

Sale of Work at the Workhouse.

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To some, "cosiness in a workhouse" may sound an anomaly; certainly it will not to those who attended the sale of work held in the Workhouse at Christchurch, on Tuesday, November 18th. A grey, cold sky, a biting easterly wind, and the barometer registering several degrees of frost, made all who had driven or walked glad to reach the cheery shelter of the new Board room, in which the sale was held, where two large fires roared a welcome from the cold without. Inside all was especially bright and cheerful by contrast, and the innumerable woollen articles displayed for sale must have appealed all the more strongly to the many present for the very reason of this first cold snap of winter.

The articles for this annual sale of work are made entirely by the invalid inmates, and consist of almost every description of knitting and crochet, as well as of all kinds of needlework, and very beautifully done the majority of it is. Even the very old and infirm are able to make such things as floorcloths, etc., and no doubt the work helps to pass what might otherwise become many irksome hours.

Knitted petticoats, waistcoats, mufflers, shawls, stockings, gloves, caps, babies' hoods, socks, and boots abounded, and were offered at exceedingly reasonable prices, soon gaining purchasers; and there were also a number of beautifully made rugs and mats. These are chiefly knitted by the men, and are mostly used for hammock or garden chairs, being extremely warm and cosy.

The proceeds of these sales, after defraying the cost of the material, is devoted to giving the workers a treat in the summer, and also provides them with a few little comforts and luxuries.

The Countess of Malmesbury kindly opened the sale, and the Rev. T. H. Bush read a statement of the accounts.

The matron, assisted by the nurses, provided tea in the old Board room, which proved exceedingly welcome to many from a distance. It was, too, delightfully fresh hot tea, and quite different to the decoction to which one is frequently treated at affairs of the kind.

The Countess of Malmesbury, and other ladies, afterwards went over the Workhouse.

The sale realized £32, an advance upon that of last year.