

INTRODUCTION.

George M P Braine-Hartnell – Medical Superintendent 1897 to 1919.

The Early Career of George-Braine-Hartnell.

In July 1897 Edward Marriott Cooke was promoted to be a Lunacy Commissioner, by the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Halsbury, having been recommended for advancement by the Committee of Visitors, of the Worcester Mental Hospital. His Deputy, George M P Braine-Hartnell, was then appointed to be Medical Superintendent, at the Powick Institution. In his book *The Making of a Master of Lunacy* (2022), Frank Crompton suggested that Edward Marriott Cooke created, at the Powick Mental Hospital, a profit-making institution, that he came to operate as Chief Executive, in a way that no other Medical Superintendent, at this time managed to do. It was this situation that, led to Edward Marriott Cooke being recommended, by the Worcester Mental Hospital Visitor's Committee, to the Government, for promotion. In turn, this then led to Dr. Cooke's eventual appointment, to the Lunacy Commission. Then, subsequently, he became Head of the Board of Control of Lunacy and Mental Deficiency. In this role, he created and implemented the 1913 Mental Deficiency Act. ¹ Such was Dr. Cooke's continuing importance, that he was influential in the field of Mental Health, until his death in 1931.

However, it was ironical, that Dr. Marriott Cooke's approach to running a Public Mental Hospital, depended on having sufficient space in the Institution, to admit Private Patient, Out-of-County Patient, and groups of Contract Patient, from other overcrowded Mental Institutions. All of these types of Patient, brought profits of more than 45%, in excess of the Maintenance Fees paid for local Patient from the City and County of Worcester. However, after 1897, when Edward Marriott Cooke, was replaced as Medical Superintendent, by George M P Braine-Hartnell, the Worcester Mental Hospital struggled to cope with the numbers of Patient, from the City and County of Worcester, who needed treatment for their insanity. Thus, making a profit, in the way that Dr. Cooke had done, was out of the question for at least ten years.

George Marcus Paten Braine-Hartnell, was the son of George Taylor Braine-Hartnell, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Churchward). He was born in 1862 in Jamaica. His parent had married in Stoke Gabriel, in Devon, where Elizabeth's father was a well-qualified Clergyman, with an Oxford Degree. It was unclear what George Taylor Braine-Hartnell did in Jamaica, but it was apparent that members of the family were well connected. There was no mention of George M P Braine-Hartnell's education, or his medical training. He was appointed, as an Assistant Medical Officer (AMO), at what was then the City and County of Worcester Pauper Lunatic Asylum, at Powick, in September 1885, when he was 23 years old. At that time, he was known as Dr. George M P Braine.

He had previously worked as a House Surgeon, at the Middlesex Hospital, and when he was appointed at the Worcester Mental Hospital, he already possessed Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, and he was a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians. He progressed quite quickly, from being merely an AMO. He soon became Senior AMO, and Assistant Medical Superintendent. After 1890, George M P Braine-Hartnell was recorded in

the Annual Report of the Worcester Mental Hospital, as Dr. George M P Braine-Hartnell, but why he suddenly added Hartnell to his name was unclear. Whilst working with Dr. Marriott Cooke, Dr, Braine-Hartnell had acted as Medical Superintendent, on two occasions, at times when Dr. Cooke was ill. Reference to these occasions, in subsequent Annual Reports, of the Mental Hospital, suggested that Dr. Braine-Hartnell had acquitted himself well, on these occasions. Indeed, sufficiently well, for him to be appointed in Edward Marriott Cooke's stead, as Medical Superintendent at the Worcester Mental Hospital, apparently with no reference to other candidates for the post being considered.

CHAPTER 1.

The Approach in this Book.

This book will now investigate the 22 years, between July 1897, and mid-1919, when George Braine-Hartnell was Medical Superintendent, of the Worcester Mental Hospital, at Powick. The major sources used in this investigation, are the Annual Reports of the Worcester Mental Hospital, produced during Dr. Braine-Hartnell's Superintendency, at this Institution. The Reports are important, because they contain contemporaneous comment, on events at the Mental Hospital, during this time. These Reports are in three Sections:

1. An overall Introduction, written by the Chairman of the Worcester Mental Hospital Committee of Visitors.
2. The Report written by the Commissioners, of the Board of Insanity and Mental Deficiency; the group that replaced the Lunacy Commission, who now Inspected Mental Hospitals; including the Worcester Mental Hospital.
3. The Report written by Dr. George M P Braine-Hartnell, as Medical Superintendent and Chief Medical Officer of the Worcester Mental Hospital.

The Annual Reports of the Worcester Mental Hospital 1897 to 1907.

The Report for 1897 is presented below in some detail to give an indication of the nature of such Reports. However, subsequently, only major changes in the Mental Hospital dealt with in later Reports will then be highlighted.

The Chairman of the Board of Visitors Report.

In 1897, the Chairman's Report indicated that the Committee of Visitors had appointed Dr. George Braine-Hartnell, to replace Dr. Edward Marriott Cooke, as Medical Superintendent, and it was clear that the expectation of the Committee of Visitors, was that the Hospital would continue to be run in a similar manner as it had under Edward Marriott Cooke. Thus, the weekly Maintenance Fee for Patient was kept at 8s. 2d. per Patient per week, for City and County Patient. However, it was now emphasised that as the Institution had nearly 1,200 Patient; a population that was as large as it was thought a single Mental Institution should be, it was clear that care would be needed in its future development. In fact, in 1897 there were 482 male Patient and 609 females, a total of 1,091 Patient in all. However, in the previous five years the total number of Patient had increased from 922 in 1892, to 1,033 in 1893, to 1,007 in 1894, (a slight reduction) and then to 1,051 in 1895, and in 1896 there were 1,046 Patient, so that the Institutions population generally was inexorably rising. However, by this stage the Mental Hospital had no room, for 25 male Patient Boarded-Out at the Joint-Counties Asylum, as Abergavenny, which was costing the Worcester Asylum over £8 10s. per week. Furthermore, Worcester Mental Hospital had cancelled a lucrative Contract with the Stafford County Asylum, to house 30 male and 30 female Patient, who would previously bring a profit of £45 a year, into the Worcester Institutions coffers. It was thus clear that the 'profitable trade' that Dr. Marriott Cooke had instigated; no longer

existed, because of pressure on the Institution simply to take 'home Patient from the City and County of Worcester.

The Commissioners of the Board of Control's Report.

When the Commissioners of the Board of Control arrived to Inspect the Worcester Mental Hospital, they were somewhat quizzical about the situation that the Chairman of the Visitor's Committee had reported. They found the dormitories, particularly the smaller ones, were overcrowded, and they indulged in an activity that was quite common in late Victorian times in relation to assessing the numbers of individuals who could be accommodated in rooms in public-buildings. Indeed, the adequacy of buildings was often determined in odd ways. For instance, the volume of school-classrooms was used to determine how many pupils could be accommodated in them, no matter what the height of the room's ceiling. At the Powick Mental Hospital, it was determined that 35 square feet of floor-space was necessary to accommodate each Patient in a dormitory. Thus, the Commissioners were obdurate that there was overcrowding in several rooms on both the male and female-sides of the Powick Institution.

They then suggested that 256 Patient had been admitted to the Hospital since their last visit, with 116 Patient Discharged, and 102 had Died, leaving 1,076 Patient, who they had seen. What the Commissioner's Inspection consisted of was making themselves available to speak to every Patient in the Asylum, so that all Patient could make comments to them, which they apparently sometimes did. Thus, when the Commissioners visited in 1897 one male Patient claimed that he had sustained a fractured rib, when he had struggled with an attendant. This incident was investigated by the Commissioners, who discovered that this man, who was Epileptic had indeed struggled with two attendants, and that he had tripped and injured himself, when he fell against a bench. This matter had been investigated by the Medical Superintendent, who was satisfied that no undue force had been used by the attendants. This was considered a suitable outcome by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners then suggested that the Patient they met were generally 'quiet and contented', and they commented that the Patient were 'neat and tidy in their dress'. The Commissioners had also inspected the meals that the Patient were fed, which they found to be 'quite satisfactory' on this occasion. They also noted that 120, out of 128 Patient, they saw at dinner, were given beer to drink. 2 They had also visited all wards on both the male and female-sides of the Hospital, which they found to be 'bright and gay, with flowers'. They also commented on 'objects intended to provide interest and amusement to the Patient'. However, there was one matter that dis concern them. They found 15 children housed in adult wards, which they determined was 'undesirable'. In fact, this was an issue that had been mentioned in previous Inspection Reports, when it had been suggested that a small ward should be made available for such children, when 'toys, magazines and books suitable for children' should be provided. It was clear that these recommendations had not been implemented. Indeed, it had also previously been suggested that open bookcases, containing suitable books should be available in all wards, but this had also not happened. The other matter, which the Commissioners were pleased with, was the state of the beds

and bedding, which were all thought to be in good order, with the sheets 'scrupulously clean'. However, they were to some extent concerned with the adequacy of the Laundry, particularly in dealing with foetid linen, that regularly arrived there to be washed.

The Commissioners also commented on the adequacy of the Staff, in terms of their numbers, but also their level of experience. They noted, with approval, that an additional night-nurse had been appointed on the female-side of the Asylum since their last visit, something that they had suggested. They had also been preoccupied by the needs for Patient with Epilepsy, and those with suicidal tendencies, to be more closely scrutinised, both by day and night. They now found the general health of the Worcester Institution was now quite satisfactory. There were 17 Patient in bed, who were mainly suffering from debility, which was probably inevitable. They were also particularly concerned about what they termed Zymotic Diseases. **3** On one male ward, they found 4 male Patient suffering from Typhoid Fever, but there was also an attendant and a nurse with this same ailment, and there were 12 cases of Colitis; 4 with both of these ailments probably related to inadequate sanitary conditions in the wards. However, oddly, the Commissioners remained convinced these infections were due to rough plasterwork on the walls of the wards, something that they had suggested previously. They were also critical of the state of the floors, that they suggested needed rubbing-down and staining. There were also 4 cases of Scarlet Fever in the wards, but by placing these Patient in isolation further spread of this ailment had been prevented. During the year there had been 9 accidents that had caused minor injury. There had been a total of 109 Deaths of Patient, all from natural causes, with 87% of these Deaths investigated by a Post mortem Examination, something that the Commissioners found satisfactory.

General Paralysis of the Insane (GPI) **5** had caused 18% of Deaths, Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 11%. One female Patient had died from Typhoid Fever, whilst 5 other Patient had died from Colitis. However, there were two Coroner's Inquests, one on a Patient, who had died of Heart Disease, shortly after she had been admitted to the Mental Hospital, with two broken ribs. The other Inquest was on another female Patient who was found Dead in bed one morning, having died of an Epileptic Syncope during the night. At this time there was a Death Rate of 9.0%, whilst 35.2% of Patient had been Discharged Recovered. However, the Commissioners made no comment on these two statistics. One issue that the Commissioners did monitor was the use of Mechanical Restraints, including Strait-jackets, something that was seldom used at the Powick Asylum. In 1897 two Patient had been 'restrained' to prevent them injuring themselves. One man having undergone surgery, whilst another potential homicidal and suicidal Patient was restrained, to prevent him from injuring himself, or other Patient. The Commissioners saw both of these uses of restraint as appropriate. The other matter that the Commissioners carefully monitored was the use of seclusion, where a Patient was put by themselves in a single room. In 1897, 42 individual Patient had been secluded on 175 occasions, for 797 hours. It appeared probable that this amount and level of seclusion was regarded as excessive, but there was no comment made about this issue. The Commissioners were complimentary about the fact that Epileptic and suicidal Patient were under constant supervision. They also noted that 30 Patient (2.7%)

had wet their beds during the night, although there was no indication that this level of bed wetting was regarded as excessive.

Worcester Mental Hospital was nominally an Anglican Institution, with the Commissioners expressing satisfaction with 60% of the Patient attending Chapel Services on Sundays. Ninety-two other Patient were Roman Catholic, and a Service was provided for them on Sundays, with a Mass available once a month. Oddly, there was no mention of any provision of religious Services for Non-conformist Patient. It was also felt appropriate that 57% of Patient attended the weekly-entertainments available in the Powick Mental Hospital, as was the 31% of Patient who were taken for walks outside the Hospital Estate, whilst 72% of Patient walked outside the airing-courts. However, this meant that 28% were not allowed outside the airing-courts, which the Commissioners felt was too high a figure. They suggested to the Medical Superintendent that he should attempt to reduce this figure. The Commissioners were very impressed that 349 males (74%) and 431 females (72%) were gainfully employed in the Institution. There were 44 male attendants, and 46 nurses on daily duty, which was 1 attendant to every male 11 Patient, and 1 nurse to every 13 female Patient, which was apparently regarded as acceptable. On night duty there were 6 male attendants and 7 nurses, figures that were again regarded as acceptable.

They were also impressed that 32% of staff had over 5 years' experience of work in an Asylum, whilst only 15% had under one year's experience. However, there was slight concern that 3 charge nurses had recently left their work in the Mental Hospital, all to be married; whilst 3 attendants had been dismissed for drunkenness. The Commissioners were also impressed that the new building, which accommodated 140 female Patient was nearing completion. They were also clearly satisfied that the Medical Staff were unchanged, and the Medical Records, including the Case Books were fully and carefully kept. Post mortem Examinations in a substantial number of cases, and they were happy that what they referred to as Pathological Research had been conducted, where this was deemed necessary.

The Medical Superintendent's Report.

This Report was unusual, in that it was written by Dr. George Braine-Hartnell, who became Medical Superintendent in July 1897, but it excluded the first 6 months of the year, when Dr. Edward Marriott Cooke was Medical Superintendent. The Report written by the Medical Superintendent was inevitably reiterative of the Report by the Commissioners of the Board of Control. In some senses it was a rejoinder to the comments made by the Commissioners. The number of Patient was repeated, but George Braine-Hartnell added information about the average number of being treated at the Mental Hospital; numbers admitted that were 39 Patient in excess of what Powick Mental Hospital was intended to hold. He also expressed concern that 38 Patient committed to the Hospital in 1897 were over 60 years old, a fact that clearly concerned the Medical Superintendent. He also amplified details of Patient by stating that 23 of the Patient admitted were Epileptic, with another 17 Congenitally Deficient, of whom 7 were also Epileptic. Eleven of these Patient were suffering from GPI. Dr. Braine-Hartnell now added some comment about the state of these individuals, when they were admitted to the Mental Hospital. Of 209 Patient admitted, 16

were said to be in 'Good Health and Condition', 170 in 'Indifferent Health and Condition', and 23 in 'Bad Health and Exhausted'. This meant that 88% of Patient arriving in the Powick Mental Hospital, for treatment, were in an unsatisfactory physical state, before their mental problems were dealt with. Of these Patient 32.3% were Discharged Recovered. However, only 7% of these Patient died, which was the lowest Death Rate ever recorded in the City and County of Worcester Lunatic Asylum, although it was doubted that this low Mortality-Rate would continue. One-third of the deaths of Patient were caused by Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord, 36% by Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, 11% by Diseases of the Abdominal Organs, 20% from Senile Decay. 6 At this point Dr. Braine-Hartnell returned to the issue of the age of Patient admitted to the Mental Hospital in 1897. The average age of male Patient dying of Senile Degeneration was 73 years old, and that of female Patient 72.6 years old.

It was interesting that claims made by Edward Marriott Cooke, about the cheapness of the Worcester Mental Hospital, were completely absent from George Braine-Hartnell's claims about the Mental Hospital, he now ran and it was obvious that the profitable Private Patient numbers were in decline. However, in 1907 there were 49 Private Patient in the institution, each paying 15s. per week in excess of the Maintenance Rate for Patient from the City and County of Worcester for their treatment, with the fees for Private Patient also demanded 3 months in advance.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell now claimed that the absence of suicides and fatal accidents to Patient, in 1897, bore testimony to the way the attendants and nurses had performed their duties, during the year. However, there had been several serious accidents involving broken bones, during the year, all of which had been reported to the Committee of Visitors, and to the Board of Control. One case was thought worthy of mention. A female Patient, who was subject to Epileptic Fits had been found dead in bed in the morning. She had been seen by the night nurse, during the night, when she had suffered a fit, and the nurse stayed with the Patient until she regained consciousness, and she was apparently in her normal state. However, about 90 minutes later this Patient was found dead, and the Assistant Medical Officer (AMO) was immediately summoned. He found the Patient lying on her back, having apparently died from Syncope, after a fit. It was then stated that these facts that were accepted by the Coroner, who decided not to hold an Inquest. He confirmed that the Cause of Death had been indicated by a Post mortem Examination.

George Braine-Hartnell now produced a summary of the Health of Patient in his Mental Hospital. Typhoid Fever had occurred quite regularly in the last year, but Braine-Hartnell was convinced that the two cases that had occurred in 1897 were not related to one another. They had happened at different times, and in different parts of the Hospital. There were also 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, with all cases sent to the Infectious Disease's Hospital, where they remained until they recovered. However, the most serious problem in the year related to Dysentery. 7 Cases of this ailment kept cropping up, so that once it was thought the problem had gone away, another case occurred. Various remedies had been applied to this problem, but without success, so a technique that had been used a long time previously was tried. This was the fumigation of latrines with chlorine-gas, in the belief that Dysentery was

spread from one person to another, by the common use of a latrine. Chloride of lime was placed in water, and the Patient' rooms, and the closets they used were well washed with this fluid. The closets were particularly carefully dealt with. The result of this process exceeded expectation, and the outbreak of Dysentery resided.

As always, the Medical Superintendent was grateful to the other Medical Staff of the Hospital he worked with for the help and support, he had received, and he was complimentary about the attendants and nurses on the Hospital Staff. In 1897, there were 96 male and 75 female staff, a total of 171 individuals. During the year various Delegations of Poor Law Guardians from the Poor Law Guardians, from Poor Law Unions, which committed Patient to the Worcester Mental Hospital, had visited the Institution, and all of these representatives had expressed satisfaction with the care and treatment their Patient received at the Powick Mental Hospital.

The water supply in the Powick Asylum had been problematical from the outset of the Institution in 1852. In 1897, a new approach to resolving these problems was instigated, when one of the AMOs was appointed by the Upton-on-Severn District Council, to be an Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The appointee was made responsible for inspecting Carey's Brook, the Asylum's major water supply, to ensure a constant and unfailing supply of water to the Mental Hospital. The outcome of this approach was attempts to increase the supply of water and to ensure that it was more effectively filtered. In turn this led to the Committee of Visitors employing Mr. E B Martens, an expert on water supply to give advice on this issue. This resulted in plans for a reservoir to hold 800,000 gallons of water, at an estimated cost of £1,300. Included in these plans were improved filter-beds, and an automatic flushing syphon, which would ensure that the water was effectively aerated. A tender to create the new reservoir was accepted from Mr. Vale. And the work began. Typically, Patient-labour was used to remove the turf and top-soil in an effort to minimise costs. Dr. Braine-Hartnell was pleased to report the completion of the new buildings that had recently been constructed and opened.

