

*Notes on Some Asylum Specialities.\** By ROBERT BAKER,  
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During the past twenty years I have visited many asylums in Great Britain and the Continent, in Canada and the United States. I believe I have never visited any asylum without learning something, though in a very few cases I may, perhaps, have only learned what to avoid.

Each asylum or hospital has almost necessarily its own original and special details in structural construction. I have thought that it might add to the interest of our quarterly meetings if those of us who have (or think that we have) made improvements in even small points of detail, would describe these, and when possible exhibit models.

I propose, therefore, this afternoon to exhibit to you the following specialities at present in use at the York Retreat:—

A. *An improved glass-lined odourless urinal.*—This urinal is erected in a projecting lavatory block, with cross ventilation, in the passage between the block and the main building. The model exhibited is made two inches to the foot, that is, it is exactly one-sixth the real size. The chamber is three feet six inches square, and the glass lining four feet six inches high. The walls are plastered behind the glass, and proper wood grounds are fixed to receive the glass fittings at the top and bottom. The floor is laid with a fall of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. to the furthest end from the door, and a gutter about 3 in. wide is formed along the two sides and at the end, having an additional slope of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. The floor is covered with 8 lb. lead, dressed into the gutters and turning up by the wall sides, 5 in. A copper grate with lead trap is let into the lowest point of the gutter. The three sides of the urinal are lined with  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. plate-glass; the obscured side of the plate-glass being turned to the wall. The edges of the glass are ground at the bottom, and at the joinings the upright angles of the glass are secured with copper angle-strips, the glass being bedded in litharge. The glass is suspended at the bottom with strong copper clips, hanging in front of the lead work, so that the water drips off the glass clean into the gutter. All round the top of the glass a lin. copper sparge-pipe is fixed, through which the water for cleansing purposes is spread over the whole surface of the glass. A six-gallon flushing tank is fixed about eight feet high, having  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. supply, connected with the sparge-pipe. A tap is fixed in the supply pipe to the flushing tank,

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so that the water supply can be regulated to give a discharge as frequently as desired. The discharge from the urinal gutter should pass direct through the wall on to an open grate. The cost of this urinal is £18.

B. *Turkish bath tiling*.—These blocks are the chippings of marble, run into concrete, are made  $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. square, and they make excellent marble mosaic floors, which even when wet are not slippery. The bath floorings are constructed of alternate squares of the lighter and darker colours laid diagonally in cement on a concrete bed. The cost of this tiling laid complete is 20s. per yard, not including the concrete bed. A fluted tile for bath floors is also useful in a shampooing room. These tiles, measuring  $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. square, are laid with the flutes, alternating in direction diagonally, on the bed of concrete. Both these descriptions of tiles can be obtained from M. Ludvig Oppenheimer, Manchester.

C. *Self-locking fire guard*.—Occasionally it is desirable for safety's sake to have a fireplace protected with a locked guard. Visible padlocks, however, are objectionable and unsightly. In the accompanying model a spring lock is connected with the fire guard, and when it has to be removed the attendant has only to apply the key. The usual size is 2ft. 2in. in width by 2ft. 7in. in height. The cost in brass wire is £2, and the cost in iron 34s. They are made by Mr. Severs, Fishergate, York.

D. *An improved inspection plate*.—The accompanying model of an inspection plate for asylum doors is merely a neat adaptation of what is technically called the "hit and miss" principle, the surface of the plate nearest the patient's room being fitted with half-inch plate glass. The cost of each is 3s.

E. *Boots for chairs*.—In most of the American asylums they prevent the noise caused by restless patients moving their chairs on a slippery floor by placing each leg of the chair in a small india-rubber boot. Each boot contains half-an-ounce of india-rubber, and the cost is, therefore, about 2d. each. They can be purchased at this price of Messrs. Raper and Pulleyn, York.

I feel that I ought almost to apologise for occupying so much of the valuable time of this learned Association with these particulars, but I am of opinion that the comfort and orderly working of an asylum can be largely increased by personal attention to small points of detail. I have only further to add that any of these exhibits are entirely at the service of any member of our Association.