

on giving a note of hand jointly with two sureties for the payment, by weekly instalments, to the relieving officer of the union of the amount of relief given to his family, when deserted by him. Inquired as to the legality of the order to discharge a prisoner under the circumstances stated, and in case of the non-payment of the instalments secured by the note, whether the guardians could take legal proceedings for the recovery of the amount.

*Ans.*—In proceedings taken under the Vagrant Act, the law certainly vests a discretion in the justices whether they will convict or not. It is not for the Commissioners (who have not the evidence before them,) to say whether the justices have, or have not, exercised their discretion wisely. Apparently the justices were not satisfied in the present case, that the evidence adduced at the hearing, warranted a conviction. It seems, however, that they discharged H. B., on payment of the expenses of his apprehension, and giving a security for £10. 13s., relief given to his wife and children during his absence. Whether it was competent to the justices to impose a condition of this kind, may, perhaps, admit of doubt; but, however this may be, the arrangement made was much more advantageous to the union or parish, than if there had been a conviction. As regards the note which was given, supposing it to be duly stamped, the Commissioners see no reason to doubt that the relieving officer (the obligation being to him) is entitled to sue on the note for the instalments due. If the obligation had been to the guardians, they would have been entitled to recover. The guardians may, however, require the relieving officer to sue on the note at their cost, or to allow his name to be used, he being indemnified from costs.

**XXIII.—VESTRY MEETINGS—QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS—PROXY.**

March 25th, 1846.

*Mr.* ———, *Cardigan Union*—Inquired, 1. Whether the vote of a blind man is legal at a vestry, and, if not, whether he can legally vote by proxy. 2. Whether a female ratepayer has a vote at vestry meetings, and, if she has, whether she can legally appoint a proxy to vote for her.

*Ans.*—1. The fact of a ratepayer being blind does not legally disqualify him to vote at a vestry

meeting. 2. A female ratepayer is legally entitled to vote at a vestry meeting, equally with male ratepayers. Ratepayers generally are not authorised to vote by proxy in a parish vestry; but where corporations or companies are charged to the rate for the relief of the poor in any parish, they may authorise their clerk, secretary, or agent to be present at any vestry of the parish, and vote on behalf of the corporation or company as the case may be.

**XXIV.—WORKHOUSE—EXAMINATION OF VISITORS TO—PROHIBITION OF ARTICLES BEING CARRIED INTO.**

February 3rd, 1846.

*J. S. an inmate of the* ——— *Union Workhouse.* The inmates are prohibited from receiving trifling articles of food, &c., from their friends, and the practice of searching by the porter prevents the friends of the inmates visiting them. Requested the Commissioners to relax the workhouse rules in this respect. Complained also of the practice of searching and of taking away from the inmates such articles on their return to the workhouse after leave of absence, &c.

*Ans.*—The Commissioners have prohibited articles of food being admitted into the workhouse on the occasion of visits to paupers, because the guardians are empowered and bound to provide everything necessary for the inmates, according to their age and state of health, and to vary that provision from time to time when circumstances may require it. There is no authority given by the workhouse rules for searching persons who present themselves as visitors to inmates. But the porter is authorised to search any pauper whom he may suspect to have possession of any spirits or prohibited articles, and to require all other persons to satisfy him that they have none. This authority is requisite to ensure the observance of the prohibitory rule. The Commissioners are not prepared to vary the regulations in either respect.

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OFFICIAL



CIRCULAR

OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION:

DIRECTED BY THE POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS TO BE PRINTED, CHIEFLY FOR THE USE OF THE MEMBERS AND PERMANENT OFFICERS OF BOARDS OF GUARDIANS, UNDER THE POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

No. 59.

CIRCULAR ISSUED MAY 1, 1846.

Poor Law Commission Office,  
Somerset House,  
May 1, 1846.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have directed that their Twelfth Annual Report be printed and circulated for the information of Guardians and Officers of the several Unions.

By Order of the Board,  
EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR JAMES GRAHAM, BART.  
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
May 1, 1846.

Sir,  
*Amount of Poor-rate levied and expended in the year ended at Lady-day, 1845.*—1. In our last Annual Report we submitted to you an account of the moneys received as poor-rate, and expended for the relief of the poor, and the other purposes to which that fund is applicable, in England and Wales, for the parochial year ending at Lady-day, 1844. We will commence this Report by laying before you a similar account for the parochial year ending at Lady-day, 1845.

An Account of the Receipt and Expenditure of the Poor's Rate for the year ended Lady-day, 1845.

<i>Receipt.</i>		£.
Amount of money levied by assessment	6,791,006	
Received from other sources in aid of poor rate	218,505	
Total receipt	£7,009,511	

<i>Expenditure.</i>		
For relief to the poor	5,039,703	
Law charges, parochial and Union	95,397	
Expenses before magistrates, and constables' expenses (parochial and Union)	57,988	
Payments under the Parochial Assessments Act (for surveys, valuations, &c.) and loans repaid under the same	22,877	
Expenses under the Vaccination Act	25,905	
Expenses under the Act for Registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages	57,385	
Payments for county and borough rate, and for county and local police forces	1,279,962	
Costs of voters, burgesses, and jury lists	20,153	
Expenses of parish property	14,752	
Money expended for all other purposes	243,277	
Total expenditure	6,857,402	

2. The results exhibited in this statement do not differ materially from the corresponding amounts for the preceding year. In the total amount of moneys received as poor's rate, there has been a diminution of 57,286*l.*; in the total expenditure from the poor's rate, there has been a diminution of 42,715*l.*; in the expenditure for the relief of the poor, there has been an increase of 63,610*l.*

Years ending Lady-day.	Total Amount expended from the Poor's Rate.	Diminution	57,286
1844	£7,066,797		
1845	7,009,511		
Years ending Lady-day.	Total Expendi- ture for the Relief of the Poor.	Years ending Lady-day.	Total Expendi- ture for the Relief of the Poor.
1844	£4,976,093	1844	£4,976,093
1845	5,039,703	1845	5,039,703
Diminution	42,715	Increase	63,610

3. Considering the uncertain and fluctuating nature of the expenditure for the relief of the poor, as well as of most of the other expenses charged upon the poor's rate, these variations are so slight that the receipt and the expenditure may be considered as having been stationary during the two parochial years ending at Lady-day, 1844 and 1845. The expenditure for the relief of the poor in the parochial year 1845, was less than that in the parochial year 1843, but greater than that in each of the years from 1836 to 1842 inclusive. We annex to this Report (page 80) a table, containing a complete statement of the receipt and expenditure of the poor's rate since 1834, from which these and other comparisons can be obtained. As compared with the cost of the relief of the poor in 1834, the parochial year immediately preceding the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the amount for 1844 stands thus:—

Years ending Lady-day.	Total Expenditure for the Relief of the Poor.
1834	£6,317,255
1845	5,039,703
Diminution	1,277,552

If to this amount we add the saving under the heads of law charges and the miscellaneous expenditure for "other purposes," which (as we explained in our last Annual Report, par. 17) has resulted from the Poor Law Amendment Act, the total reduction of expenditure in 1845, as compared with 1834, due to the reform of the law, may be taken at nearly two millions sterling, without making any allowance for the increase of population.

4. But although the expenditure for relief of the poor in the parochial year 1845 scarcely differed (as we have already stated) from that in the preceding year, yet the expenditure in particular counties was not stationary. In some parts of the kingdom the expense of the relief of the poor increased, in others it diminished in 1845 as compared with 1844. The following table will exhibit some of these differences.

Total Amount expended for Relief to the Poor.

	Years ended Lady-day.		Decrease per cent. in 1845 compared with 1844.	Increase per cent. in 1845 compared with 1844.
	1844.	1845.		
	£	£		
Nottingham . . .	74,201	65,540	12	...
York, West Riding . . .	208,805	136,321	11	...
Lancaster . . .	231,648	211,694	9	...
Chester . . .	80,413	76,124	5	...
Durham . . .	79,813	75,824	5	...
Stafford . . .	103,105	98,266	5	...
Huntingdon . . .	22,991	25,658	...	12
Warwick . . .	59,840	64,992	...	9
Anglesey . . .	13,289	14,253	...	7
Cambridge . . .	75,349	80,665	...	7
Brecon . . .	20,221	21,354	...	6
Suffolk . . .	136,658	144,964	...	6
Oxford . . .	72,735	77,395	...	6
Norfolk . . .	160,586	169,769	...	6

It will be perceived, upon an inspection of this table, that the diminution has chiefly occurred in the manufacturing, and the increase in the agricultural, districts. Thus, whilst in the West Riding of York, an important seat of manufacture, there was a decrease of 11 per cent., in the East Riding, which is purely agricultural, there was an increase of one per cent. This difference was mainly owing to the fact stated in our last Annual Report (par. 23), that whereas the demand for labour in the manufacturing districts was extensive and constant during the parochial year 1845, an interruption in the employment of the agricultural labourers was caused by the drought in the summer of 1844, and the length and severity of the cold during the winter of 1844-5.

5. The following table exhibits the principal heads of the poor relief expenditure in the parochial year 1845, for that part of the country in which there are boards of guardians appointed under the Poor Law

Amendment Act. From the rest of the country (including parishes under Local Acts, Gilbert Unions, and ununited parishes under the Act of Eliz., whose expenditure for the relief of the poor amounted in that year to 622,730*l.*), we do not receive returns which can be reduced to this form.

