

A B S T R A C T

THE OLD AND NEW LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN JAMAICA

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This research paper examines the forces which were behind the development of a government policy towards the care of the insane in Jamaica during the period under review.

Notions of the causes and care of insanity were non-existent and therefore the principal means of treatment was confinement. An analysis is made of the instruments through which this confinement was achieved.

The paper is divided into seven chapters, with an epilogue. The contention throughout is that as a result of the adamant stance of the ruling class in Jamaica, the needs of the insane were blatantly neglected. This is evident in the portrait of asylum life, administration and development outlined.