

The following document gives an insight into the lives of those who were admitted into the workhouse through the words of the Workhouse Master. The document is a transcription taken from the [Master's Report and Journal](#) from 26th March 1842 until 30th August 1845. The Master's Journal was a weekly record written by the Master, which including the number of inmates within the workhouse each week. Further notes were made by the Master which he felt were worth having documented, including general notes on the running of the workhouse, maintenance problems, when inmates absconded from the house, and the recording of any contagious diseases and deaths within the workhouse, as well as the general behaviour of the workhouse inmates.

Note to Reader: The following transcription is an exact reproduction of the written account contained in the Wolverhampton Union's Workhouse Master's Journal 1842 – 1845. The document contained various abbreviated words and names, which have therefore been transcribed exactly as they were written. E.g.) The name "Thomas" is written as "Tho's". Also during the transcription certain words were unreadable and where this occurs the word/s have been replaced by ****.

Week ending 26th March 1842

Observations: On the night of Saturday last the 19th inst, Sarah Gettings, the deranged woman, wife of the man who was be for the Board a fortnight since who was ordered into the House, but who refused to come, although he still left his wife here, absconded by scaling the wall. I sent in search and found her in the House of her husb'd who refused to allow her to come back. – On Monday he sent the Union dress back and required his wife's in return but there I deemed it right to refuse till I sh'd have the decision of the Board, respecting these.

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that Ezekiel Constable requested permission to go out for 3 or 4 hours, on Monday the 21st inst, for the purpose, as he said, of seeking employment. Instead however of returning, as he had promised, he did not do so till Wednesday. As the Board day was so soon I have deferred noticing it, in the way of punishment, till I shall have had the opinion of the Board respecting it. If such conduct he allowed to go unchecked it will be intimidated and ultimately destroy confidence in the applicants for such privilege.

We have now another case of Typhus Fever in the house (in the Lying In Ward) rendering it, in the opinion of our Medical Officer indispensably

necessary that we should have Fever Wards built detached from the other buildings, as he is fearfully apprehensive it may otherwise go through the House.

Hannah Healey who has two children in the House, illegitimate, having a daughter in Birm,ham of whose conduct she has heard but a bad account desires the permission of the board to allow her 2 days leave of absence, to seek after her. I think she may be trusted for notwithstanding she has not been **** and her-self she entertains a proper feeling that her children sh'd behave properly.

April 8th 1842

Master's Journal.

Our Medical Officer reports that Tho's Bate, Mary Edwards and Lydia Vernon are in the state of mental alienation as to render a removal to the asylum necessary.

Ordered to be taken before the Magistrates
J. B. Owen.

April 15th 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to report that on the removal of Sarah Gettings, to her own parish, Dudley, on the 4th inst, it was found necessary in order to ensure her safe custody that she should wear the waistcoat she had occasionally worn here. This waistcoat, Mr Chambers reports, the Governor of the House, detained promising indeed to return it at some future period, in order he observed to prevent her doing mischief as he had nothing where with he could to properly confine her (ordered that Clerk write to Government for same to be ret'd)

I beg on our behalf, and also on that of Miss Sale, to solicit the sanction of the Board to our continuing the provisions allowed us as our Dietary, for other articles of equal value – or in other words exchanging quantity for quality, without increasing the annual or cost of our allowance. The power of the Guardians to do this is expressly stated and recommended to be done in this manner, by the Poor

Law Commission, in their Instructional Letter accompanying the recently published regulations. See the 4th clause of the note on Article 67, page 19, of the said Instructional Letter.

Ordered that the Board's resolution in this case invented in the Minutes of Friday April 15th 1842, be the rule of Mr Evan's conduct, & that the same apply to the Matron & Minister of the school.

Week ending 16th April 1842

Observations. These include Idiots with able bod's & Rich'd Sunall in Front How Room.

These include children with their mothers.

These include some very young boys who are placed in here for want of room on

their own side & being nursery children.

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that the behaviour of the people in the House has with the exception of the common disturber, **** been better their for some time past.

I strongly suspect that the woman Cartey with two children, a native of Ireland, admitted last week, knows where to find her husband and that if she be placed under orders of removal to her own country she will leave as others have done, without giving the trouble. Bridgett Keenan also another woman deserted, as she says by her husb'd and belonging to Ireland will I believe be influenced in a similar manner. This latter has like the former two children.

Week ending 23rd April 1842

Master's Journal.

I have the pleasure to report that the behaviour of the inmates has generally speaking, continued as I reported last week.

I beg to call the serious attention of the Board to the character of the Pheasant Public House in Berry St, with a view to get it suppressed or put down, if possible. Mary Spruce a marr'd woman 59 years of age, who was admitted into the house last week, states that she lived at the Pheasant Public House apparently in the capacity of a servant but really in a state of prostitution and that if the said House is nothing more than a common brothel, open for the reception of females of all ages with their Paramours. This Mary Spruce is very badly diseased and Priscilla Hodgkiss, a young woman 19 years, of age who died in this House yesterday owes her death to the disease she contracted in the that den of inequity.

Week ending 30th April 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to call to the attention of the Board to the state of the walls round the Garden, but particularly to that at the back of the upper Gates bounding Mr Pape's field. It is down and open to any intruder, he explains of it and desires to have it put up in a proper manner, the walls all round are much too low –

they are ran upon by boys and covered with blackguard fellows whenever we take out the females in the House – the only way to prevent this appears to be to build higher and then cover the top with broken bottles.

I w'd also suggest that instead of having an Arch hole where it is intended to be placed, to have one made outside each of the able bodied men and women's yard have suggested the same to the Assist't Commiss'r who approved and also one of the Visiting Committee. To these I may also add the Architect. The advantages of such an alteration are, the having then room for breaking Stones whereas with the hole where it was intended to be there would not be and the cutting off a source of great annoyance from the **** carried our ****. The men and the women by confining each to their own yard (get the statement of the builder.)

I shall be glad to be heard by the Board respecting an order last week given for Stone Shielding as I think, on hearing, the Board will be disposed to allow it.

Week ending 7th May 1842

Master's Journal.

It was last week ordered that 2 rooms viz. the Girls Schoolroom & the aged women's Sleeping room sh'd be ventilated as a trial for others, But no order was made as to whom sh'd be employed to do it. Shall be glad to be informed.

John Blower will attend to it under Mr. Meyrick's directions.

I have again to complain of the irruption's made by a vagabond class of fellows over the Garden walls into the garden – the walls being so low they make a complete lounging places of them & females cannot pass without being insulted.

Clerk will apply to Commissioners.

In' Lemner, whose wife is confined desires the permission of the Board to go out and leave her and his family till she is well enough to follow him, as he has the promise of work.

-Permission given.-

We are badly in want of ½ doz. bedpans they had better be tin or pewter as earthen ones are liable to break. – We have now only one for the whole establishment.

Ordered ½ dozen Bed pans.

Week ending 14th May 1842

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 21st May 1842

Master's Journal.

I was last week compelled to get both more meat and Bread than was set down in the written order owing to the much increased demand from the greater number of stone breakers. And shall be glad of the sanctions of the Board for so doing. During this time of stone breaking and Daily pay I find it to be utterly impossible to form anything like a certain guess at the quantity which will be required as each day brings an accession of claim outs. Many windows are broken and the yard will soon be too small to hold the breakers. The admission of strangers into the building I find in practice to be destruction of order & discipline to a considerable extent, among our regular inmates. – We have many stones now ready for carrying away. – Also much Oakum ready picked. approved and the emergency I. B. Olger
The passage on the canal is, I learn ab't to stopped for a fortnight in a weeks time. – It is therefore highly expedient to have in a large supply of stones or there will be no work for the men, the number now at work will do a great quantity.

Week ending 28th May 1842

Master's Journal.

I venture to recommend that in every instance where Beef is given the Stone Breakers that Mutton be given instead. – And for these reasons in the first place the objects of your Kindness would prefer it – and in the second place it would be really more economical although seemingly the reverse. For if we are to continue to give Beef it will so increase our waste in the increase quantity of bones (as we cannot give them bones with Beef) as to make it really cleaner than Mutton: especially taking into consideration the fact of our having more bones than we can probably use or dispose of, which will soon be the case if Beef be continued.

Ordered to change the Beef to Mutton.

I have again to request the sanction of the Board to the increased quantity of Bread and Meat I have had more than the orders – In these times the past is no guide for the future in respect to orders for these articles allowed.

