

*Ans.*—1. The relieving officer, or the guardians, or the overseers will doubtless give you the information as to the pauper lunatics who are residing in your district. 2. No time is specified in the Act for making the return; it must be made within every three months; and, consequently, it would seem most convenient that the return should be made at the end of each three months. 3. The Commissioners are not prepared to give any general instruction as to the meaning of the words "fit to be at large," as it is incumbent upon the medical officer to make a specific report upon each particular case. But they observe, that the Legislature appears to have contemplated that other than *harmless idiots* may be fit to be at large, as the term actually used is *lunatics*, which includes, according to the interpretation clause, *insane persons, and persons of unsound mind*, as well as *idiots*. 4. In regard to the lunatic pauper in the workhouse, it appears that so far as the medical officer is concerned, he must give notice, in writing, under section 48, to the relieving officer of the union, in which the parish to which the pauper is chargeable, is comprised; and this relieving officer must take the requisite proceedings under the statute. It is manifest, therefore, that no entry in the Form C, nor any notice to the master, will be a compliance with this provision. 5. The Commissioners consider that you cannot certify as to the insanity of any lunatic paupers, who are taken before the justices, whether they belong to your own district, or any other district in the union, such paupers not being wandering lunatics. 6. It does not appear that there is any restriction upon your certifying as to the insanity of any wandering lunatic brought before the justices, under the 49th section.

5. DITTO.

8th Sept. 1845.

*Medical Officer of Kingsbridge Union*—Stated, that the recent statute relating to pauper lunatics appears to be at variance with the Commissioners' Circular, dated August 25, 1845. From the Act, he understands that he is, as medical officer, to

report to the relieving officer all persons who are either lunatic, idiotic, or imbecile, whether they be dangerous or not, in order that they may be within three days brought before a magistrate, and be examined by another medical man, not connected with the union, as to their state of mind; thus imposing on him the most disagreeable part of the duty, without providing any emolument.

*Ans.*—The Commissioners, in their letter of the 25th August last, have only sought to put you in possession of one of the clauses of the Act which particularly imposes certain duties upon you. They are aware that there is another clause which requires you to perform another duty, apparently somewhat inconsistent with the one brought under your notice. On a careful consideration of the clauses, it does not appear that they are so inconsistent as to neutralise each other. It is required that the medical officer shall give notice to the overseer of every lunatic person, of whose lunacy he shall have knowledge, so that steps may be taken to procure his removal to an asylum. If the lunatic be so removed, no necessity will exist for the medical officer's visiting; but if, notwithstanding he has given such notice, the lunatic from any cause be not removed, it will be his duty to visit such lunatic, in the manner prescribed in the statute. The Commissioners being aware that there are many pauper lunatics not in any asylum, or licensed house, have deemed it advisable to point out to the medical officers of unions the new duties applicable to them in reference to such lunatics. Upon the provision in the statute, which prohibits the medical officer of the union from giving the requisite certificate of the insanity of the pauper, the Commissioners have only to observe that the Legislature has deemed it right to make this exclusion, and so far as the prohibition extends in the Act, it must be submitted to.

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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. 54.

CIRCULAR ISSUED DECEMBER 1ST, 1845.

The Poor Law Commissioners directed that the following documents be printed and circulated for the information of Guardians and Officers of the several Unions, viz.

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

I.—POTATOE CROP.

1. REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE INTO THE STATE OF THE POTATOE CROP IN IRELAND.

Board Room, Royal Dublin Society,  
7th November, 1845.

MY LORD,—Having laid before Your Excellency our views as to the best means of storing  
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the potatoe, and converting to useful purposes such as are too much diseased to offer a probability of being preserved, we now have the honour to bring under your consideration the question of seed for a future year. If, in our former Reports, we have found it difficult to determine what course, under the peculiar circumstances of Ireland, it might be most advisable to pursue, we are still more embarrassed, on the present occasion, in consequence of the conflicting testimony that has been presented to us, and the absence of all decisive evidence as to the cause of the potatoe disease. The want of experience, derived from previous visitations of the same nature, also renders it impossible to affirm in what manner the potatoe may be affected in the course of the next few months.

We have, however, endeavoured to ascertain all that is positively known upon these subjects, by the examination of a great variety of published documents, both foreign and domestic; by personal observation, and by inquiries addressed to persons of practical experience or scientific reputation.

It is a very general opinion, and one entertained by men whose extensive knowledge entitles it to respect, that parasitical fungi, similar in their nature to those which produce mildew and dry-rot, are the real cause of the malady. It is stated that one of these plants belonging to the genus "Botrytis," and similar to that which some years since produced great mischief among the silk-worms of France and Italy, has attacked the potatoe crop. It is described as entering the potatoe plant by the breathing pores of its leaves, and then passing down through the interior of the stem into the tubers, in which its mycelium or spawn fixes itself, traversing the cellular mass,

separating the cells themselves, causing alterations in their chemical condition, and thus producing decay. In other cases where the spawn is not apparently distinguishable in diseased portions of potatoes, even by the most practised observers, it is suggested that the juices of the plant may be vitiated by the parasite which destroyed the leaves, and that particles of it, too obscure to be distinguished by the eye, may be circulating with the juices and producing disease by irritation. The presence of the parasite is not to be detected by the naked eye, unless it makes its appearance on the outside of the potatoe in the form of mouldy tufts; but its spawn may be detected in the diseased portions by the microscope, whether any external indications of its presence can be perceived or not; hence it is inferred that it is produced exclusively from within. It is, however, within our knowledge, that when apparently sound potatoes are pitted in places where the mouldiness of a diseased potatoe is able to appear, that mouldiness rapidly establishes itself on the sound potatoes at every point where their surface has been wounded or bruised; and that under such circumstances, the disease is immediately extended through the entire mass.

That the spawn or fungi is present in large quantity in diseased potatoes is undoubted: the evidence of the best microscopical observers would be with us conclusive on that point, even if we had not verified the fact by personal examination. We also regard it as well ascertained, that these parasites spread rapidly in warm and damp situations, producing infinite mischief under such circumstances, and that their advance is only to be successfully resisted by dryness. But it does not appear to us, that their being the original cause of the disease has been well established; if it were so, it is difficult to conceive why fields of potatoes placed very near each other should be differently affected, or why certain varieties of this plant should be much less injured than others—the Irish apple potatoe for instance, which appears to have suffered more extensively than any other. We are also unable to reconcile with the theory of the potatoe disease being caused by parasitical fungi, the remarkable fact that in its present form it is certainly of modern origin. That it may have always existed is possible, though of this we have no proof; but at least there can be no doubt that it has only manifested itself to any considerable degree within the last few years. We cannot suppose the botrytis, which observers find to be a kind of fungus that attacks the potatoe, to

be a recent creation. We must assume it to have been co-existent with the potatoe itself; and therefore we must conclude that some recent causes have come into operation favourable to its increase to the present alarming degree.

Without pretending to decide what that cause really was, we may state that it seems to be connected with the cold, cloudy, ungenial weather, which has characterised the present year over the north of Europe; conditions highly unsuited to the constitution of a plant, which like the potatoe, is a native of a warm, dry, sunny country, and insufficient for the ripening of the tubers. Without adverting to solitary cases, which require to be examined with more care than we have the means of giving to them, we may state, that amidst the mass of conflicting evidence which we have obtained, the following facts appear to be established:—

*First.* That potatoes planted early in the season, are more healthy than those planted later.

*Second.* That the crop has suffered less in dry, elevated, sandy districts, when the influence of the season was mitigated by slowness of growth, or compensated for by the natural warmth of the soil.

*Third.* That the late varieties of potatoes are more diseased than early ones.

*Fourth.* That the present disease seems to be confined to the northern parts of Europe and North America, and to be unknown in the countries to the southward.

If we are right in the conclusion at which we have thus arrived, there will not be cause for serious alarm as to the crop of another year, unless an equally unfavourable season should be experienced, or the supply of healthy seed should be insufficient, or that the parasite should be found to have so entirely taken possession of this year's plants, as to overcome the natural power of living bodies to repel the attacks of such enemies to healthy vegetation.

To Providence we must turn in the hope, that a second season like this may not be visited upon us. Should the Almighty in his infinite mercy avert such a misfortune, we entertain confident hopes, that the two other sources of danger may be guarded against by human foresight and diligence.

In providing seed for a future year, we may look with confidence to such potatoes of home growth as shall have resisted all tendency to decay during the winter; and we trust, that a

considerable quantity of them will be found remaining where the precautions for storing which we have recommended shall have been observed. We do not anticipate any danger in the use of them, if they are planted early, especially if, before being planted, they are exposed to light till they become green. Another source of supply may doubtless be found in the southern parts of Europe, where we have reason to believe that disease has not shown itself; and we would strongly advise the public to lose no time in securing what may be procurable from that quarter.

It is stated by M. Séringe, secretary to the commission appointed in the department of the Rhone, in a report just published by him on the potatoe disease, that it is unknown at Genoa, and in the warmer countries. Our own advices describe the crops about Marseilles as being perfectly healthy, and therefore we may conclude, that mercantile enterprise will make up by importations, a large part of the deficiency to be apprehended.

It has also been ascertained by actual experiments that potatoes, although diseased, will grow and produce apparently healthy plants. The Reverend Mr. Berkely, a gentleman eminent above all other naturalists of the United Kingdom, in his knowledge of the habits of fungi, and whom we have consulted on this occasion, states, that although there would certainly be some risk of raising a diseased progeny from a diseased stock, yet the growth of fungi so evidently depends on atmospheric conditions, that it does not follow that because germs are present they should be developed.

We cannot, however, recommend the use of diseased tubers for seed, except by way of experiment, or in cases of absolute necessity, and it will always be prudent to dust them with powdered lime before they are used. It would indeed be proper to do so even when sets, however sound in appearance, are employed; for this process will destroy the minute seeds of parasitical fungi, which may be sticking to the sets, and assist in repelling those which are lying in the ground; of course those potatoes being selected which, on careful inspection, show no sign of disease, and hence afford the fairest prospect of a sound and healthy growth.

Where home-grown sets are to be employed for another crop, we would suggest with very great confidence, the adoption of the system of autumn planting, a method of cultivation which has been proved advantageous in regard to the

crop, which is attended with no unusual expense, and which seems particularly adapted to the circumstances of the present case. It has been shown by Mr. Grey of Dilton, that in Northumberland, his potatoe crop has been considerably increased in quantity by this practice, and that he has no disease in it this year. In 1844, his autumn-planted crop produced a hundred and eleven loads, when the same quantity of spring-planted land yielded but eighty loads under the same circumstances. And in the present season, this gentleman states, that his autumn-planted is one-third better than his spring-planted crop. There can, therefore, be no doubt that autumn planting may be safely practised. On this occasion, it has these peculiar advantages, that it offers an additional chance of security against renewed attacks from parasitical fungi. On this point, the evidence of Mr. Brokeley is positive. "Autumn planting," he states, "seems to me to offer the best chance of obtaining healthy sets. What are now planted will produce their tubers before the atmospheric conditions requisite for the growth of the parasite in the leaves can be realised, and without such growth, the particles, if present, will be too few to cause much evil. I think, under existing circumstances, the Commissioners cannot do a greater service than by encouraging and enforcing as much as possible, autumn planting." Concurring, as we entirely do, in this recommendation, we trust that the planters of potatoes who have it in their power to adopt it will do so at once.

All that we conceive it necessary to state with reference to this practice, is, that it should be performed at any time before the end of January; that the sets should be thoroughly dried by exposure to light and air; that they should also be well dusted with lime; and that they should be planted in drills six inches deep, with farmyard manure below the sets. We also recommend that where the potatoes are not large, they should be planted whole, and even large potatoes should be cut into not more than two pieces.

We have ascertained that autumn planting has already been practised throughout Fingal, for the early supply of the Dublin market, and that, although the practice has been nearly discontinued, that has not happened for any reason that affects the present question. Neither do we learn that the early period at which the leaves appear above the ground in spring, is attended with any greater risk than what attends preca-

rious crops like the potatoe in any season. The effect to be anticipated from autumn planting consists not merely in a probable increase of quantity in next year's supply, but in the saving of potatoes which may perish before spring, if the slow growth which goes on during winter is arrested, and in the early ripening of next year's crop, in the event of a second unfavourable season supervening. We may add, that experience has shown the small refuse potatoes of the year to be suited to autumn planting, if sound, and prepared in the manner we have recommended.

It has been supposed by many persons that the potatoe has arrived at a state of general debility, and that the crop will continue liable to disease like the present, until new varieties shall have been raised from seed. We do not find any satisfactory evidence to support this opinion. It is doubtless true that great constitutional differences exist among the varieties of the potatoe, and that some are much more delicate than others; but we do not find that the oldest varieties are the most tender, or the newest the most hardy. On the contrary, it is within our own knowledge, that, in the present season, very healthy varieties, recently raised, have suffered much more than kinds that have been long in cultivation.

While, however, we withhold our assent to the proposition, that newly-raised varieties of the potatoe are exempt in any peculiar degree from the attacks of disease, we fully admit the fact that some varieties are much more subject to it than others, and we therefore recommend the cultivation of the tender kinds to be discontinued, and that those alone be used for future cropping which the experience of the present year shows to be best suited to unfavourable seasons; and on this point we may further remark, that concurrent testimony points out the Irish "Cup" variety as that which has suffered least from the attacks of the disease.

We are also of opinion that it will be imprudent to plant potatoes for the next crop, in land which has been just cleared of them. The latter is in all probability filled with the seeds of fungi, countless myriads of which must have been scattered over the tainted field; and, although they probably have been borne by the winds to every portion of the country, yet it may be conceived that the soil will be more impregnated where diseased potatoes have just been growing, than in fields in which decaying matter was not actually present.

Under these circumstances, we are decidedly of opinion, that, prior to putting any kind of crop, for the coming year, into land that has been this season under potatoes, it will be prudent, if not absolutely necessary, that the ground should be turned up and exposed to the action of the atmosphere with care, and that it should be thoroughly manured with lime. We have already recommended that the potatoes, whether whole or cuttings, used for seed, should be dusted over with lime, previous to planting; and we further urge, that, in the case of corn or seed crops of every kind, the seeds should be steeped in lime-water, or in the solution of blue stone and salt, well known to farmers. Evidence has already been laid before us of injurious effects, where precautions such as we have described have been neglected.

We forbear from adverting to the possibility of replenishing the diminished supply of potatoes by sowing the seeds formed by the flower. This is an operation which can only be carried on successfully in a garden—is unsuited to the means of the small cultivator—cannot in any way affect the question of immediate supply—and may be safely left to the intelligence of the gardeners scattered through the country.

