination of James Digges La Touche, esq., 14 Dec. 1824 - - - p. 134
- No. 50.—Extracts from the Examination of Paulus Emilius Singer, esq., 29 Nov. 1824 - - - p. 135
- No. 51.—Examination of the Reverend John Beasley, 7th Dec. 1824 - - - p. 137
- No. 52.—Extract from the Examination of Daniel Kinahan, jun. esq., 1st Dec. 1824 - - - p. 138
- No. 53.—A Statement of the total number of Children at nurse in the country on the 10 Oct. 1825, specifying the number of each age; also, the number of grown Children in the country for health - - - - - p. 139
- No. 54.—A Statement of the number of Children transferred from Roman Catholic to Protestant nurses, in the year 1823 - - - - - ibid.
- No. 55.—A Return of the number of children transferred, from Roman Catholic to Protestant nurses, from the 10 June 1824 to the 5 January 1826 - - - - - p. 140
- No. 56.—Circular Letter to the Clergy of the diocese of Dublin - - - - - p. 142
- No. 57.—Extracts from the governess's Report-book - - - - - ibid.
- No. 58.—An Account of the number of Dead Certificates claimed and paid, for seven years, ending 5 January 1826 - - - - - p. 143
- No. 59.—An Account of the Expense of the Foundling Hospital, for seven years, ending the 5 January 1826 - - - - - p. 144
- No. 60.—A General Statement of the Receipts of the Foundling Hospital, from the 25 Dec. 1796 to the 5 Jan. 1826 - - - - - p. 145
- No. 61.—An Account of the number of Children admitted into the Foundling Hospital, from the different counties of Ireland - - - - - p. 146
- No. 62.—A Statement showing the number of Infants admitted into the Foundling Hospital, and of Children at nurse in the country, and of grown Children drafted into the Hospital for education, and how disposed of in each year, from the 25 of June 1796 to the 5 Jan. 1826 - - - - - p. 148
- No. 63.—A Return of the number of Children who died in the country, and whose deaths have been reported to the Hospital, from the 25 June 1796 to the 31 Dec. 1825 - - - p. 152
- No. 64.—A Statement of the number of Children apprenticed in the country and in Dublin respectively, for three years ending 5 Jan. 1826 - - - - - ibid.
- No. 65.—Weekly Report of Children in the Infirmary, of those discharged cured, and of those sent to the country for health, and of those that died in the Infirmary, from the 1 January 1823 to the 31 Dec. 1825 - - - - - p. 153
- No. 66.—Extracts from the Minutes of the Board, dated 10 and 17 June 1824 - - - p. 156

APPENDIX.

EXAMINATIONS:

Appendix, No. 1.

Examination of *Mr. Thomas Finlay*; Saturday, 30th October 1824.

Examination of
Mr. Thomas Finlay,
30 October 1824.

YOU are Registrar of the Foundling Hospital?—I am.

How long have you held that office?—Since the 5th July 1823.

State the duties of your office?—I act as secretary to the board, and keep a registry of all the children in the place; I pay the nurses, and pay the different bills after they are passed by the board, and the drafts signed by the board; I pay them, and return them to the accountant.

Describe the different books kept in your custody?—There is a register at present kept, under my care, of the admission of infants into the hospital, stating their supposed age, name, parish, from whence sent, and the name and residence of the nurse; and an account of the payments made to the nurse during the time the child remains out, or until its death. The custody of that register is temporary, in consequence of the clerk in the Foundling Hospital having been discharged. I keep the register of the children drafted into the house for the purposes of education, and how they are disposed of; a register of those sent out as apprentices; and I keep a check ledger of nurses wages and payments.

Payments made by whom?—I should have said to check the pay papers when signed by the inspector; the children are inspected when the nurses are ordered in for payment, after the 5th July in each year. I keep a ledger to check those.

What was the cause of the dismissal of that clerk you referred to?—I cannot exactly say the cause: he was a very old man.

Was it for misconduct?—No.

Enumerate the other officers of the hospital?—The chaplain, the Rev. Henry Murray; accomptant, Mr. Hendrick; surgeon, Mr. Creighton; apothecary, Mr. Madgett; providore, J. W. Palmer; head nurse, Mrs. Ross; the head schoolmaster, Mr. Flinley; then there are three teachers under him, and an orderly master. In the female department there is Mrs. Innes, superintendent of the female schools.

Is there not a matron?—The housekeeper is called Matron.

Who is housekeeper?—Mrs. Clifford; she has an eye over the entire establishment; there are five class mistresses under her, the superintendent. There is also another school, called the Preparatory School; Miss Dillon is the mistress there, and one mistress under her. I have a clerk in my office.

The management of the hospital is vested in a board of governors?—Yes.

How often do they meet?—Every Thursday at 11 o'clock.

Do the ladies of Dublin continue to give the superintendence in the infant department they did some years ago?—There are governesses instituted to attend.

Have you any book that will show the number of the visits of the ladies at the institution, and the occasions upon which they were made?—No, there has been no book kept by me; the governesses keep a report book; they occasionally report to the governors any thing they see amiss.