CHAPTER 2.

A Decade of Confusion and Stagnation – 1898 – 1907.

The Report for 1898, expressed the Committee of Visitors satisfaction with the way that Dr. Braine-Hartnell, and his medical colleagues, had commenced their duties, running the Mental Hospital. At this juncture, the Rev, Alfred Bond, who had been Chaplain at the Asylum for 25 years, retired. ⁸ He was replaced by the Rev. S. Morgans. Other than this appointment, the individuals running the Mental Hospital were unchanged. The Maintenance Fee, for City and County Patient, remained at 8s. 2d. per Patient per week, with 15s. per head per week charged for Private Patient. Whilst the increased accommodation at the Powick Mental Hospital was welcomed, there were suggestions that the continuing increase in insanity would require additional increased accommodation in the future. It was also reported that the improvements to the institution's water supply had been completed. In 1898, there were 490 male Patient, 624 females, a total of 1,114: an increase of 23 Patient over the previous year. However, the Committee of Visitors were concerned by the advent of the Workman's' Compensation Act, of 1897, which they feared might increase their financial liabilities, for wages.

The Commissioners of the Board of Control made very similar comments to those of the previous year, but they again noted the inadequate supply of books available for Patient, in the wards, and they were again preoccupied with the rough state of plaster, on the walls of some wards, which they felt accentuated infections. However, they welcomed the new annexe accommodation for female Patient, but they were concerned that furniture supplied by the contractors, who had built the new annexes was inadequate, and it had been returned. They hoped that the increased space in the annexes, would reduce overcrowding elsewhere in the Asylum-buildings. They confirmed the slight increase in Patient numbers, suggested by the Chairman of the Committee of Visitors, in his Report. However, they then emphasised their belief that before long, Worcestershire would have problems providing accommodation, for the additional insane individuals, that the increasing population of the County would inevitably create. Implicit in this statement was the suggestion that a second asylum in the County would clearly be necessary.

The Death Rate, in 1898, was 7.0%, the same as in the previous year, and the Recovery Rate, at 32.3%, was marginally lower than previously. On this occasion, deaths from chest-infections, including Phthisis ⁹ and Pneumonia were increased. There had been a couple of cases of Dysentery, but this was not the problem it had been in the previous year. There were two cases of Erysipelas, 10 one of which had proved fatal. Bedsores were regarded as a significant indication of the quality of the nursing that Patient received. However, there was only one such case in 1898. The numbers of Patient placed in seclusion, were at a similar level to the previous year. Epileptic and suicidal Patient were still carefully monitored, and the level of bedwetting by Patient had apparently slightly increased.

The matter of Chapel attendance, the availability of worship for Roman Catholics, and attendance at the weekly entertainments were similar to those in previous years. Again, gratifyingly, 72% of male Patient, and 73% of females, were gainfully employed, which was again regarded favourably. The Lunacy Commissioners, during their Inspection, had again given Patient an opportunity to make complaints, and there were, as was usual, many

claims demanding discharge from the Asylum. However, it was suggested that 'most Patient were delusional about this matter'. The Staff were similar in number, to the previous year, with a 1:10 proportion reported for male Patient, and a 1: 12 proportion for females; figures that were regarded as appropriate. The Commissioners also commented on the system, introduced by Edward Marriott Cooke, whereby badges indicated the level of experience of attendants and nurses. These badges also related to a Training Course, for attendants and nurses, run by the Medical Superintendent and the AMO's employed in the institution. The Commissioners appreciated that the construction of the new reservoir, at the Hospital, was a development that would improve the Asylum's water supply.

Inevitably, Dr. Braine-Hartnell's Report confirmed the numbers of Patient in the Hospital but is also suggested that 18.7% of Patient had been discharged from the Hospital, whilst 9.6% of Patient had died. At the end of the year, there were 31 more Patient accommodated, than at the outset of the year. Two Patient, admitted to the Mental Hospital, were injured on arrival. One man had a recent cut throat, and a woman had a fractured arm. The Recovery-Rate, at 29.68%, was at the lowest rate recorded, in ten years, at this Institution. The causes of death recorded, were similar in proportion to those in the previous year. One woman, who had been committed to the institution, as insane, was pregnant, and she gave birth to twins. However, this Patient left the Hospital recovered, soon after the birth of her offspring. There had also been several cases of Patient with fractured bones, all of which were caused by accidents, or by the violence of other Patient.

The Health of Patient generally, was very similar to that in the previous year, except that one Patient had developed Chicken Pox. 11 Colitis was more prevalent than before. It caused the death of 2 male Patient, and one female. As would probably be expected, female staff, left their posts as nurses when they married. Dr. Braine-Hartnell now indulged in speculation, as to why the costs of maintaining Patient had increased by a penny-halfpenny, which was attributed to the increase cost of flour. However, the profits made by the Asylum Farm, were also reduced, and it was suggested that the building of a new Dutch barn, at a cost of £150, was in part the cause of what was seen as a 'drastic reduction in Farm Profits'. In spite of this, the Committee of Visitors, decided to reduce the charge for maintenance to 7s. 10 1/2d. per week.

George Braine-Hartnell had to agree with the Commissioners of the Board of Control that, his Hospital was inadequate in size, particularly on the female-side. He suggested that building a second Mental Hospital for the City and County was essential, and that if creating a new asylum was delayed, it would be necessary to find accommodation for the surplus population of Patient. It was self-evident that, the situation of the Powick Mental Hospital changed little from year to year, but the outstanding issue, which arose in 1898, was the demand that a second Mental Hospital, would be needed to cope with the constant increase in the population, of both the City and County of Worcester. However, no one could demur from the opinion, of Edward Marriott Cooke, over ten years previously, that there was no epidemic of lunacy; the increase in Patient numbers was simply in line with the overall population increase of the County. In spite of this, it was inevitable that

members of the Committee of Visitors, who were drawn from the local Magistracy, were reticent to commit to the creation of a second County Mental Hospital.

In 1899, an issue that had dogged the Powick Asylum, almost from its inception, was brought to a head. In the 1850s, the Parish of Powick had determined that the Patient in the Asylum, were parishioners, and that Patient who died, if they were not taken by relatives to be interred in their home parish, should be buried in the Powick Parish Churchyard. Thus, no burial-ground was considered necessary, on the Asylum site. However, in 1899, given the need to extend the Parish Churchyard, which was impossible because there was no land available to do this, the City and County Councils were consulted, about this matter, and they agreed that a suitable site, for a burial ground within the Asylum Estate, should be found. A suitable site for a burial ground was identified by the end of 1899, at the bottom of Pig-Stye Bank. The 1899 Report of the Commissioners of the Board of Control, continued to be preoccupied with what was seen as overcrowding, particularly on the female-side in the Powick Institution. The Commissioners continued to apply pressure on the Committee of Visitors, for a second Mental Hospital, in Worcestershire. At this point it was conceded by the City and County Councils that, a second Lunatic Asylum should be erected in the north of the County, and that a suitable site was being searched for.

The issue of child Patient in adult wards, was still a matter of concern for the Commissioners in Lunacy. There were now 17 such children, and the demand was still being made that a ward specifically designated to accommodate these youngsters was necessary. ¹² The other issue that remained pertinent, was the supposed damage to the Patient's health caused by rough plasterwork in the Asylum buildings. Little else was mentioned, as changed in this institution. Inevitably there had been a small increase in Patient numbers during the year; with 16 additional Patient present. This led the number of Patient, in Worcester Mental Hospital to creep upwards, towards the 1,200 that was still considered the maximum size of a Public Mental Hospital. However, there was now a commitment to build a second mental Hospital for the county, an eventuality that was still almost 7 years in the future.

Patient were, from time to time afflicted with Typhoid Fever, ¹³ Colitis and Erysipelas; all ailments that were attributable to a failure in the overall hygiene of the institution. However, the Commissioners of the Board of Control were most concerned about the 23% of deaths in the Powick Institution caused by Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis). At the end of the 19th century medical opinion was that Tubercular Disease, could only be successfully dealt with, by isolating Patient with the disease, a situation that was impossible in the Worcester Mental Hospital, at this time. The design of the original Asylum buildings prevented suitable accommodation being available.

In the year 1900, the Roman Catholic Chaplain was replaced, and George Braine-Hartnell then expressed the opinion that, the efforts of both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Chaplains would, he was sure, 'ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate persons, who were in a mental condition'. The Committee of Visitors were then proceeding with their

plans for the new Cemetery. On 1st. January 1900, there were 527 males and 638 females, total 1,165 Patient, in the Institution, and the Commissioners of the Board of Control had, given another Annual Report that, on the whole was very satisfactory. However, they were still critical of the lack of cheap readable novels, and other such written works that were now cheaply available. They also criticised the coldness of the meat served at dinner, which they claimed was inedible. Although the behaviour of Patient was generally orderly, there were 'some dangerous Patient requiring careful supervision', an issue that clearly had to be dealt with. Again, there were no complaints raised by Patient that required action, but there were some groundless comments about overlong detention, which was the inevitable outcome of giving Patient an opportunity to complain.

It was now reported that, a site for the new second County Asylum had been found, near Bromsgrove, and the Commissioners in Lunacy, were then concerned that Patient from the Powick Institution, should be moved there as soon as was practicable. They also, again expressed concern, about children in adult wards; so that it was apparent that no action had been taken regarding this issue. They also again expressed concern, about the facilities available to the ordinary Asylum Staff, who were off duty. The Commissioners were also concerned that, the number of Patient had again risen, by 18 in the year. However, the Death Rate for the institution, at 6%, was lower, and the Recovery Rate had increased to 40.56%, both matters worthy of note.

Other aspects of the Powick Institution remained similar to those found previously. One male attendant had been dismissed for striking a Patient, and he had been prosecuted, and fined £2. ¹⁴ There was one suicide, of a female Patient, who had escaped through a window, and then drowned herself in the reservoir. Inevitably, the Commissioners reaction to this was, to demand that all of the windows in the Asylum building, should be made secure, and that the reservoir fence, should also be made more secure. In another case, a male Patient had escaped from an upper floor window and he had fallen to the ground-breaking both of his legs. This eventually led to one of this man's legs being amputated. It was again suggested that the Asylum's windows be strengthened, taking care to ensure they were not made 'too prison like'. Again, deaths from Phthisis were at 20%, a figure that was thought far too high, and it was regretted that this ailment, and cases of Colitis, both ailment that were regarded as very infectious, were still treated in the open wards. Once again, there was criticism of the state of plastering of the walls, and of the poor state of the floors in some wards; matters that were blamed, in part, for physical infections in the Mental Hospital. At this time there were also 10% of Patient, who had bedsores, a circumstance that led to some criticism of the nursing arrangements in place, especially on the male-side of the Mental Hospital.

Inevitably the Medical Superintendent's Report, for 1900, contained similar material to that of the Commissioners in Lunacy. George Braine-Hartnell reported an increase in Patient numbers of 23, to a total of 1,144, with the physical state of Patient on entry to the Institution similar to that in previous years. One man, who was sent to the Worcester Mental Hospital had Pneumonia, and he died within 4 days of his arrival, and there was

another man, and a woman, committed to the Asylum, with recently cut throats. However, both of these Patients made a good recovery. The Recovery-Rate, for Patients at Powick Mental Hospital, was in line with figures in previous years, but the Death Rate, at 11.18%, was at its highest level, since the Asylum opened. The average age at death was 54.6 years, for males, and 58.1 years, for females, but 16 males, and 23 females, were over 70 years old when they died. The oldest woman was 94 years old. Forty-five per cent of deaths, were from Heart and Lung Diseases, including 36 deaths from Pneumonia, and 26 from Phthisis, whilst there were 17 deaths from GPI.

All these figures were higher than those previously recorded. The suicide of the woman, who drowned herself in the reservoir, was the first case of self-destruction, in the Worcester Hospital for 17 years, which it was suggested was indicative of the level of care exercised by the nurses and attendants at the Institution. However, another accident that had occurred, happened when a female Patient, viciously attacked one of the nurses, who she threatened to murder. In attempting to protect their colleague on this occasion, 3 other nurses struggled with the Patient, who sustained a fractured upper arm bone. In another case, a male Patient and a nurse contracted Typhoid fever, and the Patient died. There were also some cases of Colitis and Dysentery, diseases that had been investigated in London Mental Hospitals, when it had been suggested that it was overcrowding, that was the chief cause of such infections. The Maintenance Charge, at the Worcester Mental Hospital, was now 7s. 7d per Patient per week, for Patients from the City and County.

In 1901, it was suggested that finding a replacement for an AMO, who had resigned caused some problems, although, a satisfactory replacement was eventually found. It was now reported that, the new Cemetery on the Asylum-site, had been consecrated, in July, by the Bishop of Worcester and that the first deceased Patient had been interred there. The issue of finding accommodation for male attendants, and their families, close to the Asylum, 15 had led to the building of cottages, to house such staff, and this process continued. There were now 1,180 Patients, in the institution, an increase of just 11 Patients, over the previous year, which was a relatively small increase, However, it was suggested that this was due to an increased Recovery Rate, of 43.30%.; the highest recovery-rate since 1871. The Death Rate was also quite high, at 9.19%, with 8 men and 5 women, total 13 Patients dying of Colitis. The number of Private Patients in the Powick Mental Hospital continued to decline.

There were four inquests, during 1901, but all came to verdicts that the deaths that occurred, were all explained by the medical evidence provided. However, in one case, a female Patient playfully picked up another female Patient and squeezed her, causing immediate pain, because one of the Patient's ribs had been fractured. In another case, a female Criminal Lunatic, suddenly and murderously attacked a nurse, who in protecting herself fractured the Patient's arm. This case was investigated by the Medical Superintendent, who found that no blame was attached to the nurse concerned. There was one case of Chicken Pox recorded, and one of Typhoid Fever. Colitis, in particular, again caused severe problems and it was suggested that the cause of the outbreak of this ailment, could have been because vegetables, fed to Patients, had been watered with liquid sewage.

However, the distribution of these outbreaks of Colitis, across the Hospital, made this suggestion unlikely to be the cause.

George Braine-Hartnell now sought to discuss what, he saw as impending changes in the way that nursing was considered in Mental Hospitals. He believed that there would be a move to bring mental health nursing into line with practices in general hospitals, something, he saw, as likely to increase the number of nurses needed in Mental Hospitals, particularly at night. He also thought that this change would also cause a move to provide male hospital wards, with trained nurses. This, he suggested, was a process that had been tried in Scotland, where it had been successful. However, he was unsure that the increase costs of this approaches, would lead to an increased Recovery-Rate in his Hospital at Powick.

Again, in 1901, the resignation of an AMO had left a vacancy that, proved difficult to fill. Whilst it was suggested that a female doctor, as a replacement, would be easy to procure, the Visiting Committee decided that only a man should be eligible for the post. ¹⁶ This was a decision that Dr. Braine-Hartnell 'heartily concurred with'. There was one case of a nurse, who was seriously ill, because of injuries caused by an attack, by a Patient, which had added to the strain on her. This led the Committee of Visitors to allow this woman to take leave of absence, on full pay, until she recovered. In another, unusual case, a male attendant had been called-up to fight in the War in South Africa, and on his return, he was given a post, back in Powick Mental Hospital, similar to the one he had left prior to his military service.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell was pleased with the report made by the Commissioners of the Board of Control on their visit in March 1901. At this time, the Committee of Visitors had raised the Maintenance Charge, for Patient from the City and County of Worcester to 8s. 2d. per Patient per week, but they then claimed that, in view of generally rising prices 'this could not be regarded as excessive'. The South-Western Division of the Psychological Society held their Spring Meeting at the Worcester Mental Hospital, which was a great success. In 1901, the profits from the farm were reduced to £292 4s. 10d., due largely to the unfortunate deaths of 3 valuable horses, earlier in the year.

In 1902, it was reported that construction of a second Lunatic Asylum, for the City and County of Worcester had begun. There had also been several changes in the AMO's employed at the Worcester Mental Hospital, but there were also many changes in the ordinary staff of the Hospital. More cottages, to accommodate the families of men working as attendants, at the Asylum, had also been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. Delegations of Guardians, from Poor Law Unions, with Patient in the Powick Mental Hospital, continued to express their satisfaction with the institution when they visited to inspect Patient in the Asylum from their Poor Law Union. The Maintenance Charge, for local Patient, was increased again, to 8s. 2d. per Patient per week. However, there were now 1,211 Patient in the institution, which was above the limit of 1,200, normally assumed to be the upper limit, for any such institution, which meant that a number of female Patient, were sent as Out-Patient at two neighbouring Mental Hospitals. Thirty Patient were sent to the Derby County Asylum, and 15 to the Northampton County Asylum. Patient at Derby

were charged 15s. 2d. per week, and those at Northampton, 14s. per week. Inevitably, the Commissioners of the Board of Control, now reported that the Powick institution was overcrowded, but they also suggested that this was causing 'restlessness, and excitement amongst the women Patient'.

However, these same Commissioners were, satisfied with the wards and dormitories they saw in Powick Asylum. However, they had been critical that two urinals, in the male wards, that emitted a foul smell, such that they had demanded they be removed, but they were still in place. They were also again critical of some fire precautions, in the Mental Hospital. However, they were happy with the new cemetery, and they were pleased with a new Thresher's Disinfecter, which had replaced the outmoded means of disinfecting the wards that had been used previously. They were also generally pleased, with the behaviour of Patient at the Powick Institution. There had been a large number of claims for discharge, when the Patient met the Commissioners, 'all of which were unfounded'. Indeed, such complaints were still considered to be the result of delusions. However, one Patient from Pershore complained that no-one had visited him, from his Poor Law Union, for over two years. This case was upheld and a visit from the Guardians from the Pershore Union was demanded.

Unfortunately, the dinner that the Commissioners saw being served, was again thought to be inadequate; as there were too many potatoes, and too little meat in the stew. There were 18.1% of Patient, suffering from Epilepsy, and 19.0% thought actively suicidal, 17 but the Commissioners were pleased that, relatively large numbers of Patient were given constant supervision at night. The numbers of Patient attending Religious Services, and the weekly entertainments, were acceptable, as were 63.3% of male Patient and 67.7% of female Patient who were gainfully employed. Whilst the causes of death, amongst Patient, were within 'normal limits', the Commissioners did express some concern at the numbers of Patient suffering from bedsores. Dysentery had attacked 50 male, and 34 female Patient, which was considered a problem, particularly as 16 of these cases had proved fatal. There had also been 3 cases of Typhoid Fever, one of which had also proved fatal. There had also been one case of Erysipelas, and one of German Measles. Then, quite unusually, there had been one use of a mechanical restraint, to prevent a male Patient injuring himself, which was a permissible use of such restraint. The number of staff now employed at the Worcester Mental Hospital, meant that there were 7 men and 9 women on night duty, and during the daytime there was 1 attendant per 11.5 Patient, and 1 nurse per 13 female Patient, which was thought by the Commissioners to indicate a weakness in staffing, in this Institution. However, the staff were thought, stronger, when it came to the levels of experience they had. The Case Books and Medical Records were also said to be well kept.