Hitherto we have laid before your Excellency, for the purposes of publication, several reports, in a merely popular form, suited to the present emergency. We are confident that the recommendations contained in them, if carried into effect, will tend to mitigate the evils arising from the attacks of the disease in the potatoe crop. We now propose to proceed forthwith to apply ourselves to the investigation of the important scientific questions involved in the subject; and to report, in due time, the results of our inquiries, in order that from past experience we may derive knowledge for future guidance. These investigations will occupy us for a considerable time; and while we do not contemplate the necessity of publishing further popular directions, we shall hold ourselves in readiness to give our immediate attention to any question which your Excellency may submit for our consideration, or to report from time to time for your Excellency's private information. We have the honour to be,

Your faithful and obedient servants,

ROBERT KANE.

JOHN LINDLEY.

LYON PAYFAIR.

To His Excellency Baron Heytesbury,  
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, &c.

Board Room, Royal Dublin Society,  
12th November, 1845.

MY LORD,—Having been requested to submit to Your Excellency a detailed description of the methods which we propose should be employed, under the authority of the Government, for utilising the diseased potatoes, and rendering available to the people all that may remain of the substance fit for food, we have to report as follows:—

We have mentioned to Your Excellency in a previous report, that our early chemical investigations led us to the recognition of two important facts—1stly, That by the action of water, the diseased parts of the potatoes were capable of being wholly removed; and, 2ndly, The pulpy material which remains is rich in the most valuable elements of food. Upon these principles are founded the processes by which we propose to render the bad potatoes useful for wholesome food. The simplicity of their practical working has been approved of by the judgment of persons of practical experience, from whose co-operation we have derived very considerable advantage.

The potatoes which we suppose to be employed in the following processes, are such as, being in great part or deeply infected with the disease, present an appearance too repulsive to allow of their being used directly for human food, and do not admit of the diseased parts being peeled off previous to cooking, without the sacrifice of a large portion of their substance. In such condition, we propose that the potatoes should be first washed from adherent dirt; this is very easily effected, when the quantity operated on is not very large, by the means everywhere adopted, in the farm-house or cottage. But when, as in Government Establishments, Poor Law Unions, or other places, it might be desirable to carry on the operations on a greater scale, it would be proper to wash the potatoes, by placing them in a cylindrical vessel formed of wooden bars, and working partially immersed in a vessel of water. This mode, which is adopted in all well-conducted factories for such purposes, will clean a large quantity of potatoes in a very short time.

The cleaned potatoes are next to be grated down by some one or other of the machines adapted for that operation. We have had occasion to direct the attention of Government to certain forms of these machines, which we consider best suited to the object, among those exhibited to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, and the Royal Dublin Society. The size and structure of

the machine, of course, will differ, according as it is destined for cottage or for farm use, or for employment in extensive operations; but in every case the machine derives great simplification from the fact, that the processes we recommend do not involve the separating of starch, but only the breaking down the structure of the potatoe; hence the pulp need not be so fine as if starch were to be extracted, and consequently the graters may be stronger and rougher; hence also the complex and expensive arrangement of sieves and cloths, for separating starch, are altogether dispensed with; the machine being reduced to the mere condition of a hopper, to hold the potatoes upon the grater, the grater itself, and a barrel, into which the broken down substance may be delivered.

When the potatoe has thus been obtained in the form of a pulpy mass, it is to be washed with water; the diseased portions of tissue, and all the peculiar substances produced by the disease, are in great part dissolved by the water, and render it thick and slimy, and dark reddish brown coloured; this is to be again poured off, and more water poured on, agitated moderately, and when the pulpy mass has subsided, this second liquid is to be poured off also. In general the second washing will fully cleanse out the diseased portion, but if necessary a third water may be used; in this way all that part of the potatoe that might prove injurious, may be washed out, and the residue that settles at the bottom of the vessel is to be used as food, in the way described below.

It is to be remarked that by much or continued washing, the starch, which it is our object to leave in the pulp, and which, in fact, must remain in the pulp to produce the article of food that we purpose to employ, may be washed out, and such washing out is the process by which potatoe starch is commonly prepared; it is, therefore, indispensable that the washing should be so managed as to suffice to remove the light and partly soluble diseased matter, but not enough to take out any quantity of the denser and insoluble starch. This is in practice perfectly easy; once performing the operation will fully show the point at which the washing, when properly conducted, should be arrested.

When the pulpy substance of the potatoe has settled down at the bottom of the vessel, it will form a mass, which, on examination, will be found usually not to be quite the same all through. If the washing the dirt from the pota-

toes had not been thoroughly well done, there may be found at the bottom of the mass some grit, sand, or clay, which can then be perfectly removed; at the top of the mass there will be found a quantity of starch which has been loosened from the broken down tissue of the potatoe; any grit, or clay, having been removed, the wet pulp, with its adhering starch, is to be put into a vessel where it may be mixed with a quantity of oatmeal, in such proportions, that the pulpy mass, when dried, should be two parts to one of oatmeal: this will be obtained by taking three parts of the moist pulp; the dry oatmeal and the wet pulp mixed well into a doughy mass, is to be then flattened into a cake and heated upon a plate or floor, so that they shall be at once dried and baked thoroughly.

The drying and baking process can be carried on in the cottage or farm-house, with complete success and facility. In large establishments, the plan which we propose to be applied, consists in the formation of a plate iron floor, heated by one or two fires, the flues from which, should circulate under the plates and bring every part to the proper temperature; on this floor the cakes, which should not exceed three-eighths of an inch in thickness, when dry, should be spread, and the drying and baking will proceed with ease and rapidity.

There will be then obtained from the diseased potatoes an article of food, which, from a number of trials, and from its constitution, we do consider may be relied upon as wholesome, nutritive, and capable of being preserved for any length of time. This nutritious matter is well adapted for food, and may be preserved without being mixed with oatmeal; it forms a matter which when dried and ground is very similar in appearance and taste to oatmeal, although not so rich in nutritious matter as the latter. In this ground form it may be kept like ordinary meal, and be converted into bread, soup, or stirabout, in the cottages of the poor.

Your Excellency will remark that even when the bread is at once made, the process consists of five operations, all of the simplest kind, and but one of these requiring the aid of fire:—

- 1st—Washing the potatoes.
- 2nd—Grating them down to pulp.
- 3rd—Washing the pulpy mass.
- 4th—Stirring in the oatmeal.
- 5th—Baking the cakes.

The only machinery necessary in the cottage or farm-house is a grater, a tub or bucket, and a griddle. In the large manufacturing establish-

ments or Poor Law Unions, of course a more mechanical arrangement is desirable; but even then the process is one of extreme simplicity. The instruments are:—

1st—A hollow revolving cylinder to wash the potatoes.

2nd—A grating machine for reducing them to pulp.

3rd—Barrels or vats for washing the pulp.

4th—A floor for mixing pulp and oatmeal.

5th—A heated floor or oven for baking the cakes.

As it will, for many reasons, be desirable frequently to manufacture the potatoe meal, which we have described, without mixing it with oatmeal or baking it, the above processes will, in such cases, be reduced and simplified.

We have attached to this report a brief statement, in the form of directions, for the use of cottiers or farmers, of how the process is to be carried on, on a small scale. Such is the plan that we have the honour to propose for the utilisation of diseased potatoes, and which we submit for Your Excellency's judgment. We believe it to be the cheapest, simplest, and most certain process by which that vegetable may be rescued from the destruction which now, in great part, threatens it, and its valuable nutritious material placed in a form where it may be preserved by the people for food, without being liable to loss or deterioration.

