



NETLEY HOSPITAL.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 9 June 1857:—for,

“ RETURNS respecting NETLEY HOSPITAL, showing by whom the Site was selected, whether any Reports were made on its Salubrity and general eligibility for its purpose, previous to Selection, and by whom:”

“ By whom the Original Plans were prepared, whether they were submitted to any Medical Authority for Approval, by whom they were officially sanctioned, and whether any Report was made upon them, and by whom, previous to their being sanctioned:”

“ STATEMENT of the Alterations of or Additions to the Original Plans which have been determined on, by whom they were recommended, to whom they were referred for Approval:”

“ And, COPY of CORRESPONDENCE or REPORTS relating thereto which have led to the adoption of the amended Plan.”

War Office, }
13 July 1857.

JOHN WILLIAM RAMSDEN.

LETTER from Captain *R. M. Laffan*, Deputy Inspector-general of Fortifications,
to the Right Hon. Lord *Panmure*, K.T., G.C.B.

War Office, Whitehall Gardens,
11 July 1857.

My Lord,

HAVING been directed by your Lordship to prepare the returns respecting the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley called for by the Address of the House of Commons of the 9th ultimo, and the plans called for by the Address of the House of Commons of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to lay before your Lordship returns and plans which I think afford all the information called for by those addresses.

But as those returns and plans, drawn up expressly to meet the terms of the addresses, do not afford all the information which I think it would be desirable to furnish to the House of Commons on the subject, I would suggest to your Lordship whether it might not be expedient to cause them to be accompanied by a brief history of the several steps taken by your Lordship's orders—first, with a view to the selection of a proper site for the hospital; and next, for the purpose of obtaining a good design for the buildings.

The first step was taken in March 1855, when your Lordship requested Sir John Burgoyne, G.C.B., Inspector-general of Fortifications, to appoint an officer of engineers to assist you in the selection of a site for a great military hospital.

Sir John Burgoyne appointed me for that duty; and on my waiting upon your Lordship, you told me that the Government proposed to erect a military hospital capable of receiving 1,000 patients, and that in your opinion such an establishment should be so situated as to be easy of access from the sea, in order that invalids returning from foreign service, and sick and wounded soldiers sent home from the seat of any foreign war, might be transferred from the ships to the hospital with the least possible amount of land carriage.

A. I believe the patients will neither suffer inconvenience nor injury from the water-closets, certainly not from their proximity, if they are, which they doubtless will be, properly constructed with good wide pipes, plenty of water, and other modern improvements.

Dr. Neil Arnott.

Q. Whether do you consider large or small wards preferable?

A. As regards warming and ventilation only, with the means now known, the size of the wards is of little importance. For small wards the best means are exceedingly simple, although quite effectual, differing little in appearance from the ordinary fire-places to which all are accustomed, and with which, in this climate, all have the most pleasing associations.

Q. As large wards evidently cannot be so disposed, what is your opinion of, whereas small wards evidently cannot be so disposed, what is your opinion of the system shown in the plans of the Victoria Hospital, of causing the small wards to open on a general corridor?

A. The advantage of having the power to admit pure air and light with complete freedom to a long ward, which has windows only at the ends, as proposed in the Netley Hospital, cannot be questioned. The proposed corridor, into which the windows at one end of all the wards are to open, will somewhat restrict this desirable freedom in both respects. In London, dining-rooms, of which the windows are shaded by the projecting verandah, three or four feet broad, of the drawing-room above, are deemed gloomy; and the colonnade in the Regent's Quadrant, which thus darkened the low rooms, was ultimately removed, because many of the houses remained untenanted. The corridor of the Hospital will be 12 feet broad instead of the verandah of 4 feet, and instead of an open colonnade there will be an external wall opened only by windows, so that the internal windows will have only a borrowed light; still the windows at the other end will be large and free, but directed towards the north-east. There will be the advantages of convenient approach to all the wards, and of comfort to the invalid and convalescent, who may take exercise in fully tempered air away from the sick ward. To maintain moderate temperature in the corridor during the cold of winter by fires, and during the heat of summer with the direct sunshine of long days, by Venetian or other shades, and free openings above and below, will require skilful management.

Q. What is your opinion of the comparative merits of the plan of the Netley Hospital and that of La Riboinere, or Bordeaux?

A. That question is partly answered by what has been said in answer to the preceding. In a town the concentration of the buildings of a large establishment is often unavoidable, and therefore hospitals with a smaller number of large wards may be more befitting, giving also perhaps greater ease of supervision to the officials in charge; but in the country where the space is not limited, and where all the windows may command cheering views of the open landscape, almost as much as those of a detached country residence, the long line of building of the proposed Netley Hospital is anywhere the more appropriate.