Will'm Dawn an inmate with a wife and ~~family~~ child, desires the permission of the Board to go out and leave his wife & child for a week as he has the promise of work from his late employer. – He has behaved very well during his stay in the House this time. Permitted for one week.

Week ending 4th June 1842

Master's Journal.

We have now a great quantity of broken stone, which if it is highly desirable to have removed.

The Superintendent of the Stone Breakers has some complaints to make of relative to the conduct of certain of the men.

The Stone Breaker's hammers are constantly getting out of order and require refacing. I shall be glad to receive a general order on this subject to get them repaired by some one as it is very inconvenient for the men to wait for them till a Board order can be obtained.

Week ending 11th June 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to recommend that a different plan be adopted in the employment of the Stone Breakers – At present, or by the present plan you have no measures of rewarding the industrious nor any efficient mode of punishing the redolent. Seeing that they are all paid alike, taking their families into consideration. The plan in operation in Birm'ham and the adoption of which I advice appears to me will do both. It is simply to put any man to what he may earn specifying a limit beyond which he must not go. This ~~plan~~ will save the pockets of the rate payers, whilst at the same time it will enforce the habits and character of the men = that the Steat System be adopted – NSO

The superintendent of the Stone Breakers has again some complaints to make relative to the sundry of the men which I think will prove the desirableness of adopting the recommendation I have above made – The indispensable necessity which exerts for opening some of our doors and the much there to do utterly prevents the entire separation of our inmates from the body without. This consequently introduces and inattention to the strict discipline on the part of the inmates and the idle take advantage of it. I may mention that Tobacco gets introduced to an extent equal to the desires of the individuals and a conversation is carried on between the prostitutes in the Venereal Ward and the Stone Breakers outside. – The men reprov'd.

I have to complain of the frequency with which our water closets are out of order, or rather I may say they are never in order – for no sooner are they attended to than they become as bad as even, the water constantly running off. Men are always pumping and yet there is no water to be had from the taps when wanted.

Referred to the Visiting Committee for their report. JBO.

Week Ending: - 18th June 1842

Master's Journal.

The Medical Officer desires me to say in this report that he has some course to complaint to make in reference to the conduct of the nurse. I yesterday re'd the accompanying letter from W. Cox and submit to the Board the priority of considering the statements therein contained with a view to suggesting some attention in the provision of the Bill now before Parliament: or we shall, I fear, experience great in convenience in getting rid of the boys who may be in the House.

I beg to call to the attention of the Board to the state of the House in regard to numbers. We are now more than full and classification, strictly speaking. We are now compelled to disregard. If more be sent in we cannot find room for them unless more be allotted to a bed than is the case now, and for the want of ventilation during the night disease may be induced.

The water still continues to run away as reported last week.

Week ending 25th June 1842

Master's Journal.

The superintendent of the Stone Breakers has to make strong complaints of the conduct of Aldham and Kidson.

Bedsteads and Bedding are wanting for the vagrant rooms they being now ready for occupation. – Guards are also wanted for the windows to protect theirs from the injury they are receiving and will receive from the pieces of stone flying about during the operation of breaking. – Reserved for Committee.

The water still continues to run away notwithstanding any precaution, is taken to prevent it. – No other plumber has been to examine the pipes i.e. – Have the Board's orders been complied with

Mr Lucas to send for another plumber.

We have now 424 persons in the House being 32 more than the presented number – And an increase of 32 over the numbers of last Friday.

Week ending 2nd July 1842

Master's Journal.

Sharp desires the permission of the Board to go out to seek for work and if unsuccessful to return to the House again – Declined for the present.

Not only does the system of Stone breaking as carried on close to the House destroy the proper discipline of the House but circumstances occur which show that for the sake of the morals of the men (the stone breakers) it will be desirable to have them removed from the present places of employment. – Conversations are carried on and assignations made with the prostitutes from their Ward by the men. – One of them, name Babb made an assignation with

Joseph Touks, a man at present employed Stone Breaking gave notice to go out on Monday last and left accordingly. – Joseph Touks ordered into the House.

Some of the men complain of wanting Eye preservers when Stone breaking and make it particularly the man Brishlow, an excuse for being idle. – Out of the 12 doz. which was had so short a time since only a very few remain – and so many would not use them when they might.

The Fire-place in the Able-bodied women's room smokes. Sadly, it has always done so but now worse than usual and one of the Stone breakers, a Bricklayer says he can cure it. I shall be glad to know if I may employ him to do so. – Employ the regular Bricklayer.

We have now 421 persons in the House being 29 more than the appointed number.

I would respectfully suggest that the idiots, be clothed in a Frock. (Wasgowns.) they destroy the regular suits so soon as to render it desirable as a point of economy – add to which they will look more tidy – Agreed to.

Week ending 9th July 1842

Master's Journal.

Finding the labour to so much increase owing to the great number of Stone Breakers outside I have to entreat the Board to make some other arrangement either by removing the Stone breakers altogether from the House or by appointing more help whereby we may be relieved from the additional amount of labour their being here has enforced. We find I now speak for ourselves & the porter, that our aid is increasing so as to prevent our paying a proper attention to the duties of the House. And I fear that our House which has, I think I may venture to say been distinguished for its orderly management will fall into confusion and disorder unless something be done. Besides all this the am't of physical exertion required is so great that with every desire and determination to bear up to the utmost of our power we fear we shall not be able to sustain it for long. I venture most respectfully to suggest that the men outside be removed from the vicinity of this House and that each parish employ its own men in its own boundary – and I urge this for the following reasons, the Willenhall rate payers, I speak on the authority of Mr Forter desires it, but above all I w'd recommend it on acc't of the disorder the congregation of these men introduces into this House an evil few greater than any supported counterbalancing good. The collection of so many men has hither to only been the production of injury to one another. The good are corrupted and intimidated, and the bad are made worse. In the recent affair of Wednesday, when one part wishing to act properly and to comply with your order in production of notes attesting their Destitute condition. Their lives were threatened if they sh'd venture to do so and for a time lawless violence triumphed. And the success or partial success of the outside party encouraged the turbulent and disorderly inside to refuse to work and to attempt to dictate to me their own terms. No less than 197 men of whom

Tenant, one whom you last week refused and Rob't Bridge & Tho's Owens, were the leaders refused to work yesterday unless they could be permitted to choose their own employm't in the Garden among the gang they wished to join. I succeeded in quelling this insubordination but whilst the Stone breakers outside are permitted to come I cannot calculate on preserving order and discipline. Neither do I feel that I can be at all responsible for what is introduced into the House or taken out of it, for I learn from Mr Hower, the bricklayer who has been erecting some walls, that things are flung over the wall to the woman, by the outside party and back again. Add to all this I do not believe that the men have earned two-pence a day the past week. In fact it is a mere playing at work. The bad will not and the good are **** permitted. I would also suggest that whenever these men be removed to it would be wise to alter the mode of payment from Meat, Bread, Oatmeal & money, as it may be, to Bread and money only. It is commonly reported that they, many of them sell their meat and I am same that the oatmeal has every right here led to confusion and to theft besides the great amount of Labour expended in cutting up so much Mutton with its attendant waste in so cutting. On the night of Monday last John Brishtow, Edw'd Price and Joseph Hughs absconded taking with them an entirely new suit of clothes each worth I imagine £2 each. The first named man is one you reprimanded last week and the last is one in whom we were unfortunately induced to confide in so few as to place him in the school. I have taken out the warrants against all. I hope in what I have above stated as my conviction as to the earnings of the Stone breakers that it will not be supported. I mean to impure the slightest blame to or censure on Mr Chapman the superintendent. On the contrary I think you could not have selected a better in the Union but the work has been too much he could not perform impossibilities his attention has been as unremitting his task was arduous. He has some communications to make in reference to the conduct of certain of the men and of the necessity there exists for adopting a different mode of dealing with them. Owing to the unexpectedly increased demand for Bread & Mutton I have been compelled to exceed the order of last week, for which I desire the sanction of the Board.

July 15th 1842

Since writing the forgoing I have re'd the accompanying letters from Mr Price.