The total number of Patient in the Worcester Asylum, in 1902, was 1,189, which indicated an increase of 23 Patient, in the year. Whilst the Commissioners suggested that the Asylum could accommodate 1,169 Patient, George Braine-Hartnell maintained that there were 13 vacant beds on the male-side, and just 2 of the female-side of the Mental Hospital. However, there were a number of Patient, boarded out, at other Asylums. The Medical

Superintendent then demonstrated that, the relationship between the increase in the population of the City and County of Worcester, and the growth in the numbers of Patient being sent to the Asylum, remained as consistent as it had been when Edward Marriott Cooke sought to demonstrate that, there was no upsurge in insanity, some 10 years previously. However, admissions to the Mental Hospital were at the highest level, since the Asylum opened, in 1852. The Recovery-Rate, for male Patient, was 36.79%, and for females 41.60%, figures that showed some improvement, but the Death Rate at 9.75% was slightly higher, than it had been last year. Colitis had killed 8 male Patient, and 8 females, which was still a cause for concern. The numbers of Private Patient continued to fall.

In 1902, the numbers of accident, causing fractured bones, during the year, had increased, but all but one of these events had been caused by chance, or by the violence of a fellow Patient. The exception was, a man who lost an eye when a piece of metal he was filing flew up into his eye when he was at work. Measles and Scarlet Fever cases had occurred, and there were 2 cases of Typhoid Fever, one of them fatal. However, Influenza, had been extremely rife, amongst both the Patient and the staff. Worryingly, 25 males and 16 females, had suffered from Colitis, but none of these cases was fatal. One Patient had breast cancer, but Mr. Bubb, the Assistant Medical Superintendent, amputated her breast, and the Patient made a good recovery. Then, owing to the prevalence of Smallpox, in the Powick Area, it was decided to vaccinate, both the Patient and the staff, who had previously not been vaccinated. This process was then satisfactorily completed. The Maintenance Charge, for local Patient remained at 8s. 2d. per Patient per week. It was then also decided to build 4 more houses, on the Asylum-site, for the families of male attendant. The farm showed a profit, in 1902, of £1,126 10s. 5d., which was a good increase over the previous year, which was said to be due to an increase in stock, and to an increased profit on sales.

In the 1903 Annual Report, it was stated that more cottages for the families of attendants had been created, and that some accommodation of this sort was being rented from the Earl of Coventry. The approach used by the Commissioners in Lunacy, in conducting Inspections, continued to involve, meeting all Patient, to hear comments about their treatment, which was an approach that had now also been adopted by the Committee of Visitors. This Committee had also found it necessary, to raise the Maintenance Fee, for local Patient, to 8s. 5 1/2d. per Patient per week, an increase that was necessary, because of repairs to the reservoir, that were thought absolutely necessary. The Committee of Visitors, also, sought to point out that, whilst they agreed with the Commissioners, about the rough state of plasterwork, and the floors, in some wards of the Asylum, overcrowding made rectifying these problems impossible. They suggested that this problem would be resolved, only when the new County Mental Hospital, at Barnsley Hall, near Bromsgrove, 18 opened. The Committee of Visitors then expressed no surprise that, a large number of Patient appealed to be discharged from the Asylum. They stated that they considered very carefully, any such requests from Patient, but they believed that there was not a single Patient detained in their Asylum who should be let out.

However, there appeared to be some element of resentment about the criticism of the sanitary conditions in the Hospital, which the Visitors claimed had begun to be resolved. They also pointed out that, they were attempting to find a suitable site, for an Isolation Hospital, something that the Commissioners had been demanding for several years. They were seeking to rent land, from the Earl of Coventry, at Bradfield's Farm, to allow construction of such a facility. The Committee had also attempted to improve the fire alarm system, in the Hospital, to resolve another issue that had concerned the Commissioners, for some time. There were now 1,150 Patient, in the institution, but there were 14 female Patient boarded out, at Derby County Asylum, 15 females at Northampton County Asylum, and another 15 females, at the Leicester County Asylum.

Whilst making their next Inspection, the Commissioner found Worcester Mental Hospital to be in 'good order', with the exception of several urinals, in the male wards, that they had previously insisted, should be removed. Otherwise, they found the sanitary condition of the Hospital, to be reasonable. However, they again demanded that the rough plastering of walls in wards, should be eradicated, because this accentuated infection, and certain floors still needed replacement for the same reason. The Commissioners also still considered that some, day rooms and dormitories, on both sides of the institution, were overcrowded, which they claimed led to 'noise and excitement'. On this occasion the dinner, which the Commissioners saw being served was 'good and substantial'. Apart from the death of one man, who had swallowed a piece of bone, which caused an internal haemorrhage, from which he died, all deaths were from natural causes. An inquest on this man, found that his gullet had been ruptured, by a piece of bone, he had tried to swallow, that measured over 4" by over 1". In turn his oesophagus had also been ruptured.

Twenty-one per cent of the deaths, at the Powick Institution were again caused by Phthisis, and Dysentery had caused a further 16% of deaths. Both of these figures were worrying to the Commissioners, who also saw 42 Patient in bed, but more worryingly, six of these bedridden Patient had Dysentery. This meant that, in the year, there had been 109 cases of this ailment, in the institution, which was indeed a problem. There were also two male children, five female Patient, and two nurses, being treated for Scarlet Fever, in the Isolation Hospital. Thus, the Commissioners remained concerned about the sanitary conditions, in some parts of Worcester Mental Hospital, particularly in relation to continuing infection, with Scarlet Fever and Dysentery. They had particular concerns that, the only place where such cases could be isolated in this Institution, was in a farm-cottage, which could only take a limited number of Patient of the same sex. This situation led to infectious Patient being kept in the same wards as healthy Patient, when it was suggested the treatment of Phthisis needed treatment outside these ordinary wards, preferably in open-air veranda facilities.

In his Report for 1903, George Braine-Hartnell repeated that, the numbers of Patient now in the institution, was five more than in the previous year. However, he did point out that, unusually, 15.3% of Patient committed to the Powick Asylum, as insane, were suffering from the effects of alcohol abuse, which was a larger number than usual. The Recovery-

Rates, in 1903; was 41.75% for male, and 57.52% for female Patient. These were the highest levels ever recorded, in the Worcester Institution. They compared very favourably with the figure of 35.30%, for all such institutions in England and Wales. The numbers of Private Patient, in Worcester Mental Hospital, had again declined, but the Committee of Visitors had now decided not to admit any more such Patient, because the shortage of space in their Mental Hospital made this essential.

The Medical Superintendent appeared intent on indicating, changes that the Commissioners had demanded, that had been implemented. This included, a new iron-staircases to male ward 6, and Female ward 6, and to male ward 2, and female ward 2. Fourteen external doors, which had opened outwards, had been converted to open inwards, and there were now outside door-handles, on all single-rooms, and in the laundry, where the wooden drying-horses, had been replaced by iron ones. George Braine-Hartnell, also identified improved facilities for Staff members, including a new cricket pavilion, a billiard-table, and card tables in the male recreation-room, with a new grand piano in the Ballroom. All of these changes resulted from comments made by the Commissioners, during their Annual Inspection visits, but it was noticeable that the improved facilities for staff, were all for male staff.

The Annual Report for 1904, indicated that the Assistant Chief Female Attendant, who had been in post for 38 years. had retired. She was given a pension of £64 17s. 8d. Members of the Committee of Visitors, now continued to see all of the Patient in the Asylum, in a way similar to that adopted by the Commissions in Lunacy. The Deputations of Poor Law Guardians, who visited the Asylum, where Patient from their Poor Law Union were treated, continued to be satisfied with the way their Patient were treated, and managed at the Powick Mental Hospital. The weekly Maintenance Fee, for Patient from the City and County of Worcester, was now 8s. 5 1/2d. per Patient per week, but Unions were surcharged, if their Patient had to be Boarded-Out in other Asylums. This was a stipulation imposed by the 1890 Lunacy Act. ²⁰ The Committee of Visitors were now clearly hopeful that, the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, now being constructed, would resolve the overcrowding, which the Commissioners still complained about. There were still 30 female Patient Boarded-Out in other Asylums.

The Commissioners in Lunacy, when they inspected the Worcester Mental Hospital, were generally satisfied with the institution, but they were still concerned about rough plasterwork in the wards and corridors, that they still thought accentuated infections. They were also dissatisfied, with the WC accommodation, in some wards, particularly in the old building, where there were only 2 seats available in all of the WCs' there. The Acute Wards, on both sides of the Asylum, were also still regarded as overcrowded. Thus, given the time it was taking for the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital to be completed, the Commissioners demanded that more Patient from the Powick Institution be Boarded-Out. However, the Commissioner did express satisfaction, with changes in the Fire Precautions in the Mental Hospital, which they had witnessed in use in a Fire Practice, during their most recent inspection visit. It was then noted that there were still, 36 Private Patient, and that 30

women Patient were still Boarded-Out, at Leicester County Asylum. At this time, the Commissioner had again witnessed what they regarded as, 'an excellent meal being served'. However, they thought it very unfortunate that, in 21% of deaths, the cause was Phthisis. Unfortunately, one female Patient had fractured her skull, when she fell in the Airing-Court, during an Epileptic fit. The Commissioners were now happy that, the staff of the Powick Mental Hospital, was sufficient in number and competent. In his Report, George Braine-Hartnell, commented about what he regarded as the iniquity of forcing Poor Law Unions, whose Patient had to be Boarded-Out, to pay the costs of this happening, a requirement of the 1890 Lunacy Act. He expressed the belief that, these costs should be shared by all Poor Law Unions equitably.

There had now been an increase of 30 Patient, at Powick Mental Hospital, during the year. However, the causes of insanity there still, worryingly, included 12.6% of men, and 17.9% of women, where intemperance to drink, had caused their insanity. In the case of male Patient 42.34% of men in this condition, left the institution, whilst 47.36% of female Patient, were in a similar situation. Worcester Mental Hospital continued to have Criminal Lunatics sent to them; men and women, who were found to be insane, whilst they were in Prison. However, both the Medical Superintendent, and the Committee of Visitors, objected to this happening, on the grounds that Contract with such individuals was detrimental to ordinary Patient. There was one case of Erysipelas, and 3 cases of Typhoid Fever, at this time, all of which were fatal, but Dr. Braine-Hartnell was concerned that, the source of these infections could not be identified. During 1904, the Committee of Visitor decided to set the weekly Maintenance Costs at 8s. 2d. per week, for Patient from the City and County of Worcester, from 1st April 1904. The farm in this year made a profit of £427 12s. 7d.

The Annual Report, for 1905, suggested that, as required by the 1890 Lunacy Act, all Patient had access to members of the Committee of Visitors, which gave Patient an opportunity to ask for discharge, or to make complaints. The Maintenance Costs, for Patient, from Worcestershire, remained 8s. 2d. per Patient per week. In view of the desirability of separating Patient with Colitis, from other inmates, the Committee of Visitors had asked Mr. Rowe, the County Architect, to produce plans for a temporary building to accommodate these Patient. However, the Commissioners in lunacy did not approve of such a temporary building, or the site where it was planned to erect such a facility. Thus, no further steps had been taken regarding this matter.

The Committee of Visitors had written to the Home Secretary, about the inadvisability of Criminal Patient being sent to their Hospital. This had resulted in one such Criminal Lunatic being ordered to be removed to Broadmoor, by the Home Secretary. Twenty-five male Patient, from the Powick Institution, had been Boarded-Out at Cotford Asylum (in Somerset), and 20 additional Patient had also been Boarded-Out at the Monmouthshire Asylum. It was hoped that, by the end of 1905, such boarding-out would not be necessary, because the second County Asylum, at Barnsley Hall would be open. There were now 28 Private Patient in the Powick Mental Hospital.

The Commissioners were pleased with most of what they saw on their inspection visit to the Worcester Institution, at this time. There were only 3 vacant beds, on the male-side of the Hospital, and 15 on the female-side. They were also pleased with Church-attendance on Sundays, and the numbers of Patient going to the weekly entertainments. It was also pleasing that 59% of males, and 63% of females, were gainfully employed. Seventeen males, and 32 females, had again suffered from Dysentery, which had resulted in 9 deaths. However, the Commissioners were pleased that, the Committee of Visitors, were taking steps to build accommodation to isolate Patient infected with this ailment. They were, however, concerned that no suitable site had been found to erect such a new building on. The Commissioners were also impressed that the staff employed, at Powick Mental Hospital, had substantial experience. However, one male attendant, had been dismissed for 'boxing a Patient's ears'.

There had been an increase of 6, in the number of Patient in the Asylum, during the year. One woman had been committed to the institution, with a self-inflicted throat injury, and another female Patient had, 2 fractured ribs when she was committed to the Institution. At this point, George Braine-Hartnell mentioned, 'two little girls, aged 4 and 5', who he thought were little more troublesome than the average child. He wondered why, these children, had been sent to the County Mental Hospital, when a special home, for the feeble minded, would have been more appropriate. The Recovery-Rate for male Patient, was now 44.14%, and for females 49.37%, figures that were again well above the average for other similar institutions in England and Wales. Contract Patient, who were Boarded- Out, at Powick, were usually being charged 14s. per week per Patient.

The Death Rate, in 1905, was 6.76%, which was 1.75% lower than during the previous year. However, Dr. Braine-Hartnell then pointed out that, this was a very low level of deaths, that would add 25 Patient to the numbers in the Asylum. Phthisis had been responsible for 17.3% of the deaths, and Colitis for a further 13.5% of deaths, in 1905. There were now 27 Private Patient, in the Asylum, but no more such Patient had been admitted, because all of the spaces available, in the Asylum, were needed for local Worcestershire Patient. The Medical Superintendent then, expressed his pleasure that a Criminal Patient had been transferred to Broadmoor, by the Home Secretary. However, there were still 3 male, and 1 female Criminal Patient, in Powick Mental Hospital, but 3 of these Patient were transferred to the Pauper Class, when their Prison Sentences expired. However, these individuals will still have been regarded as having 'Criminal Propensities'. Dr. Braine-Hartnell again expressed his opinion that, the County Asylum was not a suitable place to house Criminal Lunatics.

The Medical Superintendent, also regretted, to report that, 2 married pregnant women had been committed to the Asylum, who were subsequently confined at childbirth. He suggested that, it was unfortunate that both of these women had remained as Patient. It was also concerning that, Colitis had been present in the Asylum, all the year round, in 1905. However, he suggested that most such cases had been confined in the annexe, 'where most perverted 21 cases were housed'. The Death Rate, from Colitis, was still worryingly high, but interestingly two female staff members, who had died of this ailment, had been buried

in the Powick Churchyard, and not in the new Cemetery on the Asylum-site. One attendant had been dismissed for neglecting his duty, and another for being drunk on duty. The Maintenance Charge for local Patient, remained at 8s. 2s per Patient per week. The Farm had shown a profit of £723 1s. 7d., in 1905.

The Annual Report, for the year 1906, suggested that the opportunity for Patient to talk to members of the Committee of Visitors, had occurred again, and that every application for discharge from the institution was carefully considered, but none had been allowed. The weekly Maintenance Charge had again been kept at 8s. 2d a Patient per week. The Chair of the Committee of Visitors had stated that, all issues raised by the Commissioners, on their Inspection visit, to Worcester Mental Hospital, had been dealt with, which was a very satisfactory state of affairs to report. It was also stated that Sir Tolemache Sinclair, Bart. 22 had donated a gramophone for the use of Patient, but why this had happened was unclear. It was also reported that a Committee of Visitors, for the new Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, had been appointed, and that there had been joint meetings of the two Boards of Visitors, to discuss the transfers of Patient, from the Powick Institution to Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital. However, it was now clear that, the new second County Mental Hospital would not open until the Spring of 1907, at the earliest. One of the laundry-maids at Worcester Mental Hospital, was prosecuted for theft, 23 so that alterations were made in the laundry, to ensure that similar criminality, would not recur. The Committee of Visitors had also investigated the adequacy of the dietary, for Patient, and they had concluded there was no reason to alter it.

There were now 1,216 Patient, on the books of the Powick Institution, which included 45 female Patient, and 35 male Patient, who were 'Boarded-Out'. There were also 29 Private Patient, and 6 Out-of-County Patient, from 6 different Poor Law Unions, outside Worcestershire. There were also 30 males Patient, at Cotford Asylum (in Somerset), 35 female Patient were at the Leicester County Asylum, and 10 male Patient, and 10 females, at the Abergavenny Asylum. This meant that there were 1,202 Patient resident at Powick, plus one additional man. 24 On this occasion, when the Patient were seen by the Commissioners in Lunacy, there were numerous women Patient, who appealed for Discharge from the Institution, and in Female Ward 13, there were 4 women who complained about ill-treatment by the nurses. When the Commissioner investigated these complaints, it was found that there was no justification for any of them. Interestingly, there were no complaints from other female wards, but in Female Wards numbers 2, 3 and 5, there was 'some noise', which was attributed to overcrowding. There were 6 male Patient, and 34 female Patient, in excess of the number that the institution was supposed to hold. Generally, the male wards were much quieter than the female wards, and there were no complaints, and fewer demands for discharge from the men.

According to the Commissioners in Lunacy, the condition of the Worcester Asylum, was generally satisfactory, and it was considered good news that the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital would open, in the spring of next year, which would alleviate the overcrowding that had caused problems, for the Powick Institution for almost a decade. Whilst a quarter

of the deaths in the Worcester Mental Hospital, in 1906, were caused by Phthisis, it was hoped that reduced overcrowding would begin to resolve this problem, at this Mental Hospital. There had also been 9 deaths from Colitis, of which there had been 71 cases amongst the Patient, and 5 cases amongst the staff, since the Commissioners last visited, indicating real Health Problems. There had been an Inquest, on one male Patient, who was suffering from GPI, which had weakened him, so that he accidentally fell, broke 2 ribs and died. Whilst there were no bed-sores apparent on Patient, who were in bed, 5.5% of Patient who died had such sores, which was considered excessive. It was also noted that, 16.2% of Patient in the Worcester Institution, had Epilepsy, which was a larger proportion than in most other similar institution and was concerning.