Q. What is your opinion of the arrangement of the water-closets?

A. It would be difficult to overrate the importance of having the water-closets as much detached as possible from the dwelling rooms, although in cold weather they should be maintained for sick people at a temperate heat; I approve, therefore, of the plan to have a lobby, or part of the passage, open to the atmosphere between them and the body of the hospital. There are various ways in which the two objects of separation and tempered ventilation may be attained, and the particular plan to be chosen will depend on the general plan adopted in the hospital.

Q. What system of ventilation do you recommend for the Netley Hospital?

A. I believe the best plan will be the open English fire-place, arranged for ventilation, as I have described in my late publication, "On the Smokeless Fire, &c." It will be seen that the arrangement produces a much more powerful and complete ventilation than had been obtained before, except by mechanical means, such as pumps, or fan wheels driven by steam-engines, or by steam jets. This fire-place, although now generally known by name, and because for it and other devices connected with the arts of warming and ventilating, the Council of the Royal Society awarded their Romford medal, and the authorities at the late

Paris Exhibition gave their highest medal, is still little understood by people generally. I shall be happy to exhibit and explain it and its modifications as now used in all the apartments of my own house, to the Members of the Committee, and to prove to any scientific and competent judges that it possesses the following qualities—of being smokeless, of saving nearly all the trouble of fire management to attendants, of giving singular power of ventilation and distributing the warmth more than common fires, of tempering the fresh air which enters the room, and of saving much fuel. But, further, to leave no uncertainty as to all desirable results being secured, I advise that the windows be made to open for through and through ventilation, if ever wanted, and that the simple ventilating pump described in my book, at page 162, be established with branching channels, so that pure air, and warmed air if wished for in any desired quantity, may be forced into all or any of the wards. A commission appointed by the General Board of Health is now engaged in investigations with regard to the working of the smokeless fire and others, and will be able to speak with authority on the subject. The members of the General Board of Health, with their engineers and other officers, examined the workings of the ventilating pump spoken of, and reported upon it as set forth in my book, at page 167. Further details respecting these matters I shall have pleasure in giving to the members of the Committee if desired. I had noted other observations on the proposed and possible plans; but I am prevented from writing more by the arrival of the time when I had undertaken to send my answer.

I send a copy of my book and of my report made to the Board of Trade on the Paris Exhibition.

NETLEY HOSPITAL.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 31 July 1857;—for,

“COPIES of REPORTS from Dr. Mapleton and Captain Laffan on the
12th day of March 1855, as to the Site between *Fort Monckton* and
Harbour on the Gosport Side of Portsmouth Harbour:”

“Of REPORTS from Sir *Frederick Smith* and Dr. Mapleton as to *Porchester*
Castle:”

“Of REPORT from Dr. *Andrew Smith* on the Site of *Netley*, May 1856:”

“And of REPORTS from Dr. Mapleton and Captain Ross, R. E., on *Herst-*
monceaux and *Appuldevrant*.”

War Office,
8 December 1857.

JOHN WILLIAM RAMSDEN.

REPORTS from Dr. *Mapleton* and Captain *Laffan* as to the Site between
Fort Monckton and Harbour, on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour.

My Lord,

London, *16 March 1855.

WE have the honour to report to your Lordship that we have examined the
vicinities of Portsmouth and Gosport for the purpose of selecting a convenient
site for the erection of a military hospital upon a large scale, and we beg to
inform your Lordship that the most eligible spot in either locality appears to
us to be an open space of about 30 acres, situated on the sea shore between
Haslar Hospital and Fort Monckton.

The site here presented offers peculiar advantages; the air is pure and
healthy, the aspect southerly, and the immediate vicinity of the sea keeps the
temperature at a comparatively equable point.

The chief recommendation, however, consists in its close vicinity to the
harbour, and in the fact that the communication with the vessels bringing
home invalids may be effected entirely by water, through the medium of a tidal
creek, which is navigable four or five hours every tide.

The soil consists of gravel resting upon a substratum of clay, the surface
being raised about 13 feet above high-water at spring tides, so that no difficulty
need be apprehended as to drainage. Good water, we are informed, can be
procured by sinking anywhere to a depth of 12 or 14 feet; and we have no
reason to doubt the accuracy of the information, as Haslar Hospital and Fort
Monckton are supplied in this way. It appears to us that a more healthy or
convenient spot can scarcely be found in the neighbourhood; but we wish
especially to call your Lordship's attention to a probable source of future
danger in the erection of private dwelling-houses, which generally follow the
establishment of any considerable Government building. The outlet for the
sewerage of these private dwellings would most probably be the tidal creek
already alluded to; and although in its present condition that creek is perfectly
innocuous, we think that if it becomes the receptacle of the sewerage of a con-
siderable number of houses, it will prove a certain source of disease.

