SUPPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE

CHAPTER 25.

An Act for giving facilities for the care, education, and training of Idiots and Imbeciles. [25th June 1886.] A.D. 1886.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the admission into hospitals, institutions, and licensed houses of idiots and imbeciles, and for their care, education, and training therein :

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1. This Act may be cited as the Idiots Act, 1886. Short title.

2. This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland. Extent of Act.

3. This Act shall commence from and immediately after the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six. Commencement.

4. An idiot or imbecile from birth or from an early age may, if under age, be placed by his parents or guardians or by any person undertaking and performing towards him the duty of a parent or guardian, and may lawfully be received into, and until of full age detained in, any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act for the care, education, and training of idiots or imbeciles upon the certificate in writing of a duly qualified medical practitioner in the Form One in the Schedule that the person to whom such certificate relates is an idiot or imbecile, capable of receiving benefit from such hospital, institution, or licensed house, accompanied by a statement in the Form Two in the Schedule signed by the parent or guardian of the idiot or imbecile, or the person undertaking or performing towards him the duty of a parent or guardian. Hospitals, institutions, and licensed houses for idiots and imbeciles.

5. Any idiot or imbecile who has while under age been received under this Act into any hospital, institution, or licensed Retention and admission of idiots.

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and imbeciles after full age.

house, registered under this Act may, with the consent in writing of the Commissioners in Lunacy, be retained therein after he is of full age, and an idiot or imbecile from birth or from an early age may be received into any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act after he is of full age upon the certificate in writing of a duly qualified medical practitioner in the Form One in the Schedule, accompanied by a statement in the Form Two in the Schedule signed by the parent or guardian of the idiot or imbecile, or the person undertaking or performing towards him the duty of a parent or guardian.

Order of discharge by Commissioners in Lunacy.

6. The Commissioners may at any time, by order, direct any person of full age retained in any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act to be discharged therefrom, and such order shall specify the reason or reasons for such discharge and the date thereof.

Registration of hospitals, institutions, and licensed houses under this Act.

7. The managing committee or the principal officer of every hospital, institution, or licensed house, in which idiots or imbeciles are intended to be received under this Act shall apply to the Commissioners to have the hospital, institution, or licensed house registered in the office of the Commissioners, and the Commissioners, if satisfied upon inquiry that the hospital, institution, or licensed house, is a proper one to be registered, shall issue a certificate of registration accordingly; and no idiot or imbecile shall be received into any hospital, institution, or licensed house, under this Act, until the same hospital, institution, or licensed house has been duly registered.

Provision for existing hospitals, institutions, and licensed houses for idiots or imbeciles.

8. Any hospital, institution, or licensed house, which at the passing of this Act is devoted exclusively to the care, education, and training of idiots or imbeciles may be registered under this Act, and all idiots and imbeciles lawfully retained therein at the passing of this Act may continue to be so retained without further certification.

Notice of reception to be sent to Commissioners in Lunacy.

9. When any idiot or imbecile is first received into a hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act the superintendent or principal officer thereof shall, within fourteen days, certify in writing under his hand to the Commissioners in the Form Three in the Schedule the fact and time of his reception, specifying his name and age and the names and addresses of the persons placing him in such hospital, institution, or licensed house, and that he is alleged to be capable of deriving benefit from the treatment to be received therein.

Notice of death or discharge.

10. When any idiot or imbecile dies in any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act, or is discharged therefrom, the superintendent or principal officer thereof shall forthwith notify in writing such death or discharge to the Commissioners.

Certain provisions of Lunacy Acts not to apply to this Act.

11. The provisions of any Act relating to the registration and regulation of hospitals, asylums, and licensed houses for the reception of lunatics, to the orders, certificates, or reports necessary for the reception, detention, or treatment of lunatics, and to the care, treatment, and visitation of lunatics, and the books to be kept and the reports to be made concerning lunatics respectively, shall not apply to any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act, or to any idiot or imbecile received or to be received therein under the provisions of this Act.

Inspection by Commissioners.

12. The Commissioners shall at least once in every twelve months visit and inspect every hospital, institution, and licensed house, registered under this Act, and all the children and other persons under treatment therein.

Medical journal to be kept.

13. A medical journal shall be kept in every hospital, institution, and licensed house, registered under this Act, in such form as the Commissioners may from time to time direct.

Residence of medical practitioner.

14. In the case of any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act, the Commissioners may by order in writing direct that a duly qualified medical practitioner shall reside therein.

Grants of money to guardians of the poor.

15. Nothing in this Act shall operate to deprive the guardians of the poor of any union of the power of sending pauper idiots or imbeciles to hospitals, institutions, and licensed houses, registered under this Act, or from receiving in respect of such idiots or imbeciles such sums of money as shall from time to time be granted by Parliament towards the maintenance and care of pauper lunatics, as if the same idiots and imbeciles were pauper lunatics.

Power to grant superannuation allowance.

16. The committee of management of any hospital, institution, or licensed house, registered under this Act, may grant to any officer or servant who is incapacitated by confirmed illness, age, or infirmity, or who has been an officer or servant in the hospital, institution, or house, for not less than fifteen years and is not less than fifty years old, such superannuation allowance, not exceeding two thirds of the salary, with the value of the lodgings, rations, or other allowances enjoyed by the superannuated person, as the committee think proper.

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17. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—

Definition.

Commissioners.

"Commissioners" means the Commissioners in Lunacy for the time being.

Idiots or imbeciles.

"Idiots" or "imbeciles" do not include lunatics.

Lunatic.

"Lunatic" does not mean or include idiot or imbecile.

Hospital and institution.

"Hospital" and "institution" mean any hospital or institution or part of a hospital or institution (not being an asylum for lunatics) wherein idiots and imbeciles are received and supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions, or by any charitable bequest or gift, or by applying the excess of payments of some patients for or towards the support, provision, or benefit of other patients.

Licensed house.

"Licensed house" means any house licensed by the Commissioners in Lunacy, or by the justices of any county or borough, for the reception, care, education, and training of idiots and imbeciles.

The SCHEDULE.

FORM 1.

Form of Medical Certificate.

I, the undersigned *A.B.*, a person registered under the Medical Act, 1858, and in the actual practice of the medical profession, certify that I have carefully examined *C.D.*, an infant [*or* of full age], now residing at , and that I am of opinion that the said *C.D.* is an idiot [*or* has been imbecile from birth, *or* for years past *or* from an early age], and is capable of receiving benefit from [the institution (describing it)], registered under the Idiots Act, 1886.

(Signed)

Dated (full postal address).

FORM 2.

Form of Statement to accompany Medical Certificate.

[If any particulars in this statement be not known, the fact to be so stated.]

Name of patient, with Christian name at length.

Sex and age.

When and where previously under care and treatment.

In any asylum or institution.

Whether subject to epilepsy.

Whether dangerous to others.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the above particulars are correctly stated.

(Signed) Name and full postal address.

[To be signed by the parent or guardian of the idiot or imbecile, or the person undertaking and performing towards him the duty of a parent or guardian.]

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FORM 3.

Form of Certificate of Reception.

I hereby certify that aged
was admitted into
on the day of 18 , on the request of
of
and of
and that he [*or* she] is alleged to be capable of deriving benefit from the treatment he [*or* she] will receive herein.

A.B.

Superintendent or
Principal Officer.

Dated this day of 18

To the Commissioners in Lunacy.

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