Several processes for converting diseased potatoes into food have been placed under our notice, either by the parties themselves proposing them, or by Her Majesty's Government, to whom they had been transmitted. We have carefully examined their respective merits, and we do not consider any of them to possess the necessary qualities for adapting them to the actual circumstances of this country. Of these plans, there are, however, two, which, as they approach somewhat to the character of the material we propose to be employed, we feel that we should expressly give our reasons for not recommending them to Your Excellency.

The first of these plans consists in boiling the potatoes, after cutting out the diseased portions, and afterwards drying the boiled mass by the application of heat, and preserving the dried mass in air-tight canisters or barrels.

The second plan consists in steaming the potatoes after they are peeled, with or without the diseased parts being cut out, and ramming down the potatoes thus softened into air-tight barrels, and closing them with air-tight lids.

Both these plans may be made to succeed, and the materials produced by their operation form an agreeable and useful food. But, at the same time, Your Excellency is aware that the advantages of such processes must depend upon their simplicity, and their adaptation to the circumstances of this country. The first of these plans differs from the second, in requiring twice the expenditure of fuel required either in the second plan, or that which we have proposed to Your Excellency. And it also differs from both, by the waste caused in cutting out the diseased parts, which, if they are at all to be economised, must be exposed to the tedious and expensive processes of making starch, with the loss of the nutritious pulp still undestroyed. In the process of steaming potatoes, it is proposed to preserve the diseased parts, which is objectionable, not only from the appearance given to the prepared part, but also from other reasons to which we have, on former occasions, directed Your Excellency's attention.

Both the plans under consideration involve a feature which we consider quite sufficient to prevent their general adoption, namely, the necessity for large and costly air-tight vessels to preserve the potatoes mashed in the manner proposed. Unless the products are preserved in tight vessels, well secured from air and moisture, they cannot be preserved in the manner indicated. The immense expense which would necessarily be incurred in applying such methods to the produce of an entire country is sufficient, in our opinion, to prevent their general adoption.

The plan which we have recommended to Your Excellency, unites the advantages of the previous plans, and at the same time introduces simplicity into the processes, with a less expenditure of labour and fuel, with a machinery certainly equally cheap, and with facilities of application much more universal. In offering a plan for converting all the nutriment existing in the diseased potatoe, into the form of a nutritious meal, as capable of preservation as ordinary oatmeal or flour, Your Excellency will perceive that it is highly important that the potato, however preserved, should be capable of being converted into hot soups or stirabout, so as to compensate for the loss of hot diet to which the peasant was accustomed in the potatoe. We have had practical experience, that the potatoe meal, such as we have suggested, made into soup, with any such vegetables as can be procured, forms a palatable accompaniment to the potatoe bread, at an expense not exceeding

one penny for five pints, and therefore within the means of the poorest peasant.

We would further lay before Your Excellency, that the plan as proposed by us, is equally applicable to the cottier as it is to the large establishments, for which it is mainly intended. When applied to the home of the cottier, we would suggest the circulation of the following simple directions which accompany this Report.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient and faithful  
servants,  
ROBERT KANE,  
LYON PLAYFAIR.

To His Excellency Baron Heytesbury,  
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, &c. &c. &c.

TO THE FARMERS AND PEASANTRY OF IRELAND.

*Directions for making Wholesome Food from  
Diseased Potatoes.*

1st.—The potatoes should be well washed with water, so as to cleanse them from all dirt.

2nd.—Grate down the potatoes by means of a grater, which may be made of a piece of sheet-iron, or tin punched up into holes and fastened on a board; or a better machine may be had for four or five shillings, consisting of a cylinder of punched sheet-iron turned by the hand, with a hopper to hold the potatoes. This grater should dip nearly half into a bucket or tub of water, into which the pulp will fall according as it is produced.

3rd.—When the pulp has settled completely down, pour off the dirty reddish water, and put more fresh water on. Stir up all well together, and then let the pulp settle down again, and pour off the liquor. If necessary, this is to be done again, if the liquor comes away reddish or brownish; but two washings will usually be enough to leave the pulp clean and free from the diseased parts, which all go off with the water.

4th.—Recollect that the starch is not to be washed out of the pulp, but only the reddish diseased stuff. The starch must be let to settle down along with the pulp, for they are both required in the food.

5th.—The wet pulp is then to be taken out of the tub and is to be freed as well as you can from water, by draining and pressing it. To every three stone weight of this wet pulp is to be mixed one stone of oatmeal, and as much salt as you may think well. The mass is then to be rolled out into a thin cake, and this is to be baked on a

griddle until it is quite dry and slightly browned on the outside.

6th.—These cakes will keep for a very long time without souring or spoiling, if moderate care be taken to keep them dry. A good way is to put them on a string and hang them up to the ceiling near the fire.

7th.—If you do not like to make all the potatoes into this sort of bread, dry the pulp on the griddle without the oatmeal, and do not let it brown. You will then get the pure potatoe meal, which will keep if you do not let damp get at it. This meal will serve very well for making broth and soup, and for mixing with oatmeal to make bread.

In this way almost every diseased potatoe can be made into wholesome food.

2. CIRCULAR WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE OFFICIAL CIRCULAR, No. 53.

*Poor Law Commission Office,  
Somerset House, 10th November, 1845.*

SIR,—The enclosed number of the Official Circular of the Poor Law Commissioners contains some papers relating to the disease now prevailing among the potatoes in the United Kingdom. The first document is extracted from a report made in the year 1843, by the Commissioner of Patents in the United States, and is chiefly important as showing the wide range of the disease, and its existence in America before the present year.

The other papers relate principally to the mode in which diseased potatoes may be made in some degree available for human food. The Poor Law Commissioners particularly request attention to the reports of the Commission appointed by Her Majesty's Government in Ireland to investigate the subject.

It appears to the Poor Law Commissioners, that no objection exists to the inmates of a workhouse being employed on the premises, in performing such processes as are necessary for extracting the farina or starch from diseased potatoes. The guardians would be as much justified in purchasing every utensil necessary for setting them to work in this manner, as they would be in purchasing tools or other instruments for employing them in any other kind of labour.

The Commissioners make this suggestion, not with the intention that farina so procured should be manufactured for the use of the workhouse, or consumed therein, but that an opportunity should be given to such poor persons in the neighbourhood, as may be desirous of availing themselves

of it, of bringing diseased potatoes to be scraped or bruised, and washed, as recommended in the enclosed papers. The actual produce of such potatoes should be given back to the parties without any diminution, and the Commissioners do not think it necessary that any charge should be made for the labour performed. The guardians should employ no persons except paupers in performing the work.

The Commissioners trust that this subject will be brought under the consideration of the board of guardians at an early meeting, and that no time will be lost in taking such steps as the condition of the crop in the union and other circumstances may make desirable.

Signed by order of the Board,

EDWIN CHADWICK, *Secretary.*

*To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.*

3. CIRCULAR—MODIFICATION OF DIETARIES WHERE POTATOES ARE PRESCRIBED.

*Poor Law Commission Office,  
Somerset House, 10th November, 1845.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to state, that in consequence of the failure of the potatoe crop, the guardians may find it impracticable or inexpedient to supply the inmates of the workhouse of your union with the article of potatoes as prescribed by the dietary. The Commissioners will, therefore, be prepared to entertain any proposition for such modification of the dietary, as will enable the guardians to substitute any other article instead of potatoes.