Expenditure of 585 Unions and Parishes under Boards of Guardians.

Years ended Lady-day.	In-Maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Establishment Charges and Salaries.	Workhouse Loan Repaid.	Other Charges connected with Relief to the Poor.	Total Expenditure for Relief, &c. to the Poor.	Rate per Head of Total Population.
1844	£. 705,253	£. 2,726,451	£. 748,985	£. 183,898	£. 5,584	£. 4,370,171	s. d. 6 5 1/2
1845	714,523	2,767,903	750,372	177,603	6,572	4,416,973	6 6 1/2
Increase	9,270	11,452	1,387	...	988	46,802	0 1 1/2
Decrease	...	...	...	6,295	...	...	...

Number of persons relieved.—6. As the expenditure for the relief of the poor in the two last years remained nearly stationary, so the number of persons relieved underwent little variation.

Comparative Statement of the Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers relieved in England and Wales, during each of the Quarters ended Lady-day 1844 and 1845.

Quarters ended Lady-Day.	Number of Paupers Relieved.			Rate per Cent. of Total Number of Paupers on Population in 1841.
	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	
1844	230,818	1,246,743	1,477,561	9.3
1845	215,325	1,255,645	1,470,970	9.2
Decrease	15,493	...	6,591	0.1
Increase	...	8,902	...	...
Population in 1841	...	...	15,906,741.	

NOTE.—An Estimate is made of the number of Paupers relieved in places not in Union, and included in the above Totals.

7. The following table exhibits the number of persons returned to the Commissioners as relieved, both in and out of the workhouse, in the several Lady-day quarters, since the year 1840.

Summary of Returns, showing the Number of Paupers relieved in England and Wales, during the Quarters ended at Lady-Day, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, and 1845, with the proportion per Cent. which the Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers relieved bear to the Total Number.

Quarters ended Lady-Day.	Number of Paupers Relieved.				Total In-door and Out-door.
	In-door.	Proportion per Cent. to Total.	Out-door.	Proportion per Cent. to Total.	
1840	169,232	14	1,030,297	86	1,199,529
1841	192,106	15	1,106,942	85	1,299,048
1842	222,642	16	1,204,545	84	1,427,187
1843	238,560	15	1,300,930	85	1,539,490
1844	230,818	16	1,246,743	84	1,477,561
1845	215,325	15	1,255,645	85	1,470,970

NOTE.—An Estimate is made for those places not under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

8. With regard, however, to the statements of the total number of persons who have been relieved in a quarter, which are transmitted to us by the clerks to the guardians, it is to be observed that their absolute accuracy cannot be safely relied on, owing to the difficulty of preventing the same person, if he becomes chargeable on several occasions, or in different Unions, from being counted more than once. Their relative accuracy, for the purpose of comparing one period with another, may, as the enumeration is made on uniform principles, be assumed without danger of serious error.

9. In the number of able-bodied paupers relieved in the workhouse during the parochial year 1845, there was (as appears from the subjoined table) a diminution of 10 per cent., as compared with the previous year. In the number of able-bodied paupers who received out-door relief on account of temporary sickness or accident, there was an increase of more than 5 per cent.; but in the number of the same class who received out-door relief, on account of all other causes, including vagrants, there was a decrease of nearly 6 per cent. In the total number of able-bodied persons relieved in the parochial year 1845, there was a diminution of 2 7-10ths per cent.

Comparative Statement of the Number of Able-bodied Paupers relieved in England and Wales, during each of the Quarters ended Lady-Day, 1844 and 1845.

Quarters ended Lady-Day.	In-door.			Out-door.			Total In-door and Out-door.
	On Account of temporary Sickness or Accident.	All other causes including Vagrants.	Total In-door.	On Account of temporary Sickness or Accident.	All other causes including Vagrants.	Total Out-door.	
1844	11,458	86,327	97,785	158,280	175,419	333,699	431,484
1845	11,406	76,199	87,605	167,231	165,044	332,275	419,883
Increase per cent.	...	...	...	5.7	...	...	...
Decrease per cent.	0.5	11.7	10.4	...	5.9	0.4	2.7

NOTE.—An Estimate is made for places not in Union under the Poor Law Amendment Act. The above results are obtained from the Union Quarterly Abstracts.

Employment and wages of working classes.—10. We have not yet received complete returns of the receipt and expenditure of the poor rate for the year ending at Lady-day 1846; but we can state generally that, throughout England and Wales, the working classes have, during this period, been steadily employed at wages rather above than below the average rates, as well in the agricultural as the manufacturing parts of the country. The demand for hands in the manufacturing districts has been constant, and the employment of the agricultural labourers was much facilitated by the unusual mildness of the winter. During last winter, scarcely any workhouse in a rural Union was so full as to necessitate the allowance of out-door relief to the able-bodied.

Failure of potato crop.—11. The partial failure of the potato crop for 1845, through a species of vegetable epidemic disease, (the effects of which began to manifest themselves in the autumn,) induced us to issue, in the month of November last, two circular letters to the Boards of Guardians, suggesting certain precautionary measures in relation to this subject. In one of these we indicated the extraction of farina from diseased potatoes as a mode of employment in workhouses; in the other we pointed out the expediency of substituting in the workhouse dietaries some article for potatoes. This substitution has been made in certain cases; but the failure of the potato, to the extent to which it has proceeded, has not, in England, produced any important influence on the food of the people. From a few Unions in Devonshire and Somersetshire we have received applications to permit the out-door relief of the able-bodied on account of the failure of the potatoes. We insert in the Appendix a report from our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Tufnell, relative to the effects of the potato disease in that part of the country.

Order prohibiting bone-crushing in workhouses.—12. In the course of last year, we considered it necessary to issue a general order prohibiting the crushing of bones as a kind of labour to be performed in workhouses. This order will be found in the Appendix to our Report, and we think it our duty to state fully the circumstances under which it was issued.

13. The position of the Commissioners is such that, on the one hand, they often necessarily incur the reproach of interfering too much with the discretion of the local authorities, whilst, on the other, they are held responsible for practices which do not originate with themselves: practices which they would not themselves have introduced, but which are, nevertheless, consistent with the law, and have been deliberately adopted by Boards of Guardians in the exercise of the powers vested in them. The Commissioners do not consider it is their duty to interpose, by regulation or remonstrance, in every instance in which a Board of Guardians may sanction an act or practice of which the Commissioners may not approve, provided that such act or practice be not contrary to the regu-

lations of the Commissioners, or otherwise illegal. Experience may, however, show, in particular cases, the necessity of interfering with the discretion thus left to the Boards of Guardians when a manifest tendency to abuse it is visible, and when obloquy and discredit may be thrown on the general administration of the law, for the sake of local or temporary convenience.

14. With respect to the kind of work to be performed in workhouses the Commissioners had interfered but little. The 21st Article of their Workhouse Regulations provides that—

“The paupers of the several classes shall be kept employed according to their capacity and ability, and no pauper shall receive any compensation for his labour.”

It appeared to us that local knowledge and experience were peculiarly requisite for determining what species of labour could be best resorted to for the employment of the able-bodied inmates in each particular workhouse. We have always discouraged the Guardians from selecting their mode of labour with a view to pecuniary profit; but we have, for the most part, left the regulation of the details to each Board of Guardians. The members of that Board necessarily know the habits of the labourers who are likely to form the mass of able-bodied inmates in the house. They are conversant with the means of employment which the materials of the neighbourhood can furnish. In some parts of the country, for instance, stone-breaking is inapplicable, because the roads are mended with gravel; in others, the vicinity of a sea-port will make the picking of oakum a kind of work readily accessible. Persons on the spot, too, can alone know how far a particular sort of labour may interfere injuriously with the independent workman. It appears never to have been the intention of the Poor Law Amendment Act that the control of the Commissioners should entirely supersede the judgment of the authorities on the spot, without some just and manifest reason of a general character, and which, from its general character, may possibly not be apparent to a large number of single Boards acting each in its own particular neighbourhood.

*Discretion left to Boards of Guardians as to the mode of employment in workhouses.*—15. Upon the grounds which we have just stated, we had, by our regulations, left a discretion to the Guardians, with respect to the mode of employment in workhouses. Many of the Boards, especially in the west of England, in the exercise of that discretion, adopted the breaking and pounding of bones, by hand or by machinery, as work which was advantageous in itself, and interfered little with the labour market out of the workhouse. This mode of employment had been in many places strongly recommended, and in some few instances it had been brought under the direct notice of the Commissioners. On the other hand, objections were raised to its adoption in a particular form, which

induced the Commissioners, on the 10th of November, 1842, to write a letter of caution to a considerable number of Unions, requesting them to consult with their medical officers as “to the nature of the bones usually obtained, the instrument employed, and the place where the work was carried on.”

*Resolutions as to task of work under 5 & 6 Vict., c. 5.—16.* After the passing of the 5 and 6 Vict., c. 57, empowering Boards of Guardians to detain casual poor or trampers for a short time, to perform a task of work, and to fix such task of work by a resolution sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners, the case was somewhat different, so far at least, as regarded the application of labour of this description to that particular class for the period of four hours.