I have also learned from Mr. Pratt that his list for me for last Saturday is not ready and from increasing demands on him he cannot tell when it will. This effectually prevents me from making up my books as mine on the present arrangement depend in the out-relief on the Relieving Officers. This mode is fraught with evil and if continued will involve us in inexcusable confusion, and inasmuch as it is not just that one of free myself for instance, sh'd be made to suffer in the making up of his Book or otherwise, through the extreme pressure upon another. As a remedy and in order to enable me to keep my book right I beg to suggest that different stations be appointed not in the House on which the Relieving Officers shall give their cheques, rather than on any Stores; to exist at all events, during this extreme demand, so that I at least may be able to keep my acc'ts otherwise I foresee I must be involved in the same confusion which has overtaken my friend Pratt. It is a matter to

me of the utmost moment and I venture to urge it on your adoption with all earnings I can.

Week ending 16th July 1842

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 23rd July 1842

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that one of the men John Brishtow against whom I last week reported I had taken out a warrant for absconding and taking with them the union clothes is apprehended and committed for 3 months.

I shall be glad if the Board will enable the Relieving Officers by affording them aid if they need it, to pay their own Stone breakers as I find the labour has so increased that I cannot longer, with a regard to my own duties do it. It forms no part of my duty although it has hitherto been done by me. And the labour this, in addition to the other duties, has necessarily imposed on W. E. has had the effect of laying him up.

From the same cause as before I have again been compelled to exceed the order for Bread and Meat and shall be glad of the sanctions of the Board for so doing.

The excess in the House is now 5 showing a diminution of 9 in the excess as exhibited last week.

In conclusion I beg to express a hope that the Board will take immediate measures for the removal of the broken stone as they not only incommode us so that we shall not know in a short time slow them but they are forcing in some of the doors.

Week ending 30th July 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to the offer made by Mr. Barker to find you a field by the canal side for the stone breakers to break stones in on the simple condition of you staking it out. The acceptance of this offer would not only much conduce to the restoration of discipline in this House but prove in every way desirable.

The excess in the House is now 7.

Week ending 6th August 1842

Master's Journal.

I venture again to urge on your attention the offer of Mr Barker. The increasing insubordination's as well as the increasing numbers of the stone breakers render it highly expedient to get them away from he.

The stone which covers one of the sack holes in the garden has fallen in. I w'd suggest that it be covered with iron instead of stone.

The iron railing on the women's stair case wants repainting and the wall under the able-bodied men's stairs has fallen down.

Geo'e Griffith an aged man whose wife is an assistant nurse has two sons living in Manchester, as he believes from who he has not heard for two years, and he desires the permission of the Board to have leave of absence for three weeks and his wife is to remain in the House for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are there or not.

The excess in the House is 10.

Week ending 13th August 1842

Master's Journal.

I have to request that the system of giving cheques on my stores by the Relieving Officers may be discontinued at least for the present and that in the stead thereof the Relieving officers have delivered their case and custody what Bread, Meat re – they may want. And my reasons for making this request is the following – We are not in the 8th week of the **** **** and as yet I have not had one list from Bilston nor have I had one since the 5th from W.Hampton. This entirely prevents me from making up my Books for as long as the present system of giving cheques on myself continues I can never make them up till I have the Relieving Officers lists to examine with the cheques – consequently they together with my accounts must remain unbalanced and I be in ignorance as to whether or not my stock on hand is right. I desire it to be distinctly understood that I do not change the Relieving officers with any **** for I am sure with the very greatly increased demands on their time they could not help it. But inasmuch as under the present arrangement the Auditor cannot audit my Books till the Relieving Officers have got theirs ready and also that I may possibly be made to suffer loss through the pressure which bears so heavily on them. I think I have made out a case for alteration I propose. If this were done my Books shall be kept correctly and ready for the Auditor at the moment they are called for. I may also add that to my certain knowledge the plan I propose is acted upon in some other ****.

I beg to report that the ventilation's which Mr Blower has placed in the aged women's sleeping room & the school as experiments under the directions of

Mr Meyrick answer very well as for as they go. The rooms were originally too low but inasmuch as this mode of ventilating helps to correct that defect I recommend that all the rooms be so.
I also beg to refer to my reports of last week.

Week ending 20th August 1842

Master's Journal.

The present excess in the House is 32.

Week ending 27th August 1842

Master's Journal.

The number at the present time in the House exceeds the presented by 13. The piping to the stove in the front Hall requires lengthening and repairing.

Week ending 3rd September 1842

Master's Journal.

Agreeably to the request of the committee on Wednesday last I beg to report that ~~the~~ two men Ja's Green and Jos'p Baddeley have been guilty, the former of bringing into the House Gin and Tobacco and the latter of trafficking his food with the stone breakers. Green was employed ~~by~~ as errand man for Mr Barnett. They both acknowledge their offences and profess great contention and are willing they say to tell all about it to the Board. These men confirm my previous statements in regards to the traffick carried on by women with the stone breakers. The vicinity of the latter to the women's yard renders it particularly easy Baddeley having absconded. Ja's Green was discharged a warning.

The wall underneath the stairs to the able bodied men's sleeping room is fallen down and I w'd suggest that as ~~House~~ is now here at work he be instructed to rebuild it with cement. Ordered J.B.O.
Sept'r 1st.

Week ending 10th September 1842

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 17th September 1842

Master's Journal.

Will'm Hoth belonging to Meashaw & Tho's Beend belonging to Stroud have both absconded with the Union dress on within the last fortnight.

I have learned that John the husband of Mary Challenor whose desertion caused him, more than 2 months since to seek an asylum here is at work for his brother who is ground bailey under Mr. Sparrow at Portobello and that he is getting good wages. She appears to be a very worthy but much injured woman.

Dan'l Arnold, Hank Tay Maker and Will'm Dunn, Seale Bean Maker desire the permission of the Board to go out to seek for work.

The old roping or oakum is nearly all picked more will speedily be wanted for the inmates.

Week ending 24th September 1842

Master's Journal.

Dan'l Arnold, Hank Tay Maker, Will'm Dunn, Seale Bean Maker & Ja's Armstrong Miner desire the permission of the Board to go out to seek for work.

I would again call the attention of the Board to the case of Mary Challenor, reported last week with a view to compelling her husband to take care of her = referred to Willenhall Overseers.

More roping is wanted for the inmates to pick = ordered.

Week ending 1st October 1842

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that Dan'l Bates has had some return of his former disease, instantly, since he has been in the House. His wife states that he was very well during the time he was living out of the House – and it is the opinion of the medical officer, who testifies to the same, that it w'd be

desirable to give him out relief rather than keep him in ~~the House~~ – Permitted on Surgeon's Certificate according to order.

Of 30th Sept'r 1842

I have also to speak of the idiot Will'm Walter who always having been subject to fits of violence has lately very much increased in ferocity. A week or two since without any cause he suddenly rose from his seat and kicked Will'm Biddle in such a way as to cause him to take to his bed where he is likely to remain for many weeks to come – indeed it is doubtful whether he may even entirely recover from the effects of it__ __ Yesterday he not only kicked but hit a young man, name Eli Hawkins, without the slightest provocation, as I have understood in a very savage manner. His conduct is such as to render it highly desirable to have him removed to the Lunatic Asylum, if the rules of that House permit it, as I fear some fatal effect will result from his continuance here.

As the numbers in the House are now less I shall be glad to know if we might not venture to begin to use the Vagrant Ward for the purpose they were intended and if so the quantity of work I sh'd expect from the able bodied. See Minutes on the Subject.

Week ending 8th October 1842

Master's Journal.

According to the verbal instructions last week re'd, I beg this week to report that the sinking and vibration of our sitting and bed rooms particularly the former has latterly very much increased. So tremulous is it become that the glasses of the fas single and the chairs & tables are agitated by a distant forge in a manner they were not used to be. Mr. Meyrick who has witnessed it ascribes it to the long span of the Beams on which our sitting rests and then having got this the length of that span nearly 4 inches off the horizontal. He considers them unsafe and he suggests as a remedy that another Beam or pieces of timber be placed or stitched across from one to the other and an iron upright or pillar be placed resting on the ground in the centre of that Beam. Ordered.

Also when here he (Mr Meyrick) went into the Garden for the purpose of looking where it w'd be desirable to use a wall across to make a stone yard. He is of the opinion that it w'd not only be very desirable but w'd cost comparatively little. And as a separation of the different classes forms so essential a feature in the present workhouse arrangements this alternative seems to be imperatively necessary. Mr. Meyrick only waits the regular instructions of the Board to make out an estimate of the expense. Ordered. J.B.O.

I w'd also again beg to call the attention of the Board to our want of proper idiot wards. Ordered that Evans execute this order of the Board. J.B.O. We have a family in the House changeable to Bilston, name Donnaghue belonging to Ireland who may I think be removed. Refer at once to Bilston Overseers. J.B.O.

