
So That They May
Be Useful to
Themselves

Label print guide and
transcripts

Subcommittee records, June 1771

Reproduction

Between 1756 and 1760, a period known as the General Reception, the Foundling Hospital took in thousands of children. In 1771 the Governors listed the number and conditions of children with disabilities.

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Transcript of *Subcommittee records,*

The Secretary laid before this Committee the following list of Children under the Care of the Governors and Guardians of this Hospital who are diseased or otherwise rendered at present unfit to be apprenticed.

In Ackworth

Idiots	19
Dwarfs	9
Dumb	3
Scrophulous	22
Weakley	4
Involuntary Urine	1
Hare Lip	1
Lame	18
Cancer	1
Paralitic	1
Stiff elbow	2
Impediment of speech	1
Continual disorder in the bowels	1
Rupture	1
Gouty	1
Fits	1
Callous Shoulder	1
Sore Heads	27
Blind of one Eye	8
Near sighted	9

Deformed	<u>12</u>
	143
At Shrewsbury	
Consumptive	2
Scrophulous	2
Diseased hip	2
Hernia	1
	7
At London and at nurse	
Blind	7
Lame	5
Deformed	5
Sore heads	4
Ruptures	2
Cut for the stone	1
Idiots	2
Partial deafness	1
Evil	8
Impediment of speech	1
Scrophulous	1
Cancer	1
Subject to convulsions	1
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Subcommittee records, June 1771

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The Hospital sent children out to be apprenticed. The Governors decided that children with disabilities should not be excluded and resolved to find them suitable employment 'so that they may be usefull to themselves and the community'.

Transcript of *Subcommittee records*, June 1771

Resolved

That the Secretary do write to Ackworth and Shrewsbury to know whether the above mentioned Children can be maintained or disposed of either by placing a number of Idiots together under the care of some proper persons or having those who are capable of any employment Instructed so that they may be usefull to themselves and the community. desire a new list of the present ailing Children remaining under their Care.

Timothy Sheldrake

An Essay on the various causes and effects of the distorted spine, 1783.

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Philip Jones offered to treat foundlings Blanche Rivers and Bridget Smith with his spinal machine at a cost of three guineas each, about £500 today. Bridget was apprenticed, but Blanche remained in the Hospital's care until 1788.

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Touchpiece, reign of Charles II

Gold

This touchpiece, left as a token by a mother at the Hospital, would have been given to someone with a disease called scrofula, also known as 'The King's Evil'. The Hospital's modern approach to medicine sought to move away from such superstitious practices.

Eye bath, c. late nineteenth century

John Weiss & Son Ivory Balls, c. late nineteenth century

Eye baths were used to promote hygiene in the Hospital from the nineteenth century. Treatments were only effective if the right diagnosis was given. Worth's Ivory Ball Test could give accurate results; by rolling a ball in a curve doctors could detect visual impairments.

© British Optical Association Museum & Royal College of Ophthalmologists

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T. M. Lucas

The Second Book of Samuel, 1852

During the nineteenth century blind children were sent to the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read. Here they were given access to innovative methods such as moon writing, a code of raised shapes that rotate to create the 26 letters of the alphabet.

© Royal London Society for Blind People

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John Stanley

Mary Ann Rigg after Gainsborough, 1781

Engraving

John Stanley was integral to improving the education for blind children at the Foundling Hospital. A talented musician, prolific on the organ, violin and harpsichord.

Stanley was a regular performer at charitable events and soon became involved with the Foundling Hospital. He was appointed a Governor in 1770 and performed Handel's *Messiah* between 1775 to 1777.

Through his personal experience, Stanley was able to understand the difficulties that faced children with visual impairments. He helped foundling Mercy Draper find a singing teacher to develop her gift for music and taught her himself when she was 21. Draper taught Blanch Thetford, another blind foundling. Blanch then in turn went onto teach foundling Jane Freer music.

William Hogarth

Marriage-A-la-Mode: 6, The Lady's Death, 1743-5

People with disabilities were often portrayed as caricatures in art. Hogarth's *Marriage A-la-Mode* shows a manservant, with a facial expression typically used to portray an 'idiot', being scolded for acquiring laudanum for the mother.