When resolutions, imposing a task of bone crushing, were forwarded to us for our approval, in pursuance of the statute, we requested that the medical officer might be called on to state in each case whether he objected to the adoption of this species of employment as likely to be injurious to the persons employed on it, or to affect the healthiness of the inmates generally. We withheld our sanction to the resolutions until we were satisfied that no objection was raised by the medical officer. Our correspondence on this subject with the Board of Guardians of the Andover Union is annexed as an example in the Appendix to this Report.

In a letter to the Guardians of the Plympton St. Mary Union, dated 29th August, 1844, we expressed ourselves as follows:—

“The Commissioners desire to state that they see no objection to the erection of a shed and room at the Union workhouse, for the employment of the able-bodied. The Commissioners, however, much doubt whether bone crushing is the best form of affording such employment, and they object to its adoption altogether, without the opinion of the medical officer of the workhouse having been obtained, that no prejudicial consequences of any kind are to be apprehended from the effluvia of the bones.”

In the Torrington Union the Guardians proposed to us oakum picking and bone crushing as a mode of employing the paupers in the workhouse. We admitted the first, and objected to the second, until we received a special report from our Assistant Commissioner, on the subject of the arrangement.

17. Thus it will be seen that whilst we avoided as far as possible any undue interference with the discretion of the several Boards of Guardians with reference to the labour resorted to in the workhouses, we did not for the most part assent to the adoption of bone crushing without such conditions and such precautions as we thought sufficient to guard against abuse.

18. We were aware that many persons entertained strong objections to this kind of work. Nevertheless, we did not feel justified in interposing by any general regulation to put an end to the particular mode of

employment in these workhouses, until the occurrence of certain painful circumstances connected with it in the Andover Union, added to the objections already expressed, showed that a great and paramount expediency required us to overrule the discretion hitherto exercised in this matter by the several Boards of Guardians. We, therefore, issued the order referred to above; from which, however, one of the Commissioners dissented, and recorded his dissent upon the minutes, according to the provision of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

The remonstrances which we subsequently received from many Boards of Guardians, by whom the practice had been sanctioned, evince the reluctance with which it was abandoned, and the conviction which was entertained in many places that this kind of labour was unobjectionable in itself. In some instances, where there was machinery which would have suddenly stood idle, and where there was a stock of bones in hand, or where some very special circumstances existed, on the application of the Guardians, we suspended the operation of our general order until the 1st of April. That day having now passed, it has become illegal to employ paupers in workhouses in the breaking or pounding of bones. We trust that no serious difficulty will be experienced by those Boards where bone crushing was hitherto employed, in providing work which shall be free from the real objections applicable to that now abandoned; and we will direct our own attention, and that of our Assistant Commissioners, to the consideration of the various expedients which may be resorted to with advantage for this purpose.

*Cases of infanticide.*—19. Our attention has been recently called to two cases of infanticide committed by mothers of illegitimate children, who had left the workhouse without a sufficient provision of clothing for their infants. We will proceed to state the facts of these cases, as ascertained by us upon inquiry.

*Case of Harriet Bowkett.*—20. The first case was that of Harriet Bowkett, which occurred in the Ledbury Union. The following explanation was furnished to us by the clerk to the Ledbury Guardians, in a letter dated the 30th of January last:—

“Harriet Bowkett is a single woman, about 23 years of age; she was admitted into the Ledbury Union Workhouse with her bastard child, about six weeks old, on the 2nd of May, 1843, and was discharged on the 15th day of July, 1843. She was again admitted into the Ledbury Union Workhouse in a state of pregnancy, on the 22nd day of August, 1845, (she having left her child with her mother), she was delivered of her second child, in the workhouse, on the 12th of November, 1845. About a fortnight after her confinement, she gave notice to leave the house in consequence of the nurse having reproved her for neglecting and ill-treating her infant, but the matron would not allow her to leave the house, at the

same time informing her that she was not in a fit state to quit her room.

“On the 29th day of November, about nine o'clock in the morning, she again gave notice to quit the house. At about 11 o'clock the medical officer visited the house, when the matron asked him if Harriet Bowkett was well enough to leave the house; he said she was, if she wished it. The matron and the nurse then reminded the woman of her not having any clothing for her child, and begged her to remain in the house until Tuesday, the 2nd of December, when the master would bring her case before the Board. She replied, that she had plenty of clothes at her mother's, and would go. She then converted her own cotton night-gown, flannel petticoat, and night-cap into clothing for her infant, in which she dressed it, and then wrapped her shawl round the child; she then dressed herself in the remainder of her own clothes, which consisted of a cotton chemise, stays, a cotton petticoat with a body to it, a gown, stockings, shoes, and bonnet, all in good condition. She quitted the workhouse about one o'clock (the day being very mild for the time of year.) After leaving the workhouse, the matron followed her to the outer garden gate of the workhouse, and again entreated her to return to the house, and remain until Tuesday, and offered to send some one to her mother. She replied ‘that she was going to a glover in the town to get two dozen of gloves to take home with her to make: that she could get 6s. per week.’

“The woman's mother is a widow, keeping a turnpike-gate in the parish of Mathon, about six miles from the Ledbury Union Workhouse, where the woman's other child was: also clothing for the infant. On her way home, about a mile and a half from her mother's abode, she stripped the child, and left it naked under a hedge; then went to her mother, who asked her where the child was, she replied, ‘It was where she wished it to be—it was dead.’

“I also beg to state, that the said Harriet Bowkett, during the whole of the time she was in the Ledbury Union Workhouse, never made any application to the Board of Guardians (who meet every Tuesday), nor to any one of their officers, for relief of any kind out of the house. Had she applied to the Board of Guardians, and made it known to them that she had no clothing for her child, nor the money to procure it, an order would have been given to the master of the workhouse to furnish her with what was requisite.

“The Board of Guardians were wholly ignorant of the case until they met on the following Tuesday, the 2nd of December; the woman was then committed to prison.”

*Case of Elizabeth Butcher.*—21. The second case was that of Elizabeth Butcher, in the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Union. With reference to this case, we insert a statement of the facts, as ascertained upon personal inquiry by our Assistant Commissioner, Mr.



Grenville Pigott (from a Report dated the 31st January last).

"As regards the individual case of Elizabeth Butcher, she gave notice of her intention to quit the house at eight o'clock, A.M. on the 9th of January, and did quit it at eleven o'clock, A.M. The Board of Guardians, although sitting, were not informed of the fact, because she had made no application of any kind to be laid before them, and because her departure from the house was of her own free will, and could not be prevented by them. The matron and Jane Cook advised Elizabeth Butcher to stay, but she refused to do so, and said that she wanted to go to her aunt for her own clothes, and that she had baby linen. Jane Cook advised her to send to her aunt for clothes for the baby before she took it away, but she refused to do so. Her residence was at Tokenham, six miles from the workhouse. The matron and Jane Cook were both of opinion that the child, as it was wrapped up, might have been safely taken that distance on that day, which was mild. The master and matron both bear a high character for humanity, and Elizabeth Butcher made no complaint of her treatment whilst in the house.

"On the other hand, it is to be feared that the clothing was not sufficient for herself and her child; and although she made no application to the Guardians, who she knew were sitting, for additional clothing, it is admitted by the master that it was generally understood amongst the female paupers that any such application would have been refused."

*Supply of clothing to paupers leaving the workhouse.*—22. The supply of clothing to paupers leaving the workhouse is a subject which has frequently been under the consideration of the Commissioners. The following remarks in relation to it, occur in a minute of the Commissioners, dated the 29th of October, 1839, inserted in their sixth Annual Report (App. A., No. 3):—

"With respect to allowances of clothing to paupers in the workhouse, it is desirable that persons residing a short time in the workhouse should not on leaving it be furnished, except under very particular circumstances, with a fresh suit of clothes. \* \* \* \* \* Persons permanently domiciled in the workhouse, and especially children who have remained in it from an early age, must on quitting it be furnished with a decent outfit of clothing. Young persons who have been brought up in the workhouse, and who leave it for service or apprenticeship, ought, in the opinion of the Commissioners, to be furnished with an outfit of clothing as is usually possessed by young persons not being paupers in a similar condition."

*Supply of clothing for infants born in the workhouse.*—We are not aware that the practice of the Guardians with respect to the supply of clothing to infants born in the workhouse, and leaving it with their mothers, was ever brought specifically under our attention until the occurrence of the two cases above-

mentioned. The supply of clothing to an infant leaving the workhouse with its parents if legitimate, and with its mother if illegitimate, is relief to the parent, and will, in general, come under the regulations with respect to relief of the able-bodied. If the parents of any infant child in the workhouse are, when about to leave the workhouse, desirous of obtaining an allowance of clothing for the child, they can apply to the Board of Guardians, who, if they think fit, can make the allowance as for a case of emergency. The Guardians can, moreover, empower the relieving officers, or the master of the workhouse, to allow clothing, in cases of urgency, to persons suddenly leaving the workhouse in the interval between the sittings of the Board. And it appears to us that the master and matron ought not to suffer any infant to leave the workhouse, under such circumstances, without sufficient covering to protect it against the consequences of exposure to the air.