Week ending 15th October 1842

Master's Journal.

In conformity with the request of the Board last week Mr. Meyrick has sent in his report which I herewith enclose. It will be seen that his report confirms the statement made in my last to which I respectfully beg to call your attention. One of the furnaces in the workhouse is again out of repair and requires the attention of the Bricklayers. Ordered J.B.O

Week ending 22nd October 1842

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that Thomas Laney a vagrant and Rob't Fleeming the husband of Mary Fleeming, now in the House, will on Monday the 17th be committed to hard labour for 14 days. The former for refusing to work, and the latter for leaving his wife and child changeable. The crutches of Mary Murry require lengthening. She having grown so as to render this necessary. Order to be made. J.L.
We have ab't 50lbs of Old Zine for which Mr. Tongue will give 1 ½ *. I to shall be glad to take the instruction of the Board as to its disposal. Our quantity of broken stones continues still very ****. I sh'd also be glad if arrangements could be made for their more speedy removal.

Week ending 29th October 1842

Master's Journal.

I venture to recommend that the lights or burners in all the Bedrooms be reduced in size. By this alteration much gas will be saved the flame now being unnecessarily large – Let them be reduced accordingly. About 3 doz. of eye guards are wanted for the men who break the large stones. Let 3 dozen be ordered & the inspector be requested to report after what became & the eye guards used by the stone breakers in the last quarter. I beg to report that we yesterday discovered a heap or bundle of clothes (men's wearing apparel) in a wet state in the bed of one of the paupers. They had evidently been placed there but a short period as the women found them on returning to the room to clean it (being cleaning day) after dinner, and was not seen there before. It was so wet that the water had ran through the bundle & bed. As the clothes, some of them, we are satisfied, belonged to the House. I sent for Will'm Shelvoke who admitted that he had seen them and

that he found the bundle in his slop bucket in the Water Closet, & that he intended to watch to see who removed the bundle. In answer to a question as to why he had not named the discovery to me, he replied he meant to do so but he suffered **** to elapse & had not done so. He could not tell who had removed it from the Water Closet to the bed. But inasmuch as he is the individual appointed to make the beds and clean the windows in the upper rooms of the men, and is also the one who washes the clothes as they enter the House suspicion naturally attached to him. In the evening of the day wishing to ascertain if there were any further things secreted, I went to the Water Closet again for the purpose of more ***mately examining the cistern & seat and in the seat we discovered two large bundles and a small one containing wearing apparel and other articles. As no one has access to this place (the Water Closet) in the day besides Shelvoke and taking into consideration the fact of access he has had to the Store Room, under the care of the porter for the reason before intimated I feel justified in coming to the calculation that he is the guilty person who placed them there and who can if he will tell how & when they were so placed.

Week ending 5th November 1842

Master's Journal.

I have this day to report that Will'm Shelvoke, the individual who was before you on Friday last & subsequently before the Magistrate on a charge of feloniously secreting certain properties of the human, has during this week made an ample confession of his guilt to me. He now expresses the greatest contrition and although he did intend to have left the House he voluntarily stays to make the same confession to you in the hope, he says, to receive your forgiveness. To have him before you will necessarily occupy some time but the moral effect to be produced on others, will probably well repay this. We have now got Itch in the House somewhat extensively, and owing to the number of prostitutes, the convenient room apart from others for such cases. A room on either side for males and females might I think be made out of the building already up at a trifling cost which would effectively put an end to the necessity we are now under of placing Itch with Venereal patients. In conclusion I beg to refer to my report of last week respecting the lights in the Bed rooms and the eye guards for the Stone breakers.

Week ending 12th November 1842

Master's Journal.

On Saturday morning last Thomas Archer and Henry James two young able bodied seamen, admitted the previous night as Vagrants refused to work alleging they did not come in to work and on Tuesday John Roberts, who like

the before mentioned entered as a Vagrant refused also saying he was a painter and that he w'd not break stones. I took them before the Magistrates as their cases accused the two former were committed for 14 and the latter for 21 days to hard labour.

I beg to refer to my two last reports for Sunday other matters which the pressure of other business prevents from being entered into.

Week ending 19th November 1842

Master's Journal.

We have at the present time many boys and girls in the House old enough to be placed out to earn their own livings. For other matters I respectively refer to my three last reports.

Week ending 26th November 1842

Master's Journal.

I have this week re'd the an enclosed letter about Peter Hayes who has long been troublesome. This man took his family out on the 26th Sept'r deserted them, so that they came in again on the 30th and his wife id the one who scaled the walls in the reply to a whistle which was heard at night. Such conduct as his ought to be severely dealt with and I am inclined to think he might be found in the town as his wife with her family left the House on Wednesday doubtless on an intimation she had re'd from him – To be apprehended & taken before Magistrates.

The slates on the centre building require to be replaced as there are two or three out, leaving a hole of considerable size through which the rain leaks. The Slates to be replaced.

Nov 25th

P.S. Mr Cooper is of opinion that the ventilation in some of the rooms sh'd be covered or partially so during the Winter Season.

Ordered to be partially covered under the Surgeon's directions.

Week ending 3rd December 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to that part of my report of last week refers to the slates being off the roof of the Centre building.

We find that the vagrant room chimneys require Slates on the top as a corrective to the smoke. It would also be Desirable to have a shutter to the front window of the Vagrant Ward. Some panes have been broken but this will do much to prevent a recurrence of the same. The Wash House chimneys also require slates on the top.

Week ending 10th December 1842

Master's Journal.

I have to complain of a want of attention on the part of the contractor of the Keep the pumps & water closets in repair. The latter are not only frequently out of order but unfortunately are never in order long at a time. The men are compelled to be at the pump constantly to furnish the House with the common supplies absolutely necessary – through the waste or running off some where. It was not so at the first. The contractor has certainly tried many times to remedy this but hitherto in vain, for anything like a permanent. And on the last occasion I had to send for him more than a fortnight since, he has neglected to attend, although I have sent to him several times.

Mr. Farncombe who has now had an order for some weeks for some saucepans, much wanted is another instance of inattention. Mr. F. is a large manufacturer & it perhaps may convenient to him to attend to so small a matter. If such be the case it w'd perhaps be desirable to give orders in the future to those who can attend to them.

We are now so short of potatoes, that measures must be adopted for obtaining a supply before the end of the next week.

Week ending 13th December 1842

Master's Journal.

On Monday the 12th inst. Jn'o Hathaway, Jos'h Blake & Tho's Bibbey three vagrants of the proceeding night refused to break stones, as required, quietly folding their arms. Took them before the Magistrates who committed them to hard labour for 14 days.

On the same day whilst the people were at dinner, a line which ran along the Laundry with stockings hanging on broke and in falling knocked down a clothes horse with other stockings on, which fell against an ironing stove. Providentially, it was immediately discovered so that we only lost three shirts and a few stockings. We have always been of the opinion that it (the Laundry) was much too small and have even feared such mishaps. I may also add that with its present size it is very unhealthy Mr Mayrick who happened to be here at the time will be enabled to state to you how it may be enlarged.

We sadly in want of Oakind or Roping for our aged and others who may be unable to break stones to pick.
The furnace fire places in the Kitchen want repairing.

Week ending 24th December 1842

Master's Journal.

I have to report that from the alteration made in one of the water closets as ordered last week it appears likely to answer very well when applied to all – indeed it cannot I imagine be other than an effectual cure for the inconvenience we have so long experienced in the running away and consequent waste of water.

5 cwt. Straw is wanted for the use of the straw beds.

To be ordered J.B.O.

Week ending 31st December 1842

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to the state of the able bodied women's yard. It is now in wet weather in a state of need arising partly from the great quantity of water of which necessity must be thrown there & from the excavation made in it for the soft water cistern. For its care I w'd recommend the plans suggested by Mr. Mayrick, viz. Bucking form the main doors and pitching or paving between. When this shall be in hand it will also be well to have a drain laid down from the Kitchen entrance to that yard at present the women from the Kitchen are compelled to go to the able bodied Men's yard. The drain being laid in that instead of their own. Visiting Committee to report next Friday J.B.O.

A mason is required to the furnaces in the Kitchen and some of the washing troughs in the Wash House require repair.