I am to request that the subject may be immediately brought under the consideration of the board of guardians.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
EDWIN CHADWICK, *Secretary.*

*To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians.*

II.—AUDIT DISTRICTS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 8th February, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Daniel Goodson Adey, Esq.*, St. Albans, continued in office under an order dated 7th February, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—St. Albans, Ampthill, Barnet, Bedford, Berkhamstead, Biggleswade, Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Newport Pagnell, Ware, Watford, Welwyn, and Woburn.

THE BERKSHIRE AND HAMPSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 15th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *George Barnes, Esq.*, Newbury, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Abingdon, Alton, Basingstoke, Bradfield, Cookham, East-hampstead, Eton, Hartley Wintney, Henley, Kingsclere, Newbury, Reading, Wallingford, Whitechurch, and Wokingham.

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 1st May, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Alfred Hayward, Esq.*, Brackley, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c. comprised in the District Incorporation,—Amersham, Aylesbury, Bicester, Brackley, Brixworth, Buckingham, Daventry, Hardingstone, Headington, Kettering, Northampton, Oundle, Potterspury, Thame, Thrapston, Towcester, Wellingborough, Winslow, and Wycombe Unions, and Oxford Incorporation.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 17th April, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Charles Brent Wale, Esq.*, Barrister-at-Law, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Cambridge, Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, Ely, Huntingdon, St. Ives, Linton, St. Neots, Newmarket, North Witchford, Risbridge, Royston, and Whittlesea.

THE CHESHIRE AND DENBIGHSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 10th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Kyffin Roberts, Esq.*, St. Asaph, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—St. Asaph, Great Boughton, Holywell, Nantwich, Northwich, Runcorn, Ruthin, Wirrall, and Wrexham Unions, and Chester Incorporation.

THE CORNWALL AND DEVONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 23rd July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Hughes, Esq.*, 2, Alfred-place, Plymouth, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—St. Austell, Bodmin, Camelford, St. Columb Major, Falmouth, St. Germans, Helston, Launceston, Liskeard, Penzance, Plympton St. Mary, Redruth, Tavistock, and Truro Unions, East

Stonehouse, and Stoke Damerell Parishes, and Plymouth Incorporation.

THE EAST CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 17th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Bell, Esq.*, Appleby, Westmoreland, continued in office under an order dated 16th June, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Brampton, Carlisle, East Ward, Longtown, Penrith, Sedbergh, and West Ward Unions, and Alston with Garrigill Parish.

THE WEST CUMBERLAND AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 24th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Francis Yarker, Esq.*, Ulverstone, continued in office under an order dated 23rd June, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Bootle, Cockermouth, Kendal, Ulverstone, Whitehaven, and Wigton.

THE CENTRAL DEVONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 2nd April, 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Tyrrell, Esq.*, Exeter, continued in office under an order dated 1st April, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Crediton, Okehampton, and Saint Thomas Unions, and Exeter Incorporation.

THE NORTH DEVONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 12th April, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Charles Wm. Johnson, Esq.*, Torrington, continued in office under an order dated 11th April, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Barnstaple, Bideford, Dulverton, Holsworthy, South Molton, Stratton, Tiverton, and Torrington.

THE SOUTH-EAST DEVONSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 20th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Tucker, Esq.*, Ashburton, continued in office under an order dated 19th March, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Axminster, Honiton, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbott, and Totnes.

THE DURHAM AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 1st July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Christopher Maynard, Esq.*, Solicitor, Durham, continued in office under an order dated 30th June, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Chester le Street, Durham, Easington, Gateshead, Houghton le Spring, Lanchester, South Shields, Sunderland, and Weardale.

THE DURHAM AND YORKSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 3rd July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *James Hunton, Esq.*, Richmond, Yorkshire, continued in office under an order dated 2nd July, 1845.

UNIONS in the District,—Auckland, Darlington, Leyburn, Reeth, Richmond (York,) Sedgfield, and Teesdale.

THE ESSEX AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 13th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Edward Wilson Banks, Esq.*, Witham, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Billericay, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Dunmow, Epping, Halsted, Lexden and Winstree, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, Rochford, Romford, Saffron Walden, Tendring, West Ham, and Witham.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND MONMOUTHSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 28th May, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Edward Murrell, Esq.*, Pershore, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Abergavenny, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Crickhowel, Gloucester, Ledbury, Martley, Monmouth, Newent, Newport (Monmouth,) Pontypool, Ross, Tewkesbury, Upton on Severn, Westbury on Severn, and Winchcombe.

THE HAMPSHIRE AND SUSSEX AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 30th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Hoskins, Esq.*, 3, High-st., Gosport, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Catherington, Droxford, Fareham, Guildford, Hambledon, Havant, Petersfield, Petworth, and Portsea Island Unions, and Chichester and Isle of Wight Incorporations.

THE HAMPSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 30th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William James Paterson, Esq.*, 87, Guildford-street, Russell-square, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Alderbury, Alresford, Amesbury, Andover, Christchurch, Fordingbridge, Hursley, Lymington, New Forest, Poole, Ringwood, Romsey, South Stoneham, Stockbridge, Wareham and Purbeck, Wilton, Wimborne and Cranborne, and New Winchester Unions, Southampton Incorporation, and United Parishes of New Sarum.

THE HEREFORDSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 15th May, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Jonathan Green, Esq.*, Kington, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Bromyard, Dore, Hereford, Kington, Leominster, Presteign, Tenbury, and Weobley.

Addition made to District by an order dated 15th September, 1845, of the Knighton Union.

THE EAST KENT AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 31st October, 1844.

AUDITOR, *Richard Bathurst, Esq.*, Faversham, continued in office under an order dated 30th October, 1844.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—East Ashford, West Ashford, Blean, Bridge, Dover, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Milton, Sheppey, Isle of Thanet Unions, and Canterbury Incorporation.

THE WEST KENT AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 13th November, 1844.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Patten, Esq.*, Rochester, continued in office under an order dated 12th November, 1844.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—North Aylesford, Dartford, Gravesend and Milton, Hollingbourn, Hoo, Maidstone, Malling, Medway, Sevenoaks, and Tonbridge.

THE WEST AND NORTH LANCASHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 12th August, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Rees, Esq.*, Standishgate, Wigan, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Blackburn, Chorley, Clitheroe, Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Ormskirk, Prescott, Preston, Warrington, West Derby, and Wigan Unions, and Liverpool Parish.

THE SOUTH LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 22nd July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Charles Mott, Esq.*, Ashton, Warrington, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District—Altrincham, Bolton, Bury, Chapel en le Frith, Chorlton, Congleton, Glossop, Haslingden, Hayfield, Leigh, Macclesfield, Manchester, Salford, and Stockport.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 21st January, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Power, Esq.*, Frazley, Polesworth, near Fazeley, Staffordshire, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Ashby de

la Zouch, Atherstone, Barrow-upon-Soar, Basford, Billesdon, Bingham, Blaby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Mansfield, Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Nottingham, Radford, Southwell, and Tamworth.

THE LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLANDSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 10th January, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Sturton Johnson, Esq.*, Barrister-at-Law, 1, Mitre-court Buildings, Temple, and 29, Gordon-street, Gordon-square, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Boston, Bourn, Caistor, East Retford, Gainsborough, Glanford Brigg, Grantham, Holbeach, Horn-castle, Lincoln, Louth, Newark, Oakham, Peterborough, Sleaford, Spalding, Spilsby, Stamford, Uppingham, and Worksop.