*Number and salaries of Union officers.*—23. One of the principal functions imposed upon the Commissioners by the Poor Law Amendment Act consists in authorising the appointment, defining the duties, and regulating the salaries of the paid officers of unions and parishes. A large part of the business of the Commissioners likewise consists in the superintendence of the body of paid officers, and in the decision of the various questions, to which new appointments, proposed increases or diminutions of salary, charges of misconduct, &c., give rise. The following statement shows the total number of each class of paid officers in the unions and parishes under the regulations of the Commissioners, with the total amount of their salaries:—

Return showing the Number of Officers of each Class, employed in 591 Unions of England and Wales, with the amount to them in fixed Salaries for the Year 1844-5.

Description of Officers.	No.	Salaries.
		£
Clerks.....	590	59,431
Chaplains .....	415	19,140
Medical officers .....	2,680	124,532
Relieving officers.....	1,257	103,881
Masters and matrons .....	1,238	44,369
Schoolmasters .....	284	7,423
Schoolmistresses .....	423	7,009
Porters .....	347	6,340
Nurses .....	171	2,161
Taskmasters .....	20	936
Collectors or assistant-overseers .....	499	23,026
Treasurers.....	52	973
Other officers .....	264	7,747
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>406,968</b>
District auditors .....	50	12,933
<b>Total inclusive of auditors .....</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>419,901</b>

NOTE.—Officers that are not paid by fixed salaries are excluded; also assistant-overseers and collectors not appointed under the Board's orders.  
\* \* \* The salary of the district auditors includes remuneration for some Parishes not in Union.

*Proceedings under 7 and 8 Vict. c. 101.*—24. In our last Annual Report, we gave a detailed account of our proceedings, under the authority of the Act of 7 and 8 Vic. c. 101. We now continue that account with respect to those proceedings which were not completed at the date of that Report.

*Division of Metropolis into districts for relief of casual poor.*—25. We stated in our last Annual Report, par. 44, that we had then framed a scheme for the division of the metropolis into districts for the relief of casual poor, in pursuance of the provisions in the Act of 7 and 8 Vic. c. 101. This scheme was in substance founded upon the recommendations of our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Hall, whom we had instructed to investigate the subject, and whose Reports, containing the result of his inquiries, we insert in the Appendix. In the months of July and August last, we issued a series of orders, dividing the metropolis and its vicinity into six districts, named respectively as follows, viz.:—The Central, the North-Eastern, the South-Western, the Western, the South-Eastern, the North-Western, and Metropolitan Asylum Districts. We likewise, at the same time, fixed the number of members which each union and parish, included in a district, was to return to the District Board of Management, and we defined the manner in which the election was to be conducted. We issued also other orders regulating the mode of proceedings to be pursued by the Board of Management, and authorising the appointment of certain paid officers, with specified powers and duties. The following table contains a statement of the most important particulars relative to each of the above-named six districts:—

SOUTH-EASTERN METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
Greenwich .....	80,811	178,787	2	1
Lewisham.....	23,013	107,382	1	1
St. Mary, Rotherhithe ...	13,916	49,806	1	1
St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey .....	34,947	88,492	1	1
St. Olave, Southwark ...	18,427	84,076	1	1
St. Giles, Camberwell ...	39,867	153,278	1	1
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>210,981</b>	<b>661,821</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

SOUTH-WESTERN METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
St. Saviour .....	32,980	84,372	2	1
St. George-the-Martyr ...	46,622	119,963	2	1
St. Mary, Newington .....	54,606	161,802	3	0
St. Mary, Lambeth .....	115,883	449,142	3	1
Wandsworth and Clapham	39,853	204,357	2	1
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>289,941</b>	<b>1,019,636</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>

NORTH-EASTERN METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
Hackney .....	42,274	160,981	1	1
Poplar .....	31,091	160,657	1	1
Stepney .....	90,657	212,603	1	1
West Ham .....	26,919	88,950	1	1
Whitechapel .....	71,758	197,524	1	1
St. George-in-the-East ...	41,351	141,301	1	1
St. Matthew, Bethnal Grn.	74,087	95,549	1	1
St. Leonard, Shoreditch...	83,432	169,133	2	0
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>461,569</b>	<b>1,226,628</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>

CENTRAL METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
Holborn .....	43,700	182,860	1	1
Strand .....	43,894	211,521	1	1
City of London.....	55,967	613,883	2	1
East London.....	39,655	140,139	1	1
West London .....	33,629	108,089	1	1
St. James, Clerkenwell ...	56,756	176,338	2	0
St. Giles, and St. George, Bloomsbury.....	54,292	236,970	2	0
St. Mary, Islington.....	55,690	212,283	2	0
St. Luke, Middlesex .....	49,829	131,676	2	0
St. Pancras .....	128,479	582,030	4	0
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>561,891</b>	<b>2,595,759</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>

WESTERN METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
Fullham .....	22,772	82,308	3	1
Brentford .....	37,034	130,204	4	1
Richmond.....	13,558	61,221	2	1
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>73,364</b>	<b>273,733</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>

NORTH-WESTERN METROPOLITAN ASYLUM DISTRICT.

Name of Union or Parish.	Popula- tion.	Valuation of Property.	Number of Managers.	
			Elected.	Ex-officio.
St. George, Hanover-squ..	66,453	604,176	2	0
St. James, Westminster ..	37,398	240,648	2	0
St. Mary Abbots, Ken- sington .....	26,830	148,368	1	1
St. Luke, Chelsea .....	40,177	123,200	2	1
St. Margaret, and St. John the Evangelist, Westm.	56,481	168,440	2	0
St. Martin-in-the-Fields..	25,195	239,996	1	1
St. Marylebone .....	138,164	816,480	3	0
Paddington .....	25,173	209,076	1	1
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>415,871</b>	<b>2,550,384</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>

*Appointment of Boards of Management, and refusal of three parishes to elect Managers.*—26. At the proper times appointed by the orders in question, elections of members for the several Boards of Management took place, and a Board was constituted in each district. The local Boards of three parishes, (viz., Marylebone and St. Luke, Chelsea, in the north-western district, and St. Giles, Camberwell, in the south-eastern district,) refused, however, to proceed

to an election. With these exceptions, every Union and parish comprised in the orders has returned members to its district Board. All the Boards of Management have held meetings, and three of them have taken the first steps in execution of the powers conferred upon them.

*Appointment of Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Asylum Districts.*—27. We have already stated that the Directors and Guardians of the parish of Marylebone, a parish important from its population and wealth, declined to return members to the district Board. In September and January last, deputations from this parish communicated to the Commissioners their wish that it should be exempted from the plan, and continue to maintain its casual poor separately as heretofore. The Commissioners stated to these deputations, their opinion that there were no grounds for excepting Marylebone, which did not apply to all large parishes under local Acts, and that the plan ought to be founded on a division of the entire metropolis. They, therefore, declined to modify their order in the manner indicated by these deputations. In the early part of this Session of Parliament, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the manner in which the Poor Law Commissioners have carried into effect the provisions of the 7th and 8th Vic., relating to district asylums; and since the appointment of this Select Committee, the Commissioners have abstained from taking any active steps for carrying these provisions into effect; inasmuch as they thought it desirable to wait until it appears whether any alteration of the existing law relative to the relief of the wandering and houseless poor is likely to result from the inquiries and recommendations of the Committee.

*Course pursued by the Commissioners respecting relief of casual poor in the Metropolis since the establishment of the Commission.*—28. Having described the nature of the plan which we have formed for the division of the Metropolis into asylum districts under the 7th and 8th Vic. c. 101, we will take this opportunity of shortly stating the course which the Commissioners have pursued with respect to the relief of the houseless poor in the metropolitan Unions and parishes, since the first establishment of the Poor Law Commission.

*Relief of casual Poor in the Metropolis.*—29. In August, 1837, the Commissioners of Metropolitan Police addressed a letter to the Poor Law Commissioners, enclosing returns of persons found by the police in a state of destitution, and stating that difficulties still occurred with respect to obtaining immediate relief from the parochial authorities, in cases of urgency. The Police Commissioners desired to receive from the Poor Law Commissioners such suggestions as would enable the police to act more effectually in cases of destitute persons, of whom they were obliged to take cognizance. The Poor Law Commissioners, in answer to this communication, addressed a

letter to the Police Commissioners, (dated 6th September, 1837,) in which they explained the state of the law on the subject, showing that destitute persons, though not settled in a parish, were nevertheless entitled to relief from it; and that relief ought, therefore, to precede inquiry into settlement. In the same letter, they indicated the duties of the local Poor Law Officers, with respect to the relief of the casual poor; they likewise suggested that professional beggars should be dealt with under the Vagrant Act.