I w'd suggest that a cart be engaged for the purpose of bringing away the iron bedsteads from Wednesday as I fear they have to be brought by our Hand Cart, they will be likely to sustain damage. Ordered to be fetched by Hayward. Henry Swift a lunatic in the House is at times so violent that it has required several men to hold him. They are terrified at him & sleep in fear. Mr Cooper considers him a fit subject for the asylum.

4 fire buckets required and the clothes horse which was burnt in the Laundry a fortnight since – ordered to be repaired. I have this week obtained 10 bags of potatoes for which I desired the sanction of the Board. J.B.O.

Week ending 7th January 1843

Master's Journal.

Thomas Towshend belonging to Bilston, Will'm Blakeman, belonging to Willenhall and Rich'd Brown belonging to Abberley, but changeable to W'Hampton have all absconded with the Union dress on. The former on the 28th alt'o & the others on the 2nd & 4th inst. The one proceeding the other as they stand on this record. Blakeman has left two children to be supported and is the same man whose wife was brought in here on the 28th of Sept last and died of the 29th through his neglect and ill wage. – Brown is I believe under orders for his own parish.

The Lunatic Swift who was before you on Friday last became very violent afterwards during the night of that day, he broke the iron work of the window, 24 squares in the water closet, which together with some others want repairing. – He Swift was removed to the Asylum next day.

The unusually long list of offenders reported in my ~~report~~ Pauper Offence Book partaking as they do of the nature of that above mentioned – seems to call for serious notice and severe punishment.

Week Ending:- 14th January 1843

Master's Journal.

I shall be glad if the Board will make an order for the repair of the windows reported last week, as broken by the lunatic Swift and also the others, 26 in number (to be repaired. J.B. Owen.)

I would also beg to call the very serious attention of the Board to the fact of the small size of our Dining Hall compared with what the wants of the House require. On Sunday last nearly two persons (Protestants) were prevented from attending Divine Service from this very **** exclusive of those who were kept out by sickness of young children.

I w'd recommend that a number of wooden shoe bottoms or clogs be ordered of various sizes suitable for the inmates of this House. – And for the following reasons - I have ascertained through giving out one or two pairs which I had in stock that our people like them better. They say they are much warmer than shoes with leather soles; that they are lighter, and unquestionably cheaper (£ dozen of wooden shoe bottoms.) – J.B. Owen.

Elizabeth Lowe and Walter Bereton desire to be heard by the Board with a request to obtaining out relief. E. Lowe is a widow with one child dependant on her & another daughter, now in the House with an illegitimate child who will also go out with her mother. – And W. Bereton is a very infirm man who says his son will support him on his obtaining a little assistance out.

Week ending 21st January 1843

Master's Journal.

The door to the fire place to one of our furnaces is so out order that it requires the attention and repair of a Blacksmith. – Ordered, J.B.O.

I would respectfully suggest that a door be made at the end of the Dining Hall by which access may be

had to the Infirmary. My reason for this is that Mr. Evans whose health has lately been very indifferent has suffered much from crossing the yards during the indecent weather. The Visiting Committee report best method of opening the door – Governor to call their attention thereto. J.B.O.

Something should also be done to the Wash House to increase the ventilation. At present the steam is at times so dense that ones hand could not be seen if held up... – see above order. J.B.O.

Charles Kempson belonging to W'Hampton absconded yesterday with the Union dress on. He has left a wife and child changeable. This offence, absconding has lately been very prevalent and they the offenders have all of them had good clothes on. With the last 2 or 3 weeks the Union have lost in this way property to the value of 10 pounds at the least.

Week ending 28th January 1843

Master's Journal.

I have this week to complain of a want of attention on the part of the Gas Company. The Gas in the Scullery has now for 11 – 12 days been out of order and we have sent several times – each time have received for answer that a man sh'd be sent immediately which promise has never been attended to.

The Washing Troughs in the Wash House require repairing as most of them are out.

Week ending 4th February 1843

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that since the last Board meeting I have captured Joseph Man who absconded from this House in May of last year with a new suit of the Union clothes on. He had them on when taken and was committed to hard labour for 3 months for the offence. – Approved J.B.O.

I have still to complain that the able bodied Women's yard is in a very sad state. The Governor to call the attention of the Visiting Committee thereto J.B.O.

The iron pillar in the Kitchen requires painting with a few pounds of paint we could get it painted without further expense. – (Let it be painted in the House.)
J.B.O.

Week ending 11th February 1843

Master's Journal.

I have this week to call the attention of the Board to the two classes of offenders with a view to my own guidance as to the proper mode of dealing or punishing such cases, both at the present and on future occasions. The first is that May Perry and Fanny Porter 2 prostitutes, both in the Venereal Ward, did on Saturday night last scale the walls and went up to the town where there remained for some hours and returned some time during the night & not being able to get into their Ward they perambulated the yard till morning. The other case is one of theft by Benjamin Dove & his wife the particulars of which I shall be glad to have an opportunity of stating to the Board. – Neither of these cases have I punished because I wish to take the sense of the Board on each. The wife of Dove is an old offender in this way and the present is a very gross case.

Week ending 18th February 1843

Master's Journal.

On Monday the 13th inst. Ja's Chadwick and Tho's Nokes absconded with the Union Clothes on and there is every reason to believe that they went off with Mary Doughty & Emma Allen two young women with whom, I understand a correspondence has been carried on, though the men having access to the Garden to go to the temporary Privy erected near the women's yard. Nokes came in with the Venereal Disease and Emma Allen is the tall girl who applied to you a fortnight since for clothes, to go as she said to service. – If the temporary privy be removed from the Garden to the Stone Yard, one source of mischief will be cut off and much conduce to the order of the establishment. I believe it may be done by men at present in the House with a Shovel & the requisite quantity of buckets.

On Wednesday last John Shaw, belonging to the parish of Wolverhampton who absconded in July last with the Union dress on having a child here was apprehended and committed to hard labour for 3 months,
The Bell Rope to the House Bell is again broken – (near to the top) I would recommend that a chain be fixed there instead of roping on account of the action of the atmosphere.

Week ending 25th February 1843

Master's Journal.

I have this week to report that four vagrants, Matthews, Johnson, Jones alias Dulson & King obstinately refused to break stones in return for the food and lodging afforded them. For which they were taken before the Magistrates and severely committed for 21 days to hard labour.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to the state of the drains or channels for the passing of water beyond the wall at the top of the Garden for owing to the new building – as I apprehend being put up it has being choked or stopped. The Garden yesterday was flooded in consequence. There is a natural channel, which has been bricked over to conduct the water into the pond on our side. There was also a similar one on the other side which must have been diverted and if suffered to continue will fetch the wall down as the water rushes through all the way along.

Mr Chapman the superintendent of the Stone Breakers has a report to make to you this morning of a number of other vagrants who like the above have resolved and combined not to work.

We are sadly in want of an oven or some quick mode of destroying the vermin with which too many enter are covered. Owen Porter complains that they are increasing by thousands through the want of some efficient mode of destroying them. – I think we might get a proper oven put up by parties in the House.

Week ending 4th March 1843

Master's Journal.

This week I have nothing particularly to report since the desirability expressed in my last report, of having an oven for the speedy destroying of vermin and also that we want an order for bricks, lime for the erecting of the Privy in the stone yard as ordered to be done a fortnight since.

Week ending 11th March 1843

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 18th March 1843

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to my Pauper Offence Book. The offence of these lads is a growing one requiring strong measures to put it down, as ordinary punishments of the House are of no avail: they laugh at it secretly, and prove that they care nothing for it by repeating the offence the next day, as in the present case. If the Garden Wall were made higher they w'd find it more difficult to effect they can now get over with great facility. We are very sadly in want of old roping as the stock we had is all picked and our aged and others have nothing to do. Lime, sand, a Trowel & bricks or mason's hammer are wanted to erect the Privy in the Stone yard.

Week ending 25th March 1843

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to my last week's report in reference to the want of old roping with a view to getting some ordered. My offence list is, I am sorry to add, again heavy, and the offences of a grave and serious nature calling for severe admonition

Week ending 1st April 1843

Master's Journal.

The judicious and severity of the Board last week on two of the refractory inmates has had the happy effect on driving one out and subduing in a considerable degree that spirit which for the want of such an example was unhappily growing very rapidly. I last evening re'd the enclosed from Mrs Sparrow to the content of which I respectfully invite your attention.

Week ending 8th April 1843

Master's Journal.