The dinner, which the Commissioner witnessed being served, in 1906, was again of good quality, and the attendance at Religious Services, were considered appropriate. Whilst the matter of Roman Catholic Services, and Mass were appropriately dealt with, there was still no Services for Non-Conformist Patient. The numbers of Patient attending weekly entertainment, was less than in other such institutions, but it was considered that this may have been because of the smallness of rooms, where these entertainments were held. The numbers of Patient gainfully employed, were about average for similar institutions. It was now noted that the Institutions Chapel had been entirely redecorated. The wards, day rooms and dormitories that were seen, were thought appropriate, although a couple of wards needed redecoration, which the Commissioners admitted was difficult, as these wards were overcrowded. They were also critical of a bad smell, in some wards, which they attributed to the discharge pipes, from the wash-basins, in the lavatories. This issue needed attending to urgently. There had also been new ovens, and a kneading-machine, installed in the kitchens, and there was some improvement in the laundry, where 'foul-linen' was now 'more adequately dealt with'. Whilst 4 attendants had been dismissed, none of these dismissals related to the way that Patient had been treated. The proportion of Staff to Patient, at 1:12.4, was considered 'rather weak', but the experience of the staff was good. At this time, Patient who were Out-of-County, were charged 14s per week, whereas Private Patient paid 15s per week.

The figures for the number of Patient, in the Worcester Institution, according to the Medical Superintendent, included 45 men, and 45 women, who were Boarded-Out, at other Asylums. However, during 1906, there had been no increase in the numbers of such Patient. Of the male Patient 41.88%, and of the women 52.84%, had been Discharged Recovered, which was very successful, compared with the average for other similar institutions in England and Wales, where the Recovery Rate was 37.01%. Another 20 male Patient had been transferred. In May 1906, 10 men, were sent to the Abergavenny Asylum, and 10 others to Cotford (in Somerset). This meant that the Worcester Mental Hospital were paying 14s per week, for each of these Patient, to be Boarded Out.

Phthisis was the main cause of death, of 29.9% of Patient at the Powick Mental Hospital, which was a considerable increase on the previous year. Again, overcrowding of wards, where these Phthisical Patient were housed, was blamed for this excessive number of such

cases. Three married women, who were admitted to the Asylum, whilst they were pregnant, were all confined at childbirth, in the Asylum. One of these woman later died, another woman was Discharged Recovered, and the third remained in the institution. The Assistant Clerk, from the Powick Institution, was now appointed as Clerk to the new Barnsley Hall Asylum. Nine nurses had recently resigned, some to take up other work, and others to marry. One male attendant had been dismissed, for leaving the Asylum during work hours, without permission. The farm showed a profit for the year of £669 9s. 4d.

The Annual Report, for 1907, stated that several AMO's had resigned, including Mr. William Bubb, the Assistant Medical Superintendent, because of ill-health. Mr. Bubb was given a pension of £98 per annum. ²⁵ Another AMO resigned, because he was taking up Private Practice in New Zealand. One of the new AMO's, appointed at this time was Dr. Henry Felix Fenton, who eventually succeeded George Braine-Hartnell, as Medical Superintendent 13 years later. The Monthly Maintenance Charges were still 8s. 2d per week per Patient, for Patient from the City and County of Worcester. However, previous criticism, made by the Commissioners, of the Fire Precautions at the Worcester Hospital, had clearly been effective, because the Committee of Visitors had spent £1,200, on a new fire-engine, which had been ordered from Messrs. Merriweather and Sons, of Worcester.

There were 4 Inquests held, during 1907, all of which recorded verdicts of death from natural causes, and in no case was blame attached to any members of the Asylum staff, in relation to these deaths. The arrangements to transfer Patient from Powick Asylum, to the new Barnsley Hall institution, were quite strange. Powick Asylum transferred 100 male Patient, and 100 females, to the new Asylum, and they agreed to pay 14s. per Patient per week, which enabled the Powick Mental Hospital Committee of Visitors, to withdraw Patient Boarded-Out at Cotford, Leicester and Abergavenny Asylums, which reduced the number of Patient, in the Worcester Mental Hospital, to 1,034. The pressure on the Powick Institution was at last alleviated. However, on 26th February 1907, they received a visit from the Lunacy Commissioners, for their Annual Inspection. The Commissioners found the wards, day rooms, and dormitories, at Powick Mental Hospital, clean and in good condition, but they were still thought overcrowded. They were particularly concerned about Male Ward 3, where they found 'a good many dangerous and troublesome Patient', with only 4 attendants, to preserve order', which demonstrated the need for the newly opened Barnsley Hall Asylum.

At this time there were 1,187 Patient, on the books of Worcester Mental Hospital, including 27 Private Patient, and one woman chargeable to Newcastle-on-Tyne. ²⁶ The Commissioners saw all Patient in the Asylum at this time,, and they again received requests for discharge. With the exception of the Patient, already described as troublesome, the remainder of the Patient in the Powick Institution, were well-dressed, quiet and orderly. However, the Commissioners remained concerned, at the relatively high number of Epileptic Patient (16.7%) in the Worcester Mental Hospital. The dinner the Commissioners saw served, on this occasion, was eaten with great relish by the Patient. However, the Commissioners demanded to know why food was not available, to other workers in the

institution, something that they apparently thought should happen. Again, 20% of the deaths in Worcester Mental Hospital were due to Phthisis. However, there were no Patient suffering from bedsores, although one man had suffered broken ribs, in a violent attack by another Patient. Dysentery had attacked 13 individuals, since the Commissioners last visit, but there were only 2 Patient still suffering from this ailment. There was also still only 1 attendant to every 12.4 Patient, which was considered weak compared with the figure expected by the Central Authority. The Commissioners were very satisfied with the performance of the Fire Drill, that they witnessed.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell's Report, in contrast to that of the Commissioner's, looked forward to the situation, when pressure would be alleviated from his Asylum, by the opening of Barnsley Hall Asylum, on 7th July 1907. The Commissioners had made comments that were similar to those they had made in previous years. Again, gratifyingly, 72% of male Patient, and 73% of females, were gainfully employed, which was again regarded favourably. The Lunacy Commissioners again gave Patient an opportunity to make complaints, and there were, as was usual, many claims demanding discharge from the Asylum. However, it was suggested that 'most Patient were again delusional about this matter'. The Staff were similar in number, to the previous year, with a 1:10 proportion reported for male Patient, and a 1: 12 proportion for females; figures that were regarded as appropriate. The Commissioners also commented on the system, introduced by Edward Marriott Cooke, whereby badges indicated the level of experience of attendants and nurses. These badges also related to a Training Course, for attendants and nurses, run by the Medical Superintendent and the AMO's employed in the institution. The Commissioners appreciated that the construction of the new reservoir, at the Hospital, was a development that would improve the Asylum's water supply.

CHAPTER 3.

A Return to Profitability, or Loss? 1907-1913.

The situation of the Worcester Mental Hospitals was drastically altered by the opening of the second County Mental Hospital, at Barnsley Hall, near Bromsgrove, in July 1907. The sources for this Chapter are, the Annual Reports of the Worcester Mental Hospital, for successive years from 1907 to 1913; a time when the Committee of Visitors of the Asylum sought to re-establish making a profit, from the Mental Hospital. However, noticeably, George Braine-Hartnell, who continued to be Medical Superintendent, took no part in this activity. Unlike, his predecessor, Edward Marriott Cooke, he was no longer the Chief Executive of the Mental Hospital. He now left decisions to the Visiting Committee, so that he returned to the role that James Sherlock had played in running the institution, up till his death in 1881.

_ PATIENT NUMBERS AT POWICK

**MENTAL HOSPITAL, WORCESTER
1907 TO 1913.**

Date.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1907	465	569	1,034
1908	420	537	957
1909	428	514	942
1910	437	509	946
1911	451	552	1,003
1912	441	537	978
1913	485	579	1,064

As indicated in the Table above, the impact of the opening of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, as second Worcestershire County Mental Hospital, to share the burden of treating insane individuals from the City and County of Worcester, had an immediate effect on the Powick Mental Hospital. There was no longer any danger of the Powick Institution having, over 1,200 Patient; the number that the Lunacy Commission considered, the maximum number of Patient any single Mental Hospital should contain. The relief that this situation provided, for the Committee of Visitors, at Powick Mental Hospital, and for George Braine-Hartnell, the Medical Superintendent there, was palpable.

The format of the Annual Reports, on the Worcester Mental Hospital, after 1907, was similar to the Annual Reports from 1897 to 1907, so that there was continuity between this, and the last Chapter of this Book. Perhaps the biggest change, in the Staff of the Institution, was the retirement of Mr. William Bubb, the Assistant Medical Superintendent, after almost 13 years' service, at Powick Mental Hospital, where he had worked extremely hard, treating the Patient, and compiling the Patient's Notes, of the many Patient then in the Institution. In Mr. Bubb's place, Dr. Henry Felix Fenton, was appointed as an AMO, but he was then promoted to be Principal AMO, and Assistant Medical Superintendent. Indeed, after July 1919, Dr Fenton, became the new Medical Superintendent, at the Powick Mental Hospital, when George Braine-Hartnell retired, after 22 years in that post.

As in previous years, in 1907, and in subsequent years, up till 1913, Delegations of Guardians, from Poor Law Unions, with Patient being treated at Powick Mental Hospital, visited the Patient from their Poor Law Union, and they always passed favourable comment on the way their Patient were being treated, and administered. The other individuals, who still visited Worcester Mental Hospital, on an annual basis, were the Lunacy Commissioners, who still annually Inspected the Institution. They wrote a Report, In 1907, stating that the Powick Committee of Visitors had, at last, heeded their comments, as, they had decided to purchase a new fire-engine, 'for no more than £1,200'. [27](#) They had also agreed to transfer 100 male Patient, and 100 females, to the new second County Asylum, at Barnsley Hall, at a charge of 14s. per Patient per week. [28](#) This left 465 male Patient, and 569 female Patient, a total of 1,034 Patient in Powick Mental Hospital, which was a decrease in number of over 180 Patient. In spite of this, the decision was then made, not to admit any more Private Patient. [29](#) However, there were still 27 such Patient, still in the Institution. The first action of the Committee of Visitors, at this juncture, was to call back to Powick, the 84 Patient they

had boarded out at Leicester County Asylum, Cotford Asylum (near Taunton in Somerset) and Abergavenny Asylum. After all these changes, at the end of 1907, there were 175 less Patient in Powick Mental Hospital, than there had been, at the beginning of the year. Heredity was said to be the cause of 21.3% of the cases of insanity, at this time, but worryingly 13.5% of cases were still attributed to intemperance to drink.

In the 1908, Annual Report, on the Worcester Mental Hospital, similar comments were made by Poor Law Guardians, who visited Patient, from their Poor Law Union, who were being treated in the Worcester Mental Hospital, something that was to continue in Reports up to 1913. Indeed, the format of Annual Reports, was always consistent, on such issues. In 1908, unusually, there had been nine Inquests, held in that year, a much larger number than was usual. One female Patient, had, committed suicide, whilst she was out of the Mental Hospital, On-^Trial. [30](#) Then, most of the other Patient's injuries recorded, were due to fractured bones, caused in accidental falls, or because individuals were pushed by fellow Patient. There had also been, many cases of Influenza, amongst the Patient, and the staff, of Powick Mental Hospital, during the winter, of 1908. However, more unexpectedly, there had been 31 cases of Dysentery, which were spread equally, on both side of the Institution, a situation that could only be explained by inadequate sanitary arrangements, in the Hospital generally. There had also been 9 cases of facial Erysipelas, and one case of Varicella, but unusually, one attendant had contracted Diphtheria, [31](#) although it was thought that he had contracted this ailment, outside the Mental Hospital. There had also been two other cases of suicide, with both occurring in the Asylum. One case was of a male Patient, who had inflicted a throat-wound on himself, using broken glass. The other was, again, of a male Patient, who whilst working on the farm, had thrown himself under a moving cart. It was also unusual that, there had been three cases of Patient committing suicide, which was something that the Mental Hospital Authorities desperately attempted to prevent happening. There were also 15, other accidents, which had caused injury, all being caused by falls, including falling whilst having an Epileptic fit. The Lunacy Commissioners were now pleased to report that, the staff of the Worcester Mental Hospital, were now stronger than on their previous visit, with 1 attendant, or nurse, to every 10.8 Patient, which was considered a satisfactory situation. The staff were also well experienced, and there had been no loss of staff, since the Institution had reduced in size.

By the end of 1908, there had again been a slight a reduction in the number of Patient, in the Asylum, with insanity most often said to be caused by 'stress of different sorts. However, 28.57% of Patient, now in the Powick Institution, had suffered previous attacks of insanity, something that was thought 'highly significant'. Of the Patient admitted to the Asylum, in 1908, 55.4% were in a good or fair state, 34.9% were in an unsatisfactory state, whilst 9.7% of Patient were in a bad, or critical state. However, this was a distinct improvement over the condition of Patient entering the Asylum, in the past, when more had been in a totally unacceptable, and critical state. Remarkably, in 1908, 76.9% of male Patient, and 68.1% of females, which was 71.4% of all Patient, were Discharged Recovered from the Worcester Mental Hospital, in that year. However, it was then stated that; 'This high percentage was caused by the small number of admissions, to the Institution, on which

the percentage was calculated'. In spite of this proviso, this was a remarkable high Recovery Rate, compared with that for other similar Asylums, at this time. The Death Rate, in 1908, was slightly higher, at 7.04%, compared with 1907, but worryingly 18.8% of these deaths were from Phthisis, and 5.8% from Pneumonia, meaning that almost a quarter of deaths in this Institution, at this time, were caused by chest-infections, a situation that was clearly often exacerbated by overcrowding. However, there was also an increase in deaths, caused by the General Paralysis of Insanity, (GPI), up from 4.8%, in 1907, to 10.14%, in 1908. ³² However, it was surely inevitable that, such rates of death from specific ailments should fluctuate from time to time.

In 1908, the Committee of Visitors had clearly altered their decision, not to admit more Private Patient, because 4 males, and 2 females, of this class of Patient, had been admitted to the Institution, in the last year. However, 5 other Private Patient, had been moved from the Private Class, and placed in the Pauper Class, meaning that the number of Private Patient actually fell to 25. In addition to this, there were 2 male Criminal Lunatics, sent from Worcester Gaol, who counted as Private Patient, because the Prison Authority paid the same fees for them, as for Private Patient. ³³ Three male Patient had escaped from the Mental Hospital, one man on two occasions, and on his second escape, he was not apprehended in the time specified by Law, so he was Discharged Relieved. ³⁴ The other two men, were quite quickly apprehended, and they were returned to the Mental Hospital. Generally, the health of the Powick's Patient, in 1908, had improved, possibly as a result of reduced overcrowding in the Institution, due to the opening of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital. There were then 11 cases of Colitis, 4 of Erysipelas, and one male child developed Diphtheria. This boy had caught this ailment at the school he had attended, prior to arrival in the Mental Hospital. He was immediately sent out of the Asylum, to be treated elsewhere.

At this time, it was suggested that, there had been 'many changes in the Medical Staff', a situation that appeared to be inevitable, given that the Medical Staff of Lunatic Asylums, always sought advancement, in their medical careers, sometimes in places other than Mental Hospitals. However, inevitably, some AMO's did obtain promotion, in other such Asylums. It was at this time that, Dr. C. Mary Haskin, the first female doctor, to be appointed, experimentally, as 3rd AMO, arrived in the Powick institution. Deputations from 11 Poor Law Unions, with Patient at the Worcester Mental Hospital, had visited the Asylum and all had expressed their satisfaction, with the way that the Patient from their Poor Law Union were treated in the Institution. The Asylum Farm had made a profit of £759 in 1908.

It was clear that, the Visiting Committee, and George Braine-Hartnell, the Medical Superintendent, were relieved that the overcrowded state of their Asylum, would no longer cause ire, in the Reports from the Commissioners, from the Board of Control of Insanity and Mental Defectives, who visited the Institution annually, to inspect it. Indeed, they must have been delighted at, the amazing statistics, about the Recovery and Discharge Rates, of the Patient, at the Powick Mental Hospital, during 1908. However, the only movement towards the situation the Visitors, had experienced, under the Superintendency of Edward

Marriott Cooke, between 1881 and 1897, was again, allowing Private Patient to be admitted, to the Asylum, a development that was then obviated by the transfer of five Private Patient to the Pauper Class. Thus, a move to make profit from the Worcester Mental Hospital, which had happened immediately prior to 1897, when Edward Marriott Cooke was Medical Superintendent, had to wait.

In 1909, the experiment of appointing a woman AMO, at Worcester Mental Hospital, came to an end, after less than a year, when Dr. Mary Haskin resigned,. However there was no explanation of why she left the Institution. She was replaced by Dr. W E Rutledge. a man. However, there was no comment made about the apparent failure of this experiment. The new system of gas-lighting, which had cost £1,783 19s. 1d., was said to be working satisfactorily. However, in early 1909, the Committee of Visitors returned to the profitable business of accepting Contract Patient, from other Asylums, when they accepted 10 male Patient, from Hereford Asylum, a Contract that, was worth a modest £103 per year profit. Noticeably, these arrangements were made by the Visiting Committee, whilst Dr. Braine-Hartnell passed no comment on the presence of these Contract Patient.

At the end of 1909, there were 428 male Patient, and 514 females, a total of 942 Patient in the Worcester Mental Hospital , a reduction of 17 Patient, during the year. At the end of 1909, the weekly cost of maintaining a Pauper Patient at the Powick Mental Hospital, remained at 8s. 2d. per head per week, but it was still 15s. for Private Patient, of whom there were now 22. Again, Deputations of Poor Law Guardians, who visited their Patient in Powick Mental Hospital, approved of the way that their Patient there were treated there. The Powick Mental Hospital Committee of Visitors still felt unable to admit Out-of-County Patient, although as already discussed, Patient from places close to Worcestershire, who appeared to be Out-of-County Patient, were in fact migrants, who had moved to live in the City and County of Worcester, although they retained their 'Places of Settlement', where they had been born. Thus, such Patient continued to be paid for by their original parish of Settlement. [35](#)

At this time there were still 200 Patient Boarded-Out, at Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital. The Commissioners in Lunacy, on their Inspection Visit, in 1909, commented favourably on the dress, appearance, and the quiet, well-behaved state of the Patient, in the Mental Hospital, who they had spoken to. They also commented that, the wards and dormitories, on both sides of the Institution, were bright and attractive, and that the bedding, and beds, were in an excellent state. The only adverse comment made, was about the buildings, which related to the poor state of some flooring, where the linoleum and carpets were badly worn, and where some areas needed painting. They also felt that the Airing-Court, to female ward No. 5, was 'dreary' compared with Airing-Courts on the male-side of the Asylum. It was then suggested that, planting more shrubs and flowers, would improve the state of this deficient area. At this time, the Factory Inspectorate had suddenly become aware of safety in workshops, in Mental Hospitals, possibly because accidents had occurred in some such workshops. This led to a demand that, safety screens should be erected, round some potentially dangerous machinery, in various workshops in the Powick Institution, and in the

Laundry and Kitchens in particular. The Commissioners in Lunacy, also commented on a meal, of Irish stew, with bread, which was for dinner on the day of their Inspection. They approved of this meal, which they regarded as being of good quality, being served in several wards, and it was very popular with the Patient. They were also satisfied with, 51% attendance at Sunday Services, in the Hospital Chapel, and with the provision for a Roman Catholic Service, every week, with a Mass held every month. Interestingly, there was still no provision for non-Conformist Patient, to attend church-Services. [36](#) Around 46% of Patient, at the Powick Institution, attended weekly entertainments, of a variety of types, and about the same number of Patient were taken on weekly walks, outside the Mental Hospital's-Estate.