The following are extracts from this letter:—

“If any person state that he has no food, and that he is destitute, or otherwise express or signify that he is in danger of perishing unless relief be given to him, then any officer charged with the relief is bound, unless he have presented to him some facts or reasonable evidence to rebut such statement, to give relief to such destitute person in the mode prescribed by the law.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“On the occurrence of any case of destitution, or of sudden and pressing emergency, the better course will be to apply to the nearest paid officer of the Union, the Relieving Officer, or the Master of the Workhouse, who best know the most efficient remedies applicable for the relief of such cases, and who have the best means of applying them. The Commissioners will feel it their duty to make those officers responsible in their situations for any serious neglect—for the bad consequences of any omission to give prompt and adequate relief in any case of real destitution and emergency. For relief to be effectual, it must be given at the time when the emergency shall occur to the destitute person. The question as to any existing means of repayment, or as to the place to which the destitute person may be chargeable, it will be the duty of the officer to reserve for investigation after the pressing want shall have been relieved.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“All persons who are not casually destitute, but who beg as a profession, the Poor Law Commissioners submit should be dealt with under the Vagrant Act, and be apprehended by the police, and taken before the magistrate for his award of punishment. In those cases which the Union or Parish officers find to be cases of imposture, or where, after the destitution shall have been relieved, it is ascertained to have been brought about by misconduct or by any act of vagrancy, then it will be the duty of those officers to give the offenders into the custody of the police, that they may be taken before the magistrate.

That which the Commissioners are most anxious to have made known is, that the relief of actual destitution, in cases of emergency, should always precede the investigation of any question as to its cause, or as to the liability of any other parties than the parish to contribute to it.”

The preceding correspondence was published in the Fourth Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, Appendix A. No. 2.

The Poor Law Commissioners, by a circular letter, dated the 12th of December, 1838, and sent to the Boards of Guardians in the metropolis, called attention to this correspondence, as printed in their Fourth Annual Report, and pressed upon the attention of the Guardians the views expressed in their letter to the Commissioners of Police. They further recommended the relief of the casually destitute in workhouses, where they could be employed in suitable labour, (Fifth Annual Report, App. A., No. 10.) By a similar circular letter to the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians, dated the 7th of December, 1839, they renewed the expression of their opinion as to the obligation of the parish to give immediate relief to casually destitute persons, and they enforced their remarks by the following declaration:—

“The Commissioners request the Board of Guardians to warn their officers that no consideration of past services will be deemed by the Commissioners a sufficient reason for their hesitating to remove any officer, who, after this period, shall have neglected his primary duty in relieving any case of urgent casual destitution brought under his notice, by affording such relief within the workhouse in all cases in which there is ability to labour, or in which relief within the workhouse is desirable, such as cases of houseless destitution and casualty, or by affording such relief as may be appropriate in other cases, in articles of absolute necessity.” (Sixth Annual Report, App. A., No. 6.)

In their Eighth Annual Report, presented in May, 1842, the Commissioners stated fully the law with respect to the relief of wayfaring and casual poor, and explained the nature of the difficulties which had arisen on this subject in the metropolis and other large towns. They there expressed an opinion that the object to be aimed at was to secure immediate relief to this class of poor without reference to the place of their settlement, and at the same time to avoid, as far as possible, affording encouragement to habitual vagrancy, (par. 67—73.)

In their Tenth Annual Report, presented in May, 1844, the Commissioners further considered the subject in reference to London, and stated an opinion favourable to the establishment of separate asylums for the vagrant poor, at the cost of the poor rates, in the metropolis, (par. 13—29.) In the same year the Act of 7 and 8 Vict. was passed, containing the provisions relative to district asylums, upon which our orders have been founded.

30. In adopting the course just described, with respect to the relief of casual poor in the metropolis, both before and after the passing of the Act of 7 and 8 Vic., the Commissioners have been guided by the following considerations.

31. The laws relating to the relief of the poor

confer a right to relief irrespective of settlement. All destitute persons have a right to be relieved at the cost of the parish in which they are. This right, in the first instance, is absolute; but if a person so relieved has a settlement in another parish, the officers of the parish to which he has become chargeable can, if they think fit, remove him to the place of his settlement.\* According, therefore, to the established law, a wandering poor person who applies for relief in a parish, metropolitan or rural, although he has not acquired any settlement in it, must, if he be destitute, there receive parochial relief.

32. It is doubtless desirable, as far as possible, to avoid all encouragement of habitual mendicancy and vagrancy, by affording undue facilities for obtaining relief to persons leading a life of this sort, which is always accompanied with laziness and vice, and almost always with crime. But a wandering mendicant, if he becomes destitute and applies for relief, has as good a legal right to it as any other poor person in a similar condition. If a wanderer of this sort died of starvation or exposure to the cold, in consequence of the refusal of relief, the local Poor Law officers would be held responsible for the result. Nor does a repetition of applications for relief constitute any offence against the law, or render the person liable to the penalties of the Vagrant Act. The 5th Geo. 4, c. 83, contains only three enactments applicable to habitual beggars. In sec. 3, it declares, that “every person wandering about, and placing himself or herself in any public place, street, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Act.” In sec. 4, it declares, that “every person wandering abroad, and lodging in any barn or outhouse, or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in the open air, or under a tent, or in any cart or waggon, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving a good account of himself or herself;” and that “every person wandering abroad and endeavouring, by the exposure of wounds or deformities, to obtain or gather alms, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act.” Unless a wandering beggar, applying for relief at a workhouse, has committed some act falling within one of the above descriptions, and can be proved by legal evidence, to the satisfaction of a justice, to have committed it, he cannot be transferred to the police and proceeded against under the Vagrant Act, but must be relieved like any other destitute person.

It appears, therefore, that the obligation imposed by the existing law to relieve wanderers and houseless strangers applying for relief on account of destitution, in a parish in which they have not a settlement, is unquestionable. This obligation extends

\* See Minute on Relief of persons not resident within their Union, 7th Ann. Rep., App. A., No. 2.

equally over all parts of the country, and is binding upon rural not less than metropolitan parishes. Before the interference of the Poor Law Commissioners in the years 1837, 1838, and 1839, (as already stated,) it was a general practice in the metropolitan parishes to refuse relief to wanderers, on the ground that they had no settlement in the parish. This practice has, to a considerable extent, been changed in consequence of the measures taken by the Commissioners; and less distinction has been made between settled and other poor with respect to relief. But the measures taken by the Commissioners altered not the law, but the practice which had been established in the London parishes; on the contrary, their interference was, as they stated in their letters, founded on a desire to bring the practice into accordance with the law.

33. The distribution of workhouses at short distances over the entire country, and the regular enforcement of the right of strangers and wayfarers to relief, may, in some cases, unduly encourage wandering habits among the poor, notwithstanding the provision of the 5th and 6th Vic. c. 57, which authorises the detention of this class of paupers in a workhouse for four hours in the morning, in order that they may be set to work. Nevertheless, this disadvantage, as far as it exists, appears to be a necessary incident to the existing law, which (rightly, as it seems to us) extends the benefit of relief to all destitute persons, without reference to their settlement or place of residence.

34. In the majority of the country workhouses the number of applications from vagrants is not in general so great as to cause material inconvenience, provided there be proper wards for their reception, and adequate means of setting them to work. If the burthen of this class of poor, which is now in general concentrated upon the parish in which the workhouse is situate, were distributed over the entire union, we believe that the practical grievance arising from this branch of relief in rural unions would not be great. As respects the metropolis, the inconveniences and injustice produced by the present mode of relief will, as it appears to us, be materially alleviated by the adoption of separate establishments for the reception of the houseless poor, according to the plan which we have above described. This plan proceeds upon the assumption that the right to relief possessed by this class of poor will remain on its present footing. It involves no new principle of relief; it merely makes a different distribution of the existing workhouse arrangements and the costs of the maintenance. Instead of there being a ward for vagrants in each metropolitan workhouse, there will be a separate building devoted exclusively to the reception of this class of poor, and common to a district of unions and parishes. In this building (which will be a cheap workhouse for a limited purpose,) the houseless and wandering poor will be alone admitted, and will be relieved and set to work according to prescribed regu-

lations. Moreover, the total expenses of their relief will be divided among the several parishes and unions comprised in each asylum district, according to their respective valuations. In this manner the costs of the casual poor, which are now capriciously and unjustly accumulated upon certain parishes and unions, will be distributed equally over the entire metropolis.

35. With respect to proposals for strengthening the penal provisions against vagrants, and for rendering it more difficult for wanderers and habitual mendicants to obtain relief, it is to be observed that legal enactments on this subject would be inoperative, unless they were in accordance with public opinion; and, even under the present law, there is, on the part of magistrates, much reluctance to convict for begging, as well as great difficulty on the part of the police in obtaining the requisite evidence. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that the current of modern legislation has run in the direction of affording additional facilities for the free circulation of labour; and it is generally admitted to be an object of public policy that the law of settlement should not oppose any unnecessary obstacles to an unemployed labourer who is *bonâ fide* in search of work. If any change of the law, in the manner indicated, is to be made, it appears to us that the best course would be to enlarge the power of detention in the workhouse, conferred by the 5th and 6th Vic. c. 57, in cases where a casual pauper had applied for relief more than once in the union within a certain number of days.

*Appointment of District Auditors, and arrangement of Audit Districts.*—36. In our last Annual Report (par. 45—49) we referred to the provisions made by the statute 7 and 8 Vic. c. 101, for the appointment of district auditors, and we described the steps which we had then taken for giving effect to those provisions.

Since our last Report, the audit arrangements have been completed throughout the country, although some few additions will probably be made to the existing districts.

