

EASTBY SANATORIUM – Appendix – The Opening Ceremony

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Bradford Daily Telegraph (3 November, 1903) :

Bradford's New Sanatorium. Opening Ceremony at Eastby.

No necessary expense or pains have been spared by the Bradford Board of Guardians in erecting the Consumptive Sanatorium at Eastby, near Skipton, which was formally opened to-day by Sir F. Powell, Bart, M.P.

The buildings are situated in about six and a half acres of ground, standing back from the Barden Road, and facing south. On the north the Sanatorium is protected by the towering rocks of Eastby Moor, whilst on the other side a fine view of the Aire Valley towards Skipton is obtained. Only one pavilion has been provided at the present time, but the work for a second is steadily progressing.

The first pavilion is 165 yards in length, and is a wooden structure. The partitions are lined throughout with fire and sound-proof blocks. The patients' bedrooms, to the number of ten, are all situate on the ground floor, and all the rooms face to the south. A large dining-room is provided on the same floor, while the quarters for the nurses are upstairs.

A marked feature of the whole building is that the corners of the rooms are rounded so as to prevent the accumulation of dust in the corners of the rooms and corridors, and to admit of their easy and thorough cleansing. Hot water is provided throughout the pavilion, the rooms and corridors are lighted by electricity, while electric bells all over the building permit of communication with the nurses' bedrooms.

To the rear of the pavilion is a stone building, which forms the administrative block, and contains washing and other kitchens, matron's and doctors' quarters, etc. The generating plant for the electricity is located in a building at the rear of the site, and provides for 90 to 100 lights. For the water supply 200 feet boring has been sunk, and from this water is pumped by means of a small windmill and carried to a storage tank. The building is heated throughout on the hot-water system, and the extensive grounds have been laid out in a very effective manner. Some pleasant walks will thus be provided in the boundaries, and the Duke of Devonshire has given permission for the use of the adjoining woods by the patients. The buildings were designed by Mr. Fred Holland, architect and engineer, Bradford, and the contract for the pavilion was secured by Mr. A.H. Shaw, of Skipton.

The large and massive gold key presented to Sir F.S. Powell at the opening of the building to-day is a splendid specimen of art workmanship, decorated with various enamels. The head is of quatrefoil form, with fleur-de-lis ornaments at the sides and cusps around the border. The front is a fancy shield, upon which are shown in proper heraldic colours the arms of the recipient, the motto appearing upon an enamel-painted ribbon below. The sides are also enamelled, and bear the initials of Sir Francis. Below this shield is a medallion, upon which the arms of the city appear, and, surmounting the head is the crest of the baronet. The stem is an elaborate scroll ornament, decorated with laurel leaves, while entwining it is a band upon which is engraved the words "Bradford Poor Law Union." The reverse of the head has a large shield, upon which is engraved the inscription recording the presentation, Yorkshire roses appearing on the sides. The key was designed and executed by Mr. Edward Sweeney, of Bradford.

The party left Bradford at 12.30 for Skipton, and then drove to Eastby. The weather was delightful, and at the opening ceremony there were present Sir F.S. Powell, Bart., M.P., the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman D. and Mrs. Wade), Mr. F.H. Bentham (chairman of the Board of Guardians), Mrs. Moser, Mr. F.W. Jowett, Mr. T.A. Guy, Mr. J. Patchett (chairman of the Building Committee), Mr. B. Crowther, Mr. C. Hodgson (chairman of the Halifax Board of Guardians), Mr. R. Thornton (vice-chairman), Dr. Goyder, Mr. H.B. Priestman, the Rev. C.V. Brown, and Mr. P.H. Bagenall (Local Government Inspector).

Mrs. Moser presented Sir F.S. Powell with the key with which to perform the opening ceremony.

In declaring the building open Sir Francis said he sincerely hoped it might during many generations contribute to the comfort of the unhappy victims of the sorry disease which they hoped to banish.

Mr. F.H. Bentham (chairman of the Board of Guardians) presiding at a subsequent meeting in the Pavilion, said that although Sir Francis was a co-opted member of the Board, he had done a great and good work, and their presence on that occasion was due to the work which that gentleman had done. They had had a great deal of opposition from Whitehall, and the sanction of the Local Government Board was only obtained by the efforts of Sir Francis. The scheme was intended for 52 patients, 25 of whom would be accommodated in that pavilion. He hoped this would not be confined absolutely to poor law patients, but that its scope might be extended. The total estimated expenditure was £10,000, but this would probably be extended.

Mr. J. Padgett, in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Francis, paid a high tribute to the work that gentleman had done. Mr. Hopkinson seconded, and the vote was heartily agreed to. Replying, Sir Francis said there was no disease which excited so

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much sympathy as the great disease of consumption. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman was carried on the motion of the Mayor, second ed by Mr. Bagenall.

Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer (4 November, 1903):

The First Poor Law Sanatorium. Bradford Guardians' Notable Undertaking.

Scarp and scaur and fell, and a range of rolling moorland stretching out to the blue high-backed ridge of Rombald's Moor faintly shimmering in the hazy distance; an unusual glint of sunshine to bring out the golds and russet browns of the autumn foliage, the dead greens of the chequered fields, in a harmony of subdued colouring. Behind, Eastby Crag clothed in dead bracken, to the right, the smoke of Skipton softened to a silver grey haze by the three miles intervening; and to the left more autumn tints in a wooded tract in which firs are predominant. Around all, the free moorland air, sweet and pure and free from the taint of towns – unkind winds shut out on the north by Eastby Crag, on the left by the wood. Such is the situation (and such were the conditions yesterday when it was formally opened) of the new Bradford Poor Law Union Sanatorium at Eastby.

It is perched half-way up the slope which leads to Eastby Crag, and is about 800 feet above sea level. The sanatorium itself is a simple wooden erection one storey high, with the exception of the centre portion where an additional storey breaks the line turret fashion, It is red-tiles, white-painted, all windows and ventilation before and behind, and reminds one of nothing so much as an enlarged extended seaside bungalow for pleasure purpose. The trail of the builder is over it yet, in rudimentary paths, unfinished grounds and slopes of deep mud. It marks, however, a new departure in – shall we say – communal sanitation. It is the first sanatorium erected in England for the care and cure of pauper consumptives and the honour of its conception and erection rests with the Bradford Board of Guardians.

The site, as will have been gathered, is an ideal one, on limestone soil, and at a good elevation, It occupies an area of rather over seven acres of broken land which will later be laid out in terraces and attractive gardens. The present pavilion is 165 yards in length, with accommodation for 21 patients. The administration block is on higher ground, and is stone-built with the usual appointments. In the pavilion itself one-half of which has been built) the key note is light, air and cleanliness, All corners are rounded off so as not to harbour dirt and dust. Each room is fronted by French casements, with "hopper casements, intended to be kept continually open just beneath the eaves. Each room opens out on to a glass screened gangway or corridor at the rear, and here again similar ventilation arrangements are provided, the patients' rooms being fitted on this side with unglazed windows to admit the air. The interior partitions are on the fire-proof plate system. The doors are of wood, and to guard against fire a "sprinkler" system is installed throughout. Moreover at frequent intervals along the ear corrido are doors opening outward, and as the building is practically "all doors and windows" no danger could arise from fire – which s quite as well, looking to the difficulty of approach which would have to be faced by a fire brigade.

The structure is therefore almost immune from fire – the sprinklers being supplied from a three thousand gallon tank on the higher ground behind the Administrative block. This is fed by a wind driven pump, drawing upon an artesian boro well 200 feet deep. This tank really constitutes the entire water supply. Sanitary arrangements have been somewhat of a difficulty, but Moule's earth closet system has been adopted, and the waste water, etc., from baths and culinary operations will be run off in open channels for land filtration on the site. The extension projected will bring up the accommodation to 42 patients, or with certain contemplated re-arrangements, to 52. The warming apparatus consists of hot water pipes, and the building is lighted throughout by electricity. The current is supplied by an oil engine ad dynamo – the inevitable reek of consumed petrol being the only unpleasant feature of yesterday's function. The designs and plans were the work of the Board's architect (Mr. Fred Holland), who has superintended the work and is execution by a number of contractors. The building leaves the impression that utility not elaboration, has been successfully striven for. The total cost will be rather above £10,000, and the institution is expected to be in operation at the close of the present month. In addition to serving Bradford Union, six beds each are to be placed at the disposal of the Skipton and Keighley Guardians.

Yesterday's function commenced with a railway journey for the guardians and invited guests from Bradford to Skipton, followed by a three mile drive over rough but pretty country, with a quarter-mile scramble over country to stiff for horses. The Bradford Guardians are exceptionally proud of having opened the first rate-aided institution of the kind in the country. And there was a large muster, including Mr. F.H. Bentham (chairman of the Board), Mrs. Moser (vice-chairman), Sir Francis S. Powell, M.P. (on whom developed the major ceremonial duty), and Lady Powell, the Mayor of Bradford (Alderman David Wade) and the Mayoress, members and officials of the Board, Mr. J.A. Slingsby (chairman of the Skipton Board of Guardians), Mr. Amos Haigh (chairman of the North Bierley Board), Mr. P.H. Bagenal (His Majesty's Inspector of Poor Law Unions), Mr. H. B. Priestman, and others.