© The National Gallery, London

*A List of the Boys in the Orphan Hospital at Ackworth,
1764*

During the Hospital's history, terms that would be deemed offensive today were used to describe people with learning disabilities. At the top of this list at the Ackworth branch of the Foundling Hospital is Robert Brown, described as an "idiot in the garden".

Transcript of *A List of the Boys in the Orphan Hospital at Ackworth*

	Names &	Nrs	How employ'd
1747 Febr'y 17	Robert Brown	281	Idiot in the Garden
Dec'r 29	Robert Mortimer	364	Robert Mortimer
1748 April 22	Gerrard Happy	407	Weaver
1750 May 1	Thomas Monin	591	Cobbler
Dec'r 19	Samuel Shepherd	669	Manufactory
1751 Febr'y 12	Richard Hotchkiss	687	ditto
March 12	Henry Carrington	703	ditto
Ditto	Richard Salop	706	ditto
July 17	James Handal	778	ditto

Octo'r 16	Owen Tudor	838	ditto
Nov'r 2	Will'm Woolmer	867	ditto
ditto	George Trowbridge	879	ditto
1752	Thos. Parr	881	ditto
Febr'y 8			
ditto	Will'm Parker	899	Garden
March 14	deleted		Manufactory
April 11	Will'm Swallow	921	ditto
ditto	Charles Shuter	929	ditto
May 9	Robert Jason	945	ditto
ditto	James Brinnen	949	ditto
June 13	John Emperor	973	Barber

ditto	Richard Primate	975	Manufactory
July 11	Andrew Limehouse	989	ditto
ditto	Joseph Passman	997	ditto
Octo'r 7	Will'm East	1005	ditto
ditto	George Thornborough	1007	ditto
Nov'r 11	Thos. Broadstreet	1025	ditto
1753	Ralph Bromel	1042	
Febr'y 11			

Subcommittee records, April 1773 – February 1775
Reproduction

Extra measures were needed to encourage employers to take on children with disabilities as apprentices.

Adverts were placed to find children a place of work.

They focused on the children's abilities, rather than their limitations.

Transcript for *Subcommittee records, April 1773 – February 1775*

This committee is taking into consideration that there are several Children belonging to this Hospital who are weak of understanding, Maimed, and have such other Defects that they cannot be placed out Apprentice in the usual way, and that it is for the Interest of the Community as well as that of this Corporation that those Children should be maintained or employed according to their deficient abilities.

Resolved

That it be recommended to the General Committee to order a proper Advertisement to be inserted in the News Papers Signifying that the Committee wish to dispose of the Children to such Persons who may be able to employ any of them, or who will undertake to maintain them upon such Terms as the Committee can agree for.

It is the opinion of this Committee that the above Children should be examined and Classed as follows

1. Children who are now and always will be incapacitated to do anything.
2. Those Children who may become capable of doing something.
3. Children incurable.

4. Ailing Children who may be cured.
5. And Children who may disposed of as apprentices with a

Read in the General Committee

and approved 10th Novbr. 1773 Adjourned

Mr Collingwood Secty (Secretary)

Sub Committee records, February 1775- December 1776

One employer of children with disabilities was the House of Industry. The Hospital listed children it thought might benefit from being there.

Robert Brown was suggested as one of those to be sent to the House of Industry although still in the Hospital's care at 29. The Hospital cared for those foundlings with disabilities into adulthood if they were unable to look after themselves.

John Brownlow, a former pupil and then Secretary of the Hospital, created the Benevolent Fund to provide financial assistance into adulthood.

Transcript of *Sub Committee records*, February 1775-
December 1776

And this Committee taking into Consideration that possibly sending some of the Ailing Children into that House might be the Means to give them a better turn to Industry that they can acquire in this Hospital are of the opinion that the following Boys may be sent thither

1	Robert Brown	29 years old	Idiot
2	Leopold Allen	17	Incontinence of Urine
3	Samuel Adams	12	
4	Luke Knowler	16	Evil
5	Theodore Barrow	16	Sore Head
6	Edward Barnard	18	Weak of Understanding
7	Edmund Hart	18	
8	William Dryden	16	Rupture
9	William Fargold	17	Weak of Understanding
10	William Tremaine	16	Lame

And it is referred to the General Committee to consider of the same and resolve thereon.

Read in the Gen Committee
approved May 8 1776

Adjourned and