The general results of this arrangement are as follows:—

Total number of Orders issued relating to District Auditors.	Number of such Orders for continuance of existing Auditors, and altering their Districts.	Number of such Orders for the Election of new Auditors.	Average number of Unions to each Auditor.	Average Salary of each Auditor.
72	44	28	12.38	£. s. d. 259 10 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

In 1842, before the appointment of district auditors under the recent statute, the number of auditors in England and Wales was 454, and the average amount of salary for each Union was 22*l*. Under the existing arrangement, the difficulty of obtaining efficient officers for the discharge of their most important

duty, is diminished and the average salary for each Union is reduced, being 21*l*. At the same time the aggregate sum paid for the audit has slightly increased; the number of places, the accounts of which are subjected to audit, being larger. In 1842, the number of Unions subject to audit was 585, and the aggregate payment was 12,816*l*.; at present the number of Unions is 619, and the amount paid is 12,976*l*. being an increase of 169*l*. The average size of the districts would have been larger, but for our unwillingness to disturb so large a number of auditors already acting for more than one Union. We had to take our choice between two evils, that of unnecessarily removing persons fit for their duty, or that of exercising the powers conferred by the Act of Parliament, in such a manner, as in many cases to deprive the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Boards of Guardians of their vote at the first appointment of a district auditor. Their right, however, remains unimpaired, as to all future elections, and we could not have effected the object which the law appeared to contemplate, without this temporary inconvenience. That object, we assume to have been the formation of proper districts of sufficient size so as to secure the due and satisfactory audit of the accounts at as early a period as possible. Whenever we deemed it compatible with other arrangements to do so, we have continued existing auditors with a smaller district, rather than infringe upon the rights, even for one election, of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the several Boards. In other instances, however, it was not deemed by us expedient to do so, and we regret to find that some dissatisfaction has existed in consequence.

*Efficiency of District Auditors.*—37. Our experience of the efficiency of the district auditors is highly in favour of the alteration effected by the statute. Many illegal practices have been checked; irregularities in the accounts of officers are more strictly investigated; greater punctuality in sending in the accounts of solicitors and others, so that the charge may fall on the rate-payers of the year in which it is incurred, is gradually being enforced, and finally a system of checking the expenditure of parish officers and Boards of Guardians, on more uniform principles, will without doubt, gradually establish itself.

*Legal proceedings as to appointment of District Auditors in Eton and Winslow Unions.*—38. One or two legal points connected with the appointment of district auditors and the provisions of the recent statute have come before the superior courts. The auditor of the Eton Union was also the auditor of the Amersham Union, and having audited the accounts of the parish of Burnham in the former Union, had been required to set forth his reasons for allowing certain items, but had declined to do so. A *certiorari* having been moved for in the Court of Queen's Bench to bring up this allowance, he objected that he had not been continued by the Poor Law Commissioners as an auditor under the statute; and, therefore, that

the provisions therein contained relative to the *certiorari* did not apply to him. The Court of Queen's Bench, however, made the rule absolute for a *certiorari*, intimating a strong opinion that he could not make such an objection. We are informed that the then auditor has since made a return to the writ, and raised this objection in his formal return.

39. The decision was supposed by some persons to imply that all persons who were auditors for more than one Union, and had not been expressly removed by the Commissioners immediately after the statute was passed, became, by implication of the Act, district auditors, and that it was not competent for the Commissioners subsequently to cause the Unions under the control of such an auditor to be included in a district newly formed. The Winslow Union, acting on this opinion, refused to submit their accounts to the district auditor appointed in pursuance of our order. We felt it our duty to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a rule to compel them to conform in this matter with what we conceived to be the requisitions of the rule absolute, without thinking it necessary to hear our counsel in support of the statute. The Court, after hearing counsel in answer to the application, made the rule. We are bound, however, to say, that we believe the Board of Guardians to have acted in this matter in perfect good faith, and to have resisted the right of the district auditor because they believed the law to be on their side.

40. We believe that this institution of district auditors has established a class of officers whose services may readily be made available for the superintendence and control of other local expenditure—officers for the most part conversant with accounts and with the consideration of legal questions, and who will, from day to day, gain by the experience which necessarily attends the constant discharge of their duties.

*Discharge of outstanding Balances, under 7 and 8 Vic. c. 101.*—41. Section 34 of the Statute 7 and 8 Vic. c. 101, conferred on the Commissioners the power, in certain cases, of consenting to the discharge of outstanding balances which had been struck against officers, provided they had not been paid over, or proceedings taken to recover them before the passing of the Act. This provision was of a remedial character, and was calculated to set right certain irregularities apparent on the face of some accounts, as well as to relieve from the hardship of re-payment officers who might, unknowingly, have offended against the law. The power of relief was, however, restricted by certain conditions necessary to prevent the re-opening of transactions already closed, and which must *primâ facie* be taken to have been lawful, or its interference with proceedings already before the proper tribunal, and, therefore, to be determined in due course of law. These conditions, imposed by the statute, have prevented our exercising this power of relief, in certain cases, which no doubt have appeared to the parties themselves to be cases of



hardship. We could not enter into the consideration of their merits or demerits, since they did not come within the letter of the statute: one such instance there has been in the large and populous parish of Lambeth, in which we had, as we are advised, no discretion conferred on us by the Act. With regard to cases coming within the provisions of the Act, the course which we have hitherto pursued has been to consent to the discharge of such balances as had arisen from ignorance of the state of the law on the part of the overseers, and in reference to which the officers had acted in good faith at the time of incurring the expense. We have declined, in a few instances, to consent to the discharge, where there had been deliberate and wilful perseverance in illegal payments.

**Audit of Accounts changed from quarterly to half-yearly.**—42. We have, under the powers conferred upon us by Section 38 of the 7th and 8th Vict. c. 101, by orders issued during the last year, directed the auditors to audit the accounts of the unions and parishes in their respective districts twice in every year. This change in the period of audit, from quarterly to half-yearly, has rendered some modification in several of the books of account and forms prescribed by the Commissioners in 1836, necessary. The experience of ten years in the working of the accounts then prescribed, has also suggested many improvements in the arrangement of the books and forms, whereby a more satisfactory check on the parties accounting may be attained, without increasing the labour of keeping the accounts. We have, therefore, availed ourselves of the occasion which the change in the period of audit has presented, for taking the whole of the present order under our consideration, with a view to revising all the books and forms, and introducing such provisions as may appear best adapted for securing proper accounting. We purpose issuing the revised order with as little delay as may be compatible with that mature consideration which the importance of its provisions demands.

**Election of Guardians.**—43. Although the questions which have annually been submitted to us in relation to the election of guardians have been very numerous, we have not found it necessary to exercise the power vested in us by the 8th section of the Act of 5th and 6th Vict., c. 57, for determining such questions by orders under seal, in more than three cases. One of these cases occurred in the Cambridge Union, another in the Kensington Union, and the third in the West Bromwich Union.

**Modification of Apprenticeship Order.**—44. In our last Annual Report (par. 34), we adverted to objections which had been made to certain provisions of the General Order issued by us on the 31st of December, 1844,\* for regulating the Apprenticing of Pauper Children. In consequence of such objections, we addressed a circular to the boards of guardians, intimating that we proposed to make some modifications

\* Appendix A., No. 2, of the Eleventh Annual Report.

in that order, and should be ready to receive any observations which they might wish to offer thereon. Having duly considered the numerous communications made to us upon the subject by boards of guardians, we issued an order on the 15th of August, 1845, modifying the first-mentioned Order, by enabling boards of guardians to give premiums, other than clothing, in certain cases, and to dispense with the condition requiring the payment of a remuneration to an apprentice after the age of 17 years, and also to authorise the master to change the place of abode or service of the apprentice.

**Remodelling of the Wycombe Union.**—45. We stated in our last Annual Report, par. 51, our belief that some unions in different parts of the country might be advantageously reduced in size, by means of the powers contained in the 7th and 8th Vict., c. 101, and we particularly indicated the Lincolnshire Unions, as likely to derive benefit from such a modification. During the last year, we have remodelled the Wycombe Union, and we have directed the attention of our assistant-Commissioner, Mr. Weale, to the large size of some of the Lincolnshire Unions; but we find so much local opposition to any change in the existing boundaries of Unions, that we have only exercised this power in a few cases.

**Formation of Farnham Union.**—46. By an order, dated the 27th February last, we formed the parish of Farnham, which had previously been administered under Gilbert's Act, together with the parishes of Aldershott, Dockensfield, Frensham, and Frimley, into a Union, named the Farnham Union, and we have subsequently added to the Union the Ville of Waverley. We insert in the Appendix the statistical particulars relating to it. A Board of Guardians for the Union has been elected, and we have every reason to anticipate a favourable result from their administration of the law.

**Medical Relief.**—47. Upon the subject of Medical Relief, we have nothing material to state in addition to the explanations in our Annual Reports since 1842. The expenditure under this head has increased in the parochial year 1845, as appears from the following Table:—

Years ending Lady-day.	Amount of Medical Relief. £.
1838 .....	136,775
1839 .....	148,652
1840 .....	151,781
1841 .....	151,054
1842 .....	152,076
1843 .....	160,726
1844 .....	166,257
1845 .....	174,350

**Vaccination.**—48. From the steps which we took, as detailed in our last Report, we anticipated that the Vaccination Returns for the year ended 29th September, 1845, would show a large increase in the number of persons vaccinated by the public vaccinators of the several Unions; and it will be seen by the summary of these returns, contained in the

Appendix to this Report, that the progress of vaccination during that year has been highly satisfactory, there having been 362,087 persons vaccinated, and the operation having proved successful in 347,765 cases, the successful cases being equal to 96 per cent. on the number vaccinated.

49. The following table shows the number vaccinated, and the births in the unions from which returns have been received for the years ended respectively 29th September, 1844 and 1845:—

Years.	No. of Unions and Parishes.	No. of Persons Vaccinated.	No. of Persons successfully Vaccinated.	No. of Registered Births.	Ratio of Persons Vaccinated to the No. of Births.	Ratio of Persons successfully Vaccinated to the No. of Births.
1844	542	290,453	278,192	452,235	100 in 156	100 in 163
1845	580	362,087	347,765	486,632	100 in 134	100 in 140

50. In order to ascertain whether the number of children vaccinated under one year of age approximated to the number of births, we framed the form of return so as to show the number vaccinated under and above that age; and we find that the numbers were as follows:—

	Under one Year.	Above one Year.	Total.*
Vaccinated .....	154,031	204,212	362,087
Successfully vaccinated .....	147,958	196,216	347,765

The number vaccinated under one year of age is 43 per cent. upon the total number vaccinated, and 32 per cent. upon the number of births.

In every union in which we found that the number vaccinated under one year of age did not nearly approximate to the number of births, or in which a falling off had taken place in the number vaccinated, as compared with the previous year, we requested the guardians of the union to call the attention of the vaccinators to the subject, and to urge upon them the importance of extending the practice of vaccination in their districts. Though the number of children vaccinated under one year of age is only 32 per cent. upon the number of births, we still think that the relation which the births bear to the number vaccinated is a tolerably correct measure of the efficiency of the arrangements for promoting the object of the Vaccination Extension Act, as from the communication which we have received from boards of guardians and vaccinators, we learn that vaccination is very frequently deferred till the child attains its second or third year.

51. During the past year small pox has not prevailed to such an extent as it did in the year 1844,

\* These totals do not correspond, in consequence of the ages of the persons vaccinated not being distinguished in some of the returns.

the deaths in the metropolis in 1845 being only 909, whilst in 1844 they were 1804.

The Registrars of the 115 districts, comprised in the Quarterly Tables of Mortality published by the Registrar-General, are required when the deaths are above the average, to state whether any epidemic disease has been prevailing in the districts, or if there be any other known circumstance which will account for the increase. We are thus enabled to ascertain in what localities small pox has recently been prevalent, and we then place ourselves in communication with the boards of guardians of the unions in which the deaths occurred, and request that the public vaccinators may be instructed to use every means in their power to extend the practice of vaccination in their respective districts, and that the attention of the residents of the union may be especially directed to the arrangements which have been made for vaccination. At the same time we feel bound to state, that the boards of guardians and vaccinators generally appear to be fully sensible of the importance of giving full effect to the provisions of the Vaccination Extension Act, and manifest great zeal in the extension of the practice of vaccination. The amount paid in fees to the vaccinators during the year ended 25th March, 1845, was £625,905, being an increase of £9025, or of 35 per cent. upon the amount paid in the previous year.

**Legal Proceedings connected with formation of the Ashbourne Union.**—52. In our last report we stated that we had received notice on behalf of some of the parishes which considered themselves members of the Alstonefield Union, of their intention to apply for a writ of *certiorari* to bring up our order, forming the Ashbourne Union, before the Court of Queen's Bench. That notice was abandoned, and another notice having been afterwards served, was acted upon, and a rule *nisi* for the writ was obtained in Trinity Term last. In the same term cause was shown by our counsel, and the rule was discharged with costs, the Court being satisfied that the several parishes which claimed to belong to the Alstonefield Union had never been legally added to it. By this decision the validity of the order forming the Ashbourne Union was established, and all the parishes comprised in it have been brought under the operation of the general law.

**Proceedings for bringing the Rochdale Union into operation.**—53. We also stated in our last Report the circumstances connected with the legal proceedings which took place in respect of the order which we issued to the Rochdale Union in October, 1844, and that a rule *nisi* had been obtained for setting aside the verdict, which we had obtained at the assizes on the trial of the traverse of the *mandamus*. We considered that the decision of the question, which was one purely of form, could not be obtained according to the ordinary course of the proceedings in that court until after a long interval. In the mean time

the administration of the law for the relief of the poor in the union was in a state of great embarrassment, in regard to the legality of any proceedings which could take place in the matter. As there had been no election of guardians at the time for the last annual election, there was no board of guardians to which we could issue a fresh order. The case, therefore, was one to which the provision in the 38th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which requires the *ex-officio* guardians to act, applied. We accordingly called upon them to do so, and at the same time issued an order, requiring the several townships in the union to proceed to an extraordinary election of guardians. The justices proceeded to act in conformity with the law, and took upon themselves the administration of the law for the relief of the poor, until guardians having been elected in some of the townships, a portion of those guardians proceeded to carry out the provisions of the law, and during the last winter and up to the present time have acted in the complete discharge of their duties. The object of the *mandamus* having been thus obtained, we considered that no benefit would have resulted from our continuing the litigation in which it was involved, and consequently the proceedings were stayed at Christmas last by the ordinary course of a *stet processus*.

*Ashton-under-Line Union brought into operation.*—54. In furtherance of our intention to bring the Ashton-under-Line and Oldham Unions into operation for the administration of the law, we issued an order to the former union, dated the 30th of September last, directing an election of guardians to take place, and another on the 14th of December, directing the guardians forthwith to assume the administration of the relief of the poor. Both orders were readily obeyed, and that union is now in full operation.

*Proceedings in Oldham Union.*—55. In the Oldham Union, which was also originally formed in 1837, inasmuch as no board of guardians ever met for the discharge of their duties, there was no clerk who could conduct the election; consequently a question arose as to the best mode of procuring such election in this union; and we considered it advisable to direct the several parish officers to meet, and elect a person to act as a relieving officer, to conduct the election of guardians for the several townships of which the union is composed. This order was issued on the 15th day of November last, and directed the overseers to make the appointment on the 2nd day of December last. Some of the overseers attended at the appointed place of meeting; but as the greater part of them abstained from so doing, no election was made. We applied in last term to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of *mandamus* to the several overseers in this union to meet and elect a returning officer, and obtained a rule *nisi*, which has been made absolute this Easter term. An affidavit had been made in answer by the parties who

represented the township of Oldham, in which they questioned our power to direct the appointment of the returning officer, but no cause was shown against the rule, as it was proposed by the defendants to argue the question, whatever it may be, on the return to the writ, which we shall forthwith cause to be prepared and served.

*Act of 8 and 9 Vict. c. 10.*—56. As it was found that considerable difficulty existed in framing proceedings under the new provisions relating to Bastardy in the 7 and 8 Vict. c. 101, so as to be free from technical objections, the Legislature passed, in the commencement of the session of 1845, a short Act (8 and 9 Vict. c. 10) upon the subject, which supplied a complete series of forms to be used in such proceedings, and also removed some few doubts which had arisen in the construction of the former statute.

*Acts of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 100 and 126 (Lunacy Acts), and Acts of 8 and 9 Vict. c. 117 (Act for removal of Scotch and Irish paupers).*—57. But there were three Acts of the last session to which, as they affected the relief of paupers, we deemed it necessary to give particular attention. We allude to the Acts for the Licensing of Houses for the reception of Lunatics, and for enforcing the establishment of Lunatic Asylums, and the Act for the removal of Scotch and Irish Paupers. Those Acts determined the course of proceedings which had previously prevailed in regard to the relief and removal of the classes of paupers to which they applied, and introduced many new regulations. We thought it expedient to prepare and circulate a letter to all boards of guardians, containing an exposition of such of the regulations and provisions of those statutes as appeared to us to require the attention of the guardians and their officers, in reference to the performance of their several duties in the administration of the relief to the poor. We also directed the attention of the medical officers to the duty imposed upon them, in regard to visiting and reporting upon lunatic paupers, by a separate communication.

*Act of 8 and 9 Vict., c. 116.*—58. The Act of the last session, for the protection of Seamen entering on board Merchant Ships, (8 and 9 Vict. c. 116,) containing provisions prohibiting the engagement of seamen by other than licensed persons, appeared to affect the unions and parishes in certain districts, from which lads are frequently sought for engagement into that service. We therefore deemed it expedient to transmit a copy of this statute, with a brief reference to its provisions, to the different boards of guardians.

*Act of 9 and 10 Vict., c. 10.*—59. We may mention likewise, that a Statute of the present Session of Parliament (9 and 10 Vict., c. 10) having altered the mode which had been established for the repayment of Greenwich and Chelsea Pensioners, who by themselves or by their families receive parochial relief, we

have taken means to communicate to the different boards of guardians the new provision, which will, we believe, remove much of the mischief that has resulted from the mode of dealing with the pensions of these persons.

