

behaviour at age 42–43 and by repeated observations of several staff then. The evidence is strong that the patient remained improved in the OCD over six years' follow-up and that the transsexualism

remitted for at least 17 months and probably four years. This was the point of our paper and it still stands. Our correspondence is now almost as long as our case report was, but the record has to be set

straight – transsexualism can remit, even if only for a while.

---

**I. Marks** Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF

---

## One hundred years ago

### The industrial training of imbeciles

The utility of industrial training for imbeciles has been so well established that the announcement of a gift of £4,000 by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr. Alexander Peckover, for providing the Eastern Counties Asylum at Colchester with suitable workshops and schools, is a matter for general satisfaction. This is one of the oldest training institutions for imbeciles in the country, having been established nearly forty years. Its directors are to be congratulated on the increased facilities they will now possess for fitting their more promising pupils to earn a livelihood, wholly or in part, or at any rate

to employ their time in a useful and interesting manner. The Superintendent and Secretary (Mr. Turner) laid stress in his last annual report upon the necessity of additional accommodation for the technical instruction of the inmates, much progress having of recent years been made in wood carving, carpentry, basket making, tailoring, shoe making, mat making, and even painting and plumbing. In connection with the new workshop block, we understand that additional school accommodation will be provided for the smaller boys, who have hitherto, owing to want of room, not been brought under the beneficial influence of school discipline. A small farm was acquired by the institution a year or two ago,

and is reported to have been of the greatest service as a healthy and useful form of occupation for the older lads, and as securing genuine new milk and fresh eggs for sick patients. By the generosity of Sir Savile Crossley a marine branch at Clacton-on-Sea was provided in 1895 for scrofulous and other patients requiring change and bracing air. The Eastern Counties Asylum is fortunate in its friend.

---

### REFERENCE

*British Medical Journal*, 16 April 1898, 1033–1034.

Research by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey