

The Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Beverly for the municipal year ending in March 1843, submit the following report to the Inhabitants at their annual Town meeting in March 1843 -

The number of persons who have been in the Work House from March 1 1842 to March 1 1843 is forty six viz, twenty two men, nineteen women and five children

There were in the House on the first day of March 1843 twenty four persons, viz, twelve men - eleven women and one child, which

is an unusually small number for the season of the year - ²⁴ Of these ~~seventeen~~ ^{eight} are of the age of seventy years & upwards, ~~two~~ ^{and several} are afflicted with chronic ~~illness~~ ^{illness} and one Non-compos ~~is~~ ^{is} Thus ten of the twenty

four persons are incapable of taking care of themselves from Lunacy or mental imbecility and a portion of the remaining fourteen are from age or disease incapacitated for labour, so that but little profitable

labour can be performed - The average number of persons in the House has been about twenty four, which is a

less number than for any year since 1839

The number of ~~deaths~~ ^{persons, who have died} during the year has been seven ~~an unusually large number,~~ ^{of their ages} all of whom were far advanced in age, the average being ^{about} ~~seventy three~~ ^{seventy three} years - In connection with this

increased mortality, as well as with those who survive their departed associates, the amount of sickness has been larger than for any of the last five preceding years

On Sunday evening the twelfth of February last it was discovered that Nicholas Currel, one of the subjects ^{of the House} who had a short time before returned from a visit to his relations in Boston, was attacked with the Varioloid,

a disease which is supposed to be a modification of the smallpox

Immediate precautions were taken to keep him separate from the other persons in the House and to prevent all unnecessary intercourse between the persons in the House and those without - On Tuesday following all the persons belonging to the House, including the Master and his daughter, were vaccinated by Doctor Breckstreet, with the exception of six persons who had had the small ^{who had previously had the time spot and} pox previously and two others, who could not be induced to submit to the operation of inoculation - Curvel ~~is~~ ~~was~~ went through the disease lightly and has recovered and no other case occurring, the usual intercourse with the House has been restored, measures having been used to cleanse and purify the House from any contagion which might have existed - The time that has now expired since Curvel was attacked, justifies the belief that no ~~more~~ cases will occur in consequence of his sickness - This occurrence has given additional confidence in the milder, more humane, and far less expensive and troublesome means of preventing the spread of contagious disease, now in use, compared with what was formerly resorted to, and we feel satisfied with the ^{vigilance,} carefulness and economy with which the ~~above~~ ^{above} measures recommended have been ^{executed} ~~carried out~~ under the ^{vigilant} ~~super~~ intendance of the Master of the House -

In the course of the year only one person has been committed to the House as a common drunkard - The conduct of the people in the House has generally been orderly, kind and considerate, amidst ^{the increased trials incident to} the many providential visitations of sickness and death, which have been experienced in the course of the year -

The amount of orders drawn upon the Town Treasurers
by the Overseers of the Poor for the year is twelve hundred and
forty four dollars & three cents, of this the expenditure
for the relief of persons out of the House is three hundred
eighty three dollars and seventy cents