THE LONDON AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 10th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Joseph Gibbs, Esq.*, Barrister-at-Law, 5, Hare-court, Temple, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—City of London, East London, and West London.

THE NORTH-EAST METROPOLITAN AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 17th December, 1844.

AUDITOR, *Blomfield Burnell, Esq.*, 58, Fenchurch-street, continued in office under an order dated 16th December, 1844.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Edmonton, Hackney, Poplar, Stepney, and Whitechapel Unions, St. Matthew Bethnal Green, St. George in the East, St. Leonard's Shoreditch, and St. Luke Middlesex Parishes.

Addition made by order dated 31 Oct. 1845,—Epsom Union.

THE SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 11th Jan. 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Fossett, Esq.*, Charlotte-row, Walworth, continued in office under an order dated 10th January, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, and Lewisham Unions, and St. Giles' Camberwell Parish.

THE SOUTH-WEST METROPOLITAN AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 4th Jan. 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Clarke Meymott, Esq.*, 86,

Blackfriars-road, continued in office under an order dated 3rd January, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—St. Olave's, St. Saviour's, and Wandsworth and Clapham Unions, Bermondsey, Lambeth, Newington, Rotherhithe, and St. George the Martyr Southwark Parishes.

Addition made by order dated 31st October, 1845, of the following Unions,—Chertsey and Kingston.

THE NORTH-WEST METROPOLITAN AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 4th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *James Hales Mitchener, Esq.*, Staines, continued in office under an order dated 3rd June, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Brentford, Fulham, Hendon, Holborn, Richmond (Surrey,) Staines, Strand, Uxbridge, and Windsor Unions, Clerkenwell, Chelsea, Islington, Kensington, St. Martin in the Fields, Paddington, and St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist Westminster Parishes.

THE EAST NORFOLK AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 11th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Rising, Esq.*, Horsey, Norfolk, continued in office under an order dated 10th March, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Blofield and Erpingham Unions, East and West Flegg, Mutford and Lothingland, and Tunstead and Happing Incorporated Hundreds, and Great Yarmouth Parish.

THE WEST NORFOLK AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 11th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Wales Christopher Hotson, Esq.*, Barrister-at-Law, Long Stratton, Norfolk, continued in office under an order dated 10th March, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Aylsham, Blything, Depwade, Docking, Downham, St. Faiths, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, Kings Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford, Walsingham, Wayland, Wangford, and Wisbeach Unions, Forehoe Hundred, and Norwich Incorporation.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 6th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Usher, Esq.*, 5, Low Swinburne-place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Alnwick,

Belford, Bellingham, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Castle Ward, Glendale, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Morpeth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Rothbury, and Tyne-mouth.

THE OXFORDSHIRE AND WARWICKSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 24th April, 1845.

AUDITOR, *James Hunt, Esq.*, Oxford, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Alcester, Banbury, Chipping Norton, Coventry, Droitwich, Evesham, Foleshill, Northleach, Pershore, Rugby, Shipston-on-Stour, Solihull, Southam, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, Witney, Woodstock, and Worcester.

THE WEST SOMERSETSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 29th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Payne, Esq.*, Solicitor, Milverton, Somerset, continued in office under an order dated 28th July, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District—Beaminster, Blandford, Bridgwater, Bridport, Cerne, Chard, Dorchester, Langport, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Sturminster, Taunton, Wellington (Somerset), Weymouth, Williton, and Yeovil.

THE SHROPSHIRE AND MONTGOMERYSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 15th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Fisher, jun., Esq.*, Newport, Salop, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Atcham, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Clun, Ellesmere, Llanfyllin, Ludlow, Madeley, Newport (Salop,) Newtown and Llanidloes, Wellington (Salop,) Wem, and Whitchurch (Salop,) Unions, and Montgomery and Pool, Oswestry, and Shrewsbury Incorporations.

THE SOMERSETSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 19th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Alfred Whitaker, Esq.*, Solicitor, Frome, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Axbridge, Bath, Bedminster, Bradford (Wilts,) Calne, Chippenham, Clifton, Clutton, Frome, Keynsham, Melksham, Mere, Shepton Mallett, Tisbury, Warminster, Wells, Westbury and Whorwelsdown, and Wincanton Unions, and Bristol City.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 7th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Richard Stone, Esq.*, 11, St. Mary's Gate, Derby, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Ashbourne, Bakewell, Belper, Burton-upon-Trent, Cheadle, Chesterfield, Derby, Leek, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Penkridge, Shardlow, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter, and Wolstanton and Burslem Unions, and Stoke-upon-Trent Parish.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 9th May, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Stonor Simkiss, Esq.*, Wolverhampton, continued in office under an order dated 8th May, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Aston, Bromsgrove, Cleobury Mortimer, Drayton, Dudley, Kidderminster, King's Norton, Meriden, Nuneaton, Seisdon, Shiffnal, Stourbridge, Walsall, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton Unions, and Birmingham Parish.

THE NORTH WEST SUFFOLK AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 25th February, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Edgar Rout Buchanan, Esq.*, Stowmarket, continued in office by the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District and Burgh,—Mildenhall, Sudbury, and Thingoe Unions, and Burgh of Bury St. Edmunds.

THE EAST SUFFOLK AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 12th February, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Francis William Ellis, Esq.*, Southwold, Suffolk, continued in office under an order dated 11th February, 1845.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Hartismere, Hoxne, Ipswich, Plomesgate, and Woodbridge Unions, and Samford Hundred.

THE WEST SUFFOLK AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 19th February, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Charles Gross, jun., Esq.*, Ipswich, continued in office under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, and Stow.

THE WEST SUSSEX AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 27th September, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Mason, Esq.*, Chichester, continued in office under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Midhurst, Steyning, Thakeham, Westbourne, and West-hampnett.

THE SUSSEX AND KENT AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 14th August, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Nathaniel Polhill Kell, Esq.*, Soli-

citor, Battle, continued in office under an order dated 13th August, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Battle, Cranbrook, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Hastings, Romney Marsh, Rye, Tenterden, and Ticehurst.

THE EAST SURREY AND SUSSEX AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 18th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *George Turner, Esq.*, Fletching, Uckfield, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Chai-ley, Cuckfield, Dorking, East Grinstead, Godstone, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Reigate, Uckfield, and West Fife Unions, and Brightelmston Parish.

THE WILTSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 19th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *George Symons White, Esq.*, Fairford, Gloucestershire, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Chipping Sodbury, Cirencester, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Dursley, Farringdon, High-worth and Swindon, Hungerford, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Pewsey, Stroud, Tetbury, Thorn-bury, Wantage, and Wheatenhurst.

THE NORTH-EAST YORKSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 6th June, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Robert Corney Weatherill, Esq.*, Lazenby, Guisborough, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Bedale, Bridlington, Driffield, Easingwold, Guisborough, Helmsley Blackmoor, Malton, Pocklington, Northallerton, Pickering, Scarborough, Stockton, Stokesley, Thirsk, Whitby, York.

THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 27th August, 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Brewin, Esq.*, Cote Field, Wortley, Sheffield, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Beverley, Doncaster, Ecclesall Bierlow, Goole, Howden, Patrington, Rotherham, Sculcoates, Selby, Sheffield, Skirlaugh, Thorne, and Wortley Unions, and Town of Kingston-upon-Hull.

THE WEST YORKSHIRE AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 21st August, 1845.

AUDITOR, *John Manwaring, Esq.*, Pateley Bridge, elected under the above order.

UNIONS, &c., comprised in the District,—Bradford (Yorks.) Burnley, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Pateley Bridge, Settle,

Skipton, Todmorden, and Wakefield Unions, and Leeds Township.

THE NORTH WALES AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 10th July, 1845.

AUDITOR, *William Prichard Lloyd, Esq.*, Llwydiarth, Anglesey, elected under the above order.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Aberyst-with, Anglesey, Bala, Bangor and Beaumaris, Carnarvon, Conway, Corwen, Dolgelly, Festiniog, Llanrwst, Machynlleth, Pwllheli, and Rhayader.

THE SOUTH WALES AUDIT DISTRICT, formed under an order dated 20th March, 1845.

AUDITOR, *Thomas Bowen, Esq.*, Carmarthen, continued in office under an order dated 19th March, 1845.

UNIONS comprised in the District,—Aberaeron, Brecknock, Bridgend and Cowbridge, Builth, Cardiff, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Haverfordwest, Hay, Lampeter, Llandilo Fawr, Llandovery, Llanelly, Merthyr Tidvil, Narberth, Neath, Newcastle in Emlyn, Pembroke, Swansea, and Tregaron.

### III.—DISORDERLY HOUSES—PROSECUTION UNDER 25 GEO. 2, c. 36.

4th Nov. 1845.

*Vestry Clerk of St. George the Martyr.*—For several years past the parish officers have been appealed to respecting certain disorderly houses complained against as great nuisances to the neighbourhood; but they have, from the difficulties connected with indictments in such cases, and the expenses of such prosecutions, declined to interfere: recently, however, two rated inhabitants gave notice to the beadle, as parish constable, that they intended to prosecute certain parties under the 5th sect. of the 25 Geo. 2, cap. 36. The recognisances required were entered into by these inhabitants, and an indictment was preferred against two persons for keeping a bawdy-house, to which they pleaded guilty at the last Surrey session; but having abated the nuisance, they were permitted by the court to enter into their own recognisances to appear for judgment when called upon. At the time the notice was given to the constable, a notice was also served upon the vestry clerk, and he attended before the justices, stating that the parish officers themselves declined to prosecute, but that they would not oppose any attempt to abate the nuisance. Two bills of costs are now claimed, amounting to £32 10s. 10d., and the parties undertake to forego the two ten

pounds penalties, provided these bills are immediately settled. Inquired whether the notice served upon the vestry clerk was a sufficient notice to the overseers, and such as is required under the 7th section of the 58th George 3, cap. 70; taking into account his appointment as assistant overseer, under 59th George 3, cap. 12, and also that the parish officers had before refused to interfere.

*Ans.*—The 7th sec. of the 58 George 3, cap. 70, requires "that a copy of the notice which shall be given to the constable, shall also be served on, or left at the places of abode of the overseers of the poor of such parish or place, or one of them," &c: you state that in the present case the notice was served upon yourself, and that you are an assistant overseer of the parish appointed under the 59th Geo. 3, c. 12. sec. 7. The question is, therefore, whether such service of the notice upon yourself is a service of the notice upon "one of the overseers," within the meaning of the statute. If your appointment as assistant overseer is unrestricted, and empowers you to execute all the duties of the office of overseer, the Commissioners are disposed to consider that the notice would be held to be sufficiently served; but, as the Commissioners are not aware of the precise terms of your appointment, they are not prepared to express a positive opinion on the point. The Commissioners would observe that they collect from your statement that the two inhabitants who entered into the recognisances before the justices, were the parties who prosecuted the present case. You state that "two rated inhabitants gave notice to the beadle as parish constable, that they intended to prosecute certain parties under the 5th sec. of 25 Geo. 2, c. 36," and further, that "the parties (apparently meaning the inhabitants previously mentioned) are willing to forego the two rewards of £10 each, provided the costs of the prosecution are paid. The Commissioners think it necessary to call your attention to the case of *Clarke v. Rice*, reported in 1 Bar. and Ald. 694, which you will perceive related to a similar claim made by certain inhabitants of the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark. This case decided in effect that the inhabitants are not the proper parties to carry on the prosecution under the statute, but the parish constable, and that, except where the prosecution has been conducted by that officer, no claim can be made on the overseers either for the reward of £10, or the expenses of the prosecution. Assuming, however, that the Commissioners are incorrect in this impression, and that the prosecution in the present case was

in fact conducted by the parish constable, then, as far as this objection is concerned, there is no obstacle to the payment of the expenses incurred by him, or of the £10 to the inhabitants. What may be the effect of the parties not having been called up for judgment, the Commissioners are not prepared to say. It may be, that until this is done, there is no obligation on the overseers to pay the rewards or other expences: see the case of *Burgess v. Boetseur and Brown*, 22 Law Journal Repts. M. C. 122. The Commissioners, in making these observations, desire to be understood as not wishing to throw any difficulties in the way of the settlement of the costs, presuming that there is a legal foundation for them as against the parish. It is right, however, that the overseers, before they make any payment, should be fully satisfied of their authority to do so.

#### IV.—LUNATIC PAUPERS.—CONSTRUCTION OF 8 AND 9 Vic. c. 101, s. 27.

20th Oct. 1845.

*Clerk of Nantwich Union*—Stated that E. B., an idiot, chargeable to the parish of Minshull Vernon, has been for several years past an inmate of the Nantwich Union Workhouse: that there is in the Northwich Savings-bank a sum of £17, belonging to, and standing in the name of the idiot, which was left to her by a relative; and the overseers being advised that under the 7th and 8th Vict. c. 101, sect. 27, they were entitled to receive the money to defray the cost of her maintenance in the workhouse, obtained the order of two justices, directing the trustees of the savings-bank to pay to the overseers the above amount. A doubt is entertained as to the power of the trustees to comply with the order. Requested, therefore, the opinion of the Commissioners on the point.

*Ans.*—It will be quite lawful for the trustees of the savings-bank to pay over to the guardians of the Nantwich Union, or to the overseers of Minshull Vernon, the money in their hands belonging to E. B., to defray the cost of her maintenance by the parish; and it is clear that if they do so, the receipt of the clerk or the overseers, as the case may be, will be a good discharge to such trustees: (see sec. 27, 7 and 8 Vic. cap. 101.) But the Commissioners do not perceive that the trustees could be compelled to pay over the money. The case does not, as the Commissioners are advised, fall within the former part of the section cited, which gives power to justices, under certain circumstances, to direct the overseers to seize the property of a lunatic, or idiot, who is chargeable.

The Commissioners apprehend that the money there spoken of, which the overseers may seize with the authority of the justices, must be in the actual possession or power of the lunatic, or idiot; as distinguished from money which may be in the possession or custody of other persons, and held in trust for the lunatic or idiot. Otherwise the power expressly given to trustees to pay in the cases last mentioned, would have been superfluous, if the justices had power to direct the payment or seizure; for the order of the justices would in itself have been a sufficient indemnity or discharge to the trustees.

#### V.—MEDICAL OFFICER.—CONVEYANCE OF MEDICINES TO SICK PAUPERS.

10 Oct. 1845.

*Clerk of Darlington Union*—Inquired whether the medical officers are required, under the General Medical Order, to forward to the residences of the paupers under their care, the medicines prescribed for them. If not, inquired how are paupers to procure such medicine who are unable to go themselves, and have no friends to go for them.