We would therefore strongly recommend, that previous to any steps being
taken towards the erection of the hospital buildings, your Lordship should pur-
chase the whole of the land in the neighbourhood of the creek.

In a military point of view, the erection of a considerable establishment in
the

* The original report is dated the 16th March, not the 12th, as stated in the Resolution of
The House.

NETLEY HOSPITAL.

R E T U R N S

RESPECTING

NETLEY HOSPITAL.

(Sir Denham Norreys.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 July 1857.

174—SESS. 2.

Under 3 oz.

RETURNS RELATING TO NETLEY HOSPITAL.

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REPORTS from Dr. Mapleton and Captain Ross, R. E., on *Herstmonceaux* and *Appuldurcombe*.

London, 14 June 1855.

Sir,
In compliance with the verbal instructions communicated to us, to inspect and report upon certain premises at *Herstmonceaux*, *Sussex*, alluded to in the accompanying letter herewith returned, which have been offered to the Government as a site for a military hospital, we have the honour to state, that, having visited and inspected the same, we are of opinion that they are not adapted for a military hospital, for the following reasons:—

1st. The house itself is a large, isolated building, six miles from *Hailsham*, the nearest station on the *Brighton and South Coast Railway*, an inconvenient distance for transporting sick and wounded soldiers, the village affording little means of carriage.

2d. The rooms available for occupation are about 22 in number, of various sizes, from 30 feet by 22 feet, to 12 feet by 10 feet, and, from their narrowness, but few could accommodate two rows of beds; many of these rooms are also low, and could be but badly ventilated.

3d. The supply of water is inadequate to the requirements of such an establishment as a military hospital, there being one pump only in the kitchen, and another, apparently dry, in the yard.

4th. The outbuildings immediately connected with the house are small and inconvenient, besides being in a state of great dilapidation.

5th. There are no detached buildings, either in the premises or in the immediate neighbourhood, which could be made available as a guard-room, or for officers' quarters.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Archibald Ross*,
Captain, Royal Engineers.
Henry Mapleton, M.D.,
Staff Surgeon.

The Inspector-General
of Fortifications.

London, 14 June 1855.

Sir,
In accordance with a verbal communication from Captain *Laffan*, Royal Engineers, we have the honour to report, with reference to the offer of *Appuldurcombe* to the Government as a military hospital, or as a place for prisoners (contained in the accompanying papers, herewith returned), that we have visited and inspected the premises in question, and we are of opinion that it is not adapted for a military hospital, for the following reasons:—

1st. The house, which is a large building, standing by itself, is seven miles from *Newport* (approachable by a hilly road), at which place a landing can be effected at certain times of tide; this distance would be a serious inconvenience to sick or wounded men to be transported over.

2d. The rooms on the three floors which could be occupied as sick wards are about 50 in number, varying in size from 54 ft. by 24 ft. to 12 ft. by 10 ft., and would accommodate about 230 men, giving each patient five feet in width. The majority of these rooms are, however, not wide enough to admit more than one row of beds; those on the first floor are almost all of them constructed so as to open one into another, so that there would be a difficulty in securing good and distinct ventilation. The rooms on the second floor are only eight or nine feet high.

3d. There are no detached houses or tenements for officers' quarters, or for a guard.

The

RETURNS RELATING TO NETLEY HOSPITAL.

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The house itself, however, is in substantial repair; moreover the water is good, and the supply of it is stated to be abundant.

With reference to the proposition that the premises in question should be taken by the Government as a place for prisoners, we are of opinion that they are not at all suited for such a purpose.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Archibald Ross*,
Capt., Royal Engineers.
W. John Mapleton,
Surgeon.

The Inspector-General of Fortifications.

NETLEY HOSPITAL.

REPORTS from Dr. Mopleton and Captain Liffen
as to the Site between *Fort Monckton* and Harbour,
on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour;
Report from Sir F. Smith and Dr. Mopleton as to
Portchester Castle; Report from Dr. Andrew Smith
on the Site of *Nedley*; and Reports from Dr.
Mopleton and Captain Ross, R. E., on *Hertmon-
ceux* and *Appuldurcombe*.

(Mr. Stelford.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
11 December 1857.