*Sales of Parish Property.*—60. Before we conclude the account of our proceedings in England, we think it right to advert to the subject of parish property. Although the sales of this property have been much diminished for some time past, they have by no means ceased. We regret to find that, in many places there is a determined resolution on the part of the parishioners to retain their old workhouses, as receptacles into which they allow paupers receiving out-door relief to be crowded, instead of such paupers being relieved by the guardians to the extent, or in the manner requisite to secure them adequate and proper lodging. Too many families are thus congregated in places which cannot be regulated or kept in proper order and repair, where no control exists, and where many evils affecting both the health and the morals of the inmates are engendered or aggravated. We constantly remonstrate with boards of guardians and parish officers upon this state of things, but have had little success in carrying into effect the only sound remedy. The appearance of a saving to the parish by allowing a pauper to reside in such dilapidated buildings rather than supply the means of providing proper lodging, or causing them to be received into the workhouse, proves to be an unsurmountable barrier to the course which is obviously desirable—namely, the disposal of such property to persons competent and willing to attend to and improve it.

61. It is sometimes urged that the property is a profitable investment for the parish, as it may be let out to labourers at rents to be paid over in aid of the poor rates. But it is only under very peculiar circumstances that this can be the result. The parish overseers are seldom strict or accurate receivers, and the labourer who occupies the cottages is so little above the class of paupers, that the exaction of the payment of the rent would too often bring him into that condition. The rent is therefore excused, and the tenant loses that habit of punctual payment which is so important to be preserved by him. In an application which we lately received from a parish in a northern union for the sale of some cottages, occur the following expressions:

"The cottages act as a bounty upon pauperism; the occupiers are in a worse condition than the generality of labourers in the village; they are more insubordinate. As soon as a vacancy occurs, or is in prospect, the overseers are subject to great annoyance by numbers of applications, chiefly persons with large families, who threaten that unless a house is provided for them, they will throw themselves and families upon the poor rate, a great and increasing evil."

We believe this to be a correct representation. We

have, in many instances, stated to the district auditors, that it is their duty to enforce from the overseers an account of the rents of such property, as we consider that the law does not empower them to dispense with the payment of those rents.

*Emigration.*—62. The emigration of poor persons during the last year has not been so extensive as in former periods, in consequence of the greater demand for labour in this country. The number who have emigrated will appear in the table in the Appendix applicable to this subject. One of the shipowners usually engaged in emigration made Southampton the port of embarkation for all the emigrants who were carried by him, instead of the port of London, which has been customarily the port of embarkation for emigrants from the south-eastern counties. Some advantages undoubtedly resulted from this course, but we are not prepared to express any opinion in favour of its universal adoption.

63. The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners were enabled, by means of arrangements with the Colonial Governments of New South Wales and the Cape of Good Hope, to resume gratuitous emigration to Australia, and to provide the same to a limited extent to the Cape, and some of the persons who emigrated under the authority of our orders, availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to them of proceeding to those colonies. We have not been accustomed to favour or forward emigration to the Cape, as we were not assured that this colony required additional labourers, and consequently felt a difficulty in satisfying ourselves of the proper reception of emigrants of the class referred to. At the same time, the cost of the passage was generally so great as to prevent parishes from assenting to the outlay. But when the Commissioners above referred to were enabled to propose and carry out this emigration, though to a small extent, we readily approved of the various applications made to us to sanction the trifling expenditure from the parochial funds, which was sometimes required to enable the parties to accept the offers of the Commissioners. As there appeared to be no doubt of the emigrants being instantly engaged on their arrival at the Cape, we withdrew our requisite of the landing money in this instance, as we had previously done in regard to Australia. We have reason to believe that the emigrants, on arrival at the Cape, obtained immediate employment.

*Proposed Fund for Superannuated Officers.*—64. In our 10th Annual Report, we expressed our opinion in favour of the establishment, under the sanction of the Legislature, of a fund for superannuated workhouse masters, to be created by receiving a proportionate part of the salaries of these officers, who would have a contingent claim upon it. Since that period a more comprehensive arrangement of the same kind has been in the contemplation of parish and union officers in England. Our Assistant-Com-



missioner, Mr. Hall, has been consulted on the subject; and it appears from papers communicated to him, that more than 1030 paid officers have signified their assent to the formation of a superannuation fund on the principle of deduction from their salaries; and that 22 boards of guardians have passed resolutions in favour of such an arrangement. We also perceive from the printed votes of both Houses of Parliament, that several petitions have been presented, praying the Legislature to facilitate the establishment of such a fund. We observe that in the Act to amend the Laws for the provision and regulation of Lunatic Asylums in Counties and Boroughs, (8 and 9 Vict. c. 126,) it is provided in the 43rd section, that such superannuation annuities, payable out of the county rates, may be granted by the justices to any officers of such lunatic asylums, on their becoming incapacitated from confirmed sickness, age, or infirmity, as they (the justices) may in their discretion think proportionate to their merits and time of services, not, however, exceeding in amount two-thirds of the salaries payable to them at the time of their retirements. We refer to this provision as evidencing

the disposition of Parliament in favour of the general principle of granting superannuation allowances to incapacitated officers on their retirement from situations, being similar to those of officers concerned in the administration of the relief of the poor. The particular manner which we are prepared to approve would, in its principles and details, resemble rather the system of the Police Act than that of the Lunacy Act; and we advert to the subject on this occasion, in order to express our readiness to assist in the preparation of any such measure, believing that it would be for the advantage of the paid officers and the rate-payers, as well as that of the recipients of relief.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very faithful and obedient Servants,

(Signed) GEORGE NICHOLLS,  
GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS,  
EDMUND W. HEAD,  
E. T. B. TWISLETON.

[The portion of the Report which relates to "Proceedings in Ireland," is omitted.]

AMOUNT of MONEY Levied, and Received from other Sources in aid of POOR'S RATE, and expended for the RELIEF and MAINTENANCE of the POOR, and for other Purposes, in England and Wales, during the Years ended 25th March, 1834 to 1845, with the Average Price of Wheat per Quarter in each Year.

Years ended at Lady-day.	Receipt.			Expenditure.										Medical Relief.	Average Price of Wheat per Quarter in each year, ended at Lady-day.
	Amount of Money levied by Assessment.	Received from all other Sources in aid of Poor's Rate.	Total Amount of Money received as Poor's Rate.	Amount of Money expended in Relief, &c. of the Poor.*	Amount of Money expended in Law Charges (Parochial and Union).	Amount of Fees paid to the Vaccinators under the Act, &c. in Extension Act.	Payment on account of the Registration Act, viz. Fees to Clergymen and Registers, Outlay for Register Offices, Books and Forms.	Payments under the Parochial Assessments' Act, (for Surveys, Valuation, &c.) and Loans repaid under the same.	Payment & other Payments made under the Act for taking an Account of the Census of 1841.	Payments for or towards the County or Borough Rate.	Payments for or towards the County & Local Police Forces (if any), and if not paid out of the County or Borough Rate.	Money expended for all other purposes.	Total Parochial Rates expended.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.
1834	3,338,079	...	...	6,317,255	258,604	...	...	...	...	691,548	...	1,021,941	8,289,348	...	51 11
1835	7,373,807	...	...	5,526,418	229,527	...	...	...	...	705,711	...	935,362	7,370,018	...	44 2
1836	6,351,538	...	...	4,717,630	172,132	...	...	...	...	690,845	...	823,213	6,413,124	...	39 3
1837	5,294,566	...	...	4,044,741	126,951	...	...	...	...	501,203	...	637,043	5,412,938	...	52 6
1838	5,186,389	...	...	4,123,601	93,982	...	35,662	25,680	...	681,842	...	507,929	5,468,699	136,775	55 3
1839	5,613,939	273,139	5,887,078	4,406,907	63,412	...	52,306	56,816	...	741,407	...	493,703	5,814,581	148,652	69 4
1840	6,014,605	227,966	6,242,571	4,576,965	67,020	...	51,228	49,963	...	855,552	...	466,698	6,067,426	151,781	68 6
1841	6,351,828	226,984	6,578,812	4,760,929	69,942	11,661	53,728	43,157	...	1,026,035	...	527,717	6,493,172	154,054	65 3
1842	6,552,890	201,514	6,754,404	4,911,498	68,051	33,744	52,379	40,178	57,111	1,903,651	227,067	318,092	6,711,771	153,481	61 0
1843	7,085,595	219,006	7,304,601	5,298,027	64,730	16,425	53,896	30,420	...	1,051,878	243,738	346,007	7,035,121	160,726	54 4
1844	6,817,295	219,592	7,036,887	4,976,093	105,504	16,980	56,094	30,083	...	1,111,236	245,221	359,106	6,900,117	166,257	51 5
1845	6,791,066	218,505	7,009,571	5,039,703	95,397	25,905	57,388	22,877	...	1,046,412	233,550	336,170	6,857,402	174,330	49 2

\* Including in-door and out-door relief and establishment charges; and since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, in addition thereto, building and emigration loans repaid, furnishing of Union Workhouses, &c.

† The last parochial year previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

NOTE.—The above results are obtained from the Annual Poor Rate Return received from the Clerks of Unions and Overseers of the Poor.

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AN

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR



OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION :

DIRECTED BY THE POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS TO BE PRINTED, CHIEFLY FOR THE USE OF THE MEMBERS AND PERMANENT OFFICERS OF BOARDS OF GUARDIANS UNDER THE POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

No. 60.] CIRCULAR ISSUED JULY 1, 1846.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House, July 1st, 1846.

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(Signed) By order of the Board,  
EDWIN CHADWICK, Secretary.