The fact that 23 Patient had been secluded, on 38 occasions, for 60 hours, was noted without comment. However, the fact that 65% of Patient were gainfully employed, in the Worcester Mental Hospital, was greatly approved of, because this was an unusual high percentage. compared with other similar Institutions. Similarly, the fact that there was a 1:10, staff:Patient ratio, with the staff also being well qualified, was also favourably commented upon. All deaths in the Institution, in 1909, were from natural causes, and the fact that 90% of deceased Patient were given a Post-mortem Examination, was also commended. The General Health of Patient in Powick Mental Hospital, was also thought satisfactory, with only 1.8% of Patient confined to bed, which was a very low proportion, compared with Patient in other Mental Hospitals.

However, the Commissioners again expressed their concern about Patient with Phthisis, particularly because most Patient at Powick Mental Hospital, were still treated in ordinary wards. The Commissioners believed that open-air treatment was desirable for such Patient, and certainly more segregation of Phthisical Patient, was regarded as absolutely necessary. There were, worryingly, still 7 cases of Dysentery, 3 of Erysipelas, and 4 cases of Diphtheria recorded, as well as 7 cases of serious accidental injuries, none of which had been life-threatening. Finally, the Lunacy Commissioners were complimentary about the state of the Case Books, kept in the Mental Hospital, which indicated the treatment given to all Patient's in that Institution, in good detail.

In 1910, the Worcester Mental Hospital Committee of Visitors, agreed, to take 50 male, and 50 female Patient, from the Montgomery County Asylum, at a charge of 13s. 5s. per Patient per week. There were now 23 Contract Patient, from Hereford, and 74 from the Montgomery Institution, a total of 97 such Patient. The Ballroom at the Asylum, which was used for entertainments, had recently been refloored, and redecorated, which was approved of by the Commissioners. At this time, there were 437 male Patient, and 509 females, a total of 946 Patient in all at Worcester Mental Hospital. The Commissioners in Lunacy were again complimentary, about the food served to Patient, at the Powick Mental Hospital. This time the meal was thick pea soup, with meat and bread. However, the Commissioners were also pleased that their suggestion that workers in the Worcester Asylum, had been adopted, so that these individuals were now given a meal, of meat and vegetables, served at the same time as the Patient were fed. The Commissioner remained

bemused that the Hospital Authorities, in Worcester, had apparently never considered doing this previously. The Maintenance Fee charged in the Worcester Mental Hospital, had now been raised to 9s.11d. per Patient per week, whilst Out-of-County Patient were charged 15s. per week.

Twenty-one Patient had been secluded, on 33 occasions, for a total of 51¾ hours, which was something that was not considered excessive. The Commissioners again expressed satisfaction with Church attendance by Patient, on Sundays, and the weekly entertainment figures, and the walks taken by Patient, outside the Asylum-Estate, were also thought appropriate. The Commissioners were also extremely pleased that, the employment figure for Patient had risen to 67%. The staff:Patient proportion was now 1:9, which was because the Patient population had decreased, but the Staff numbers had remained unchanged. Again, the general health of Patient was good. The figure for suicidal Patient was still 1.9%, which was thought low, by the Commissioners. Deaths were all due to natural causes, with senile decay causing 18% of deaths, Phthisis 11.1%, GPI 9.7% and Cancer 7%. The deaths from Phthisis figure were again quite high. There were also 4 cases of Dysentery, which was much reduced, but still thought worrying. Influenza had been a real problem, in the winter of 1910, with numerous cases amongst both Patient and Staff, suffering from this infection. However, there were apparently no deaths from Influenza, in 1910. There were a couple of accidents, which were particularly concerning. One male Patient had a cut on his head and cheek, when another Patient had hit him with a polisher, and a female Patient had jumped through a window, and sustained severe cuts to her arms. However, both of these Patient apparently recovered from these injuries.

In 1911, the Annual Report, of the Worcester Medical Hospital, reported that the second and third AMO's had resigned, but they had been replaced by Dr. H R S Walford and Dr. K. Simpson. These two medical men, had joined George Braine-Hartnell, and again the Committee of Visitors were pleased with the performance of these doctors. It was then reported that, Contract Patient from Birmingham, consisting of 10 male Patient, and 40 females, together with 100 Contract Patient from Montgomery, 50 male Patient, and 50 females, would continue, at 14s. and 13s. 5d. per Patient per week, respectively. Thirty-five males, and 40 females from Montgomery had then arrived, along with 12 males and 21 females from Birmingham. Towards the end of 1911, there were an additional 40 male Patient, and 40 females, from Birmingham, then in the Powick Mental Hospital. Deputation of Poor Law Guardians from several different Poor Law Unions, in the County, had again visited their Patient, at the Asylum, and they again were pleased with the manner of treatment of their Patient. The Maintenance Charge for local Worcestershire Patient, was now set at 9s. 4d. per Patient per head, on 1st January 1911, but it was then reduced to 8s. 9d. from April 1st 1911.

Two Commissioners in Lunacy visited the Mental Hospital, on 20th November 1911, and they again used the same approach, of seeing all Patient, to gather the verbal opinions of the Patient, they had used previously. In 1911, there were 451 male Patient, 552 females, a total of 1,003 Patient in Powick Mental Hospital, of whom the Commissioners suggested 25

were Private Patient, who they believed paid fees of, between 10s and 15s per week. The Out-of-County Patient, now included 53 from King's Norton, a Poor Law Union, that had now become part of Birmingham, so that these Patient were soon to be removed, and sent to Mental Hospitals in the City. There were still 23 Hereford Patient, and 77 from Montgomery, a total of 100 such Patient. When the Patient from Birmingham, were removed, there were spaces for 99 men and 100 women, in the Worcester Mental Hospital. There were also 13 Patient, On-Trial, and the Commissioners were, pleased that now arrangements had been made to offer grants to relatives, taking Patient On-Trial, something that had not happened previously, at the Worcester Institution.

When the Commissioners saw all of the Patient, in Powick Mental Hospital, they were pleased with their dress and personal tidiness. However, although Patient were free to make complaints, there were none, and indeed, an atmosphere of 'general contentment prevailed'. The Commissioners, now found that the wards and dormitories, in the Mental Hospital, were in good order, but they still expressed some concern about the plasterwork, in some places, which they still considered was defective, on 'sanitary grounds'. They also thought that female ward No. 5, was dull and depressing, and in need of brightening up, as did its Airing-Court for this ward, which needed laying out and planting with flowers. This was a comment that the Commissioners had made on a previous occasion, which did not appear to have been acted upon. The Commissioners also felt, that objects of interest to Patient, were needed in this ward. Elsewhere in the buildings, there was a need for more bookcases, containing suitable reading material, and in some cases the linoleum and carpets, in the wards, also needed replacement. The Commissioners also expressed concern, about drugs not being kept in locked cupboards. There was also an issue of safety, in the laundry, where a guard was needed on the ironing stove, to prevent Patient working there from burning themselves.

The Commissioners now made comment about the excellent quality of the beds, and bedding, in Powick Mental Hospital, and they were pleased that, some of the wards had new floors. They also reported that, 37 Patient, had been secluded, on 46 occasions, for 69 hours, which was a considerable reduction in the use of seclusion of Patient, since the previous year. They were also quite satisfied, by the fact that Religious Services, in the Hospital's Chapel, had been attended by 51% of Patient, on Sundays. Half of the Patient had also attended weekly entertainments, and almost the same number went on walks outside the Asylum-Estate. It was also stated that, all deaths in the Worcester Mental Hospital, had been from natural causes, and that no Inquests had been held, in 1911. In 7.9% of cases, deaths were from GPI, 15% were caused by Senile Decay, but quite concerningly 25% of deaths were still from Phthisis. This, it was suggested, indicated that, it was essential to cease treating Phthisis, in the open wards. Instead, more verandas should be provided, for the open-air treatment of this ailment. Post mortem Examinations had been held in 85% of cases, which was approved of, and there were only 2.2% of deceased Patient suffering from bedsores, which was said to be an indication of a good standard of nursing.

Since the Commissioners last visited, there had been 2 cases of Erysipelas, 7 of Dysentery, and 2 cases of Enteric Fever.³⁷ However, the origins of these contagious diseases were all said to be unclear. Towards the end of 1911, one female Patient, and a nurse, contracted Typhoid Fever, from which both recovered. Then, 5 male Patient, and 3 females, contracted Colitis, an ailments thought indicative of infection, from either polluted water, or contaminated food . However, generally the health of the Powick Mental Hospital was considered good. There had been several cases of accidents, where bones had been fractured, and in one of these cases, a Patient broke her arm, when struggling with a nurse, who at an Inquiry, was exonerated of blame for this injury. Most Patient, who were injured, had been involved in accidents, The most serious accident of this type, was to a male Patient, who whilst out walking, threw himself in front of a motorcar. This man received serious fractures, to his shoulder-blade and collar-bone. Other individuals were injured by the violence of other Patient. It was also stated that, the staff of attendants and nurses, was adequate in number, and that the staff were also well experienced.

The chief cause of insanity, amongst Patient at Powick Mental Hospital, were Alcohol abuse 10.4%, Stress 10.4%, Heredity 9.8% and Epilepsy 3.1%. However, it was suggested by the Commissioners, that obtaining evidence, that an individual's insanity was due to heredity, was becoming more difficult, because family histories, were increasingly difficult to obtain. Of Patient admitted, during 1911, 30% had been Discharged Recovered, and a further 18% had died. During this year, there was one Inquest held, of an aged male Patient, whose death was attributed to medically proven natural causes. During this year, there had also been 9 attempted escapes, all of which were prevented by the swift actions of the Asylum's staff. However, one male Patient was absent from the Mental Hospital for about 20 hours, before he was returned of his own volition. Two married women, who were pregnant, were committed to the Mental Hospital, in 1911, and both had female offspring, but unfortunately both women were still Patient in the Institution after the birth of their babies..

In the Annual Report, on Powick Mental Hospital, for 1912, it was again stated that Dr. Braine-Hartnell, and his fellow Medical Staff, had continued to discharge their duties to the complete satisfaction of the Committee of Visitors. However, the Maintenance Costs for Patient, from the City and County of Worcester, had been reduced, on 1st September, to 8s. 2d. per Patient per week. Then, after several suggestions, from Lunacy Commissioners, in Reports following Inspections, in the past, the Asylum's Committee of Visitors had decided to spend £1,200, on building a veranda, near to the Female Infirmary, to provide open-air treatment for female Phthisis sufferers.

In 1912, there were 441 male Patient, and 537 females, a total of 978 Patient, in the Institution, which was a reduction of 25 Patient since last year. Whilst these figures did not include the 200 Powick Hospital Patient, still Boarded-Out at Barnsley Hall Hospital, but they did include 10 male, and 23 female Patient, from Hereford, and 77 Patient from Montgomery Asylum, along with 33 Patient from Birmingham, a total of 133 Contract

Patient in all. At the end of 1912, there were 47 Patient from Birmingham, whilst 18 Patient were transferred back from Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital to the Powick Institution.

The Lunacy Commissioners made their Inspection Visit to the Worcester Mental Hospital, on June 15th 1912, when they used the same approach as previously; so, they again met all Patient, thus allowing complaints to be made. There were no complaints forthcoming on this occasion. The Lunacy Commissioners again found the Powick Mental Hospital, in a very good condition, with the wards well kept, and containing objects that would interest and amuse Patient. The beds, and bedding, were meticulously clean, and the Patient were also clean and apparently well cared for. The Patient were all tidy, and well behaved. However, unfortunately, the Commissioners still felt that their comments about the state of the Female Ward No. 5 Airing-Court, had not been acted upon. However, Female Ward 5 itself, had been repainted. However, the Commissioners were still concerned, that the ironing stove, in the Laundry, was still not protected by a guard, so that it still posed a danger to those using it.

There were now 26 Private Patient, and 170 Out-of-County Patient, which was over 20% of the Institution's Patient population. This was thought, a substantial proportion of resident Patient, who were charged between 13s. 5d. and 14s. a week each, whilst 15s. to 20s. Was the charge for Private Patient, which was in excess of 6s. 6d. a week more than what was paid for ordinary local Worcestershire Patient. The Commissioners again saw a good dinner, of thick pea soup, with meat and bread, being served, whilst workers in the Asylum received a meal of roast beef and potatoes, followed by bread and cheese. Both of these meals were regarded as very satisfactory. The Commissioners were also informed that, 13 Patient had been secluded, on 16 occasions, for 14½ hours, which was again a substantial decrease on the modest figures of 1911. The level of Chapel Attendance, and the numbers of Patient availing themselves of the weekly entertainments, on offer, were similar to those in 1911, as were the numbers of Patient taken for walks outside the Asylum-Estate. The figure of 64% of Patient being gainfully employed, was also welcomed by the Commissioners. It was also clear that this employment figures, included 117 individuals employed on the farm, 38 and 55 female Patient employed in the Laundry. The Commissioners were also gratified that, the proportion of one attendant, or nurse, to every 10 Patient had almost been achieved. The figure was actually 1:10.2. The Commissioners were also gratified that, 73% of the attendants and nurses, had over 5 years' experience of working in the Mental Hospital, with only 14% employed for less than a year.

One female Patient, was committed to the Powick Mental Hospital, with a fractured arm, an injury received, before she arrived at the Asylum, and before she was examined to determine her mental state, and another female had a dislocated shoulder, when she was admitted to the Mental Hospital. Deaths in the Powick Mental Hospital were all from natural causes, in 1912. However, one female Patient, with a weak heart, had died of shock, when she badly bruised herself, when she fell out of bed. An Inquest was held in this case, which found that no blame was attached to the Asylum staff, for this occurrence. On this occasion, 25% of male deaths were from Phthisis, whilst the deaths from this ailment,

amongst female Patient, was only 9%. Thus, it was inevitable that this disparity, was because Patient on the female-side of the Institution, were housed in verandas, where they received open- air treatment, whilst the male Patient s were still distributed amongst several ordinary wards. No verandas had been provided to allow the open-air treatment of male Phthisis sufferers.

On this occasion, there were no bedsores on Patient, who had died, so again, it was suggested that this indicated the good quality of the , on offer in the Worcester Mental Hospital. A large number of Patient's deaths were due to ageing, to Senile Decay. However, the consensus was, that the health of Patient, at the Powick Institution, was generally good. Struggles between Patient had, caused some injuries, which was probably inevitable, but most such injuries were regarded as accidental, often because of falls. In 1912, 16.5% of Worcester Mental Hospital Patient, were suffering from Epilepsy, which was thought a very high incidence of this ailment, in this Mental Hospital, compared with other similar institutions. However, the fact that there was only 1 woman, and 4 men suffering from GPI, was considered a remarkably low incidence of this mental condition. The Commissioners were, again impressed with the quality of the Medical Records, kept at this Institution. Finally, it was recorded that, 25.4% of Patient had been Discharged Recovered, from the Powick Mental Hospital, with a Death Rate of 11.5% for male Patient, and 8.91% for female Patient.

In 1913, the Annual Report, on the Worcester Mental Hospital, reported that the Contract to Board-Out, Out-of-County Patient had been extended. However, Hereford were removing 10 of their Patient. As in previous years, Deputations of Poor Law Guardians, had visited Patient from their Poor Law Union, who were in the Powick Institution, and all had reported their satisfaction, with the manner of treatment of their Patient. The Maintenance Fee, for local Patient from Worcestershire, was now raised, from 8s. 2d. to 8s. 9d. on October 1st 1913. There were now 485 male Patient, and 579 females; a total of 1,064 Patient in the Institution, which was an increase of 86 Patient, compared with 1912. This figure included 23 Patient from Hereford, 81 from Montgomery and 80 from Birmingham, a total of 184 Contract Patient. This was 17.3% of the total Patient numbers in the Mental Hospital, a somewhat lower proportion, than in previous years. The Visiting Committee had, increased the rate of pay, and the amount of leave of absence, of the attendants and nurses, which the Visitors suggested would, inevitably lead to an increased Maintenance Fee being imposed, at some later date.

The Commissioners, from the Board of Control, had visited the Mental Hospital, on 8th July 1913, when they were pleased to note that a veranda, for Consumptive Patient, had been completed and was in use on the female-side of the Hospital. [39](#) It was then reported that an additional veranda was being considered, by the Committee of Visitors, next to Female Infirmary dormitory No. 12. The Commissioners reported that there were, 26 Private Patient, 13 of each gender, in the Worcester Mental Hospital. They then stated that the Asylum 'throughout was maintained in excellent order', with the wards 'bright and attractive'. They found the dormitories, equally well kept, with the beds, and bedlinen,

'leaving nothing to desire'. The Patient were still well cared for, in appearance, tidy in their dress, and very quiet and orderly in their behaviour. There was also a complete absence of noise and excitement. This was an exemplary report. There were no complaints made to the Commissioners, who received several comments from the Patient, about the kindness of the Medical Staff, towards them. Again, there was criticism of the absence of lockable cupboard, for drugs, and other potentially harmful substances. The dinner that the Commissioners saw being served, on this occasion, was of boiled bacon, with haricot-beans, with bread. This meal was considered ample in amount, and it was 'neatly served'. It was also clearly enjoyed by the Patient. The Commissioners were also satisfied with the Church attendance, on Sundays, and with the numbers of Patient attending weekly-entertainment, and taking walks. All these figures were in line with those in previous Reports. The Commissioners were again impressed with 65% of Patient being gainfully employed.

They were also pleased that the attendants and nurses employed were in reasonable numbers; 1:11.4, compared with the Commissioners' expectation of 1 staff member to every 10 Patient. These staff were also considered to be well experienced, with 73% of attendants, and 40% of nurses, having been employed in the Asylum, for over 5 years; with just 6% of the former, and 30% of the latter groups, employed in the Institution for less than a year. It was also reported that, there had been one escape, during 1913, of a female Patient, who had escaped from the kitchen, where she was employed. However, she was recaptured 45 minutes later, when she voluntarily returned to the Mental Hospital.

The percentage of Epileptics, in the Powick Mental Hospital was 13.7%, which was a figure similar to that in the past, although the Commissioners saw it as higher, than in most other comparable Institutions. With one exception, all deaths, in the Powick Institution, in 1913, were from natural causes. The exception was, a male Patient, who had died from GPI, who an Inquest found 'unintentionally choked himself, on a piece of dry bread, which he had purloined from the pantry, in his ward'. Although a tracheotomy had been performed, this was to no avail, and the man died. However, there were Inquests on two other male Patient, one of whom had died of a Fatty Degeneration of his Heart. He died of shock, due to a thigh bone being fractured, in a fall. Another man with GPI, was found, at Post mortem, to have 2 fractured ribs, for which there was no explanation. In both of these cases, the verdict reached was that these deaths were, in line with the Medical Evidence presented, and the staff of the Asylum were exonerated from any blame.

