



## Mental Health Care in Modern England: The Norfolk Lunatic Asylum St Andrews Hospital, 1810-1998

By Steven Cherry

Boydell Press. Hardcover. Condition: New. 347 pages. Dimensions: 9.5in. x 6.4in. x 1.2in. The Norfolk Lunatic Asylum opened in 1814 as a pioneer county pauper institution and in 1998 St Andrews featured among the last of the large psychiatric hospital closures. This history of one particular place for madness covers changing approaches to insanity and treatments over two centuries. It draws extensively upon archival sources to examine the use of buildings and environments; the regimes of long-serving masters, superintendents and medical superintendents; the patients own experiences; and the rationales, including cultural and gender issues, which informed therapies, relationships and hospital life. However, the contexts of national policies and economic constraints, professional and therapeutic developments, local economy and society, and current research findings are also acknowledged. Chapters dealing with the asylums transformation as the 1915-19 Norfolk War Hospital and 1940-47 Emergency Hospital have disturbing revelations concerning wartime mental health care: similarly with the loss of local accountability and the experience of resource control under the National Health Service. Interviews with former staff and current personnel recall first-hand experiences of hospital life since the 1920s, the privations of wartime and the early NHS, hopes for new medications and conflicting views surrounding the closure...



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