On the third of July I reported the case of one Joseph Mace who was committed for 3 months for absconding in the previous May from this House with a new suit of clothes on. – Two months have scarcely elapsed when he is found here again as a vagrant & He has been at liberty I underst'd for some time. – If the subordinate officials are to set aside the decisions of Magistrates made in agreement with the laws of the land, it will be of little use punishing. – But I have another charge against this man, Mace, not reported in Feb'y. On

the night he was committed I sent his own clothes to the station (a usual custom) to exchange for our own. He refused to give them up there but the officer next morning found them in the state they can be exhibited to you. Cut or torn up entirely to shreds. I submit that this is so gross a violation, that it calls for another punishment from you, and for that purpose have ordered his detention till he be brought before you.

Allow me also to call your serious attention to the hardened offender Will'm Law, reported in my pauper offences book, with a view to his having such an increased punish't as will properly enable your disapprobation of his conduct. – If such conduct as his be not severely dealt with their will soon be an end to all order__ __ Mr Chapman will report to you his language.

I beg to recommend that the periodicals we now have be bound. They will of themselves forun an interesting library for the inmates.

Week ending 15th April 1843

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week Ending:- 22nd April 1843

Master's Journal.

I have again to call the attention of the Board to our want of Roping to pick. At present our old men and some others have nothing to do for the want of it.

The stairs leading to the Nursery require re-leading or that the lead now on be relaid and the hand-rail leading up the stairs requires the attention of a smith.

Wire or wooden guards for the windows in the Vagrant room are much wanted, as very many of the panes are broken by the vagrants when breaking stones; and to have the glass repaired without at the same time securing the windows from a similar recurrence would be doing little service.

Week ending 29th April 1843

Master's Journal.

I beg to call the attention of the Board to my report of last week and also to the walls surrounding the garden. They are much to low and they are being run upon by persons from the outside, injured, and will if not raised be eventually be destroyed.

Between the first signal for standing up & the second grace, the Master, amidst the most profound silence proceeded slowly from the top of the hall to the centre, & then, said these few words "I wish it to be clearly understood, I shall never be offended at any one to requesting to have their allowance weighted, if it be done in a proper & respectable manner; but what I do expect & what I will exact is order & subordination.

The Master reports 3 bases in the Pauper Offences Book – the Matron reports that the female paupers have been orderly.

Week ending 6th May 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master and Matron upon making their first report to the Board of Guardians beg leave to record their thanks for being appointed to those situations & their intention to devote the whole of their time & energies to an efficient discharge of the duties there of.

Aware of the arduous nature of those duties they feel they have to contend with many difficulties – supported however by the Board in the proper exercise of their authority are receiving its lenient considerations when mistaken in their judgement _ they venture to hope, that they may be able still to maintain the high character which the "Wolverhampton Union" has required under the superintendence of the late Master & Matron.

The Master reports that at Breakfast yesterday one of the women said her bread was not weight & wished it weighed – the scales were brought – & the Master desired her to bring the two nearest female paupers with her to see it weighed – it was over weight. Not a word was said, but to desire them to retire to their seats. After Breakfast.

Week ending 13th May 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master begs to refer the Board to the bases mentioned in the Pauper Offences Book.

The Master reports that John Jones absconded on the 9th ins. Taking with him the Workhouse Clothes & leaving two children in the House – the Master requests the instruction of the Board for his guidance on such occasions.

The Master reports the Male Pauper, with one exception ment'd in the Pauper Offences Book, to have been orderly.

The Matron reports that the Female Paupers to have been orderly.

Week ending 20th May 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master refers the Board to a base in the Pauper Offence Book.
The Master reports the Male Paupers, with the exception of the above, to have been orderly
The Matron reports the Female Paupers to have been orderly.

Week ending 27th May 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that on Tuesday morning Mr. G. Cooper reported the Nurse and Women in the Lying In Ward as disorderly & **** the previous night. The Master not having been present refers to Mr G. Cooper for particulars.
The Master reports that 157 has been taken under peculiar circumstances from a pauper named W'm Mothershaw. The Master refers to that only Hoe Makers in the House are Rich. Britin, aged 71. Michael Mackin 72 & John Howl 66, who are unable from age to do all the work of the House. The Master being want of these is therefore obliged to enter that article in the order book.
The Master and Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 3rd June 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports the Male Paupers with one exception been orderly in their conduct during the week.
The Matron reports with the exception mentioned in the Pauper Offences Book, the same of the Female Paupers.
The Master reports that he is in want of old Roping.

Week ending 10th June 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that Joseph Rollins, Wife & 2 children left the House on Tuesday & returned with an order for admission on Wednesday morn'g, when the man & woman stated that one of their children had been cruelly beaten on Friday last by the Man Clarke who has the case of the Male children; which charge the Matron requests may be investigated.

The Master reports that John Jones who absconded from the House on the 9th of May returned, voluntarily having on the Union Clothes, on Friday last.

Week ending 17th June 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that George Calrick, a Pauper who was ordered by the Board on Friday last to be discharged on Monday, escaped over the wall on Sunday morn'g. His absence was discovered within half an hour – notice given immediately to the Police here & a description of his person & clothes sent to the Police at Birmingham. – 3 of the Paupers were dispatched in pursuit of him in various directions but no information had been rec'd respecting him. – He had taken the Union Clothes & 2 shirts with him.

The Master reports that Rebecca Price, changeable to Bilston died on Tuesday & that 1/ 5½ was found amongst her clothes.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during this week.

Week ending 23rd June 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that he has received during the last **** £1.19.11 for Bones and wash, a particular account of which has been furnished to Mr. Payne.

That he had also recorded 8/3 for 22 days maintenance of William Mothershaw a Pauper belonging to Willenhall – as to Board's order 26 May. The Master requests the directions of the Board as to the disposal of the above sums.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 1st July 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report the Male & Female Paupers to have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 8th July 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master and Matron report as follows, viz.

That Sarah Porter, aged 18 was admitted into the House yesterday by direction of Mr. Cooper, & that a regular order for her admission as a Pauper belonging to W'hampton was afterwards sent by Mr. Brinton – that Mr. Cooper, about ½ past 12 o'clock as stated by the Porter sent for the Nurse Griffiths and directed her to take the Woman from the Hall. I place her in the Lying in Ward. – That W. Cooper remained in the House until ¼ before 3 o'clock. That about ½ past 4 o'clock. Nurse Bolt applied to the Matron for a sheet to cover the body of the dead child. That upon making the necessary enquires the Matron was informed that Sarah Porter had been delivered of a child. That she immediately went to the Lying in Ward & found such information to be correct. That she was first told by Nurse Griffiths the child was born dead; but upon continuing her enquires she ascertained that the child was born alive but expired immediately.

That the Matron was not informed by Mr. Cooper that Sarah Porter was in Labor & that she believes that the Woman was never visited by Mr. Cooper after being placed in the Lying in Ward by his directions.

The Master & Matron with a view to be relieved from any responsibility which may attach to such a case, report all the circumstances connected with it to the Board; and at the same time desire to record in this journal their Protest against the continuance of a system which allows a Pauper Nurse to act as Midwife in this House.

Week ending 15th July 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports specialy to the Board of Guardians that 531 Men, Women and children slept in this House last night according to the statement above.

The Master & Matron report as follows, viz.

That a fire place and a stove to be placed there in is immediatly wanted for the new Lying in Ward.

And that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Additional Report.

The Master reports that only 512 Men, Women and children slept in this House last night

The Matron reports that Elizabeth Davies an insane woman ~~was~~ changeable to Bilston was taken out of the House yesterday by her husband who paid 1/10 ½ for her Maintenance for 5 days. – The Master requested the direction of the Board as to the disposal of the above sum. _

Week ending 22nd July 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports specialy.

That 536 Paupers, Men, Women and children slept in the House last night.

The Master & Matron report.

That with one trifling exception, mentioned in the Pauper Offence Book, the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 29th July 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports specialy.

That 547 Paupers, Men, Women & children slept in the House last night – and that in consequence of the crowded state of the House it is impossible to observe the classification ordered above.

The Master & Matron report the Male & Female Paupers to have been orderly since their last report.

25th July 1843

The Master reports specialy.

That 559 Paupers, Men, Women & children slept in the House last night:-
28th July 1843

Week ending 5th August 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports specialy.

That 521 Paupers Men, Women & children slept in this House last night – and that 5 paupers have given notice to discharge themselves this month & that the number at the meeting of the Board therefore will be 516.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week - with the exception of one Man punished for grossly insulting Mr. Cooper.