Other Patient had injured themselves, so that one woman had dislocated a finger, another had burned her arm quite badly, and a third woman's finger had been accidentally crushed in a door, that slammed shut. There were 8 fractured bones, including a fractured skull, caused in an accidental fall, but in 3 other cases injuries were caused by the violence of other Patient. Cases of epidemic, and infectious diseases, were also reported, including 4 cases of Typhoid Fever, all in male Patient, and all in the same ward, which it was assumed were caused, by something these men had eaten. There was also one case of Diphtheria, in an attendant, who it was assumed had contracted this ailment outside the Institution. There was also a single case of Erysipelas, in a female inmate. The Commissioners also found

12 men, and 9 women Patient, confined to bed, although none of these Patient were regarded as seriously ill. There had also been 8 cases of Colitis, and 2 cases of Erysipelas, but the Commissioners stated that 'on the whole the Patient today, looked remarkably well nourished and healthy'. They also commented that, although the Admissions and Discharges Register, and the Case Books, were generally well kept, there had been one 'important omission', which had impaired the value of one entry.

In his Report, Dr. Braine-Hartnell, drew attention to the continuing difficulty, he found in recruiting suitable individuals, to work in the Powick Institution. However, he was of the opinion, that the fact that the wages of attendants, and nurses, had been raised, and they had gained increased leave of absence, available to them, which had resulted in a letter being sent to the Committee of Visitors, thanking them for agreeing to these changes. Thus, the condition for attendants and nurses were improving. There were now 200 staff, 111 male and 89 females employed in the Worcester Mental Hospital, in 1913. The Medical Superintendent also reported, with concern that the reservoir had sprung a serious leak, which was dealt with by Messrs. Vale and Sons.

CHAPTER 4.

Powick Mental Hospital During the Great War and its Aftermath.

The Great War started on 28th July 1914, although unrest about the actions of Germany had existed for some time before this. Initially the armed forces relied on volunteers, but the number of men coming forward was insufficient. Thus, Earl Kitchener, who was Secretary of State for War, in Herbert Asquith's Government, in August 1914, and he then retained his post in the 1915 Coalition Government, in May 1915, still under Asquith. He then introduced Conscription into the armed forces, in January 1916, [40](#) and it was only now that a sufficient number of men were forced to fight in the Great War. This Act imposed conscription on all single men aged between 18 and 41, and subsequently, it extended to include married men up to the age of 50 years. It exempted medically unfit, clergymen, teachers and certain classes of industrial workers; those said to be in 'reserved occupations. It was then estimated that 1,542 men; that was about 47% of the war-time army were conscripts in a British Army that eventually numbered almost 3,100,000 men. A further 748,587 men appealed against their conscription on the grounds of the necessity of their work or because of anti-war objections. This meant that men between the ages of 18 and 51 could be conscripted into the armed forces who were working in Mental Hospitals, including men who were doctors employed in these Hospitals. The implications for men of this age employed at Powick Mental Hospital was obvious – they were removed from their posts in the Mental Hospital and conscripted into the armed forces. The places that these men had occupied were filled, where this was possible, but there was still a shortfall of appointees, leaving gaps in the Mental Hospitals workforce. Ironically, some women employed as nurses in Military Hospitals found other employment, undertaking work they

perceived as being more important in the war effort. Posts vacated by these women proved very difficult to fill. There was potential chaos in many Mental Hospitals caused by this situation.

This was certainly the situation at Powick Mental Hospital, where George Braine-Hartnell lost several Assistant Medical Officers (AMO's) who were conscripted. In 1918 he even lost Dr. Henry Felix Fenton, the Assistant Medical Superintendent who was conscripted into the Royal Medical Corps. He returned to his post at the Worcester Mental Hospital after about 16 months. In some ways the situation of Mental Hospitals because of the actions of two men who were well known to the Powick Institution; Edward Marriott Cooke, who had previously been Medical Superintendent at the Powick Mental Hospital, and C. Hubert Bond, another doctor involved in psychiatric medicine, whose father had been the Anglican Chaplain at the Powick Institution. [41](#) In 1915, these two Lunacy Commissioners suggested the creation 'Asylum War Hospitals'. Then, in some cases military casualties were sent to what had been Pauper Lunatic Asylums, where they were treated for their injuries. However, when this began to happen, there was a public outcry from some people, about putting war heroes into institutions intended for the pauperised insane. Thus, some former lunatic asylums were closed, and immediately reopened as Military Hospitals. This was the case at Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham and the author of this book's grandfather was sent there when he was injured during the 2nd Battle of the Somme in 1916. The author's mother was taken to see her father there when she was just 5 years old, and for the rest of her life she was sure her father had been swathed in bandages like a mummy. In fact, he had virtually been disembowelled by a shell at the first Battle of the Somme in 1916. He was then 42 years old, and he survived until 1970, when he died, realistically of war injuries inflicted 54 years previously. Powick Mental Hospitals accepted a number of War casualties.[42](#) This chapter attempts to explore the situation in Powick Mental Hospital between 1914 and 1921; a period of investigation that is extended by 3 years, because after the end of the Great War Powick Mental still contained what were termed 'Service Patient', who were men with psychological damage that needed treatment long after the Great War was over. Some of these men remained in the Asylum into the 1940s, with their fees, as Private Patient paid by the Government.

PATIENT NUMBERS IN
MENTAL HOSPITAL, WORCESTER
1914 TO 1920.

Date.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1914	479	589	1,068
1915	509	624	1,133
1916	602	725	1,327
1917	575	687	1,262
1918	467	620	1,087

1919	354	493	847
1920	386	434	920

1914.

In 1914 the Committee of Visitors were pleased that Drs Braine Hartnell and Fenton had been able to continue their duties, which they had done to the Committees entire satisfaction. However, the positions of 2nd and 3rd Assistant Medical Officers (AMO's) had been left vacant when the incumbents of these posts were called to the Front. The Great War had begun and filling medical posts in Mental Hospitals became more and more acutely problematical, because of the demand for Medical Men on the Battlefield. In this circumstance, the Mental Hospitals began to appoint Locum Tenens. [43](#) However, Dr. Braine-Hartnell found that his duties had been altered by the 1913 Mental Deficiency Act. [44](#) Also, at this time the Board of control of Lunacy and Mental Deficiency demanded that the Powick Mental Institution should take an additional 218 Patient (100 males and 118 females), so that the Rubery Hill Mental Hospital in Birmingham [45](#) could be vacated and turned into accommodation for wounded soldiers. This led the Powick Mental Hospital to convert some dayrooms and dormitories, on both sides of the Worcester Institution's building to accommodate additional Patient of both genders. Inevitably this led to increased expenditure on bedding, expenses that were met by the War Office, who had demanded these changes.

As before the War, Boards of Guardians still regularly visited the Mental Hospital to ensure that the Patient in the Hospital from their Poor Law Union were being well treated. From 1st April 1914 the Maintenance Charge for Worcestershire Patient was 9s. 11d per person per week. Annual Inspection visits by Commissioners from the Board of Control also continued on 14th May 1914. There were then 479 male Patient and 579 females, a total of 1,0684 Patient. Thirteen of these Patient were from Hereford, 79 from Montgomery and 78 from Birmingham. Thus, there were 180 Contract Patients in Powick Mental Hospital at this time. The Lunacy Commissioners saw all Patient in residence in the Asylum, which allowed Patients to voice any grievances they had about the manner of their treatment. There were no complaints made on this occasion. In fact the Patients suggested that they had been 'kindly and considerately treated'. There were 10 male and 23 female Private Patient, 33 in number, but there were also 3 Criminal Lunatics. There were 91 men and 81 women who were from outside the County.

1915.

In 1915, during the second year of the Great War, there were still insufficient volunteers coming forward to join the armed forces, so that Earl Kitchener was appointed as Secretary of State for War, in 1914, [47](#) earnestly attempted to encourage recruitment. However, he still failed to enlist sufficient men to join the armed forces. In spite of this, the Powick Mental Hospital still had locum tenens in one AMO's post and the third AMO's post was vacant. By this stage the Board of Control had demanded that the Powick Mental Hospital accept 50 Patients (25 of each gender) from the Northampton County Mental Hospital, which had been requisitioned as a Military Hospital. The Committee of Visitors also

renewed their agreement with Hereford, Birmingham and Montgomery to agree to Board Contract Patient out at Powick Mental Hospital. The Montgomery Contract Patients were now charged 14s. 7d per week per patient. Meanwhile, the charge for Worcestershire local Patients was still 9s. 11d. More Delegations of Poor Law Guardians visited the Asylum to confirm that their Patients in the Mental Hospital were being appropriately treated, which they all did.

The Commissioners from the Board of Control of Insanity and Mental Deficiency visited the Powick Institution on 9th December 1915. They inspected the Institution, and they were again satisfied by what they saw. There were now 509 male Patients and 624 females, so that the Powick Hospital now had a total of 1,133 Patients. Amongst these Patient were 13 from Hereford, 79 from Montgomery and 78 from Birmingham, a total of 170 Contract Patients. There were also 12 male and 10 female Private Patients (Total 22 Patient). In all there were 407 Out-of-County Patients resident in the Worcester Mental Hospital. One male Patient had escaped and he was not recaptured within the Statutory Period, which meant that he was Discharged Relieved. . The Commissioners again saw all of the Patient in the Asylum, who were free to talk to them. Beyond complaints about a failure to be discharged from the Institution there were no complaints about treatment. All male and female Patient were tidy in their dress, and they were quiet and orderly. The Commissioners also described the health of Patient as good. Only 3.3% of Patient were confined to bed during this Inspection Visit, although few Patient were seriously ill. The Commissioners were also pleased to see the new veranda near to the Female Infirmary, where there were 5 Patient suffering from Tuberculosis.

Many of the Patient who had been transferred from Rubery Hill and Berrywood (Northampton) Mental Hospitals had been accommodated in the same two Annexes, one on each side of the Hospital, where day rooms and dormitories had been made into combined ward-dormitories. 48 In these rooms there were many beds made up on the floor. In this area the Commissioners were concerned at the lack of reading material and other facilities to occupy the Patient. The beds and bedding throughout the Hospital was of good quality. The Inspectors also saw a good dinner being served that was much appreciated by the Patient consuming it. However, there was some concern that epileptic Patient; 15% of the Patients resident at Powick Mental Hospital, were housed in 5 male wards, and 6 female wards It was also reported that 19 Patient had been secluded on 64 occasions, for 99½ hours, but there was no comment made about these facts. All but two of the deaths in 1915 were from natural causes, with one woman dying from a fractured femur sustained before she arrived in the Mental Hospital, whilst a male Patient sustained a self-inflicted knife wound to his throat six days before he was committed to the Asylum. These deaths were investigated in an Inquest, but there were two other such inquiries, both on deaths from Cardiac Disease. There had been 10 male and 12 female Patients, along with three nurses, with Dysentery, which was thought unfortunate because the incidence of this medical condition had recently been in decline. Only two non-fatal injuries in 1915 were not caused by accidents. Violence by one patient on another were the cause of two such injuries. The numbers of Patient at Powick Mental Hospital who were employed in useful work was thought very satisfactory, as were attendances at church services and at weekly

entertainment. 39% of Patient were also taken for walks outside the Mental Hospital's Estate.

Twenty-three male staff; 19 of whom were attendants had joined the armed forces, whilst another 17 attendants had been temporarily engaged in war work. However, 11 men had applied to Lord Derby's Scheme, [49](#) so that they could be retained working in the Hospital. This meant that there were only 3 men still employed in Powick Asylum who might still be eligible for military service. Thus, it was hoped, that although the depletion of the male workforce of the Mental Hospital was great, that this process was now at an end. However, the 3rd AMO, who had joined the Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC), was later killed in action, whilst serving in the Dardanelles. The gaps left by the two AMO's who left to join the RAMC were filled by a woman doctor called Miss E Bloomgart [50](#) and by a locum. There were now 194 Contract Patients from Birmingham and 49 Patients from Northampton. Whose presence was caused by the closure of two Mental Hospitals that had reopened as Military Hospitals. The Recovery Rate for 1915 was 38.86% for males, 42.85% for females, a combined figure of 40.9%. The Death Rate for this same period was 10.23% for males, but only 5.8% for females, a combined figure of 7.9%. The causes of death were 45.3% Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis), 21.4% heart disease, 19.1% Senile Decay, 7.1% Epilepsy and 7.1% Pneumonia. 89.8% of these deaths resulted in a post-mortem examination.

There were 10 male and 14 female Private Patients in the Asylum (Total 24 Patients). However some such Patient were moved from the Private to the Pauper Class, and one patient was discharged. There were 3 male Criminal Lunatics at the end of the year, a reduction of three. However, in a very unusual case, a male patient had been prosecuted for a murderous attack on George Braine-Hartnell's son, a crime for which the perpetrator was tried, although he was found guilty, but insane. At this juncture this guilty man appealed against his sentence. However, because he was insane his was not a criminal conviction, so he could not appeal.

One patient had been injured by the violence of a fellow inmate, when a rib had been broken. Otherwise, there were 9 other injuries all caused by accidents. There were 22 cases of Colitis, infecting 7 male and 14 female Patients, plus one nurse and one of these Patients died. There was also one case of Typhoid Fever. Influenza had attacked a considerable number of Patient and staff during the winter. There were two inquests held during the year, two of them of Patients who died of conditions they had when they entered the Mental Hospital. One man had died because of a fractured leg, whilst another Patient's death was unexplained.

The problem of getting Medical Officers to work in Mental Hospitals continued, so the use of locums continued. Several doctors who had been acting as AMO's resigned, including Miss Bloomgart who had been in post for about 4 months. [51](#) Dr George Braine-Hartnell again thanked Dr. Henry Fenton the Deputy Medical Superintendent for his loyal assistance in a situation where the wards were overcrowded, and the staff, both male and female, were well below the standards of ordinary times. This Dr. Braine-Hartnell felt placed added pressure on the attendants and nurses, who were 'handicapped with so many temporary

assistants, unaccustomed to the work'. The cost of maintenance was raised to 9s. 11d per patient per week for Patients from Worcestershire. Delegations of Guardians from Poor Law Unions with Patients in the Powick Asylum again visited their Patients, and again they were complimentary about the manner of their Patient's treatment.

1916.

In January 1916. Earl Kitchener, who was still Secretary of State for War, introduced the Military Service Act, [52](#) which made compulsory Conscription into the Armed Services for men between the age of 18 and 51 years old. [53](#) This may have increased pressure on the male staff of Mental Hospitals to enlist in the armed forces. However, Lord Derby's Scheme, which was mentioned earlier, to some extent meant that this did not happen, and it appeared that just 11 men, who were employed as attendants at the Powick Mental Hospital, were exempted in this way in 1916.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell again expressed his appreciation for the manner in which the Officers and other members of the Mental Hospital Staff had carried out their duties, in what the Medical Superintendent described as a 'trying year'. In October, the Visiting Committee of the Mental Hospital had raised the Maintenance Fees for the Hospital to 11s. 8d. per patient per week. The number of Patients in the Hospital had risen again, by 94 Patients. There were now 602 male Patient and 725 females: a total number of 1,327. The Commissioners from the Board of Control on Lunacy made their Annual Inspection Visit on 12th May 1916. As was customary they saw all patient's resident in the Asylum, with the intention of allowing Patient to make comments to the Commissioners about the treatment experienced in the Institution. At this time there were 386 Patient from outside Worcestershire, who were Contract Patients in the Institution. Thirteen of these Patients were from Hereford, 76 from Montgomery, 253 from Birmingham (including 173 transferred from the Rubery Hill Mental Hospital) and 44 from the Northampton County Mental Hospital. The Patients, from these last two Mental Hospitals, which had been closed and converted into Military Hospitals for the duration of the War. Inevitably over 250 additional s caused considerable overcrowding in the Powick Institution, and this added to the pressure on the Medical Staff, the attendants and nurses employed at the Hospital. Whilst the Commissioners were aware of these facts, and they were also aware of increased difficulties in Administrating the Institution, they reported very favourably on the conditions they found at the Asylum. They found all parts of the building were well maintained, with no diminution of the amenities available to Patients.

The commissioners were also certain the overcrowding of the Mental Hospital had done nothing to adversely affect the health of Patients in the Institution. There were still a comparatively small number of Patients who were bed-ridden, and none of these were seriously ill. One woman had died of Erysipelas, whilst one man was in bed recovering from Typhoid Fever. All but one of the 56 deaths recorded was not from a natural cause. The exception was a man who fractured his leg, during an Epileptic Fit, which led to an Inquest being held. However, worryingly 25% of the recorded deaths were from Phthisis. Whilst on the female side Patients with Phthisis were treated in a veranda, the male Patient with this ailment were still treated in open wards, which was again regretted by the Commissioners.

There had also been just 4 non-fatal casualties, most of which were attributed to accidents, rather than to violence from other Patient. The exception was a dislocated shoulder, caused in a patient struggling with a fellow patient. Thirty per cent of male Patients, and 33.8% of females had been Discharged Recovered in 1916, that was 31.9% of the total. The causes of death indicated that of 99 deaths, 33.0% were from Phthisis, 47.5.% from heart disease, 14.1% from Epilepsy, and 5.6% from Senile Decay. 72.9% of these cases had been given Post-mortem Examinations to confirm their cause of death. There had been 5 cases of Colitis and two of Enteric Fever, one of these cases proved fatal. There had also been two cases of Measles and an outbreak of Influenza had infected many Patient and staff. Indeed, Dr. Berry, one of the locums had died from Pneumonia following infection with Influenza.

Comment was also made about the quality of the food served to Patient, when it was stated that the Commissioners saw a meal of boiled bacon, with potatoes and bread, which was 'much appreciated' by the Patient. Nineteen Patient, 10 males and 9 females had been transferred to Powick Mental Hospital from the Winson Green Institution, in Birmingham, although it was unclear why this transfer had occurred. At the beginning of 1916 there were 9 male Private Patients and 10 females, a total of 19 Patients. New Private Patients had been transferred to Rampton Criminal Lunatic Asylum in Nottinghamshire. ⁵⁴ There were two other male Criminal Lunatics in the Asylum, who were regarded as Private Patients when it came to the fees they paid. There had been 9 escapes, a higher number than normal, but all escapees were recaptured in a very short time.

George Braine-Hartnell concluded his remarks by bemoaning the 'difficulties of obtaining reliable nurses and attendants', problems that had been exacerbated by the War. In spite of this Delegations of Poor Law Guardians, who visited the insane Patient placed in Powick Mental Hospital by their Poor Law Unions continued to visit the Mental Hospital, and they continued to report favourably on their Patient they saw.