Arrived in the grounds, Sir Francis Powell was presented with a handsome gold key, with which he unlocked the administrative buildings, declaring the sanatorium open. Prior to this prayer was offered by the Rev. C.V. Brown, vicar of Embsay-cum-Eastby. The key was handed over by Mr. Moser, who made a touching little speech. Afterwards the guests adjourned to the Pavilion, where Mr. F. H. Bentham took the chair.

Mr. Bentham congratulated the Board on the fact that Sir F. S. Powell was one of their number, and briefly traced the history of the movement, stating that the sanction of the Local Government Board was given on November 30, 1901, for the

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erection of the sanatorium.^[1] In obtaining that sanction Sir Francis had been of the utmost assistance. The Board had to meet much red tape at Whitehall when they first applied. No such institution was then in existence in the country, and Whitehall naturally hesitated to establish a precedent. Sir Francis came to the rescue, and, when asked, made a direct appeal to the Local Government Board. He cut the swathes of red tape, and within 14 days of his appeal sanction was given. The scheme for establishing a sanatorium might be wise or unwise, but nevertheless the Bradford Guardians hoped to make it a success. He passed on to give details of the construction, accommodation, etc., of the institution, and expressed the hope that the Local Government Board might allow them later to take in subscription or paying patients. The cost of the scheme, he said, would work out to £192 per bed, the lowest sum yet reached for any similar institution. He dealt with the novelties of the scheme and appealed for the help of medical officers in giving the earliest possible notice of all cases of phthisis, so that they might be treated under the best possible conditions at the inception of the disease.

On the motion of Mr. John Patchett, seconded by Mr. F. Hopkinson, a vote of thanks was accorded to Sir Francis Powell. Sir Francis said he had hoped originally that Mr. Walter Long (President of the Local Government Board) would have been able to take his place that day, but official engagements prevented that. He went on to express deep sympathy with the movement to check the terrible scourge of consumption to which that sanatorium would materially contribute, and reviewed the accomplishments of science, theoretic and applied, in the march against disease.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman and Mrs. Moser, on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Mr. P.H. Bagenal. The latter humorously remarked that Mr. Bentham's query as to paying patients was a hypothetical one, and on such questions, as a Departmental official, his lips were sealed.

Leeds Mercury (7 November, 1903) :

Bradford Sanatorium at Eastby.

A sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives in the Bradford Union was opened at Eastby, near Skipton, on Tuesday, by Sir Francis S. Powell, Bart., M.P.

This is the first establishment of its kind in the country. The Bradford Board of Guardians have taken up with zeal the question of stamping out or allaying the dreaded scourge of consumption amongst the pauper classes; and, after much consideration, the approval of "the powers that be" to erect an institution designed to provide the necessary facilities was obtained. In October of last year the foundation-stone was laid, and yesterday the first part of the scheme was inaugurated.

The site is at a high altitude, some distance from the road leading over Barden Moor, and a few miles from Skipton. The area of the ground is 6½ acres.

So far, only one pavilion has been provided, but it is anticipated that a second will be erected shortly; indeed, the foundations for it are already prepared. The pavilion is 165 yards in length. It is a wooden structure though the partitions throughout are lined with the fire and sound proof blocks of the Fire-Proof Wall Company, Bradford. It rests on wooden beams, fitted into cast iron boxes, and they in turn are placed on stone pillars. The patients' bedrooms are all on the ground floor. The rooms number ten. They open from a corridor that runs along the whole length of the building, and they face south.

The nurses' quarters are upstairs, a balcony being erected from the bedroom windows, where the nurses can rest from their labours, and enjoy a charming view of the valley. The bathrooms, lavatories, and other conveniences are at the rear of the pavilion, and are connected with it. A feature of the interior fittings which cannot fail to strike the visitor is that all corners are rounded to prevent the accumulation of dust – a deadly enemy to the phthisis sufferer and effective cleaning. To this end also the staircase that gives access to the nurses' bedrooms – teak French-polished, are without what are technically known as "rises", being open both at the back and the sides.

The electricity generating plant is located in a building at the rear of the site, and water has been secured from a bore-hole 200 feet deep, from which it is pumped by means of a small windmill. The buildings are heated throughout on the hot water system, for which independent boilers are placed in the grounds between the present pavilion and the site of the additional one proposed.

In the extensive grounds there will be pleasant walks, and the adjoining woods have been placed at the disposal of the patients by the Duke of Devonshire.

The buildings have been designed by Mr. Fred Holland, architect and engineer, Bradford.

Sir F.S. Powell, M.P., was presented with a handsome key, with which he formally opened the door of the administrative block, and the large company filed through the building and examined the arrangements.

Subsequently, they assembled in the pavilion where speeches of a congratulatory character were made.

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