

Under the amended system of Poor Laws lately introduced into England, the economy of the workhouse has been very materially altered & improved, & my object in this paper, is simply to describe the classification & discipline at present pursued in these receptacles, & the end which they are intended to promote.

The inmates are divided into 4 classes: — 1st. Men, & youths above 7 years of age. 2. Aged & infirm women, & girls above 7 years of age & under 16. — 3^d. Able-bodied women, & girls above 16. — 4th. Children under 7 years of age. To each of these classes separate apartments are assigned, in which they respectively remain, without communication with any other class; but the guardians of the Union, with the consent of the P. L. commissioners, are empowered to suspend this rule in the case of married couples, of the aged & infirm class.

All the inmates, except the sick, the aged & infirm, & the young children, are required, between the 25th of March & the 29th of September, to rise at 6 o'clock, breakfast between half past 6 & 7, begin work at 7, dine between 12 & 1, leave off work at 6, sup between 6 & 7, & retire to bed at 8 o'clock; during the other part of the year they rise an hour later. The master of the workhouse is empowered (subject to the direction of the board of guardians) to fix such hours of rising & going to bed, & such occupation & employment for the aged & infirm, & children, as may be suitable to their respective ages & ^{conditions,} occupations. The boys & girls are required "for 3 of the working hours, at least, every day, to be respectively instructed in reading, writing, & the principles of the Christian religion, & such other instructions are to be imparted to them as are calculated to train them to habits of usefulness, industry, & virtue". The diet of the paupers is so regulated as in no case to exceed, in quantity or quality, the ordinary diet of the able-bodied labourers living within the district of the Union in which the workhouse is situate. Suitable exceptions are however made in the diet of the aged & of children, & the sick are dieted as directed by the medical officer.

No spirituous or fermented liquors are allowed to be consumed within the
work house unless ^{under} the direction of the medical man or officer. No
^{an} ~~paper~~ is allowed to work on his own account it being considered
that the union ^{which} ~~that~~ supports him is entitled to the full produce
of his labours. On the request of any of the inmates a licensed
licensed minister of their own religious persuasion is allowed to visit
the work house for spiritual purposes, & also to instruct their
children in the principles of their religion. Besides these, divine
service is required to be performed in the work house every
Sunday, at which paupers are required to attend except the
sick & the young children, those who are too infirm, & such
inmates as may object to attend on account of holding religious
principles differing from those of the Church of England.
To the aged & infirm & to deserted children & orphans, 19f.
the work house affords a comparatively comfortable ^{and} ~~asylum~~
Its classification & discipline increase the stimulus to inde-
pendent exertion by holding out no inducement to the idle
& improvident to ~~seek~~ ^{seek} in the work house a refuge from
honest labour in many respects the work house is prefer-
-able to the dwellings of the labouring population in general.
The inmates are supplied with a sufficiency of whole-
-some food & clothing, a better bed than they are used
to lie upon at home, a clean & better ventilated room,
immediate medical attendance in case of illness; & a degree
of order & cleanliness exists which is ~~unknown~~ ^{unknown} in their cottages.
11f.