*Ans.*—The General Medical Order issued by the Commissioners does not contain any regulation on the subject referred to; and the Commissioners are of opinion that the medical officers are not bound, under the provisions of that order, to forward to the residences of the sick paupers under their care, the medicines prescribed for them by such medical officers. If the paupers are able to go themselves for the medicines, or can send for them by any member of their family, or other available means, they may be reasonably expected to do so; the Commissioners also believe that in general the medical officers co-operate in forwarding the medicine to the paupers, in so far as the means of sending medicines in their general practice may be available for the like purpose as regards their pauper patients, without incurring additional expense. But if the paupers themselves are unable to go, or send for the medicine, and if the medical officer cannot forward them without employing a special messenger for the purpose, it then becomes the duty of the relieving officer, under the direction of the board of guardians, to provide for the due conveyance of the medicine to the paupers; as in no case must the latter be left without the medicine prescribed for them by the medical officer. The subject is one of detail, depending on local and temporary circumstances,

which ought in general to be regulated according to the discretion of the board of guardians, when any difficulty arises.

#### VI.—POOR LAW UNIONS' GAZETTE.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have received resolutions from several Unions, expressive of the opinion of the Boards of Guardians of the utility of this publication, which is issued weekly by Mr. Mallett, at No. 59, Wardour Street, London, for advertising, gratuitously, persons who abscond, leaving their families chargeable to parishes.

The Commissioners understand that 112 deserters, who had left 470 persons chargeable to parishes within the 215 Unions subscribing for the publication, were discovered by its means, during the last twelve months.

In a communication which the Commissioners addressed to Mr. Mallett on the 17th Sept. 1843, they have stated that they "consider the publication of the *Poor Law Unions' Gazette* useful and desirable, as tending to facilitate the apprehension of persons who have deserted their families, and left them chargeable to the poor-rates; and, looking to the object of the publication, they are of opinion that any Board of Guardians would be justified in purchasing the same, and charging the expense to the common fund of the union."

#### VII.—WORKHOUSES.

##### I. GENERAL ORDER PROHIBITING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PAUPERS IN WORKHOUSES IN POUNDING BONES.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the several Unions and of the several Parishes under a Board of Guardians named in the Schedules hereunto annexed, and the several Officers of such Unions and Parishes:—

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes and Places comprised within the said Unions, and of the several other Parishes named in the said Schedules:—  
To the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions held for the Division or Divisions in which the Parishes and Places comprised within the said Unions, and the said other Parishes named in the said Schedules, are situate:—

And to all others whom it may concern.

Whereas it is expedient to regulate the mode in which the poor who are relieved in the



workhouses of unions or parishes are set to work.

Now, therefore, We, the Poor Law Commissioners, in pursuance of the authorities vested in Us by an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "*An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales*," do hereby Order, Direct, and Declare, with respect to each and every of the Unions named in the Schedule A, hereunto annexed, and of the Parishes named in the Schedule B, hereunto annexed, That from and after the *First of January next*, no pauper, who shall be in any Workhouse under the management and control of any Board of Guardians shall be employed or set to work by the said Guardians, or any of their Officers or Servants, in pounding, grinding, or otherwise breaking bones, or in preparing bone dust.

And we do further Order, that—

The word "*Union*" in this Order shall be taken to include not only an Union of parishes formed under the provisions of the herein-before recited Act, but also an Union of Parishes incorporated or united for the relief or maintenance of the poor under any Local Act of Parliament.

The word "*Guardians*" in this Order shall be taken to include not only Guardians appointed or entitled to act under the provisions of the said herein-before recited Act, but also any Governors, Deputy Governors, Assistants, Directors, Managers, Acting Guardians, Trustees of the Poor, or Select Vestrymen, entitled to act in the ordering of relief to the Poor from the poor rate under any Local Act of Parliament, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the several Parishes in the city of Salisbury.

The word "*Parish*" in this Order shall be taken to include any place maintaining its own Poor, whether parochial or extra-parochial.

[Schedules A and B contain the names of all the Unions and Parishes under Boards of Guardians in England and Wales.]

Given under our Hands and Seal of Office, this eighth day of November, in the year One thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

(Signed) G. C. LEWIS.

L. S. EDMUND W. HEAD.

2. CIRCULAR ACCOMPANYING THE ABOVE ORDER.

Poor Law Commission Office,

Somerset House, November 8th, 1845.

SIR,—The Poor Law Commissioners have, for some time, had under their consideration the expediency of issuing a General Rule, prohibiting the employment of paupers in workhouses, in grinding, pounding, or breaking bones.

The Commissioners are aware that there is considerable difficulty in finding work for the able-bodied inmates of a workhouse, which shall not interfere with the market for independent labour, and which shall not, at the same time, involve some loss to the rate-payers. They have been moreover unwilling, in any case where the exercise of their authority is not absolutely necessary, to restrict the discretion as to the sorts of labour which the guardians, as the immediate managers of the workhouse, may reasonably be supposed to possess.

The Commissioners believe, that in the majority of unions where this kind of labour has been employed, no serious inconvenience has resulted from its use, owing to the care with which it has been superintended by the guardians. Moreover, in the cases in which its introduction, even for vagrants and trampers, has been brought before the Commissioners, they have constantly required a certificate from the medical officer, that no injury to the health of the inmates of the workhouse was to be apprehended from its adoption.

Notwithstanding these considerations, the Commissioners, looking to the serious objections to which this mode of employment is liable, have, after mature deliberation, decided on issuing a General Rule, prohibiting bone-crushing in all workhouses, a copy of which is herewith transmitted to you. The Order, for this purpose, will come into operation on the first day of January next.

The Commissioners will only add, that they will be ready to afford any assistance or advice to the guardians in meeting the difficulties which may result from the discontinuance of bone-crushing in those workhouses where it has hitherto been carried on.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

EDWIN CHADWICK, *Secretary*.

LONDON:

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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. 55.

CIRCULAR ISSUED JANUARY 1st, 1846.

The Poor Law Commissioners directed that the following documents be printed and circulated for the information of Guardians and Officers of the several Unions, viz.

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(Signed) By Order of the Board,

EDWIN CHADWICK, *Secretary*.

I.—APPRENTICESHIP—Of POOR CHILDREN TO THE SEA SERVICE.

Oct. 6th, 1845.

*Clerk of St. Alban's Union*—Requested the advice of the Commissioners as to the best course of proceeding to get boys out as apprentices to the merchant service.

*Ans.*—It appears to the Commissioners that the guardians might advertise in the public papers if they have any lads fit for the service; and they might also communicate with the secretary of the Admiralty on the subject. It may be useful to direct the attention of the guardians to the Act which was passed last session, (8 and 9 Vic. c. 116,) "for the protection of seamen entering on board merchant ships." That act authorised the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, from and after the 1st of September, 1845, to license agents for providing merchant ships with seamen. If the guardians have any lads ready to be apprenticed, they might inform such agents accordingly.

II.—BURIAL OF PAUPERS.

September 15th, 1845.

*Clerk of Bridgwater Union*—The board of guardians of the Bridgwater Union have been applied to by the board of guardians of the Williton Union, to give them an undertaking to repay the funeral expenses of all paupers belonging to parishes in the Bridgwater Union, who may happen to die in the Williton Union, whilst in the receipt of non-resident relief. Inquired, whether such an arrangement would be legal.

*Ans.*—The Commissioners are of opinion, that the funeral expenses of paupers belonging to the Bridgwater Union, who die out of it, cannot legally be repaid out of the poor-rates of that