



Source 7

Task

7a When did the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner visit the workhouse? When had he made his last visit? Did he make a mistake over the date?

7b What did the Assistant Commissioner report about medical treatment and education in the workhouse? What do you think the Assistant Commissioner meant by 'industrial instruction'?

7c Why did the Assistant Commissioner attend a special meeting of the Guardians?

7d According to the Guardians, who was to blame for the regulations being broken?

7e Did the Assistant Commissioner agree with the Guardians?

Look back at sources 5 and 6

7f What evidence is there that the Board of Guardians of the Reigate Workhouse were taking their responsibilities seriously?

7g What evidence is there that the Reigate Board of Guardians were not observing all the regulations?

Source 7

This is an extract from a report by the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner on the Reigate Workhouse on 12th February 1851. (PRO ref: MH 12/12577)



Regate UNION. 464
 0952
 RECEIVED
 P.L.B.
 FEB 14
 1851
 REPORT of Mr. Pight 57
 INSPECTOR
 Poor LAWS on the above Union, after a Visit on the 14th day
 February, 1851
 1. Date of last previous visit. 22^d August 1851
 2. Is the Workhouse generally adequate to the Wants of the Union, in respect of size and internal arrangements? yes in both respects
 3. Is the provision for the sick and infectious cases sufficient? Are the receiving wards in a proper state? Yes. There is a distinct Hospital and Fever wards. The receiving wards are now in process of alteration
 4. Is the Workhouse School well managed? Yes. There are but few children of either sex as compared with the population of the Union and much attention is given to their industrial instruction

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13. Has any marked change taken place in the state of the Workhouse, the number of the inmates, or the general condition of the Union, since your last visit?

There is generally full employment for several labourers at this time at good wages from 10/- to 12/- per week - But there is notwithstanding an unusual number of men of the able class in the WH - almost all however single men of loose character - This has arisen in great measure from the abolition of the practice which prevailed in all previous winters of giving ablemen outwork on the condition of coming to the WH to perform an allotted task of work viz: former correspondence -

14. Observations not falling under any of the preceding heads.

Attended a special meeting of the Board of Guardians called to consider the report of a Committee appointed to Enquire into certain charges made against the Master & Matron of the WH - viz - That the master had been in the habit of certifying the quantities of bread allowed to adults to the Dietary, without affixing the Jms thereof -

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of the Directors, and have approved
 that the Matron had neglected to make the visits
 to the Subscribers, required by the regulations of the
 & had not sufficiently attended to the regular supply
 of clean clothing - Further that the overbearing conduct
 & violent temper of the Master & Matron (more than one
 before brought before the B. of Ges.) is so intolerable to the Members
 that constant & incessant changes resulted therefrom
 after a full consideration of these matters it was resolved
 that the Master & Matron should be called on to resign, & to
 signify his reply at the next meeting of the B. of Ges. When
 this resolution is sent to the P. & A. I shall wish to
 make some remarks thereon. - There is no
 suspicion or imputation of fraud on the part of the Master
 who is in many respects an excellent officer - The infirmity
 of the Master is chiefly attributable to the Matron
 Attended to as far as regards - No 14.

Jennie Pight
 Poor Law Inspector.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 1855