The Master also reports that 57 able bodied Men were employed in the Stone Yard yesterday, 5 reported sick & 6 absent from other causes, making altogether 68 able bodied Men in this House.

Week ending 12th August 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That only 480 Paupers, Men, Women & children slept in this House last night.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week, with the exception of one Man, stated in the Pauper Offence Book.

Week ending 19th August 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that only 492 Paupers slept in this House last night.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week, with the exception of a case of refusing to work in the Stone Yard, stated in the Pauper Offences Book.

Week ending 26th August 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week – with the exception of refusing to work in the Stone Yard, stated in the Pauper Offence Book.

Week ending 2nd September 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

At the special request of Mr. Cooper, the House Surgeon, that Margaret Smeare had insulted him & is in the habit of throwing away the Medicine which he sends to her.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 9th September 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

On Sunday last during his absence Hannah Deakin complained to the Matron that a Nurse named Bareless had improperly beaten one of her children – the Matron immediately enquired into the complaint & found it to be a just one, & that marks of improper violence were visible upon the child's person. – The Matron seriously admonished the Nurse, who promised not again to guilty of such conduct upon the Master being made acquainted with the case, he was of the opinion however that admonition was not a sufficient punishment & therefore directed the Nurse to be removed from the Nursery & another appointed in her place, which was accordingly done on Monday morning The Master reports the above as the family to which the child belongs have since left the House & may press a complaint elsewhere.

Week ending 16th September 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that Mr. Chapman has an important case to bring before the Board, & the Master respectfully requests that he may be present when Mr. Cooper makes his statement.

Week ending 23rd September 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 30th September 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 7th October 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 14th October 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That he received during the last quarter £1. 15. 8. for sandwiches 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of Mutton Chops, Bones, Rags & Wash – particulars of which have been furnished to H. N. Payne.

Also 2/.. found on the clothes of Walter Benton, a Pauper belonging to W'hampton, who died on 23rd Sept.

The Master requests the order of the Board as to the disposal of the above sum.

The Master & Matron report. That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 21st October 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers, with one exception mentioned in the Pauper Offences Book, have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 28th October 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master begs leave to call attention of the Board to the quality of the Potatoes, being the produce of the Garden. – He has consumed about 30 bags & there are nearly 70 bags remaining of them. The People generally complain of their badness & in consequence the Master a few days since called Mr. Cooper's attention to their quality, & he has now that Gentleman's authority for stating, "that they are not fit for the diet of the People, and that the continued use of them must lower the general health of the inmates of this House."

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers with the exception of a case for refusing to work, have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 4th November 1843

Master's Journal.

The Matron reports.

That on Monday last she attended during the labor of Elizabeth Devey – a woman with **** deformity – that it was a difficult and protracted one & that delivery had ultimately to be effected by the use of instruments.

The Matron considers that under Providence, the safety of Mother & Child is to be attributed to the professional skills of Mr. Cooper & to the great attention paid by him to the case.

The Master reports that he has been offered 2/6 a bag for the Potatoes, referred to in his last report & **** enquiries he had called to be made in the Market he considered the price a fair one – the person offering to purchase is Mr. Edward Taylor / having to sell them again.

The Master & Matron report that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 11th November 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master & Matron report.

That the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 18th November 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that John Edwards, wife and six children were admitted from Bilston on Wednesday – that the children are labouring under Hooping Cough - & that by the direction of Mr. Cooper the whole family have been kept in the Receiving Ward with a view to the care being submitted to the consideration of the Board for Out Relief.

Week ending 25th November 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that on Tuesday afternoon Ann Gardener / for whom the **** was sent / was admitted in the House upon the order of Mr. Brinton – that she died almost immediately. The Medical Officers were sent for & Mr. Cooper & Mr. Bunce attended directly, but were too late to render assistance. A Coroners Inquest was held on Wednesday & adjourned to Thursday; when a post mortem examination having been made by Mr. Cooper, the Jury returned a verdict of “died by the visitation of God.”

Week ending 2nd December 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week; and that the inmates generally have shown their respect for the Matron by conducting themselves with propriety during her absence.

Week ending 9th December 1843

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 16th December 1843

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 23rd December 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That he has rec'd £1. 4. . for the Maintenance of Banks & family, changeable to the Parish of Wolverhampton & requests to order of the Board to pay the same to the overseers of that Parish.

The Master refers to a case of punishment, stated in the Pauper Offences Book, under date of the 15 Decem. 1843

Week ending 30th December 1843

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to a case of punishment in the Pauper Offences Book under date of the 27 ins.

1844

Week ending 6th January 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That John Woolrich, Watch Maker, of this town was on Saturday night brought in by two Policemen in a state of insanity & has continued so up to this time. –

The Master being informed that there was a Writing Desk supposed to contain money, at the Peacock Inn, applied to the Landlady for it & it is now in the Board Room for the purpose of being opened in the presence of the Guardians.

Week ending 13th January 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That on Saturday morning the Nurse reported a Female infant, three days old, to be dead & afterwards Mr. Cooper reported to Master that the child had been overlaid by the mother, Mary Thomas. A Coroner's Inquest was therefore held on Monday where the Jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

Week ending 20th January 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That about 8 o'clock last Saturday night, the Matron was informed that Elizabeth Green aged 70, who had gone to bed in good health, appeared to be dead. The Matron went immediately to the Aged Women's Bed Room, & found such to be the case. Mr. Cooper was sent for & came directly but assistance was useless. A Coroner's Inquest was held on Tuesday, where the Jury returned a verdict of "died by the visitation of God."

The Master reports that the paving in the Able Bodied Women's Yard cannot be finished until orders are given for new drainage from the pump.

The Master refers to a case of Punishment in the Pauper Offence Book.

Week ending 27th January 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 3rd February 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to a case of punishment recorded in the Pauper Offences Book.

Week ending 10th February 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master.

Refers to the Pauper Offence Book for cases recorded therein.

Week ending 17th February 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master.

Refers to the Pauper Offence Book for a base respecting the vagrants.

Week ending 24th February 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That Thomas Bromley belonging to W'hampton Parish died on the 20th Ins. & that 4 ½ d. was found after his death in his pockets.

Week ending 2nd March 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master,

Refers to the Pauper Offences Book for the punishment of the 3 Able Bodied Paupers order'd by the Board last Friday to be taken before the Magistrates.

Week ending 9th March 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That the coals furnished by the present contractor are of very inferior quality & that the consumption is in consequence much increased. He has complained of the quality & the answer he has rec'd is that "they are good coals for the price & that it could not be expected he should send other coals for which he is charging 7/. & 7/6. per Ton.

Week ending 16th March 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 23rd March 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That Daniel Dawson & Thomas Cornforth, two of the three Able Bodied Paupers, lately returned from Stafford Gaol & who were readmitted into the House by Board's order last Friday, absconded on Wednesday night taking with them the 3 pairs of shoes, the property of the Union. Information has been given to the Police, and should they be apprehended it will be for the Board to determine whether they should be prosecuted under the 55th. of Geo. 3rd, which subjects them to 3 months imprisonment or for the felony in stealing the shoes.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for a case to be brought before the Board.

Week ending 30th March 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports the Male & Female Paupers to have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 6th April 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That Thomas Lyone who returned lately from Stafford House of Correction, and was remitted by Board's orders, absconded on Saturday night and also John Griffiths, between 15 & 16 years of age. The latter has frequently absconded and is usually brought back by friends. On Monday the brought him again when the Master refused to receive him without an order of admission from the officers of Bilston.

Week ending 13th April 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports the Male & Female Paupers to have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 20th April 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 27th April 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that the Male & Female Paupers have been orderly during the week.

Week ending 4th May 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for the particulars of a case respecting the Boy Griffiths.

Week ending 11th May 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for the particulars of a case respecting John Davies ordered to be taken before the Magistrates by the Board last Friday.

Week ending 18th May 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that James Groom an Able Bodied Pauper belonging to Wednesfield was offered work on Monday last and promised to go to it the next morning. On Tuesday however he refused to discharge himself & still remains in the House, though spoken too three times by the Master & told that he would reported to the Board this day.

Week ending 25th May 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that James Groom left the House as noted on Monday last.

Week ending 1st June 1844

NO ENTRY GIVEN.

