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0521607477 - Power and Pauperism: The Workhouse System, 1834-1884

Felix Driver

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*Power and pauperism* aims to provide a new perspective on the place of the workhouse in the history and geography of nineteenth-century society and social policy. The workhouse system is set in the wider context of relationships of social and political power in an age associated, paradoxically, with both *laissez-faire* and increasing state regulation. The study pays particular attention to conflicts over Poor Law policy and Workhouse design. Dr Driver demonstrates that despite appearances the workhouse system was far from monolithic, and that official policy was beset with conflict: his study combines a national perspective on the system with a sensitivity to regional variation in policy and practice. The analysis of patterns of relief regulation and institutional provision presented here provides, for the first time, a truly national picture of the workhouse system in operation. *Power and pauperism* emphasises the need to link the study of social policy with wider patterns of power (drawing on much recent social theory), and the value of a geographical perspective in the study of social policy. The book as a whole offers a challenging new interpretation of the historical geography of social policy in nineteenth-century Britain.

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POWER AND PAUPERISM

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# POWER AND PAUPERISM

The workhouse system, 1834–1884

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FELIX DRIVER

*Royal Holloway and Bedford New College  
University of London*



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## Abbreviations

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Ad & El	Adolphus and Ellis Law Reports
CCE	Committee of Council for Education
HGM	Huddersfield Board of Guardians Minutes, KDA
HO	Home Office Papers, PRO
JRUL	John Rylands University Library, Manchester
KDA	Kirklees District Archives, Huddersfield
LA	Leeds Archives Department, Leeds
LGB	Local Government Board
MH	Ministry of Health Papers, PRO
NAPSS	National Association for the Promotion of Social Science
PLB	Poor Law Board
PLC	Poor Law Commission
PP	Parliamentary Papers
PRO	Public Records Office
RAWE	Registers of Authorised Workhouse Expenditure
RC	Royal Commission
SC	Select Committee
TM	Tolson Museum, Huddersfield
WYRO	West Yorkshire Records Office, Wakefield