1917.

In 1917, Dr. Braine-Hartnell, must have been frustrated when his Assistant Medical Superintendent, Dr. Henry Fenton, was apparently forced, in June 1917, to join the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). However, the Powick Visiting Committee were assured that their assistant Superintendent would return to his post, which was left available to him on his return from India, where he was sent. This obviously added pressure on Dr. Braine-Hartnell as Medical Superintendent. However, he coped with the assistance of Dr. Romer, an AMO and several locums.

On 1st July 1917 the Rate of Maintenance was increased to 14s. per patient per week for Worcestershire Patients. The rate for Out-of-County Patients was now only about 1s. per week more than this amount. Private Patients were charged 16s per week, but it was then announced that newly arrived Private Patients would be charged 21s. per week. One new issue that arose at this time was that there were 5 'Service Patients' in the Mental Hospital, who were injured soldiers thought sufficiently damaged mentally to be admitted to a Mental Hospital, rather than a Military Hospital. These Patient were paid for by the Military Authorities at the Private Patients Rate of Maintenance. In 1917, there were two male and

two female Criminal Lunatics in the Mental Hospital. There were 8 cases of fractures amongst the Patients and one dislocated shoulder, with most of these injuries accidental, whilst one was an injury inflicted by the violence of another patient. Four Patients had escaped, although all were quickly apprehended and brought back to the Asylum. One female patient had hanged herself in a roller towel in the lavatory of her ward. At the subsequent inquest this woman was said to have killed herself whilst insane, but there was no previous indication that this patient had suicidal tendencies. It was also determined that there was no blame attached to the Asylum for this death. Fortunately, there were no cases of Dysentery at this time, although there were 19 cases of Colitis, 16 in Patient and 3 in staff members

The Commissioners of the Board of Control inspected the Asylum on 23rd. November 1917, when they again attempted to see every Patient, so that the Patients could pass personal comment on the way they were treated in the Mental Hospital. The Inspectors again found the wards and dormitories in the Hospital were maintained in excellent order. They were particularly impressed with the plants, cages of birds, pictures and other objects of interest in the wards. They found the beds and bedding to be clean and of good quality. However, at this time Female Ward No. 1 was temporarily closed so that a new pitch-pine floor could be re-laid. This repair had clearly caused some overcrowding when Patient were reallocated to other wards. However, the transfer of Patients from Rubery Hill Mental Hospital, Birmingham and from the Northampton County Asylum had also meant the reorganisation of some wards to accommodate additional Patients, which meant that the Powick Mental Hospital were quite used to making changes to accommodate additional Patient. Alterations to three existing dormitories and a dayroom on the male side of the Asylum, and of two dormitories on the female-side of the Institution had created additional places in the Hospital, although there were many mattresses placed on the floors of these new rooms, to avoid the cost of providing new beds.

In 1917, there had been a slight decrease in the numbers of Patients in they Powick Mental Hospital. There were now 575 male Patients and 687 females, a total of 1,262 Patient. This number included 13 Contract Patients from Hereford, 69, from Montgomery, 249 from Birmingham and 37 from Northampton, a total of 365 such Patients. In the year, 30 male Patients and 44 females (total 74 Patients) had been discharged, of whom 24 males and 32 females (total 56 Patient) had been discharged Recovered. However, 162 men and 137 women (total 299 Patients) had died. This meant that the Death Rate amongst male Patients had been particularly high, at 28.5%. A comparable figure for female Patient was 19.7%. It was this that had reduced the overall population of the Worcester Mental Hospital between 1916 and 1917.

The Commissioners again expressed concern, that four male children were accommodated in an Adult female ward, something that the Inspectors found unacceptable. 55 They also received complaints about the sufficiency of food in the Asylum, something was undoubtedly exacerbated by reg Bread Rationing enforced during the War. However, the Asylum Authorities had added potatoes to the diet in lieu of bread. They also believed that

the meal they had seen served during their visit consisting of corned beef with potatoes and carrots was more than satisfactory. It was then stated that every effort was being made to comply with the food restrictions laid down by the Food Controller. Thus, no flour was consumed, except in bread, where a 93% of the 'flour' used was powdered potato. Male adult Patients were allowed 5lb. 11oz. of this bread per week, Patients in the Male Annexe, 4lb. 13oz., Female Patients were allowed 2lb. 3oz., with women Patients in the Annexe allowed 3lb. 3oz. of this bread. Sugar was also severely rationed with Patients allowed 5 1/2oz. to 6 oz. per week, and the staff 8oz.

They also considered the dress and demeanour of the Patient was appropriate. They found the Mental Hospital generally quiet and orderly, although they were concerned about Female Ward No. 2, which they found noisy and excited, for a reason that was not clear. There were 48 males and 38 females confined to bed, which was a larger number than usual, although there was no indication that most of these Patients were seriously ill. They were extremely pleased with the excellent veranda that had been constructed and opened by the Female Infirmary Ward, which housed Patients with Phthisis, but they then complained that there was no similar facility for male Patient. They were insistent that the great incidence of Phthisis in the Powick Mental Hospital, meant that open-air treatment of Tubercular Diseases should be prioritised. They also had some concern that 12.5% of Patient suffered from epilepsy, which was thought a large number than expected. However, it was the way that these infected Patient were spread over 4 or 5 wards, on each side of the Institution that really worried them. The Commissioners were more sanguine about the fact that only 2.2% of the Patient were thought potentially suicidal. They also noted that 44 Patient had been secluded on 135 occasions, for 321 hours. However, a great divergence in the use of seclusion, as a control measure, we never commented on.

The chief cause of death in 1917 were Heart Disease (32.4%) and Phthisis (30.1%, whilst the General Paralysis of Insanity (GPI) caused 3% of deaths, and Senile Decay caused 9.7% of deaths. During the year there had been 2 Inquests; one for a man who died of Senile Decay, who had accidentally fractured his thigh 9 months before he died. The Jury found that this fracture was irrelevant to this man's death. The second Inquest related to the death of a woman who had strangled herself. The Inquest found that the circumstances of this case had been reported to the Board of Visitors, but there had been no previous evidence that this woman would commit suicide. There had been one case of Measles and one of Scarlet Fever. However., more worryingly there had been 17 cases of Dysentery and one of Enteric Fever, but there had been no more cases of these potentially water-borne diseases since July.

The Commissioners also expressed some concern about the availability of newspapers and other literature in some wards. This was adequate in some places, but apparently not available in some other areas of the Asylum. The problem was worst in the newly converted accommodation, where the Commissioners were concerned that some Patient appeared to be 'entirely unoccupied'. The Commissioner were clearly very aware of the problems of running a Mental Hospital in War Time, relating particularly to the great difficulties in

obtaining sufficient suitable staff, particularly nurses. At the time of the 1917 Inspection there was 1 attendant to every 13 Patient, and one nurse to every 19 Patient. These were figures that would have been totally unacceptable in the pre-War period.

On July 1st, 1917, the Maintenance Fee, for Worcestershire Patient was raised to 14s. per patient per week, from 12s. 10d. Delegations of Poor Law Guardians with Patient in the Asylum again made regular visits to the Mental Hospital and they again made clear their satisfaction with the way their Patient were managed.

1918.

By 1918 there had been one or two changes in the Medical Staff. The end of the War was expected, and it was hoped that Dr. Henry Fenton, the first AMO and Assistant Medical Superintendent, who George Braine-Hartnell had obviously missed would soon return to his post at Powick Mental Hospital. Indeed, the Visiting Committee expressed the hope that Dr. Braine-Hartnell would feel some relief from 'some of the work that had fallen on him during the last 4½ years. They hoped that the Institution could return to normality.

In 1918 there were still Contract Patient from Birmingham, Montgomery and Hereford, who were charged 18s. 1d. per head per week Maintenance Fees for their treatment at the Worcester Mental Hospital. The cost of Maintenance for ordinary Patients from Worcestershire was raised from 14s. to 15s. 2d. in April 1918. As in previous years Delegations of Guardians from Poor Law Unions with patient at the Powick Institution visited the Asylum, and all were still satisfied with the treatment that their Patients were receiving. There were now 467 male Patients and 620 females, a total Institutional population of 1,087: a slight reduction of 75 Patient since the previous year. There were then 13 Contract Patient from Hereford, 54 from Montgomery, 176 from Birmingham and 22 from Northamptonshire, a total of 267 such Patients. It was now expected that Rubery Hill Military Hospital and the similar institution at Berryhill, Northampton would return to being Mental Hospitals.

Only one Lunacy Commissioner, from Board of Control, visited Powick Mental Hospital on December 11th and 12th and his Report was included in the Annual Report. Initially the Commissioners pointed out that 144 Patients had been discharged and 378 Patients had died since the Powick Institution was last visited. Thus 522 Patients had left the Worcester Mental Hospital, and only 156 new Patients had been admitted, thus the Commissioner also welcomed the fall in the Patient population of the Worcester Mental Hospital. As in previous Inspection Visits, the aim of the Commissioner was to meet all Patient, so as to give all Patients the opportunity of verbally complaining. There were complaints on this occasion, from the Male Side of the Institution, about the diet and the absence of tobacco. However, the Patients generally were quiet and orderly, and they were well and tidily dressed. Generally, the Patient were complimentary about the kindness with which they were treated. The Commissioner also looked at the dayrooms, dormitories, and the annexes on both side of the Asylum. However, probably inevitably, he found the large dayrooms in the Annexes that had been enlarged to accommodate addition Patients felt 'too cold'.

The Commissioner now commented that the health of the Patient in the Powick Institution had not really been satisfactory. This he felt was because until August last, some 5 months previously Patients had lost weight, in both males and females, However the Patient's diet had now improved, but whilst male Patient put on weight, female Patient were not improving as well. The Commissioner had discussed this situation with Dr. Braine-Hartnell, who had suggested that he would attempt to further improve matters. Given what we know about the incidence of 'Spanish Flu' in 1918 ⁵⁶ it was no surprise that 22 attendants, 20 nurses, 95 male Patients and 81 female Patients had suffered from Influenza, a total of 288 individuals in the Powick Mental Hospital. Eight male and 5 female Patients had died of this ailment, but the Commissioner was pleased that no staff members had died. One attendant, one nurses, and two female Patient had suffered from Enteric Fever. Again, the Commissioner had discussed with the Medical Superintendent some issues relating to Patients who were treated for illnesses within the institution. The Commissioners suggested that there could be some improvement in the personal cleanliness of Patient, but also in relation to the way that foul-clothing was dealt with in the laundry.

There had been 378 deaths in the Worcester Mental Hospital in 1918, 195 males and 183 female Patients, with the Death-Rate considered very high. The Death Rate for males was 28.5%, and for females 25.3% (overall 29.8%). This compared with 28.5% for males and 18.0% for female Patients, overall 22.7% a year earlier. However, what really concerned the Commissioner was that in 174 cases, 85 males and 89 females, which was 46% of the deaths recorded, the cause was Phthisis. Heart Disease caused 22% of deaths and Senile Decay just 10%. The Commissioners concern about Phthisis was increased by the fact that 15 male and 15 female Patients were simply being treated in bed for Phthisis, with such cases spread all over the hospital buildings. There were Phthisis cases in 7 male wards and in 5 female wards. Thus, it was clearly the case that this situation was spreading the disease. The Commissioners suggested that in future it would be better if Phthisis Patients were congregated together in one ward on the male side, and one on the female side of the Institution. In fact, the Commissioner believed that this situation had arisen because of staff shortages during the War, so that it had been impossible to properly utilise the isolation hospital. Another problem at this time was with Dysentery. There were 14 Patients attacked by this ailment in 1918, and it caused 2 deaths. However, 10 of the Patients infected, were living in the same Annexe. When these cases were treated, the problem abated, although it was clearly the case that there was faulty hygiene present in the Annexe that had been badly affected by this Disease.

There were 51 attendants and 42 nurses employed in 1918 in the Worcester Mental Hospital. However, 22 of the attendants and 2 of the nurses were temporary appointments, which was not a satisfactory situation. However, the number of nurses was worryingly low, because it had proved extremely difficult in Wartime to obtain suitable candidates for nursing posts. This had led George Braine-Hartnell, as Medical Superintendent to spend much of his time undertaking clerical duties, to resolve the staff shortages, rather than undertaking medical work or in ward supervision. The Commissioner recognised that the Medical Superintendent had been through arduous and anxious time, and he hoped that in

the near future the Asylum's old staff would return, which would end most of these difficulties.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell now made some comment on the state of his Mental Hospital. He was quite clearly pleased that the Patient Numbers in Powick Mental Hospital had dropped by 202, 100 male Patient and 102 females, so that overcrowding was, indeed, a thing of the past. He was also pleased that the Discharged Recovered Rate was 29.26% for males and 29.26% for females (overall 28%, which he believed was good compared with many other Mental Institutions. The Death Rates were 39.11% for males and 27.86% for female Patients (Overall 32.58%). Of the 251 deaths recorded, 63% were from Phthisis, which was distinctly worrying; which was a situation that the Medical Superintendent clearly agreed with the Lunacy Commissioner about. Twenty-five per cent of other deaths were from Heart Disease.

Unusually, there were just two accidents during the year involving Patients. One woman patient slipped and fractured her hip, whilst another woman taking tea to the ward and scalded her face and hands. There had been 4 cases of Typhoid Fever in the Mental Hospital in 1918, two in Patient, one in an attendant and one in a nurse. However, all infected individuals recovered. George Braine-Hartnell confirmed that Influenza had been extremely prevalent during the year. He also reported that there had been 11 cases of Colitis, 6 in male Patient and 5 in females, and 2 women had died of this disease. The Medical Superintendent also mentioned cases of Phthisis, offering an explanation for its prevalence, by explaining that this disease was attributable to overcrowding in the early days of the War, and to a reduction in the dietary. He then claimed that 'the seeds were then sown, and we are now reaping the harvest'. He claimed that since the dietary had been increased the health and weight of the Patient in his Institution had improved.

At this time, there were 20 males and 13 Private Patient in the Institution, but this number was to increase during the year to 36 (24 males and 12 females. There was one male and one female Criminal Lunatic, both of whom counted as Private Patient, because the Prison Authorities paid the same fees as did Private Patient.

By the end of 1918 several of the attendants who had joined the armed forces had been demobilised and they returned to their work at the Mental Hospital. Unfortunately, some men had been killed during the War. [57](#) Then Dr. Braine-Hartnell thanked the staff who had remained at the Mental Hospital during the War 'for the way they kept things going during the most trying and arduous times we have ever experienced'.

1919.

Dr. Braine-Hartnell, at this time, had been in the service of the Mental Hospital, for 36 years; for 22 years of which he had held the post of Medical Superintendent. Retired from his Office. He intended to retire on 4th June next. His Pension was to be £785 11s. 10d. [58](#) At this juncture the Committee of Visitors appointed Dr. Henry Felix Fenton as Medical Superintendent in Dr. Braine-Hartnell's stead. Dr. H T Jones, from Hereford County and City Mental Hospital was appointed as Senior AMO and Deputy Medical Superintendent.

The Committee of Visitors did make the point that the increased expenditure due to the War meant that they had to increase the Maintenance Fee for Patient in the Asylum. They charged local Patients from Worcestershire 1s. 9d. a week more, that was a total fee of 16s, 11d. a week from 1st April 1919. The Rate for Contract Patients and for Private Patients at this time was 17s. 6d. for Patient already at the Asylum, but it would be 21s., from that date for Patient in these categories coming new to the Institution. Essentially, the differential between local County Patient and those from outside the County, and Private Patient, had become much less than they had been. Thus, it would now be more difficult to make a large profit out of such Patients. In October, the Maintenance Fee for Patients from Worcestershire was raised to 28s per patient per week, an increase that was caused by additional wages paid to the attendant and nursing staff, together with the reduced hours staff now worked. This led to a comment from the Committee of Visitors that they 'must look forward to the cost again being increased.

In 1919 there were 354 male Patients, and 493 females, a total Asylum Population of 847, which was a reduction of 240 Patient, something that was undoubtedly welcomed by an Institution that for so long had been plagued by problems of overcrowding. The number of Contract Patients in the Worcester Mental Hospital was now 13 from Hereford, 51 from Montgomery, 154 from Birmingham and 20 from Northampton, a total of 238 Patients, a reduction of 19 Patient, due mainly to a reduction in Patients from Birmingham.

The Committee of Visitors of the Mental Hospital now agreed to purchase equipment and furniture that had been supplied by the War Office for use during the War, to allow Patients from other Mental Hospitals to be transferred to Powick, when their home Hospitals were converted into War Hospitals. The fee charged for this equipment was at a price evaluation determined by the Board of Control. In 1919 there were 354 male Patients and 493 females, a total Asylum Population of 847. This number included 13 Contract Patients from Hereford, 51 from Montgomery, 176 from Birmingham and 20 from Northampton, a total of 260 such Patient. This number will have included what were termed 'Service Patients', which was men invalided out of the Armed Forces and sent to Mental Hospitals. The Maintenance fees for these men was the same as for Private Patients. The Maintenance Rates for local Worcestershire Patient was now 16s. 11d. per patient per week, 17s 5d. for Out-of-County Patient, and between 17s. 6d. and 21s. for Private Patients.

Two Lunacy Commissioners from the Board of Control visited to inspect the Asylum on 25th July 1919, immediately after George Braine-Hartnell's retirement. [59](#) They again spoke to every patient in the Institution, and they reported favourably on what they found. They thought the wards and Annexes they visited were clean and well kept and they were complimentary about the Airing Courts, which were 'bright and pleasing'. They also visited the Asylum Farm, during milking, and they suggested that the general cleanliness of that process should be improved. All of the Patient that they saw were said to be 'well and tidily dressed' and they all seemed happy and contented. The Patient that they saw also appeared to have gained weight during the last few months, and their general health appeared to be excellent. However, the fact that Tuberculosis was still infecting large

numbers of Patients was an exception to this. [60](#) The Commissioners believed that it was a lowering of the vitality of Patient caused by War deficiencies in their diet that had caused this problem. However, they were also satisfied that a failure to segregate affected Patient from others had spread the disease. This led to the suggestion of a need to rearrange wards for the sick, so that every known case of Tuberculosis would be completely isolated. It should be ensured that no Patient not infected with Tuberculosis should be placed in a ward with Tubercular Patient. The Commissioners then suggested that everything must be done to improve the physical condition of the Patients, so that they would then be in the best possible state to resist Tuberculosis. They then suggested that since the strictures placed in diets during the War had eased the incidence of Tuberculosis had reduced. However, they urged, that until normality returned the patient's diet should continue to be improved. They then pointed to complaints they had received about the 'monotony' of the Hospital's diet, particularly the frequent recurrence of soup dinners. Whilst this may be a pleasant meal on one day a week, they suggested, the fact that it appeared three times a week, was questionable. They then extolled the virtues of open-air treatment for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, something that the Board of Control of Insanity had been promoting in their Official Circulars. In spite of these comments. All deaths in the Asylum at this time were from natural causes, apart from deaths from Tuberculosis, which accounted for almost half of all deaths. The rest were from Heart Disease and from Senile Decay.