Week ending 15th June 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 22nd June 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 29th June 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 6th July 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 13th July 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that G. Cooper esq. Was in attendance upon Hannah Green – with short intervals of absence from 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon until 3 o'clock Monday afternoon – that it was a case of difficult and protracted labor, & the delivery of a dead infant had to be effected by instruments.

The Master also reports.

That Daniel Dawson, who absconded with another Pauper on the 21st March last, taking with them the Union Clothes, was apprehended in the Fair on Wednesday. He is to be taken before the Magistrate this afternoon – & the Master with the sanction of the Board intends to proceed against him under the 55th. Geo. 3rd. which upon conviction, subjects him to 3 months imprisonment & hard labor.

Week ending 20th July 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that Daniel Dawson mentioned in last weeks report was committed to the House of Correction for 3 months, with hard labor.

Week ending 27th July 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 3rd August 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 10th August 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master respectfully solicits the permission of the Board that he may have leave of absence from Saturday until Tuesday next for the purpose of visiting his children who are at school near London. He proposes leaving on Saturday morning & returning by the last train on Monday night or the first train on Tuesday morning.

Week ending 17th August 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 24th August 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master on behalf of Wife Sale requests that upon providing a substitute, she may have leave of absence for a fortnight to visit her friends in Liverpool. In making this request the Master assures the Board that Wife Willeshire will

consider it her duty to devote part of her time to the schools & to seeing that the children are properly attended to, during the absence of the school Mistress.

The Master reports that for the first time for upwards of 4 years, the Infectious Wards are unoccupied – there being no cases of the Itch or Venereal in the House.

Week ending 31st August 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports.

That on Tuesday last a Male Child, about 4 months old was admitted into the House, having been found deserted close to W. Luentin's door in Lucen St. In reference to the above the Master begs leave to contradict a statement in the "Wolverhampton Chronicle", that the child was given to the care of a female "the authorities at the Workhouse having refused to receive it". The Master is at a loss to conceive how such a paragraph could have got into the paper. No application for the admission of the child was made until Tuesday when it was left in the House that it, in the first instance been taken there, it would have been received at once, as a case of "urgent necessity" specially provided for in the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Week ending 7th September 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 14th September 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that the Male child found in Lucen St, and admitted into the House on the 27th Aug, died on Sunday last, a Coroner's Inquest was held yesterday & a verdict returned of "died by the visitation of God."

Week ending 21st September 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers the Board to the Chaplain's Book for a report of the examination of the children in the schools by Rev. Richard Hill, on Friday the 13th Ins.

Week ending 28th September 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 5th October 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master begs to call the attention of the Board to the quality of the Meat supplied by the new contractor. On Tuesday last it consisted of old Ewe, under fed Mutton & so small that the legs weighed only 6lbs each. The excess of waste on that day as compared with the previous Tuesday's dinner was upwards of 25lbs.

The Master reports the above for the consideration of the Board & also to protect himself from any observations which the auditor might otherwise think it was his duty to make upon the great increase in waste which must take place should the same quality of Meat be continued to be supplied.

Week Ending: 12th October 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 19th October 1844

Master's Journal.

The Matron, conformably to directions of the Poor Law Commissioners, proposes as her Justices W. Richard Foster, Key Stamper, Willenhall and her father, the Master

Week ending 26th October 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master.

Reports that on Wednesday morning about 11 o'clock Ann Morris was brought into this House in an open cart, in a bad state of Typhus Fever, & that she had been kept in the Female Recovery Room ever since & is now in a high state of Fever & delirious

The Master had the authority of Mr. Cooper for saying that the case ought not to have been sent to the House; and as the Husband of the woman makes a charge of neglect against the Relieving Officer of Bilston, the Board will probably consider it necessary to investigate the matter.

Week ending 2nd November 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that John Roberts & Samuel Hammond belonging to Bilston absconded with the Union Dress on Friday last – the former leaving a wife & 4 children & the latter a sick wife & 2 children in the House. It is well known that these Men have gone to Liverpool, where the Mother of John Roberts resides.

The Master submits to the Board the necessity – if only for the sake of example – of some steps being taken to apprehend these Men especially as the 59th Clause of the New Poor Law Amendment Act gives the Guardians the power to pay the reasonable costs of the apprehension & prosecuting such offenders.

Week ending 9th November 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 16th November 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 23rd November 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 30th November 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 7th December 1844

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 14th December 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that Ellen Wells & Ann Ashley – Prostitutes in the Venereal Ward, absconded on Wednesday evening with the Union Clothes – they have since been apprehended by the Police and will be taken before the Magistrate this afternoon. The Master requests the direction of the Board respecting them.

The Master also reports that 6 Vagrants have this morning refused to do any work & 2 of them have broken 10 panes of glass with the Stone Hammers. The Master has detained them for the meeting with the Board.

Week ending 21st December 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for a report of the decision of the Magistrate on the cases ordered to be taken before them last week.

Week ending 28th December 1844

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for a Report of two cases heard and described by the Magistrate on the 25th Ins.

1845,

Week ending 4th January 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 11th January 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week

Week ending 18th January 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master.

Reports that 8/10 was found on the body of Will Jones, a Pauper changeable to Wolverhampton, who died on the 11th Ins.

Week ending 25th January 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 1st February 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 8th February 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 15th February 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 22nd February 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 1st March 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that Ann Smith, aged 31 was found dead in her Bed on Saturday morning. A Coroners Inquest was held on Monday, when the Jury returned a verdict of "Natural Death".

Week ending 8th March 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that on Saturday afternoon Joseph Nicholls, aged 45, was admitted by order of Mr. *hittle. He was brought in a Car by two Policemen, & appeared to be in a dying state. Mr Cooper was in immediate attendance. The man died on Monday afternoon. The Master gave notice to the Coroner of the circumstances attending this case; and an Inquest was held yesterday, a post mortem examination of the Body order'd, & the further investigation adjourned until Thursday next, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Week ending 15th March 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that at the adjourned Inquest held yesterday upon the Body of Joseph Nicholls the Jury returned the following verdict, viz – "Died from + Pulmonary Consumption caused by exposure to cold & not from any violent means."

+ For "Pulmonary Consumption" read "Pulmonary Apoplexy". – Corrected at the request of the Coroner.

17th March 1845. J.W.

Week ending 21st March 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 29th March 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 4th April 1845

Master's Journal

NO NOTES GIVEN THIS WEEK.

Week ending 12th April 1845

Master's Journal.

No Pauper Offence Book presented there not being any complaints.-

Week ending 19th April 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that 3/.. was found on the Body of Benjamin Hadley, a Pauper changeable to Wolverhampton, who died yesterday. }Pay to Overseers of Wolverhampton.

Week ending 26th April 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 3rd May 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master having been informed that the Nurse had on one or two occasions behaved with gross indecency in the Lying in Ward requests that the matter may be investigated by the Board in the presence of the Medical Officer, G. L. Cooper Esq.

Week ending 10th May 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 17th May 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master refers to the Pauper Offences Book for 2 cases of disorderly conduct.

Week ending 24th May 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 31st May 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 7th June 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that G. T. Cooper Esq. Was in attendance upon Ann Kent, from 5 o'clock in the morning until noon, on Saturday last – that it was a case of difficult & protracted labor, & delivery had ultimately to be effected by instruments.

The Master also reports that a case of Virulent Small Pox – appeared in the House on Sunday last - & as prompt measures were requisite to prevent the infection ~~from~~ spreading, the Master, with the sanction of Mr. Cooper had the Man removed to a Room in the New Building, & placed under the care of a separate Nurse..

Week ending 14th June 1845

Master's Journal.

NO NOTE GIVEN FOR THIS WEEK.

Week ending 21st June 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 28th June 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 5th July 1845

Master's Journal.

No notes given for this week.

Week ending 12th July 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.

Week ending 19th July 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master on behalf of Miss Sace requests that upon providing a substitute, she may have leave of absence for a fortnight. – Allowed

Week ending 26th July 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.

Week ending 2nd August 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.

Week ending 9th August 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.

Week ending 16th August 1845

Master's Journal.

The Master reports that on Sunday night about 10 o'clock Thomas Wilshaw was brought to the House in a Van having fallen from the shafts, & the Van had passed over his body. – Mr Cooper was in immediate attendance. The Man however died in less than an hour.

This morning between 12 & 1 o'clock another Man was brought to the House having been run over by some vehicle near the Town. – Mr Cooper was in attendance shortly afterwards.

Week ending 23rd August 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.

Week ending 30th August 1845

Master's Journal.

no notes given for this week.