Do you mean each one keeps a book of her own?—No, I believe not; the attending governess keeps one in her own possession.

Is that book now in the hospital?—No, I suppose the attending governess has it.

Who is that?—Mrs. Magee, the archbishop's lady, or Mrs. Ruxton.

About what number of children may now be in the house at the Foundling Hospital?—There are at present in the grown department 944; and in the preparatory school there are 191 female children, from seven to eight years of age.

State the number for which you have accommodation?—There is a preparatory school for female children of the age of seven years; there are at present 191 in that.

In the infant department, how many have you actually in the hospital?—That I cannot tell—probably ten to day; they generally send them out every day—the infant nurses come up every day—they get them out as soon as they can.

About how many children may you now have out at nurse?—I think on the 10th of October the number was 5,300, and about 170 children of different ages out for health; about 5,500 is the number.

How many could you accommodate altogether in the hospital?—I think the hospital could accommodate about 1,300 or 1,400; the establishment last year was 1,200 grown children, and it is now reduced to eleven: the governors thought it was rather too crowded.

¶

Are

Examination of
Mr. Thomas Finlay,
30 October 1824.

Are there any particular disorders now prevalent among the children?—Measles and ophthalmia.

How many are ill of ophthalmia now?—I cannot tell—the total number in the infirmary this morning was 166, and they are discharged three times a-week by the surgeon.

How often does the surgeon attend?—Every day.

Are you aware of a considerable number of children being lately sent from the Foundling Hospital to the charter schools?—Yes, 500.

Are you aware that those children have very generally introduced the ophthalmia into those schools?—I have heard of it; but I have also heard that the ophthalmia was prevalent in the charter schools, and has been constantly so.

Was it any person's duty to ascertain the state of health of those children before they were sent out of the Foundling Hospital?—Yes, the surgeon's; the children selected were sent to him for inspection before the lists were made out for me.

Were the children sent out, generally speaking, the eldest in the Foundling Hospital?—No.

Mention the principle of selection?—The order of the board was, that the Reverend Henry Murray and the head schoolmaster should select the boys; the attending governesses and head schoolmistress the girls. The order for transferring the children from the hospital to the Incorporated Society was made some time before the payment of the country nurses, which is the usual time for drafting children from nurse. I do not know on what principle the selection was made.

You have stated, in conversation, that Monday next is the pay-day of the nurses?—Yes, the ensuing week is appointed for payment of dead badges and premiums to nurses.

Does that payment continue the whole week?—Yes; it is very troublesome and tedious.

About what time would it occupy?—If the nurses all came in, it would be done in two or three days; the time appointed is a week.

Would there be any inconvenience in discharging the business of that nature each day after four o'clock?—Yes, certainly, because I am obliged to examine the register of all those children; there is a particular investigation relative to the children who have died.

How many hours will you be occupied each day?—From ten till four o'clock.

What books is it necessary for you to have to pay the nurses?—The registries.

Appendix, No. 2.

Further Examination of Mr. Thomas Finlay; Friday, 19th November 1824.

IN what state are the accounts the Commissioners called for?—I sent them in this morning. 19 November 1824.

[The same were produced.]

Upon inspecting this return, it appears that the number of children in the infirmary exceeds the usual average; to what do you attribute that?—I asked the apothecary this morning the cause of it, and he mentioned that the principal were cases of slight ophthalmia and colds.

How long has the ophthalmia prevailed to any extent in the hospital?—Since July, the time the children were drafting in from the country.

Is it of that description which has been called Egyptian Ophthalmia?—I do not know indeed; it is very slight.

Does it in any instances assume an aggravated form?—I heard there was not a single bad case, that is, no eye has been lost; some of them look very sore.

Does the disease continue long upon the children?—I cannot exactly say; I should think not, for they are changing constantly; the surgeon discharges the hospital three times a week.

Are they subject to relapse?—I do not know.

Do you know what remedies are applied?—No.

Next to the ophthalmia, do you know what are the prevailing diseases in the infirmary?—Colds, I believe.

With the exception of ophthalmia, is the state of the children healthy?—The state of the children in the schools is very healthy; they look very well, the girls particularly.

Do the children from the country bring the ophthalmia with them, or do they catch it in the hospital?—I think they must have brought it with them last year; on drafting the children from the country, they were attacked with the ophthalmia, particularly the children in the preparatory school, who were separated from the other children.

Was it a prevailing disorder about the country before the children came?—I do not know; the surgeon said one day, when he was examined before the board, that the ophthalmia was very prevalent.

Is it found to be very contagious?—I should think so; I believe it is contagious.

Is it possible to use any means to prevent the children catching it of one another?—The best way, I believe, is to keep them separate.

When did the ophthalmia first make its appearance in the hospital?—I think in July last.

Had you ever known it as an epidemic disease in the hospital before that?—It was last year, particularly among the younger children.

At what period?—The same period.

Was it ever in the hospital before last year?—I was not in the hospital before last year.

Are all the children ill of the ophthalmia included in the number of 213?—That was the total number returned to me as in the infirmary.