The Commissioners then discussed the dreadful epidemic of Influenza that the Powick Mental Hospital had experienced not only in 1918, but also in the early months of the current year. However, there had been only one case of Dysentery in 1919, and this led to comments congratulating the Powick Mental Hospital for its efforts to improve the sanitation of the Institution, including the way that foul-linen was now dealt with. The Commission now turned their attention to the attendants and nurses, who they noted now worked on a 60-hour Contract, but they also recognised that the wages paid to these individuals was Being discussed. However, the Commissioners were still concerned about the paltry facilities available, particularly for nurses, who were often forced to eat in the dormitories where Patient slept.

They concluded by suggesting that there had been 'extraordinary weakening of the Medical, Clerical and Attendant Staff during the War. Thus, 'the administration of the Asylum had only been carried on with extreme difficulty'. It was then hoped that with a return to normality the health of the Asylum's Patient would improve. The concluded that they hoped that Dr. George Braine-Hartnell had attained some rest, after his Assistant Medical Superintendent, Henry Felix Fenton, returned from his Military Duties in India.

SOME CONCLUSIONS.

It was apparent from the outset of George Braine-Hartnell's time as Medical Superintendent at the Powick Mental Hospital that he would not be able to emulate his predecessor Edward Marriott Cooke, who had been entrepreneurial in the way that he ran the Worcester Mental Hospital. In part, this was because Braine-Hartnell had a different personality and mode of working, but it also related to alterations in the Mental Hospital itself. Whereas almost from its inception in 1852, Powick Asylum had surplus space, which enabled it to accept fee paying Patients, including Private Patients, Contract Patients and Out-of-County Patients, from whom a profit could be made, this had ceased to be the case. Local Patients from within Worcestershire now predominated, essentially because the growth in the City and County's population produced an increasing number of insane individuals; sufficient to occupy all of the spaces available at the County Mental Hospital.

Whilst the Committee of Visitors, who ran the Mental Hospital may have desired to continue being a profit-making organisation this was no longer possible. Given this situation Dr. Braine Hartnell began to administer the Worcester Mental Hospital in an appropriate fashion. The Committee of Visitors continued to express their confidence in him as their Medical Superintendent as did the Lunacy Commissioners and the Poor Law Guardians. Who visited the Powick Institution to monitor the condition of the Patients from their Poor Law Union in the Mental Hospital.

The Annual Reports used in this investigation; between 1897 and 1919 were inevitably alliterative, because every time that the Commissioners in Lunacy inspected the institution, they had the same agenda of issues to consider. Thus, for instance, in virtually all Annual Reports they mentioned the poor state of plasterwork that they claimed caused infections. However, it was also the case that the Medical Superintendent and the Committee of Visitors who supported him often ignored the advice that the Commissioners gave them.

In part, this situation was explained by the nature of the building that was constructed in 1852, which had been designed as a very large Workhouse, using Poor Law Commission Recommendations. At this time the Lunacy Commission were extremely critical of the Asylum Buildings, which were designed to contain Patients who were rigidly classified, with the expectation that the Patients would be accommodated in wards containing individuals

with the same classification of Mental Ailment. However, the Lunacy Commission sought to regard Patients differently. They regarded the Patient's behaviour, rather than the diagnosis of their mental ailment as more important. What developed at Powick Pauper Lunatic Asylum, from the outset, was a Community. The Workhouse-like design of the Powick Asylum Buildings continued to hamper the Institution's effectiveness as a Lunatic Institution. This meant that recommendations made by Lunacy Commissioners were difficult to implement at Powick.

The other issue that thwarted Dr. Braine-Hartnell in following the recommendation of the Lunacy Commissioners was the intense overcrowding of the Institution. This was a situation that rapidly developed at the end of the 19th Century and dogged the Worcester Institution. It led to suggestions that recommendations made by the Commissioners being deemed impossible because of overcrowding. That was, until the situation was alleviated by the opening of Barnsley Hall Asylum in July 1907. However, within a relatively short time the Great War posed another huge problem for the Worcester Mental Hospital.

However, perhaps the greatest concern for the Lunacy Commissioners at this time was the prevalence of Phthisis as a cause of Death in Powick Mental Hospital during the Great War and in its aftermath. Clearly Dr. Braine-Hartnell and the Committee of Visitors were also perturbed by this matter, but their approach to resolving the issue was surprising. Quite clearly Phthisis was an ailment that was hugely infectious that thrived in overcrowded conditions, which the Lunacy Commission attempted to alleviate by suggesting Open-Air Treatment in Verandas that were specially constructed to accommodate Phthisical Patients, a situation that the Lunacy Commission expected to be adopted by Powick Mental Hospital.

However the response of the Visiting Committee, and apparently by their Medical Superintendent was to adopt this approach, but only for female Patients, who benefitted greatly from this decision. However, the male Patients continued to be treated in ordinary wards where Phthisis infections abounded. This was a situation that the Lunacy Commissioners clearly questioned, but the Authorities running Worcester Mental Hospital were apparently obdurate in their decision not to extend the open-air treatment of Phthisis to male Patients. The implications of this decision was that deaths from Phthisis fell dramatically amongst female Patients, whilst deaths of male Patients abounded. However, it was impossible to understand why this decision was made.

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In spite of this problem, the Lunacy Commissioners generally approved of Powick Mental Hospital as a curative Institution. Some of the comments made at 6 Annual Inspections by the Commissioners resulted in immediate alterations. For instance, this applied to Fire Precautions and to minor alterations to wards. Thus, - on one occasion all doors that opened

inwards, were converted to open outwards. It also applied to safety issued outlined by the Factory Inspectorate, who suddenly became aware that Mental Hospitals had machinery and other equipment that could cause injury to people using it; including machinery in Asylum Laundries. Thus, a guard to prevent patients using an ironing machine in the laundry from burning themselves was fitted when the Commissioners demanded that this happened.

The Committee of Visitors of the Worcester County Mental Hospital were appointed by the County's Board of Magistrates, which made it inevitable that they would be cost conscious. Thus, whilst it was obvious that the numbers of individuals in the Worcestershire Community was increasing, the County and City Councils were reluctant to admit that a second County Mental Hospital was necessary to alleviate the desperate overcrowding in the Powick Institution. Indeed, it took two or more years for this situation to change; so that a suitable site for a second County Mental Hospital was sought. When this happened the Commissioners in Lunacy immediately suggested that a start be made in constructing this new Institution. In fact it took almost five years for the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, near Bromsgrove, to open, on 7th July 1907. Inevitably, the overcrowding was then a thing of the past. Powick Asylum now had a Patient population of less than a 1,000 Patients.

At this juncture Dr. Braine-Hartnell's problems as Medical Superintendent were reduced. However, the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 produced a whole new range of issues that made administering the Powick Mental Hospital more and more difficult. Amongst these issued was the problem of maintaining the male staff of the Mental Hospital, when men were being Conscripted into the Armed Forces. However, the problem of maintaining the staff of nurses was almost as acute. Whilst the Inspections by the Lunacy Commissioners of the Worcester Mental Hospital continued, with comments made by the Inspectors that recognised the problems of administering a Mental Hospital in wartime the pressures on Dr. Braine-Hartnell increased dramatically. Amongst these effects was a dramatic increase in the numbers of Patients suffering from and dying from Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis). In part this was an issue relating to the overcrowding which returned to the Powick Mental Hospital, when it was forced, by the War Ministry to take patients from other Mental Hospitals being closed and converted into Military Hospitals. Although this effect was accentuated by the inevitable deterioration in the diet of Patients caused by the rationing of food.

At the end of the Great War in 1918 matters were expected to return to something approaching normality, but this was slow to happen. Staff returned to work in the Mental Hospital, replacing temporary staff, who were apparently not up to the tasks they were set to undertake in the Mental Hospital. It was at this point that George Braine-Hartnell decided to retire in April 1919, when he was immediately replaced by Dr. Henry Felix Fenton, who had returned from working in India with the RAMC.

Unfortunately it is impossible to continue to examine the Career of Henry Felix Fenton, who by 1919 had been working as an AMO at the Worcester Mental Hospital for 12 years. In this time his Reports in the Case Notes of the Asylum conformed to the expectations of

the Moral Treatment of Insanity. However soon after his appointment as Medical Superintendent in about 1920 his opinion changed. This was due to the influence of Dr. Thomas Chivers Graves, who had worked at the Herefordshire County Mental Hospital as Medical Superintendent, at a time when Dr. Fenton was working at Powick Mental Hospital. These two men knew each other at that time. Then Dr. Graves became Medical Superintendent at the Rubery Hill Mental Hospital, and at the Holymoore Mental Hospital in Northfield, Birmingham. In these two Mental Hospitals he developed a new approach to Mental Illness – what was called ‘Focal Sepsis’ was the supposed cause of Mental Afflictions. Dr. Graves believed that mental illness was caused by localised physical illness, in what he regarded as redundant parts of the body, so for instance suppurating teeth sockets, untreated tonsillitis, and even a diseased gallbladder could cause a Patient to become mentally ill. Graves created an operating-theatre at Holymoore Hospital, where an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, and a dental surgeon, would removed redundant body-parts that would cause insanity.

Thomas Chivers Graves was initially responsible for two Birmingham Mental Hospitals, but he was then made responsible for all Mental Hospitals in the City. In 1940 Graves was elected as President of the Medico-Psychological Association, a post he held until 1944. This meant that his notions of Focal Sepsis gained national importance.

Thomas Chivers Graves had a profound influence on Henry Felix Fenton, soon after his appointment at Powick Mental Hospital. He became an acolyte of Graves, apparently completely accepting notions of Focal Sepsis. It was interesting to note that Andrew Scull, a successful prolific author on the History of Mental Health interviewed Thomas Chivers Graves when he asked at Felix Fenton. The response was that Fenton was ‘a mouse of a man’, who did everything that Graves suggested. It was apparent that Powick Mental Hospital became an Institution that was under the strong influence of Thomas Chivers Graves’ ideas. It was also apparent that the Committee of Visitors at Worcester Mental Hospital allowed Focal Sepsis to be the accepted cause of insanity leading to extreme forms of treatment. However, it has been suggested that ‘Thomas Chivers Graves like most of his contemporaries in the Psychiatric Profession , has now fallen into obscurity’.

Focal Sepsis as an explanation of Mental Ailments lost credibility by the late 1940s, although Dr. Henry Fenton continued to believe in its efficacy. However, When Dr. Fenton was replaced in the late 1940s, by Dr. Arthur Spencer, and his assistant Ronald Sandison, they questioned the efficacy of the approaches used in the Powick Mental Hospital between 1920 and 1949. Something that Ronald Sandison, in his Auto-biography described as the ‘DEAD HAND OF FENTONISM’. Drs. Spencer and Sandison totally rejected the approaches used by Henry Fenton.

In an attempt to ensure a lack of bias about Henry Fenton, Frank Crompton trawled through the Annual Reports of the Worcester Mental Hospital between 1920 and 1948, which is the only evidence available of this period of development of the Powick Mental Hospital. He concluded that the suggestions made by Ronald Sandison, in his Auto-biography were essentially correct , although he was convinced that the Committee of Visitors

of the Worcester Mental Hospital between 1920 and 1948 were complicit in allowing the situation that arose.

END NOTES.

1 1913 Mental Deficiency Act, 3 & 4 Geo. V, c. 28.

2 Such beer was more usually described as 'weak beer'.

3 Zymotic Diseases were infectious and contagious.

4 Colitis was an infection of the Colon, the Large Intestine, which caused inflammation and occasionally Death.

5 Frank Crompton, wrote a substantial article on General Paralysis of the Insane (GPI), which is available online on the Worcester Medical Museum's Website.

6 The level of Deaths from Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord appeared abnormally high in 1897.

7 Dysentery is an infectious disease that causes inflammation of the intestines resulting in severe bloody diarrhoea, and sometimes death.

8 Alfred Bond was the father of Hubert Bond (eventually Sir Hubert), who worked closely with Edward Marriott Cooke at the Lunacy Commission, later the Board of Control of Insanity and Mental Deficiency. It was Drs. Cooke and Bond, who introduced 'Asylum War Hospitals' in the Great War, in 1915.

9 Phthisis was also known as Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

10 Erysipelas is a bacterial infection of the upper layers of skin, which caused some damage to the lymphatic-system; a complaint that sometimes proved fatal.

11 This was also known as Varicella, a viral infection that causes blisters to occur all over the body. It was normally referred to as Chickenpox.

12 Such a ward was necessary on both sides of the Asylum.

13 Typhoid Fever was a serious disease spread through contaminated food and water. It caused high fever, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. This ailment often proved fatal.

14 This course of action was always taken when Patient were assaulted by staff. Dismissal also inevitably followed.

15 This was an issue that Edward Marriott Cooke regarded as very important. He believed that the quality of men coming forward to work as attendants, in the Powick Asylum, depended on such accommodation being available.

16 This misogynistic attitude prevailed for much of the time investigated in this study.

17 Both of these figures appeared to be somewhat high compared with other comparable institutions.

18 The Barnsley Hall site was at Red Cross Farm, Bromsgrove.

19 This Pension would be worth £9,340 in 2022.

20 The 1890 Lunacy Act, 54 Vict. C. 5.

21 The word 'perversion' has changed its meaning since 1905. It then meant that an individual's habits had changed for the worse. However, precisely what George Braine-Hartnell meant by his comment is still unclear.

22 Sir Tolemache Sinclair, was a Scottish Landowner and Politician, so why he gave this present to the Worcester Mental Hospital was unclear.

23 This woman was given a three-month prison-sentence when she appeared in Court.

24 This man was in the Isolation Hospital suffering from Scarlet Fever.

25 This would be a pension of around £13,000 in 2022.

26 Inevitably some Patient migrated to Worcester from other parts of the United Kingdom, and sometimes such individuals took time before they were returned to the Poor Law Union they belonged to.

27 This 'inconsiderable sum', would be over £28,000 today.

28 This was at a time when Patient from Worcestershire were being charged 8s. 2d. per week per Patient.

29 This was a decision that was made because the numbers of Patient from Worcestershire increased dramatically as the County's population grew.

30 This suicide was reported by the Annual Report, but this death had occurred outside the jurisdiction of the Mental Hospital Authorities.

31 Diphtheria is a bacterial infection of the nose and throat that causes a thick coating to form. It sometimes causes death.

32 In his investigation of the General Paralysis of Insanity (GPI) at the Powick Mental Hospital Frank Crompton discovered that deaths from this cause fluctuated from year to year, essentially because of the indeterminant progress of individuals with this mental

affliction. There were four times as many males with GPI, who died, as there were females.

33 The Committee of Visitors and George Braine-Hartnell, like his predecessors as Medical Superintendent, deplored the fact that Criminal Lunatics were sent to the County Mental Hospital, rather than the Broadmoor Criminal Asylum (founded in 1863), Ashworth Criminal Asylum (founded in 1878) or Rampton Criminal Asylum (founded in 1899). However, these three-specialist institution had inadequate accommodation to house all Criminal Lunatics.

34 Discharged Relieved was terminology used by the Poor Law to indicate individuals who were simply released back into the Community.

35 This was an enduring feature of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act (4 & 5 Wil. IV, c. 76) that was still operative 75 years after it was introduced.

36 This omission was surprising, as it appeared likely that Non-Conformist Ministers would have demanded that such Services would be available in the Mental Hospital.

37 Again, it was unclear why the diagnosis was of Enteric Fever, which was exactly the same as Typhoid Fever.

38 When the City and County Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Powick first opened, a farm of 30 acres was developed. By 1912, the Committee of Visitors had developed a farm of approaching 200 acres. This had been managed by both purchasing and renting land that was farmed by an increasing number of the Mental Hospitals Patient.

39 It is interesting to wonder if the refusal to provide verandas for the open-air treatment of male Patient was deliberate.

40 This became Law under the Military Service Act (1916) 5 & 6 Geo V, c. 104.

41 C Hubert Bond had been employed as a doctor in Mental Hospitals. He, like Edward Marriott Cooke, had been appointed as a Commissioner in Lunacy. Both were eventually knighted for their Services to Mental Health.

42 The work of Sarah Gander ton, which is available on the Worcester Medical Museum's website, is an investigation of the situation at Powick Mental Hospital in these circumstances.

43 A Locum Tenens temporarily carried out the duties of another physician, when a hospital was short staffed, as was the case in time of War. Such appointments were usually regarded as unsatisfactory short-term measures.

44 The Mental Deficiency Act of 1913 (4& 5 George V, c. 28), had serious implications for the education of children with severe learning difficulties.

45 Rubery Hill Mental Hospital was actually outside Birmingham in Worcestershire.

46 Rubery Hill became a hospital solely for male military casualties, which meant that 118 women Patient were transferred to the Powick Mental Hospital.

47 Earl Kitchener's Poster – 'Your Country Needs You' - dates from this time.

48 The wards that had been altered in this way were regarded as not ideal, but they were the solution to accommodating the additional Patient that the Worcester Mental Hospital were forced to take.

49 Lord Derby became Director of Recruiting in October 1916. His Scheme required all men between the ages of 18 and 51 to be enlisted into the armed forces, but an exception could be made for men who had habitually been employed in vital occupations, such as working as attendants in Mental Hospitals. Such men could apply for exemption to avoid recruitment. There was also the possibility of exemption due to Conscience about War.

50 There was no objection expressed, at this time, about a female doctor being appointed, as AMO. The wartime need had clearly silenced previous opposition to such an appointment.

51 There was no indication provided as to whether the appointment of this woman doctor to an AMO's post had been successful.

52 Military Service Act (1916) 5 & 6 Geo. V, c.104.

53 In fact, this was done in two stages. Initially it was all unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 41 years old, but the later on in 1916, it included married men, up the age of 51 years old.

54 Rampton Criminal Lunatic Asylum, in Nottinghamshire had opened in 1899.

55 Indeed, children being housed in adult wards appeared to be against the Board of Control of Insanity Regulations

56 Spanish Flu was contracted by Over 16% of the Patient at Powick Mental Hospital, but it appeared to have infected around 22% of the attendants and nurses.

57 There was a list compiled of the 41 men from the Asylum, who had joined the Armed Forces during the Great War, of who five men had been killed.

58 In 2022 this would be a pension of about £49,000.

59 George Braine-Hartnell retired 22 weeks into 1919. Henry Felix Fenton replaced him for the last 30 weeks of 1919.

60 Tuberculosis had consistently increased since 1914. The deaths were then 12, in 1915 1, in 1916 2, In 1917 74 and in 1918 162, which was almost treble The rate for all Lunatic Asylums.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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